

Ukrainian-Gaspesian fears Europe-wide conflict and urges other countries to join Ukraine's fight

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND - Volodymyr Zmazhenko, a Ukrainian living in the Gaspé Peninsula for almost 10 years, is convinced that if other European countries don't get involved directly in the conflict triggered by Russia in Ukraine, this war will spread to the rest of Eastern Europe and maybe to the whole continent.

From his New Richmond home, Mr. Zmazhenko is continually following what is happening in his native country, where his father and one of his three sisters still reside, in the Kherson region.

"Not everyone reacts enough. It's in Europe, I insist. It's not in South Africa. I am not saying that we should not intervene in South Africa in a similar situation, but if it affects Ukraine, it can and it will affect all Europe. It will go further. In 1938 and 1939, it started the same way. Hitler was sick in his mind, however, everyone negotiated with him, but Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria fell. Afterwards, people reacted, but there was a lot more destruction than if people had reacted before," says Volodymyr Zmazhenko.



Photo: G. Gagné

"I emptied all my accounts to send money to my family in Ukraine," says Volodymyr Zmazhenko, who trained as a lawyer in his native country. Since arriving in Quebec in 2012, he has worked mainly as a technician, particularly in height work in the wind power sector.

The rest of his family lives close to Ukraine. A second sister still lived there a few days ago and she took refuge with another sister, who has been living in Poland for a few years. As for their other brother, he has been living in the Czech Republic for a few months. He was ready to return and fight in Ukraine but the family asked him to stay in Czechia to work and support them.

During the 45 minute interview with SPEC, Volodymyr Zmazhenko received three calls, two from Ukraine, and another one from a Ukrainian friend living in Alberta. They are trying to do everything that they can to help their compatriots.

The last three weeks have been quite trying for his wife Julia, his two daughters, born in the Gaspé Peninsula, and himself.

"This is the worst time of my life. I feel helpless. It's far away. You're not there. You can't help. I can hardly sleep. The time lag is seven hours. For the moment, we have the connections: the internet and the cell phone. They (Ukrainian technicians) work amazingly. The Russians are bombing telecommunications services, and they're reconnecting. It's incredible. It is different in Mariupol, where everything is destroyed. The Russians, I can say the Russian terrorists, bombed all the facilities. There is no electricity, no internet. They do like the Nazis did in the 20th century," he explains.

He is under the impression that the international community is not doing everything in its power to curb the Russian forces. He is convinced that Russian president Vladimir Putin will not stop with Ukraine, that he will order other invasions.

"I studied as a lawyer at university and, in this program, one of the main courses is world history. I know world history. Putin's next attack will be Moldova. Then there will be the three

Baltic countries: Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. I think Finland will be attacked next, then Romania and Poland. It is worse than Hitler, because he (Putin) has the nuclear arsenal. For him (Putin), Ukraine is a region of Russia. What will happen next, and what will people do? I'm interested in this conflict because I'm Ukrainian but it goes further. How can people live, wake up and think that they are in a democratic country if Ukraine fails, if the country falls? Europeans tell themselves that they are on a democratic continent, but is it just for the record or is it true?" he wonders.

Ukraine is disarmed

Volodymyr Zmazhenko notes that "Ukraine had the third (largest) nuclear arsenal on the planet and, in 1994, gave up on that! It is the only country that has shut down a nuclear arsenal. I don't know any other. Putin wants to disarm Ukraine but Ukraine is already disarmed. The country only kept its regular army."

Mr. Zmazhenko points out that Vladimir Putin wants to control some strategic Ukrainian industries, one of the reasons behind the current invasion.

"Putin is targeting strategic companies like Motorsich in Ukraine. They are the experts in engines for military aircraft, helicopters and ships. China is not capable of making such good engines, despite its means. China tried to buy Motorsich but it didn't work. Russia also wanted to buy this engine company. Now, Russia wants to take control of the region where this company is located. It will concentrate production on war apparatus. It will go up, increase its military power, like Hitler did in Czechoslovakia, a country with good industries before

A taste for adventure

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND - Trained in law, a field in which he completed his studies, Volodymyr Zmazhenko and his wife Julia opted to come to Canada ten years ago because of their taste for adventure. He was born 43 years ago when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union which was, at the time, a set of 16 republics, most of them forced to integrate into the union, notably during or following World War 2.

