

Marché Noël du Bout du Monde

Natalie Chicoine

GESPEG: - On November 26, Destination Gaspé kicked off three fun-filled weekends of Christmas festivities, as part of the now annual Noël du Bout du Monde with its Christmas market known as the Marché de Noël du Bout du Monde.

Destination Gaspé, a local tourism promotion organization based out of Gaspé, partnered with the Nation Micmac de Gespeg for the festivities.

The market was held at the Gespeg Hall. It ran from November 26 to 28 and the attendance was absolutely stellar.

Over 1,800 attended the market and supported local artisans making the Christmas market a great success.

Organized by Cathy Berubé of Destination Gaspé,

this is the third time that these Christmas festivities have taken place. It was first organized in 2018, and cancelled in 2020 due to Covid restrictions which made the event impossible to host.

Gespeg Hall was ideal for an event this size because it was possible to fit at least 34 vendors, when in recent years, it was not possible to have more than 24. The range of products varied from maple syrup, beer and spirits, bannock, jewelry, woodturning and beyond.

Ms. Berubé says she is very happy to have so much support from the community of Gaspé and its local organizations and is pleased to see that the event has grown so well in just three years. “When we first started, we started off small and now we



Christmas tree lighting.

Photo: Natalie Chicoine



Photo: Tesia Hackett

A holly jolly weekend in Percé

Tesia Hackett

PERCÉ: - Holiday cheer was in the air at the Marché de Noël de Percé which was held at the Centre Communautaire L'Oasis over the weekend of December 3, 4, and 5. The weekend's festivities supplemented a lively Christmas market featuring 25 local artisans.

The event began Friday evening with delectable bites and treats offered by the “ephemeral” NutCracker Restaurant accompanied by Christmas carols were led by the choir Les Voix du Large - the oldest and longest running choir in Gaspésie and Eastern Quebec. Outside, at an “ephemeral bar,” Rudolph served up hot yuletide drinks to keep the whole family warm and jolly while Christmas trees were available for purchase. The lighting of the Christmas tree kicked-off the weekend.

Saturday afternoon local children's book illustrator “Orbie” was available at Percé's newest installation, Nath & Co's kiosk for book signings.

Sunday afternoon, the local arts initiative, Le Centre d'Artistes Vaste et Vague, offered a free “Christmas Fanzine” workshop for those interested in crafting their own personal Christmas journal.

Both Saturday and Sunday morning, Percé's local non-profit group which aims to strengthen food autonomy in the region, Produire la Santé Ensemble, in conjunction with Le Centre d'Artistes Vaste et Vague hosted free beeswax candle making workshops. Local beer, cocktails, hot wine and gin were offered both Saturday and Sunday evenings to keep holiday spirits merry.

have 15 partners... we are super happy,” says Ms. Berubé

The organizations who

sponsored the event this year include the Gaspé Tourism and Chamber of Commerce, the Berceau du Canada, Town of Gaspé, Festival Musique du Bout du Monde, Centre de Création Diffusion de Gaspé, Ecole de la restauration et du tourisme de la Gaspésie, Centre Culturel Le Griffon, Musée de la Gaspésie, Cinélune de Gaspé, Noël des enfants and of course, the Micmac Nation of Gespeg.

The following weekend of December 3, the festivities included DJ Nutella on Queen Street in Gaspé, along with a performance by Claude Hurtibise and Juan Sebastian

Larobina in collaboration with Festival Musique du Bout du Monde.

On December 4, a campfire with marshmallow roasting, hot chocolate and some adult beverages provided by O'Dwyer Distillery was held. A tree lighting ceremony also took place and was attended by 1,300 people, followed by fireworks that lit up the chilly night sky. The musical brunch held on Sunday at the Café de l'Anse in l'Anse au Griffon was a hit with 78 people in attendance.

It's looking like another unforgettable Christmas season in the Gaspésie!

The Gaspé Spec upcoming schedule and hours of operation

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The last issue of the year - December 22
The first issue of the new year - January 12

Please note that The Gaspé Spec office will be temporarily closed and employees will be working from home offices starting December 22 due to major building renovations

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Gaspé waters contaminated even years after oil exploration

Simon Carmichael

GASPÉ - As companies battle in court to explore for oil and gas in the Gaspé Peninsula, analyses conclude that “there has been a certain deterioration in the groundwater quality near Murdochville,” even years after the exploratory drilling at the Bourque location was carried out.

This factor adds to the reasons not to compensate the oil companies once the Quebec government forbids oil and gas exploration and exploitation, claims environmentalist groups.

“It’s disgusting,” says the spokesperson for Environnement Vert plus, Pascal Bergeron. Stunned by documents obtained through the Access to Information law and consulted by Le Soleil and The Gaspé SPEC, the activist demands that the Quebec government immediately ban oil and gas exploration and exploitation, with no “give-aways” for the oil companies.

Even if the last exploratory drillings at Bourque, in the heart of the Gaspé Peninsula, were carried out in 2016, the impacts on the quality of the groundwater are obvious.

The independent monitoring analyses, carried out by New Richmond based Activa Environnement, conclude that a significant increase in the level of chemical elements in the groundwater of Bourque is noticeable, even up to 35

times the original chloride value in some samples. The experts also conclude that there is a marked, and above all continuous, increase in the total rate of dissolved solids in the water analyzed, including barium and manganese.

“It’s the canary in the mine,” worries the president of the Eau Secours network, Rébecca Kneader. “Both the promoter and the government have certified that the drilling would not make its way to the groundwater (1,000 metres below). These results demonstrate how much they (drilling techniques) have an impact at a great depth. This well is really a red flag for the 900 other sites in Quebec.”

Ms. Kneader is referring to the 900 other wells that have been drilled for oil and gas in Quebec over more than a century.

Certain products found in the waters of Bourque have “a direct impact on the development of the nervous system and organs of children,” argues the environmentalist. “Even if others are harmless, we will have to treat and withdraw them when this water is eventually needed,” adds Rébecca Kneader.

Increases caused by exploratory activities

While the authors of the reports are careful to specify that “the effective criteria is not exceeded for the resur-



Photo: Simon Carmichael

Signs from past protests are still visible at the entrance to Grande-Rivière road, between Murdochville and Grande-Vallée, from where you can access the Bourque wells. The sign was made for the Galt drilling project but it was also used for other exploration initiatives.

gence of surface water (and that there) is no reason in the immediate future to apprehend an effect on the water body located downstream,” they draw a direct link between the increase in the level of chemical elements in the water table and the drilling carried out at Bourque in 2016.

“These increases are likely explained by the use of various products during well drillings and acidification phases (...) in 2016,” concludes the monitoring report, released in December 2018.

“The products used tend to stay in the soil when they are injected,” add the experts. “Over time, the acids (...) injected react with the rocks, ex-

plaining the increase (in the level of chemical elements).”

Environmentalists want a complete ban without compensation

The Activa reports gives further evidence for groups campaigning to convince the Quebec government not to financially compensate the oil companies, as an upcoming bill is supposed to ban the exploitation of hydrocarbons all over the province.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Jonatan Julien has said many times that the government would offer “fair and equitable compensation” to oil companies as they “have for years paid for

licenses and fees related to (exploration) works.”

“Why do we have compassion for this industry?” criticizes Pascal Bergeron. “The government wants to reimburse companies for what they paid for scrapping our environment, when we know very well that it will be up to us to repair the damage they will leave behind.”

Contacted by Le Soleil and the SPEC, Minister Julien's office clarified that “the holders of licenses (...) have the obligation to respect the rules (...) and are responsible in case of default,” while recalling “the intention to compensate licensees, since they invested in good faith while the legal framework allowed.”

BOURQUE EXPLORATION PROJECT: \$30 million for... 120 litres of oil!

A few historical notes about the Bourque project

Gilles Gagné

The Bourque location is situated halfway between Murdochville and Grande-Vallée. The first two wells to find gas were drilled by Pétrolia in 2012.

In 2015, one of the three shareholders in the Bourque partnership, a company called Tugliq, unveiled a \$500 million project to build a gas liquefaction plant on a floating barge in the port of Gaspé area. Tugliq, which owns 4% of Bourque, wanted to build a 58-kilometre pipeline to the plant. The project, as presented in 2015, is supposed to create 200 jobs, including 180 in the liquefaction plant, which is supposed to serve the big industries of the North Shore

and maybe the Port Daniel cement plant.

However, the massive presence of gas remains to be proven. Bourque's partners, namely Pétrolia; Ressources Québec, a public company controlled by Investissement Québec and owning 45% of the project; and Tugliq drilled two more wells in 2016, namely Bourque 3, and they return to Bourque 1 through digging horizontally this time.

In 2017, following the multi-year controversy over exploration using the hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, technique, Pétrolia reiterates that it will not fracture at Bourque. In September 2017 though, in a report made by the consulting firm Sproule, it is

written that it would be necessary to fracture the rocks in order to get a fair amount of oil from Bourque. Based in Calgary, the Sproule document mentions that the probability of a presence of 256 million barrels of oil at Bourque stands at 90%, but does not assess the recoverable portion. Some further reports rate at a quantity as low as 672,000 barrels.