The Soviet Union was di-

vided into many countries in 1991, two years after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

"It is not that we didn't like Ukraine. We had the idea to try an adventure, the idea to go further, to know another part of the world. I was born in the Soviet Union. Traveling outside was forbidden (for a long time) for ordinary citizens. We lived well in Ukraine in 2012, when we left," he says.

Since coming to Canada, Mr. Zmazhenko has worked in technical fields, and his training as a "height technician"

has him working in the maintenance of windmills. He works for Mistras, a company based in Saint-Julie, near Montreal.

"I have worked everywhere in windmill maintenance, in Western Canada, mainly in Ontario and here in the Gaspé Peninsula. Last year, I was mainly assigned to the Gaspé Peninsula, which is ideal because I can stay close to my two daughters and my wife. Recently, I refused contracts because of Russia's invasion in Ukraine," he says.

UKRAINE:

▶ Cont'd from cover

1939. It boosted his (Hitler's) military power. Ukraine also has plants that produce metal for tanks. What is happening is strategic for Ukraine, for Europe, for the Western world. If we don't fight now, it will cost more human lives later," points out Volodymyr Zmazhenko.

What is urgently needed from the Western Hemisphere countries willing to curb and stop Russian aggression in Ukraine?

"They need to declare the closure of Ukraine's fly zone for strategic purposes. On the ground, we're going to get rid of the Russians. The Russians dominate the sky though. Is now the time to act? No, it was yesterday! We need help.

Hitler wanted to eliminate the Jews. We don't know why. Putin wants to eliminate Ukraine as a nation. We fight for our nation. Putin cannot back down. It will be over for him, for his political power, if he backs down. He will bomb all of Ukraine with his aircrafts. On the ground, there are plenty of dead Russians along the roads. The Russian army does not pick up the

bodies of its soldiers. Russian soldiers wander around and ask for food. He (Putin) always moves forward because he sees that the reaction (of other European countries) is not strong. He has a criminal mindset. Any negotiation is seen as a weakness. He speaks slang like a criminal. While meeting president (Emmanuel) Macron of France, Putin quoted a song saying "rape the body of a dead woman." He was not speaking with someone from his gang. He also lies. He says he does not bomb cities but he bombs cities.

When asked to define the best way to help Ukrainians, Mr. Zmazhenko replies that sending money to the people who are staying in Ukraine is a good first step.

"It (also) takes a good reaction to close the skies to Russian planes. If it fails in Ukraine, how will people wake up talking about democratic values? People can also write to politicians, tell them that Ukraine is protecting the western world. My friends need guns. Kershon was invaded and taken control of because people had no weapons. They only had Molotov cocktails," he deplors.

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Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

Pilot project for future Gaspé CPE

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - The Centre de la petite enfance le Voyage de mon enfance in Gaspé is one of 20 establishments that is part of a pilot project that will consist of using a prefabricated building for its future 80-seat facility near downtown Gaspé.

"We are very proud of that (prefabricated concept)," says the director, Gilles Chapados. Twenty projects have been selected this year and another 20 next year that will have plans pre-approved by the Department of Family Affairs that fall within a funding envelope.

"We will save a lot of time. We estimate that we can save six to nine months in administrative and construction delays," says Mr. Chapados.

The location for the facility has yet to be determined, and then soil tests, easements and other elements will need to be taken care of, but Mr. Chapados hopes to be able to install the building at the beginning of the fall and aims to be ready to open no later than early summer 2023.

"We are talking about 24 months with administrative relief (flexibility given by management measures). All planning slowed due to COVID-19 and the scarcity of materials and contractors. We were heading towards a delay that the prefab will fill," says Mr. Chapados.

Bolduc expansion project

As for the expansion of 31 places of the Centre de la petite enfance (CPE) on Rue Bolduc, the project is also progressing.