On June 22, 2017, Pétrolia reports on the results of its four wells. They are limited to 120 litres of light oil! At that time, approximately \$30 million had been invested by the company and its partners in the four wells. This report mentions the need for “hydraulic stimulation.” The word “fracturing” is not used, despite a similarity in the process.

In September 2017, the Alberta firm Pieridae and Pétrolia merged, including Pétrolia's 51% share in Bourque.

Regularly in 2017, then Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard and the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Pierre Moreau reiterate their intention to see Ressources Québec continue to invest in oil exploration and expand access to public funding for this sector.

In November 2017, Montreal's daily paper Le Devoir reveals that Pétrolia was fined \$5,000 in March for having taken “water withdrawals greater than 75,000 litres per day on September 16 and 17, 2016” at the Bourque 1 well site. Le Devoir also notes that Pétrolia carried out work to

“stimulate” a well with hydrochloric acid, in particular, as well as sulfuric and a wide array of other chemicals.

In April 2021, Le Soleil and The Gaspé SPEC revealed that Pieridae is filing a \$32.2 million lawsuit against the Department of Energy and Natural Resources for “disguised expropriation” because the state has ended oil exploration in the Haldimand sector on the town of Gaspé.

The legal action does not affect Bourque. Since 2012, Quebec public societies have invested \$21.7 million in Pétrolia-Pieridae projects in Bourque without extracting more than 120 litres of oil and practically no gas, the initial goal of the partners when they first drilled there

13 groups call for assessment of contamination generated by oil wells drilled in Quebec sector

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON - Thirteen environmental and citizens' groups demand that the Quebec government assess the contamination potentially bequeathed by oil and gas companies that have drilled in Quebec for 20 years and previously in case of doubt.

This coalition targets, in particular, groundwater pollution generated by hydrocarbon exploration. Its members further demand that the information gathered as a result of these assessments be publicly available as soon as possible.

The coalition request is based on the conclusions of a study by the New Richmond consultant firm Activa Environnement. The results are published in this edition of SPEC (page 2). The study reveals that the water table near one of the wells at the Bourque site was contaminated as early as 2017, due to drilling carried out in 2016 by the Pétrolia firm.

The concern of members of the coalition, which includes Greenpeace, Eau Secours, Nature Québec, Environnement Vert Plus, Solidarité Gaspésie, Équiterre and the David Suzuki Foundation, stems from the possibility that other wells in Quebec are in the same situation as Bourque. In addition, there is no overall assessment of the magnitude of the environmental liability left by oil and gas companies over the years, hence the need for an inventory.

The coalition mentions that exploration firms "are only required to produce a report on the quality of groundwater following drilling since the entry into force of the regulation respecting water withdrawal and its protection (referred to by RPEP, its French acronym) in 2014." The coalition also points out that 19 of the 31 wells drilled in the St. Lawrence Lowlands during the shale gas saga around 2010 were by fracking, a method known for its impact on the water table.

"Air and water poisoning coming from toxic substances emitted by abandoned wells can be very severe for human health, wildlife and biodiversity. The



Photos: G. Gagné

Environnement vert-plus spokesperson Pascal Bergeron thinks that oil companies should pay for the pollution they caused to underground water and old oil well leaks.

government will necessarily have to decontaminate certain abandoned wells in Quebec," explains Dr. Éric Notebaert in a press release. He is an emergency physician, professor of medicine at the Université de Montreal and vice-president of the Association québécoise des médecins pour l'environnement.

This decontamination will cost a lot of money, which prompts the members of the coalition to vigorously oppose the payment by the Quebec government of compensation to oil and gas companies. This intention was expressed by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Jonatan Julien, following his government's decision to end the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons on Quebec soil. That decision remains to be embedded in a National Assembly bill.

"Giving public funds to the companies that have contaminated the water sources, the land and the atmosphere would be like giving our money to the tobacco companies that have also poisoned us for decades. Taxpayers' money must be used to finance the fair transition to a low-carbon world, not to re-

ward thugs," says Alice-Anne Simard, executive director of Nature Québec.

Pascal Bergeron, of Environnement vert plus, for his part notes that "no trace of the contamination at Bourque was found in the minutes of the project monitoring committee meetings. Why did Pieridae, Pétrolia's successor, never say a word about it? (...) Considering the costly decontamination operations that we will have to set in motion for the decades to come, the Quebec government should consider how much these companies should pay to repair their mess."

The issue of the Bourque location rebounded at the National Assembly on the morning of December 8 during a press briefing by Québec solidaire's spokesperson Manon Massé.

"We have no idea how much damage the industry leaves us as a toxic legacy in our soils, in our water. Instead of continuing to bow down to companies (...) the government, the minister first and foremost, should assume its responsibility towards the people and give us the true picture of the damage these companies have done to groundwater," she asserted.

Police report

David Guy, 37, from Maria charged with several counts of assault against his former wife, briefly appeared in court on November 29 in New Carlisle, as his new lawyer, Pierre Gagnon, from Chicoutimi, pointed out that he had not received the evidence file from Hugo Caissy. Mr. Caissy was the previous defence attorney and he ceased representing the accused because of irreconcilable differences between him and David Guy about the way to envision the coming procedure. David Guy's file is postponed until December 16. The case is still at the pro forma preliminary hearing stage.

David Guy was first charged on March 17 with assault, assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm to his spouse over a period starting in January 2004 and extending until March 16, 2021. The bail hearing of the accused was held during the spring and the tribunal determined that he will stay imprisoned until the end of the procedure. David Guy must also face charges of having injured, mutilated, disfigured or endangered the life of his former wife.

David Guy allegedly used a hammer to hit his former wife in the head. His identity remained unknown until October because criminal prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier had asked journalists not to release his name because of the alleged victim's great vulnerability and the media coverage that followed the March 17 arrest. The alleged victim has now left the region. She was hospitalized for a lengthy period following March 17.

The case of Michel Perron, 52, from Campbellton who pleaded guilty on October 12 of break and enter, theft and forcible confinement, was postponed to March 11 as the defence attorney, Mikaël Bernard, and the Justice Department Criminal Prosecutor, Maxime Rocheville-Paradis, will make their representations on sentencing. The procedure will take place at the New Carlisle courthouse. Superior Court Judge Étienne Parent presides over the case.

Michel Perron appeared briefly in court on December 8 as the presentence report was supposed to be ready and both parties were initially expected to make their representations on sentence. "The report could not be done for today (December 8) as New Brunswick probation officers have been on strike in recent months, causing delays in the preparation of that report," explains Maxime Rocheville-Paradis.

Michel Perron was released on May 6, 2019, 38 days after his arrest, which occurred 10 days after the crime he committed in a Nouvelle house on March 19, 2019. The two seniors living in that house were tied by the accused and his partner in crime, Jimmy Lévesque, aged 38 of Dalhousie, who has since died. Michel Perron was released pending some conditions to respect.

A December 8 workplace accident caused serious injuries to a 73-year-old man from Paspebiac. The man, an employee of a towing company, was installing a car on the flatbed of a truck along a street when the car slid from that flatbed and rolled over him. "There was a slight slope along that street and that might have been a factor in the accident. There is no foul play involved. The man was taken to Maria hospital. He was conscious during his transport in the ambulance. The injuries, including several fractures are serious but not life-threatening. Since it is a workplace accident, the file was transferred to the CNESST for further investigation," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec. The CNESST is the Quebec public body that investigates work accidents and promotes equity, health and safety in the work place.

COVID-19 cases increase since the beginning of December in the Gaspé Peninsula

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – The number of new COVID cases has increased in the Gaspé Peninsula since the beginning of December. Between December 3 and 10, the number of new cases reported by the Public Health Board was 25 in the region: 21 in the Avignon MRC and 4 in the Percé Rock MRC.

Those 25 new cases followed three consecutive days of zero cases. As of December 10, the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government reported 18 cases in its territory. In the region, the worst day was December 5, with 8 new cases. There is one hospitalized case in the Gaspé Peninsula.

As of December 10, the

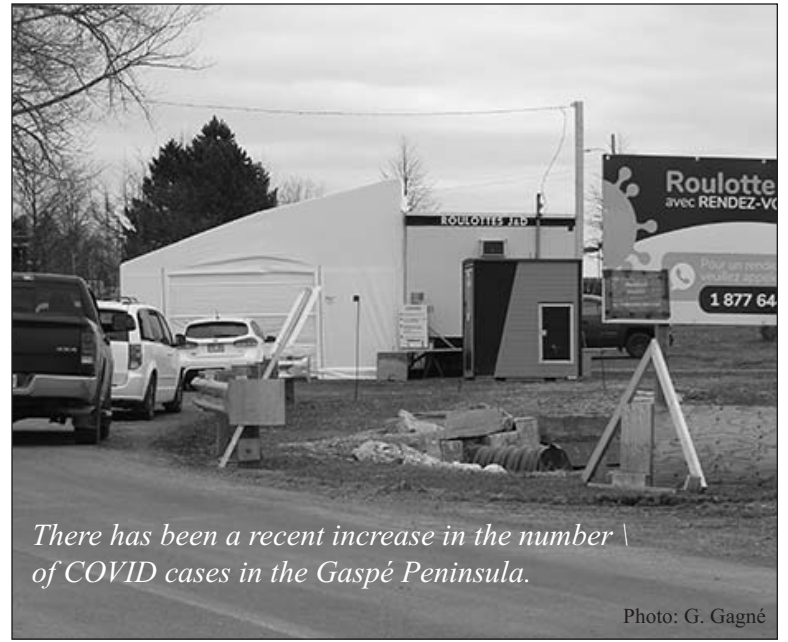
number of active cases was 23, the same as the previous day but still a relatively high number compared to the end of November, when the Covid situation was stable with 10 cases for close to a week.

The region's vaccination rate is still progressing, and a little faster than over recent weeks. The rate for the first dose went from 82.9% between November 21 to 85.3% on December 5. The booster shot has now been given to 81.2% of the regional population, compared to 80.8% as of November 21. The Quebec-wide rate was standing at 82.1% on December 5. As for the booster shot, it has risen to 78.1%.

Meanwhile, as directed by

the Department of Health and Social Services, the health authorities of the Gaspé Peninsula are now offering a third dose of the vaccine against COVID-19 for new priority groups, including people belonging to remote and isolated communities, adults who live with a chronic disease or a health problem that increases the risk of complications from COVID-19 and pregnant women.

The vaccination schedule and sites are the same as those available for the first and second doses. Sites will be added on an ad hoc basis in order to continue to offer local services. People who are part of the new criteria who wish to receive the



There has been a recent increase in the number of COVID cases in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Photo: G. Gagné

booster must make an appointment.

The health authorities invite those interested to make an appointment at

clicsanté.ca or at 1 877 644-4545. People 70 years of age and over have been eligible to receive a new booster dose since the end of November.

Editorial page

Gilles Gagné

Commentary



Canada's diplomatic boycott of China's Winter Olympic Games was the right thing to do

On December 8, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the country will enforce a diplomatic boycott of the February 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games because of Chinese human rights abuses against its Uyghur minority, which lives in the northwest Xinjiang region.

As a boycott justification, Mr. Trudeau also mentioned China's suppression of democratic protests in Hong Kong and massive crackdowns on dissent in that semi-autonomous territory.

Canada's decision came shortly after similar boycotts announced by the United States and the United Kingdom. An array of European countries are also considering a boycott.

Canada's move was the right thing to do, although there is a risk of commercial retaliation on the part of China. Justin Trudeau's announcement was far from a surprise, considering the sudden deterioration of bilateral relations between the two countries following the arrest of two Canadians in December 2018, Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig. Those arrests were following a third arrest, by Canada, of Meng Wanzhou, Huawei Technologies' chief financial officer, on a United States extradition request.

China alleged that the "two Michaels" were spies while the United States were complaining about Huawei's trade practices, also alleged to near spying activities.

Now, why was Canada's boycott move the right one? Because there is only one way to deal with China, and it is to stand up. It was the least Canada could do, considering that the athletes, who have trained hard to perform at the Winter Games, will not be penalized, but also given the sinuous path of the relations between the two countries since 2018.

After the arrest of the two Michaels, Canada begged support from many international partners in an attempt to free the hostages. Not standing up in front of China through attending the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games would have meant an abdication in front of China and a betrayal regarding the support Canada

received from abroad.

Canada waited to be in good company before making the boycott decision, which is sound, diplomatically speaking. It will also trigger more similar decisions.

Different international reports have shed light on an impressive number of human rights violations made by China over the last three years. The treatment inflicted to the Uyghur minority is widely described as genocide. The violent repression of Hong Kong residents trying to protect their democracy and rising tensions regarding Taiwan also confirmed China's dark side.

The democratic countries of the world can no longer shut their eyes regarding China's abuse of power and attempts to extend its control over international trade.

The diplomatic boycott of the Olympic Games was an easy but necessary target to voice Canada's opposition to recent Chinese manoeuvres. China's president Xi Jinping wants to use the games to show the world how advanced his country has become, technologically. Participating in the opening ceremonies would have comforted China in its pretention that no matter what the country does in trade and diplomacy, other countries will accept it without opposition.

Is there a risk for Canada to express that kind of boycott against China? Should we keep a low profile and make attempts to restart our trade and diplomatic relations on a softer tone?

The relatively hardline Canada has adopted certainly holds potential harm but the risk is greater to accept China's thug behaviour. China has already imposed sizeable constraints to Canada's canola and pork exports.

Moreover, the boycott will probably expose Canada to other forms of retaliation coming from China. We have not reached the end of the line in that regard.

However, we are in good company with regards to the boycott and that company will likely increase. The Huawei dispute is far from over and other bad news is expected.

Trade wise, after a tough 2019 year, during which our exports to China went down by \$4.5 billion, Canada is on the verge of breaking the 2018 record of export sales in 2021. China will likely need our canola, wheat, barley, iron ore and copper again in the future.

Right now, it is Australia's turn to pass through the wringer, trade-wise. Next year, it will probably be another country, as there seems to be a rotation in that matter. However, China needs the resources of many other countries in order to keep its economy going.

A concerted effort by the world's democracies will inevitably have an effect on China's thug behaviour. That country's government must understand that through joining the World Trade Organization, there are rules

coming with that and those rules must be followed.

Canada sure can't oppose the fact that China is a super power but that super power must eventually play the game fairly, or at least more fairly.

Against his will, president Xi Jinping is currently encouraging the progressive forces of his country to voice their opposition to the current tactics. Those forces exist, they are mounting and the coercion used against the Uyghur minority, against Tibet and its intimidation tactics against Taiwan might not always work in domestic affairs.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin expressed the quote of the year when, reacting to Canada's boycott, he said that "sports has nothing to do with politics."

Sports have been tainted by politics since the 19th century, and they were already tainted 2,000 years ago when the Greeks and the Romans were competing in the first Olympic Games.

China's Olympic Games' opening ceremonies will be nothing but an attempt to impress the world, technologically and politically. That's why a rising boycott will hurt that country's high brass.

Democracies must unite to make people like Xi Jinping reflect on their repeated attempts to have other countries raise the white flag in submission when facing China's intimidation tactics.

It is sure frightening to stand up against the tactics of such a giant. It is the only viable solution though. There are other countries Canada can sell its products to. Besides, China needs them as well so that country will eventually cooperate.

The Gaspé Spec

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Great breakthrough for Conception navale FMP

Newport shipyard sells two crabbers in Maritimes

Gilles Gagné

NEWPORT - Founded in 2017, the Conception navale FMP shipyard is maintaining its steady pace with a solid breakthrough in the Maritimes, having secured two contracts for the construction of as many crab boats to be delivered by 2022.

During its first three years of activity, the Newport company focused its efforts on filling its orders from Quebec fishermen, with great success, as six boats left its new shipyard.

The company operated by brothers Francis and Matthew Parisé even found itself at the end of 2019 with the need to expand its facilities, barely two years after its founding. Orders exceeded the capacity of the original building.

Moreover, while the company was to focus on 30-to-50-foot aluminum coastal boats when it was launched, it also secured orders for bigger steel crab boats varying between 70 and 75 feet in length, a size that significantly exceeds the simple comparison of lengths. A single crab boat is worth a few million dollars, depending on its design and the equipment installed inside.

“Our presence triggered talks. People took notice and we made ourselves known. That's how we managed to sign a contract for a 72-foot-long by 22-foot-wide crab boat to deliver to New Brunswick and another boat for Nova Scotia, even bigger, at 75 feet by 23 feet, another crab boat, also made of steel,” specifies Patrick Fortier-Denis, marine engineer at Conception navale FMP.

The crab boat sold to a New Brunswick fisherman, the P.A. Juliette, will be delivered in a few weeks. It has occupied a good part of the shipyard's 45 employees during the last year. In the case of the Nova Scotia crab boat, construction is just beginning. It is expected to be delivered in December 2022.

Of the six boats built since the opening of the Newport shipyard, four are aluminum coastal boats delivered to Gaspé and North Shore fishermen. A fifth boat of this type will soon be delivered to the Innu of the North Shore and the construction of a sixth unit is starting soon.

Conception navale FMP has also already delivered one crab boat of a size comparable to the two boats in preparation

for fishermen in the Maritimes.

“Another crab boat is being designed for a fisherman from Rimouski. It's a 65-foot boat that will be, I think, a game changer for fishermen in that sector,” notes Patrick Fortier-Denis.

The Newport company also has three major fishing boat conversions to its credit.

Hybrid boats

The aluminum boat whose construction is starting these days is a prototype that could also be a game-changer in the fisheries, as it is a lobster boat. Its design will make it a hybrid boat, with propulsion partly provided by an electric motor relying on batteries, and partly by a conventional engine consuming fossil fuel.

“It's a boat that will target the Chaleur Bay market, in fact a the coastal Gaspé Peninsula (...) I've been thinking of building an electric boat for a long time, and the Parisé brothers too,” emphasizes Patrick Fortier-Denis.

The prototype will be hybrid in order to meet a fundamental need for lobster fishing, an activity generally conducted on a small or medium-sized boat, less than 40 feet, and operating a short distance from the coast.

“Lobster boats are required to get to the fishing grounds quickly, and come back quickly. In between, it's much slower, during stops to empty traps and put them back in the water. There, the electric motor will be very useful,” says the marine engineer.