"We are in discussions with professionals to assess all the

possibilities. It's hard to do something new with something old. In these situations, an expansion plus an upgrade, there are some more problematic issues that require more time to find a solution," says the director who adds that these new places should also be available in the summer of 2023 or no later than early that fall.

Temporary emergency CPE

In the meantime, the 45-place emergency CPE project announced in January opened its doors on March 14. "It was hard work to open this service as quickly as possible, but we are quite proud of the result," notes Mr. Chapados.

The \$40,000 budget to redevelop the temporary site will be respected. Twenty-four children were admitted.

"We are going to be in the analysis in the coming months to evaluate our progressive integration plan to eventually reach 45 children," specifies the director who has September as his target for complete integration.

In the meantime, by the summer of 2023, 25 educators will be needed. "With the emergency CPE, it's a way of working on the problem right now by doing progressive hiring. We hope to have a plan that will be spread over 12 to 18 months rather than suddenly hiring 25 employees in the summer of 2023. This will be our big challenge for the coming months," says Mr. Chapados.

The emergency CPE is the solution to the childcare shortage while waiting for the completion of 111 places for the summer of 2023.

Police report

The case of former Oblate father Jean-Guy Lavoie, 89, who is accused of committing sodomy on a victim who was 15 years old at the time of the first alleged incidents, was sent to the Review Board because he was declared unfit to stand trial following a psychiatric evaluation. The results of the evaluation were released on March 4 at the New Carlisle Courthouse. "His incapacity seems to be permanent; we can assume. His file was postponed until June 29 at the Quebec Court," explains criminal prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier. The acts for which Jean-Guy Lavoie is accused allegedly occurred between January 1983 and November 1986 in New Richmond. The man is also charged with gross indecency and sexual assault during the same period. In December 2021, at the request of the defence, Judge Celestina Almeida ordered a psychiatric assessment for the accused in order to see if he is fit to stand trial. The evaluation was carried out by a hospital located in the Haut-Richelieu area, very close to Jean-Guy Lavoie's place of residence. The accused is represented by defence attorney Simon Chartier.

Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida postponed the case of David Guy, 38, from Maria who is facing eight charges of domestic violence and other accusations related to the same case, until March 16. During his last court appearance on March 4, he wanted a second bail hearing in order to be released from prison; a procedure called a Myers Review. Judge Almeida refused that request on the basis that there is no need for a detention review; the step having already been heard during the bail hearing on August 13, 2021. Judge Almeida stated that David Guy will remain detained until the end of the proceedings. The Myers Review request dates back to February 11 when his lawyer, Pierre Gagnon, informed the tribunal that his client wanted to be released from prison in order to undergo therapy. Criminal prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier opposed that request immediately at the time. David Guy faces eight counts of assault, including assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm. The alleged victim was his former wife who resided with him and fled from the house on March 17, 2021. She was then hospitalized for a lengthy period. He allegedly hit her with a hammer on at least one occasion. He is also accused of uttering threats, harassment and breach of conditions. The crimes allegedly occurred between 2004 and March 2021. He has been in custody since March 18, 2021.

Brandon Metallic, 29, who is charged with two unpremeditated murders that took place on May 15, 2021, returned to the Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute, following his March 4 court appearance in New Carlisle. After being considered fit for trial in January by the experts of the same institute in Montreal, Brandon Metallic informed the court on February 11 that he wanted to represent himself, which prompted criminal prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier to ask Judge Janick Poirier to appoint a "friend of the court" in order to assist the accused in his defence. "That request was postponed until March 14. Whether he is declared fit or unfit to stand trial that day, I will ask the tribunal to appoint a friend of the court. He might have to stay at the Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute after March 13," said prosecutor Frappier-Routhier on March 10, as the SPEC was reaching its deadline. Another psychiatric evaluation is being requested. Prior to February 11, Brandon Metallic had contacted a New Brunswick attorney for representation. He has chosen for a trial by judge and jury. A "friend of the court" would help him fill all the forms tied to a complex trial. Brandon Metallic allegedly killed a young girl and a man in his early twenties.