He also targets the winch that hoists the traps on board. “On a conventional boat, there is one unit, the hydraulic motor which runs on deck all the time. It is impractical to say that between two lifts (of traps), you turn off and start again. With an electro-hydraulic unit, it stops when it is not needed,” also notes Mr. Fortier-Denis.

The challenge with that prototype is to eventually come up with a boat that is ergonomically efficient, in terms of space management and cost-wise, as the electric propulsion and lifting units lead to lower expenses. However, there is more.

“The acquisition cost should be in the range of \$300,000 to \$500,000 for coastal boats. There is a fishing boat developed in Norway, the Karoline, with a 100-kilowatt motor, but it costs \$100,000 to



The first crab boat sold to the Maritimes was the P.A. Juliette.

Photo: Annie-Pier Dea



The Grizzly 908 is a lobster boat.

Photo: Janie-Lee Grenier

\$150,000 just in batteries. This is too much if we want to get into our price. In addition, there is the question of dockside charging; not all of the dockside infrastructure is suitable for our hybrid boat prototype. If we limit the battery capacity installed on the boat, we reduce the stress on the electrical installations in place at the dock. If the boat is based at the Anse-à-la-Barbe wharf (in the Gascons sector), the fisherman must be able to plug it in tomorrow morning. If I empty 50 kilowatt-hours a day and I am not able to recharge, I have a problem,” Mr. Fortier-Denis remarks.

Another challenge posed by the prototype, “is the development of a supply chain. Our chain relies on a Chinese lithium-iron-phosphate battery model,” he explains.

“The question of the organization of the supply chain comes in addition to the technical organization of the boat. Construction logistics are great, yes, but so is ease of use. It should be smooth and without a hitch. Relaunching a concept that has not worked is

difficult,” he says.

The 36-foot prototype has already been sold, to one of the shipyard owners, Matthew Parisé, who is now fishing for lobster, after a few years on the crab boat he owned with his father, Francis senior.

“Matthew wanted to continue fishing but in lobster, he goes not so far out at sea. The fact that it is Matthew who buys the prototype will make monitoring easier,” notes Patrick Fortier-Denis, confi-

dent that the technologies will allow increasing autonomy of electrical installations.

“We will eventually have an all-electric boat but it is a step-by-step evolution,” he sums up.

The prototype of the hybrid lobster boat represents a \$487,000 project, supported to the tune of \$194,800 by the Quebec government's program for the development of strategic sectors and niches of excellence.

The Gaspé Spec upcoming schedule and hours of operation

Closed December 22, 2021 to
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The last issue of the year - December 22
The first issue of the new year - January 12

Please note that The Gaspé Spec office will be temporarily closed and employees will be working from home offices starting December 22 due to major building renovations. Customers can continue to reach us by phone 418-752-5400 or by email at specs@globetrotter.net

Storm once again damages Highway 132 in Haute-Gaspésie

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

SAINT-MAXIME-DU-MONT-LOUIS - Quebec will not wait for spring to rebuild the wall swept away by the sea on Route 132 near Marsoui during the high tide and strong winds on December 3.

Transport Minister François Bonnardel made the announcement on December 7 via his Twitter account. "Happy to announce that we are getting ahead of the permanent works to reinforce Highway 132 between La Martre and Marsoui. This work, scheduled for the spring, will instead be carried out in the coming weeks ensuring the safety of this essential section for Gaspésians," he wrote.

This is good news according to the prefect of Haute-Gaspésie, especially when on December 6, the Minister of Transport had mentioned temporary repairs, and time needed to do the analysis in order to make permanent repairs in the spring.

"I can imagine that when you do the temporary, you have to take it out in the summer to do the permanent. I imagine that there have been calculations made among those responsible for the work. I like it being now, rather than in July (peak tourist season). At least it's starting and we're very happy," says Guy Bernatchez, visibly satisfied.



Photo: Twitter

The damage that occurred on December 3.

The permanent repair, which began on December 9, will be carried out in two phases and will last five weeks and will include recovering the old walls that have not been damaged.

The first phase between now and December 19 will cover half of the 40 metres that fell and depend on the materials available.

The second phase, after the holidays, will include receiving the balance of materials to complete the work which will be done seven days a week.

The westbound road will remain gravel until paving is possible in late winter. The work is valued at \$350,000.

On December 4, the prefect asked Quebec to protect the only major link encircling the Gaspé, comparing the situ-

ation with the debate on the third link in the Capital City.

Bombarded by a high 10.2-foot tide, pushed by winds blowing between 60 and 80 kilometres per hour, the protective barrier had washed to sea on the afternoon of December 3, damaging a few metres of the shoulder. The circulation has been alternating since then. Urgent work to lay out protective rock was carried out immediately.

On December 6, Minister Bonnardel mentioned that since 2016, the date of the last storm that significantly damaged the road between Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Saint-Maxime-du-Mont-Louis, about \$6 million had been invested in repairs and \$3 million used for preventative work on Highway 132.

Scholarships to attract workers to the CISSS

Nelson *Sergerie*, LJI

GASPÉ - New scholarships have been created by Quebec to attract more resources to the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS).

First, the government is increasing its offer to \$40,000 over two years to encourage nurses to come and practice again in the public network.

In addition to the \$18,000 put on the table for the Gaspé region, Quebec is adding \$24,000 over two years.

A nurse who returns to the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS could receive a total of \$30,000 for a first year and an additional \$12,000 if she continues for a second year.

Even before this bonus announced on December 2, the President and CEO of the CISSS, Chantal Duguay, noted that the interest was there, however, she did not want to quantify the number of people who were interested.

The addition of \$24,000 over two years will consolidate the efforts. "I met several nurses who were delighted with this first step. It's interesting that we have a good response for full-time positions. We are really engaged in encouraging work to increase the availability of nurses," says Ms. Duguay.

Pilot projects

In addition, the CISSS is part of a government pilot project to create administrative officer positions who will support nurses in their practice.

Quebec has authorized 39 positions accompanied by a scholarship of \$4,000 for an eight-week training course that will begin soon with the collaboration the School Service Centres in the region.

In addition, 34 auxiliary nurse positions have been confirmed in a Quebec pilot project. In this case, a scholarship of \$20,000 will be awarded for taking the 1800-hour training program that will be launched in mid-January.

Although these reinforcements will be appreciated, the CISSS mentions that it will always be short of personnel in the wake of the redeployment of positions which will require more manpower, not to mention retirements.

"Our needs are great, but we very favourably receive all the measures put forward by the government to help us meet the needs in various sectors of activity, both in terms of care and administration," specifies the director of Human Resources, Alain Vézina.

Shortage of 400 housing units in Gaspé, according to study

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - The needs were already known but Gaspé can now quantify it: there is a lack of 400 housing units to meet the demand.

The Town commissioned a study on the subject last April from the Altus Group to document the case and subsequently convince developers to embark on the adventure with precise data.

The document, presented on December 6 to town council, is unequivocal. At least 250 apartments will have to be built in the coming years to bridge the gap, if we consider the 144-unit project announced this fall near Carrefour Gaspé.

The need remains high despite the construction of 68 apartments over the past five years; the many social projects



Photo: N. Sergerie

Gaspé needs 400 housing units to meet the demand.

such as that of 12 apartments in Petit-Cap; the 48 units of the Maison des frères de Rivière-au-Renard and the construction of 225 houses and chalets.

According to the Town,

151 social housing units have been built in Gaspé since 2016.

"The firm went to meet with the main employers to find out about their growth challenges, how many employees they will be hiring in

the next few years. Otherwise, we slow down our development. All regional developers who have money to invest in real estate are welcome here," says Mayor Daniel Côté.

This growth in demand will

reach a new peak with the expansion of the LM Wind Power plant that has started and the many other economic projects underway. The study also shows that 73% of the rental stock was built in the 1980s and 47% of these have two bedrooms.

Those built in the 1960s rent for \$542 per month while those in the last decade are more like \$864. Homes built over the past four years are renting for around \$1,150, partly because of rising construction costs and demand.

Three programs to promote construction are in effect: a tax credit for the construction of housing, one for the acquisition of properties in the outskirts of the city centre and a last for intergenerational housing. A housing development assistance policy is also in place.

Alexis Deschênes will be a candidate at the PQ convention in Bonaventure

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Legal aid lawyer, Alexis Deschênes, confirmed on December 4 that he will seek the nomination of the Parti Québécois in the riding of Bonaventure and try to become the party candidate in the next election, scheduled for October 3, 2022.

Mr. Deschênes had already voiced his interest in June when incumbent Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, left the Parti Québécois to sit as an independent, however, during the last six months, the attorney spent some time rebuilding the party's organization in the riding.

He expressed interest in running at the convention but wanted to strengthen the electoral base first. He was, until recently, the chairman of the Parti Québécois association in the riding.



Photo: Courtesy of Alexis Deschênes

Alexis Deschênes wants to seek the PQ nomination in Bonaventure.

"I want to defend my region and fight so that we have more power here to act against the challenges of labor shortages, housing and childcare spaces. Moreover, the independence of Quebec

is essential to implement a real decentralization of powers to the regions," he says.