The Sûreté du Québec is currently conducting the 18th Fraud Prevention Month under the theme Smell the Scam in collaboration with the Bank of Canada and several other partners, including the Fraud Prevention Forum. The campaign is co-chaired by the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Competition Bureau. Quebec ranked first in Canada in 2021 in terms of the number of identity frauds. This is the most common type of fraud since last year, according to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. Fraud caused more than \$30 million in financial losses in Quebec, all types of fraud combined. Since fraudulent schemes are constantly evolving, the public must be more vigilant than ever. During the month of March, an awareness campaign will take place on social media.

Although many specialized teams work daily to fight the various types of fraud, vigilance remains the best way to counter fraudsters. Citizens must be skeptical of offers that are too attractive, validate the information and question the lure of something that looks too easy. These simple gestures can save a lot of trouble. Fraudsters generally rely on ignorance, the vulnerability of victims, the sense of urgency, firmness or speed to achieve their goals.

The Sûreté du Québec and its partners invite the public to report any fraudulent act to the local police department as fraud is a criminal act. Whether it is committed over the internet, by telephone, by text message, by e-mail or in person, it must be reported as soon as possible to the police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1 888 495-8501.

Jean-Pierre Pigeon gives Jean Charest his support

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

SAINTE-ANNE-DESMONTS - The prospective candidate for the leadership race of the Conservative Party of Canada, Jean Charest, can already count on the support of the president of the Conservative Association of Gaspésie-Les Îles- of the Madeleine.

Jean-Pierre Pigeon has nothing but praise for the man he has known for 40 years and who confirmed his candidacy for the leadership of the party in Calgary on March 10.

"We've been working the whole team in Quebec for a month now to encourage Mr. Charest to run. He's a centre-right progressive like me and a very long-time conservative," says Mr. Pigeon.

"He is the man for the job. He knows Canada from one end to the other, has the stature and he can be prime minister. To regain power, it takes a man like Jean Charest," adds the president of the Conservative association.

Mr. Pigeon calls him a political beast and on March 8 no less than 175 people, all politi-

ically associated, gathered to support him and prepare for the leadership race.

Rally

"I spoke with a few provincial Liberal Members of National Assembly who were waiting to support him. He is going to have a huge support in Quebec," says Mr. Pigeon, who believes that Jean Charest will rally members of the party from Western Canada who have positions much more to the right.

"Dreams and reality are two things. Gaining power will

bring many people back. It is obvious that we risk losing some - those who are really on the right - but we must bring our party back to the centre-right to win the next federal election," says Mr. Pigeon.

He points out that Mr. Charest has organizational committees in all provinces and territories in Canada and absolutely does not close the door if he ever asks him to be a candidate in the next election.

"We will wait for the request. I will wait for my wife's approval. Obviously, I'm tempted. I am 70 years old. I am

in good health. I'll wait for the call," he replies without hesitation.

Corruption

On the allegations of corruption while Jean Charest was Premier of Quebec, Mr. Pigeon is direct.

"The Mâchurer investigation lasted for 10 years. If a private citizen would have done these things, the police would have done their job and it would have taken a few months or a few years to close the file.

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Editorial section



Gilles Gagné Commentary

How did we get here?

On a map, Ukraine is far from Canada. The distance between Montreal and Kiev amounts to about 7,000 kilometres, however, the open war triggered by Russia on February 24 considerably shortened that distance, figuratively and even concretely.

We can see updates every 15 minutes, sometimes by the minute, on television or on the internet. We become aware that Ukrainians already live in our towns, our cities, sometimes our villages. Already affected by the side effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the price of our daily commodities has further increased because of the instability created by Russian President Vladimir Putin's ambition to rebuild the former Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, or USSR, disbanded in 1991.

How did we get to today's war, which ruins the break people were expecting after two years of the COVID-19 crisis?