Since June, the ex-journalist has undertaken to revive the executive and the sovereignist supporters' interest in

the party, he says. He has attended many public outings and he has greeted leaders in the region of the Parti Québécois and the Bloc Québécois, Paul St-Pierre Plamondon and Yves-François Blanchet, respectively.

"I was able to confirm in my meetings that the Parti Québécois is a strong political force, established in Bonaventure with several hundred members with strong convictions. Also, by increasing the number of meetings, from Chandler to the Plateaux of Matapedia, with community stakeholders, municipal elected officials and representatives of the business community, I felt strong support for what I am proposing, namely to lead all battles head-on in order to obtain gains for the Gaspé. We will no longer accept setbacks for the region," insists Alexis Deschênes.

"The year is not over yet, as our funding is already

higher than what has been raised in 2019 and 2020. We receive donations from people who have never given to the party previously, membership card renewals are numerous and many are saying they are ready not only to give financially but to get involved again for the party. I wish to gain the confidence of the members of the Parti Québécois in Bonaventure and promote our ideas of independence, regional democracy, social justice and protection of the environment," concludes Mr. Deschênes.

He recently greeted his National Assembly colleague for the Magdalen Islands, Joël Arseneau, who is the Parti Québécois critic in transport. Both men asked the Quebec government to accelerate the Gaspé Peninsula railroad repairs as no call for tenders related to bridge repairs has been issued by Transports Québec since June 12, 2020.

Next generation takes over Tapp Products

Nelson Sergerie,
LJI Journalist

DOUGLASTOWN - A new image and a new general management have been put in place at Produits Tapp in Gaspé. Sylvain Tapp launched the business 26 years ago by marketing the famous Tapp sauerkraut with certified lacto-fermented organic vegetables and is now passing the company on to his son, Julien.

The transaction took place in August 2020 with the purchase of a first block of shares and the rest is being done gradually. It is, therefore, a changing of the guard, but one that will be done in continuity.

But just like in the fisheries sector, transferring a farming business to relatives is far from beneficial. "It isn't attractive tax-wise to us. If it was someone foreign it would be better. But things are going well," says Sylvain Tapp, who has never considered selling the company to "outsiders." Even though he is no longer in control of the business, he is far from retiring, still being happy in his fields.

Julien Tapp became involved in the company which currently has 16 employees in 2016. Being in Montreal for his studies in operations management, he never thought of returning to the Gaspé after obtaining his diploma.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Sylvain and Julien Tapp in front of a huge box of cabbage.

"It's still a challenge. Just because you're a father and son doesn't mean you're doing well. There are both personal and financial challenges, and all the entrepreneurial challenges that such a transaction can have," says Julien Tapp.

The products will carry a new brand image as a result of this transaction.

The company produces 392,000 kilograms of cabbage and remains discreet about its turnover.

It shipped the equivalent of two and a half football fields of pallets of produce to supermarket chains such as IGA in Quebec and others across

Canada through a distribution firm.

Julien Tapp believes that there is room for expansion both in Quebec and Canada and wants to set up a production certification program.

A new phase in the mechanization of the production line is in the works after investing \$1 million in the past four years to expand the processing plant located in Douglastown.

In addition to producing cabbages, the entrepreneurs have partnerships with other producers in the Gaspé and Quebec to provide the raw material.

Nurses' Union: Pier-Luc Bujold re-elected president of the union by acclamation

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

CARLETON-SUR-MER - Pier-Luc Bujold obtains a second term as president of the Union of Nurses, Auxiliary Nurses and Respiratory Therapists of Eastern Quebec (SIIIEQ-CSQ).

Re-elected by acclamation by the members of the union, Mr. Bujold intends to increase efforts to continue defending the working conditions of workers against the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS).

"There are significant challenges of listening and working with the union and we need to restore a healthy work climate to counter staff burnout and illness," says the president.

On the other hand, Mr. Bujold admits that his first term as president was tumultuous, with the renegotiation of collective agreements at both local and national levels. It was also marked by the denunciation of working conditions at the CISSS which led to the Auditor General's investigation.

"The biggest, the most difficult, the most unexpected and the unusual is dealing with the pandemic. It's an event that marked my tenure and we're still in it," says Mr. Bujold. He does not hesitate to criticize the management by ministerial orders of Quebec of this crisis with no consultations being conducted. He also deplores the announcements of improvements to working conditions within a few hours notice.

Mr. Bujold notes that he has achieved gains both at the CISSS and at the national level in the negotiations in recent years.

Pier-Luc Bujold had great shoes to fill when he was elected. He took the place of Micheline Barriault who had been in office for 28 years.



Pier-Luc Bujold remains on as president of the SIIIEQ-CSQ.

Photo: G. Gagné

We all have questions about the **vaccine**

Is the COVID-19 vaccine for children the same as the one for adults?



The vaccine given to children under the age of 12 contains a smaller amount of mRNA, because children have a stronger immune response than adults. Despite the smaller dose, the vaccine is just as effective as the one for adults.

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about the vaccine at**

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Economic development requires full and equal participation of Indigenous peoples

Tesia Hackett,
LJI Journalist

Economic reconciliation will only be possible when development is met with full and equal partnerships between Indigenous people and Quebec.

That was the resounding message relayed by chiefs from First Nations across Quebec during the Great Economic Circle of Indigenous People and Quebec, a two-day gathering that took place on November 25 and 26 in Tio'tiake:ke (Montreal) and was organized by the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL).

The event had the goal of becoming "the beginning of a movement for the full participation of Indigenous Nations in our economy," said Ghislain Picard, Grand Chief of the AFNQL, in his opening speech at the major gathering between Indigenous entrepreneurs, chiefs, business leaders and MNAs. In a spirit of reconciliation, Picard also addressed the matter of unceded land and traditional territory. "I want to reaffirm our determination to ensure that our rights, our ancestral territories and our self-

government are respected," he said.

"Economic wealth and prosperity ... That is tied to the land," said the Assembly of First Nations National Chief RoseAnne Archibald. "So the land that we stand on today is the basis for all the wealth in this province and all the wealth in this country, and the people who are the rightful caretakers of that land are First Nations. So unceded land means it's important that First Nations have access to the wealth of their land."

The two day gathering included panel discussions on how economic reconciliation and development can be achieved in meaningful Nation to Nation partnerships between Indigenous people and Quebec.

To Chief Monik Kistabish, of the Abitibiwinni First Nation, full partnership includes Indigenous communities being consulted prior to development being undertaken on traditional territory; normalizing development contracts with Indigenous communities; Indigenous representation on corporate boards and within governments; and training adapted to meet Indigenous needs.



Photo: G. Gagné

John Martin

"We are not against economic development. We want to be a part, a stakeholder in economic development, taking into account our aspirations, our values, our challenges," said Chief Gilbert Dominique of Pekuakamiulnuasht Takuhikan.

Economic development informed by Indigenous values was also echoed throughout discussions during the event.

"These agreements that we're reaching between First Nations and business partners have to balance the ideas of developing a resource and developing an economy while also protecting the land. So we have

to do two things at once. I know sometimes people feel that these two things are at odds but they are not. We can hold contradictory ideas in one space," said Archibald, who stressed that it was important development agreements be sustainable and thinking seven generations forward be the basis for determining sustainability.

"Too often when looking at economic development, (it's) an issue of amassing wealth, amassing gain, and I think that perspective has to be readjusted to more of a First Nations' approach where it's more holistic. You do have to take into consideration the impacts we have on the environment and how resources are exploited," said Chief John Martin of Gesgapegiag.

"I think that's part of the way forward. If people were to look at us, whether it's business partners or potential government partners in development in the future, that's the vision that we bring in having environmental stewardship and environmental responsibility in projects," said Grand Chief Kahsennehawe Sky-Deer of the Mohawk Council of Kah-

nawa:ke.

Concluding the two-day gathering was the presentation of the "Great Circle of Commitment Declaration" that was adopted by over 130 Quebec businesses and organizations to "encourage organizations and businesses to adhere to it to ensure the realization of a broad movement of support for the self-determination of Indigenous peoples and their full participation in Quebec's economy." The federal government also announced the renewal of two partnership initiatives. True North Treasure Initiative and the Forest Full Value Initiatives will receive \$4.5 million each.

In Indigenous knowledge, everyone is equal and interconnected in a circle which represents "the relationship that binds everything that constitutes our world, our interdependence and our responsibility towards the smallest of plants and the smaller than animals," Chief Picard explained. He said he hopes the discussions and business opportunities that proceed from the gathering will be a step towards restoring the circle broken by colonization.

Barachois Soup and Sandwiches Project Starts Up Again

Natalie Chicoine,
LJI Journalist

BARACHOIS: - Community members of Barachois have come up with a plan to get the local community together as pandemic regulations ease up and social events can now take place. The meal project, which is a free lunch of soup, sandwiches and dessert offered to people of the Gaspé area takes place every Saturday at 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261, in Barachois.

Initially started in 2018 at the Barachois Recreation Centre and organized by members of the Barachois Recreation Centre Committee, the project was put on pause when the pandemic hit.

The food was prepared and donated by members of the community and local seniors were accommodated when getting out to the event was just not possible that day. Created with the idea of giving back to the community as well as bringing the community closer, it provided an inclusive place for locals to gather each Saturday to reconnect and, in

some instances, get acquainted with new neighbors. It also offered a much welcome alternative to the isolation that is often felt by the older population, particularly during this pandemic.

Now, the project has restarted in a slightly different fashion. This year, the project is being supported by local community organizations in Barachois like the Barachois Area Development Committee, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Mountain View

Golden Age Club on a rotational basis. However, the month of December was sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion alone. The attendance is very good, seeing anywhere from upwards of 30 attendees each Saturday from Barachois and surrounding communities like Bridgeville, Bougainville and Douglastown.

Lloyd Roussel, President of the Barachois Legion, mentions that all sanitary measures and regulations put forth by the Santé Publique are being

followed and vaccine passports are required to attend the event. He notes that the project will be stopping briefly for three weeks just for the holiday season. President of the BADC, Janet Harvey, says the project will start back up in

January with the original rotations between organizations. The community is aiming to take the project into the seniors' home in Barachois sometime in the new year, but the plan for that is still being developed.



Give a gift that can be enjoyed every week of the year!

Still many unvaccinated workers at the CISSS

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

GASPÉ - Forty-nine workers at the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) are still not adequately vaccinated.

According to the data as of December 7, 28 are not vaccinated and 21 are only partially vaccinated. Three workers were suspended after refusing to undergo screening tests required by the province.

Cyril Gibeault of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts criticized the situation back in November. Mr. Gibeault receives varied care in the network and at home and he fears being contaminated by an unvaccinated worker.

The CISSS has expressed concern about the situation. "We cannot disclose the vaccination status of our employees. They were asked to explain their status. I believe that the problem has been solved," states the Deputy President and CEO, Connie Jacques. Mr. Gibeault did not provide the CISSS with a followup after vocalizing his concerns.

Several efforts to convince the unwilling have been made. There has been a lot of energy put into raising awareness. Dr. Bonnier Viger (Regional Director of Public Health) continues to raise awareness," adds CISSS President and CEO Chantal Duguay.



Photo: Beryl Boyle

Another successful Christmas concert for Belle Anse School

Natalie **Chicoine**

BELLE ANSE: - On December 7, the students of Belle Anse Elementary School held their annual Christmas concert.

This year, due to Covid, the Christmas concert festivities were separated into two shows in order to accommodate the concert-goers in a safe environment that conformed to the measures suggested by the Public Health Board. Traditionally held in the gymnasium of the primary school, tickets to see the event were sold in advance for the first time ever this year. There was also a door prize created by local artisan and painter, Stephanie Bond, that was drawn at the end of the evening.

This much-anticipated part of the community holiday season, one that is looked forward to every year by students, staff

and the community alike, debuted at 6 p.m. on the evening of December 7 to a crowd of approximately 90 attendees. The second, a matinée performance, opened on December 9 to a crowd of approximately 40 people. Both shows were about 1.5 hours each.

Belle Anse Elementary School, which has a faculty of nine and a student population of 33, was dedicated to making this Christmas concert a true success in every possible way despite the ongoing global Covid pandemic. A bilingual event, the show featured singing and dancing in both French and English, comedy, jazz, and theatre performed by grades 5 and 6.

These festivities took six weeks of practice and preparation and included students from pre-kindergarten through to grade six. Ms. Hélène

Bouchard who is head of the music program at Belle Anse School dedicated her class time to preparing the students for their show and music practices became more frequent during the weeks leading up to the concert. The students also learned a bit of set design and were responsible for decorating the gymnasium for their concert.

Beryl Boyle, principal of Belle Anse School, as well as Gaspé Elementary School, was very proud of the dedication and teamwork on behalf of the students and staff. Ms. Boyle says: "Music is so good for a child's development...it helps build self-confidence as well as music and performing skills. I believe it also provides a place to shine for those students who lean towards the arts...everyone felt a sense of accomplishment."

Christmas Greetings from Bishop Gaétan Proulx, O.S.M.

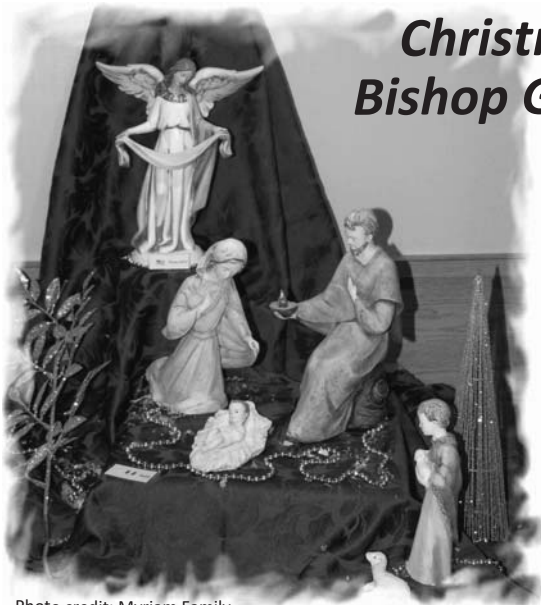


Photo credit: Myriam Family

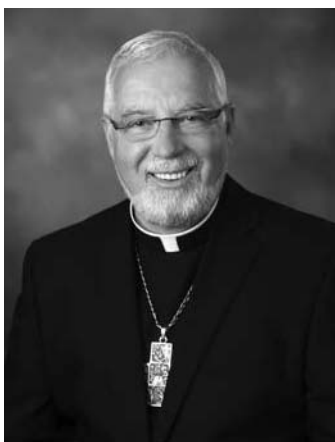


Photo credit: Dachowski

† Gaétan Proulx, O.S.M.
Bishop of Gaspé

Jesus Emmanuel, God with us... You come to meet us. Your presence surprises us. It nourishes in us that impulse that opens our hearts to boldness and trust. Our world is changing. We are losing focus... but you are there. You show us the way.

Since November 21, 2021, our diocesan church has been celebrating. Yes, 100 years of existence, let's celebrate! With you, brothers and sisters, I give thanks to the Lord who has guided our church against all odds, but always in trust as expressed in the centennial theme. "Always on the road, never uprooted."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022!

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



The most beautiful things

Sometimes we can look to children's literature for a great deal of wisdom. Books such as *Charlotte's Web*, *Corduroy*, *Madeline*, the *Ramona* series and many more help children to understand the world and their feelings about it. The top rated books for children often include books by Dr. Seuss (real name Theodore Geisel) and one that is particularly appropriate at this time of year is *The Grinch*.

The lesson that the Grinch learns is essentially that Christmas is not just about presents.

"It came without ribbons and it came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas means a little bit more."

Our ancestors lived through times when survival was the goal and there was not a lot of extra money for gifts at Christmas time. I recall my mother, who was born just before the Great Depression of 1929, telling us about Christmases she recalled as a child. Some years she would receive a homemade doll, some candy, hard tack she called it, an orange and a few walnuts. That's it and to today's children that would be unimaginable.

Did my mother feel that was a disappointing thing, to not receive piles of shiny new toys? No, she certainly did not. She recalled skating (using her brother's skates) and tobogganing (on a piece of cardboard) and all the homemade goodies. She remembered how exciting it was to go to a Christmas Eve church service.

Sadly, a lot of Christmas does indeed come from a store. So how do we counter that and is it something that we should try to do? A quick and simple way of answering that is to recall your own childhood Christmases. What do you remember?

I recall the Santa Claus Parade, helping my mom to decorate the cookies, receiving literally dozens of Christmas cards, the tree decorated with colourful lights. That is what comes to my mind as I reflect back in time.

We should try to help our children and grandchildren make memories. You likely are doing that already, but focussing on those family and friend times is important. "Stuff" is transitory. Toys that are received this year may not even be part of the child's life next year. Memories stay for a lifetime.

Presents will always be part of Christmas but we can make it more meaningful by kind acts of giving that the child can be part of: We can give to the food bank, take a gift to someone who is not expecting it, provide a hot meal to a senior, donate some money or, even better, gift cards to someone who does not have a lot. Send real Christmas cards because it is a



wonderful sight to see all the different cards you will receive in return displayed at your home. Those cards are all about human connections, and that is an important thing to show a child.

Enjoy all the beautiful things about Christmas. Sometimes the most beautiful things are not "things" at all.

Just a thought:

*The most beautiful things in life are not things.
They're people and places and memories and pictures.
They're feelings and moments and smiles and laughter.*

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Announcements

Obituary



EVANS: Archdeacon Malcolm Charles

Archdeacon Malcolm Charles Evans died peacefully on November 7, 2021, at the age of 88. He was predeceased by his parents: Kenneth and Marjorie (Mowat) Evans; his wife: Ursula Brain (2005); infant daughter: Moragh (1963); and sister: Kitty Cocks (2019).

He is survived by his second wife and devoted caregiver: Beulah Smith-Evans; three children: Jonathan (Jackie), Melissa (Jay) and Kenneth; grandchildren: Liam and Julia; as well as siblings: Gwynneth, David and Ross Evans.

Malcolm was born in Norwich, England, in 1932. In September, 1933, he arrived in Toronto with his parents where his father taught at Trinity College. In 1944, the family moved to Montreal where his father was Dean of the Christ Church Cathedral. Malcolm attended Selwyn House School and later Bishop's College School in Lennoxville, Quebec. He graduated from Queen's University in 1958, and attended Westcott House, Cambridge, England, from 1959 to 1961. He was ordained by his father, the Bishop of Ontario and the Bishop of Niagara in 1962.

Malcolm's ministry began in the Diocese of Niagara. In 1962, he married Ursula Brain. Four children were born. In October, 1972, he became rector of Grace Church-on-the-Hill, Toronto. During his tenure, the 100th Anniversary of Grace Church was celebrated with a variety of events and programs. In 1981, Malcolm took a sabbatical year with the National Defense College of Canada stationed in Kingston. From 1981 to 1985 he was Chaplain and teacher at Bishop's College School in Lennoxville. Between 1985 to 1998, he served as Rector of St. Christopher's Church, Burlington, and St. Andrew's Church, Grimbsy.

In retirement, Malcolm served in 2005 as an honorary assistant at St. James Church, Port Daniel, and St. Paul's Church, Shigawake, in the Gaspé where he established the "Malcolm Evans Fund" for the purpose of supporting persons from the area facing financial hardship. In 2006 he was interim priest at Trinity Church, Ste. Foy, Quebec, where he met Beulah Smith whom he married in 2007. In 2008, he was interim priest at the Cathedral of Holy Trinity, Quebec City, Quebec.

One of Malcolm's greatest joys in life was spending summers with family in his beloved Metis. Arriving for the first time in 1947 with his parents and siblings, virtually every summer thereafter was celebrated at the club, on the beach or on a salmon river with dear friends, Ursula, and since 2007 with Beulah.

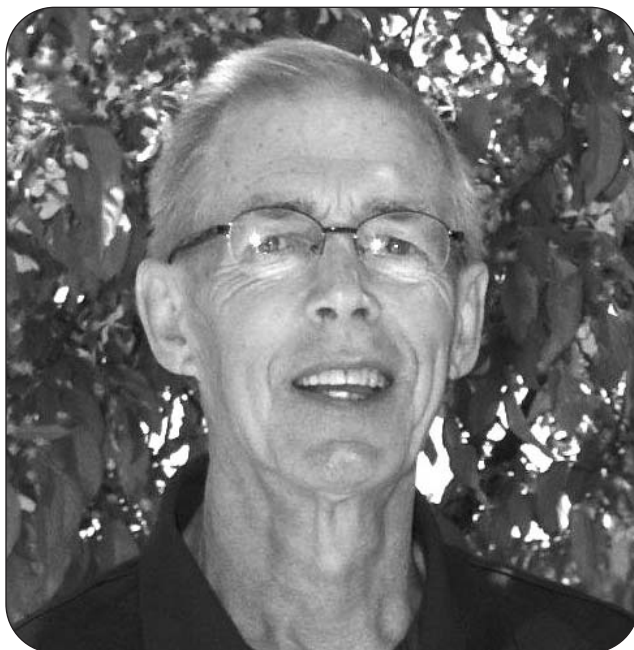
The family also extends their sincere appreciation to the doctors and nurses and all the staff at St. Brigid's Home for their loving care and assistance to

Malcolm.

A funeral service was held at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Quebec City, on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers in memory of Malcolm, donations may be made to the Anglican Diocese of Quebec in support of The Bishop's Discretionary Fund (31 des Jardins, Quebec, QC G1R 4L6) or St. Brigid's Home Foundation (2000 - 1270 chemin St. Foy, Quebec, QC G1S 2M4).

In Memory



LYALL: Peter Samuel

In loving memory of my dear husband who passed away one year ago on December 8, 2020.

*For all you were to me in life,
And all the joy you brought,
Your memory is with me
In every single thought.
The pain I felt at losing you
Will never go away,
But knowing that you're in my heart
Helps me through each day.
When you were here I always felt
That nothing could go wrong,
But you're still my inspiration
And your memory keeps me strong.
And though my heart is heavy,
It's also full of love,
And that's enough to comfort me,
While you're in heaven above.*

Sadly missed and never forgotten by your loving wife, Ruth.

Happy 90th Birthday Mom!



December 18, 2021

We love you. Enjoy your day.



MCLELLAN: George Brian

February 24, 1966 - December 24, 2018

In loving memory of a dear son and brother who dropped dead on Christmas Eve, 2018.

Our dear Brian has left us

On a road all alone

To a distant land

Where there is no return.

We thank you for the memories, Brian. Missed beyond words. Mum, David and Heather.


Thank you




The family of Lorraine Palmer Sams who passed away September 10, 2021, would like to thank everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy, by visits to the funeral home, visits to our homes, your presence at the funeral, flowers, your delicious food donations, sympathy cards, texts and e-mail messages, telephone calls and all the generous donations made to the different charities. These kind and thoughtful gestures were very much appreciated by all the family.

A special thank you to all the staff of the 7th floor of the Hotel Dieu Hospital for the excellent care our dear mother received.

Danny and Bonnie, Sherry, Pat and Colleen, Peter and Rachelle, Colin and Cathy, Heather and Kim, Kim and Colleen, Lowell and Shirley, Doug and family



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COAST ROUND-UP

NEW RICHMOND: St. Andrew's United Church

December 19: Food Bank Sunday - Bring in your non-perishables for the local food bank.

December 24: Christmas Eve service with communion 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

Grocery Bingo every Tuesday night at 7 p.m.

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.

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 19
2 p.m. Hope Town

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, December 19
St. Paul's - Gaspé
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, December 19

New Carlisle

7 p.m. Festival of Lessons and Carols

Hope Town

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Shigawake

9 a.m. Festival of Lessons and Carols

**DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE:
WEDNESDAY AT 4 P.M.**

*Please send your Classified or Coast Round-Up to:
holly.smith@globetrotter.net*



ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Relationships will be easy for you this week, Aries. You will be in tune with the vibe of the people with whom you interact on a daily basis and can push interactions further.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Remember to take lessons from those who have blazed trails before you. Taurus. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Explore some tried and true strategies.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, your desire to remodel or re-

decorate your home could come to the forefront this week. Be careful to set a budget; otherwise, you run the risk of overspending.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

You may be lacking some self-confidence in the romance department right now, Cancer. Phone a friend and get the pep talk you need to realize you've got what it takes.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may be tempted to turn off your phone this week, as the idea of a device-free day is enticing. Take a brief time out from technology each day.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, if you feel backed into a corner, try not to lash out but under-

stand others' opinions and why they may be questioning you. Listen and you'll find a solution.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, it's unlikely you can check everything off of your list this week. Don't let that get you down, however. You will accomplish a lot. Measured progress is still progress.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may be known for being serious much of the time, but it's alright to be goofy and playful once in a while. Engage in some entertaining antics.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Stand up for what you believe in this week, Sagittarius. Others will be inspired by your actions and may join in

support of the cause you've championed.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

The pressure on you has been tremendous lately, Capricorn. You may want to treat yourself to a well-deserved rest. The break will quickly rejuvenate you.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

This is a good time to pursue your dreams, Aquarius. Make a list of smaller steps that will help you achieve your goals and then put the plan into action.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

You can't avoid every poor situation that comes your way, Pisces. Don't run and hide, but step up and face the music.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
DECEMBER 12
Jennifer Connelly, Actress (51)
DECEMBER 13
Taylor Swift, Singer (32)
DECEMBER 14
Tori Kelly, Singer (29)
DECEMBER 15
Adam Brody, Actor (42)
DECEMBER 16
Theo James, Actor (37)
DECEMBER 17
Pope Francis, Religious Leader (85)
DECEMBER 18
Billie Eilish, Singer (20)

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Play outside!

Silence of snowflakes. Smell of sweet pine. Oh, dear friends, It's wintertime!

Diane Skinner

Every year as winter arrives many of us tend to spend less time outside. This is true for children too who play outdoors at school during recess and lunch break but do not get out much more than that.

Outdoor play is just as important in the colder months as in spring, summer and fall. Playing provides physical activity but there are other health benefits from playing outdoors. We need Vitamin D which outdoor play can provide. Indoor air quality can be unhealthy and full of bacte-



Photo: D. Skinner

ria in winter months and breathing in fresh, clean air is a bonus.

Getting outside in winter gives your child (and you) the chance to play with snow! You can have a snowball fight, build a fort, make snow angels and make snow people.

Children have a terrific outdoor activity in winter for children, of all ages, is feeding the winter birds.

unlimited imagination. Playing in the snow is an opportunity to create!

Playing outside with other children gives your child the opportunity to socialize with other children and this is so critical to a child's social and physical development.

Playing in the snow gives opportunity to observe nature in winter. Discuss these changes with your child: the bare trees, trees that are evergreens who do not lose their needles, animal tracks in the snow, birds that remain all winter. For younger children, take the opportunity for them to create a picture when they come inside of what they observed and did outside.

Dress accordingly and

everyone will enjoy the outdoor time a whole lot more. Dress your child (and you) in layers making sure that heads, feet and hands are warm. Waterproof mitts are critical to enjoying the snow!

There are so many ways to enjoy the outdoors in winter:

- Ice skating, either in an arena or an outside rink.
- Make your own rink.
- Snowshoeing
- Downhill skiing
- Cross-country skiing
- Build a winter bonfire and roast marshmallows.
- Go on a family hike and take the dog.
- Collect pine cones and make a Christmas wreath with them.

Watch the stars on a wintry night.

Catch snowflakes on a black piece of cloth and look at them with a magnifying glass.

Play hockey.

Go ice fishing.

Go snowmobiling.

Play a game of "snow soccer." Go winter geocaching.

Blow bubbles outdoors and observe what happens.

Feed the winter birds.

Play outside and make the most of what winter offers you! It is mostly free for you and your child to enjoy. Make memories.

As author Lisa Genova wrote in her beautiful book, *Still Alice*, "All my life I've accumulated memories – they've become, in a way, my most precious possessions."

Twenty of the best books for young children

Diane Skinner

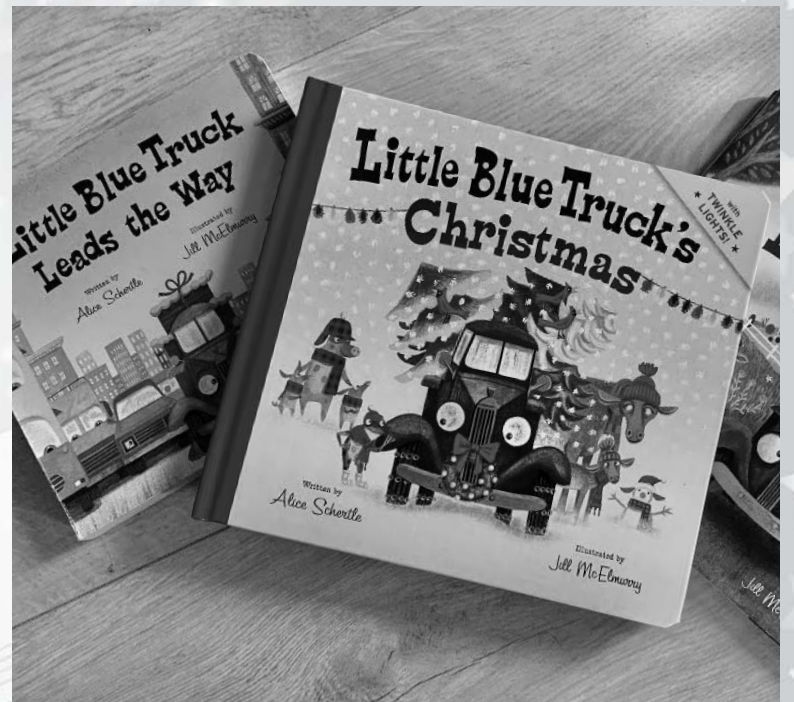
Books are magical and introducing your child to great books when they are young can instill a lifelong love of reading. Not every book is of equal quality and this list of 20 best books for children from 3 – 6 will ensure that your child gets off to a strong start with terrific books.

Keep this list handy and you can refer to it for birthdays, Christmas and other special occasions. Reading aloud to children has so many benefits including: stirs their imagination, develops the skill of concentration and listening carefully, enriches their vocabulary, encourages them to want to learn to read, and keeps them entertained.

A new book makes a great Christmas Eve tradition.

A suggested list for children 3 – 6 years old

- Madeline – Ludwig Bemelmans
- Winnie the Pooh – A.A. Milne
- Where the Wild Things Are – Maurice Sendak
- Corduroy – Don Freeman
- Knuffle Bunny – Mo Williams
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus – Mo Willems
- The Little Engine that Could – Watty Piper
- Harold and the Purple Crayon – Crockett Johnson
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie – Laura Numeroff
- Green Eggs and Ham – Dr. Seuss
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom – Bill Martin Jr.
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle
- Good Night Moon – Margaret Wise Brown
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear – Bill Martin Jr.
- Hello Lighthouse – Sophie Blackall
- Freight Train – Donald Crews
- But Not the Hippopotamus – Sandra Boynton
- Hair Love – Matthew Cherry
- Stellaluna – Janell Cannon
- Blue Truck series – Alice Schertle



The Blue Truck series is captivating for young children who will often ask you to "Read it again!"

Photo: D. Skinner

Best Chocolate Christmas Fudge

Families are like fudge. Mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

Diane Skinner

One of the best parts of the Christmas season is enjoying homemade fudge! Every family has a recipe that has been handed down through the generations. My mother (and her mother before her) made the brown sugar fudge with chopped walnuts. It was pure sugar heaven. This recipe is for a chocolate fudge and very simple to make. The bonus is: it is less sweet than a lot of other fudge. So easy peasy!

Ingredients:

- 2 3/4 cups chocolate chips
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 tbsp. whipping cream
- 4 tbsp. butter
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt

- 3 tbsp. Christmas sprinkles
- 1. Line an 8-inch by 8-inch baking pan with parchment paper and spray with cooking spray.
- 2. In a medium pot over medium heat, melt the chocolate, condensed milk, butter, cream, vanilla, and salt together. Stir until smooth then pour into pan.
- 3. Top with sprinkles and refrigerate for 2 hours. Cut into squares.

All about fudge

Some of the most popular flavors of fudge include peanut butter, marshmallow and maple walnut fudge. Nuts, raisins, crumbled cookies and other ingredients can be added. Traditional fudge is made by dissolving sugar, butter and milk and heating it to 240 de-

grees F. Then a drop of the mixture is dropped into cold water. If it forms into a ball, rather than dissolving, it is ready! The addition of other ingredients helps to make the fudge smoother. Added ingredients include marshmallows, condensed milk, chopped nuts and corn syrup.

Typically, chocolate fudge (as in the recipe above) uses pieces of chocolate or chocolate chips that are melted and butter, milk and other ingredients are added.

Fudge may also be made with less common ingredients: peanut butter, cream cheese, canned pumpkin, molasses, amaretto and bourbon. A quick scan of less common fudge flavours reveals Blueberry Cheesecake Fudge, Key lime



Fudge may also be made using less common ingredients: peanut butter, cream cheese, canned pumpkin, amaretto and bourbon.

Pie Fudge and Bailey's Irish Cream Fudge.

Fudge will keep for about two weeks at room temperature in an airtight container, unless it is all eaten before that! If you place it in the fridge, it will last about four weeks. If you freeze your fudge, it will keep for several months.

The word fudge is not all about that sweet confection,

sometimes it has a negative connotation. It can an incorrect or deliberately misleading answer to a question. As in, "The results of the experiment looked impressive, but it turns out the numbers had been fudged." It is sometimes used as a euphemism (a mild acceptable word substituted for one considered to be an unacceptable word).

Christmas crafts for wee ones: reindeer

Diane Skinner

Making Christmas crafts with your children or grandchildren can be so much fun. Ignore the mess because it is all about having fun and being together. It makes us slow down a bit during a busy time, and that is a good thing!

Candy Cane Reindeer

Materials:
Candy canes
Wiggly eyes
Brown pipe cleaners for antlers
Red pom poms for noses
Glue
Method:
1. Twist the pipe cleaners around the top of the candy cane and bend into shape.
2. Glue on wiggly eyes.

3. Glue on pom pom noses. These are so much fun and simple to make! You can hang them on the tree or they make a sweet, little gift for school friends!

Reindeer Antlers

Materials:
Brown construction paper
Scissors
Glue
Pencil
Method:
1. Fold construction paper in half and trace antlers, including a band to go around child's head.
2. Cut out.
3. Place around child's head and glue together.
4. On Christmas morning, stick bows onto the antlers!



Photo credits: Diane Skinner

Christmas Carol Quiz

Diane Skinner

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la! That is from a famous traditional Christmas carol. Can you name which one? To get the answer did you sing a bit of the song? The answer is Deck the Halls! Have a look at these and see how many you can identify:

1. "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed. The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head."
2. "But as long as you love me so, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow."
3. "There'll be parties for hosting, marshmallows for toasting, and caroling out in the snow."
4. "The Lord is come, let earth receive her King."
5. "Good tidings we bring to you and your kin."
6. "Just like the ones I used to know."
7. "Christmas Eve will find me, where the lovelight gleams."
8. "Oh, the fire is slowly

- dying. And, my dear, we're still good-bye-ing. But as long as you love me so ..."
9. "There must have been some magic in that old silk hat they found, for when they placed it on his head, he began to dance around!"
 10. "Then one foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say"
 11. "Decorations of red on a green Christmas tree, won't be the same dear, if you're not here with me."
 12. "Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? In the lane, snow is glistening. A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight."
 13. "He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake."
 14. "Everyone dancing merrily, in a new old-fashioned way."
 15. "Let your heart be light. From now on your troubles will be out of sight."
- BONUS: "I won't even wish for snow. And I'm just gonna keep on waiting, underneath the mistletoe."

ANSWERS

1. Away in a Manger
2. Let it Snow
3. It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
4. Joy to the World
5. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
6. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
7. I'll Be Home for Christmas
8. Let it Snow
9. Frosty the Snowman
10. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
11. Blue Christmas
12. Winter Wonderland
13. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
14. Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
15. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
16. BONUS: All I Want for Christmas is You

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