The dismantling of the USSR, an artificial creation, stemmed in part from Ukraine's decision to leave that union in 1991. Two years after the November 1989 peaceful destruction of the Berlin Wall, USSR's future was in limbo. A survey was conducted in Ukraine and the option of moving out of the country consisting of 16 republics won by more than 90%. Ukrainians overwhelmingly opted for their independence.

In 1991, Vladimir Putin was starting his political career at the municipal level. He had witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall as a secret agent based in East Germany, which would very rapidly be reunited with West Germany.

It can be said that Putin's desire for revenge, be it against Ukraine or the rest of the former USSR republics, was heavily fuelled by the 1989-1991 events. Not only did the USSR disband, but its former influ-

ence zone, consisting of countries like Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and other Eastern Europe nations, switched allegiance towards Western Europe. Military-speaking, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia all joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, much to Russia's displeasure and above all to Vladimir Putin's rage.

Since the demise of the USSR in 1991, the number of countries that are members of NATO increased from 16 to 30, a switch made mostly since 1999, so since Putin accessed power in Russia. He felt and still feels that his country is threatened by the NATO members, that the balance of power, often called the balance of terror, present in the Cold War years, the period covered by the 1945-1991 span, is no longer effective. Canada is part of NATO, created after World War II to counterbalance USSR's ambition to control the largest possible part of Europe.

Between 1991 and 2014, a high number of Ukrainians adamantly wanted their country to join NATO while other citizens, essentially pro-Russia people living in the eastern part of the country, wanted no part of that membership.

The 2014 destitution of then Ukraine president Viktor Yanukovich, a man favourable to Russia, triggered a series of events. Russia took advantage of that situation to reaffirm its support to Crimea and Donbass. In fact, Russia annexed Crimea through an invasion that killed 14,000 people and led to what is referred to as the Minsk agreement in 2014-2015.

In 2019, current Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky was elected, notably because he committed to end tensions with Russia, as the Donbass area remains caught between the two countries.

Tensions escalated until the end of 2021, when Russia moved about 100,000 troops along the border of Ukraine.

During talks conducted with NATO officials prior to February 24, Russia's requests were to never admit Ukraine as a member, and pull NATO military forces out of Eastern Europe, the former influence zone of

the USSR. NATO officials refused.

So, on February 24, Russia's invasion of Ukraine started abruptly, with the bombing of many cities, much to the surprise of other European countries and NATO members. That aggressive act contravenes every rule of international law currently effective in the world.

Why did Putin move on February 24? Let's assume that the Russian president and his supporting cast saw that world order was somewhat changing. The United States had moved out of Afghanistan last year. Former American president Donald Trump had discredited and, therefore, destabilized NATO during his 2016-2020 term. The departure of Angela Merkel, chancellor of Germany, in 2021, the instability created in Great Britain by the poor leadership of Boris Johnson and the upcoming elections in France all create some instability in the so-called industrialized world.

Secondly, Vladimir Putin could hardly leave 100,000 troops indefinitely along the Ukraine border. Meanwhile, wintertime was a better period to invade the country, considering that the roads are softer in the spring. The end of February therefore seemed a timely period to spread Russia's power, keep NATO far from Russia's influence zone and consolidate Russia's historical hold over Ukraine.

Putin's actions were and are illegal in international law. It is now clear that he is a deeply dangerous man, a man who, in the opinion of some experts, is able to trigger a nuclear war.

He is benefitting from the relative hesitation shown by Western Europe and North America to push the limits of aggression to a level unseen on the Old Continent since the Bosnia conflict in the mid-1990s. However, this time around, the proportions are more important.

Vladimir Putin acts out of revenge, ambition and craziness. All the clues were observable for years through his accumulation of wealth, the emphasis he put in the military, his macho behaviour and his lack of negotiation goodwill, not necessarily in that order. Currently, Ukraine is his target. If the Putin regime

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Cynthia Dow Guest Commentary

Holy moley!

We used to call them "beauty spots" when I was a kid but now I realize that having moles can be anything but beautiful. Before Christmas, I had a cancerous mole removed from my left arm.

It was a serious wake-up call. I have dozens and dozens of moles and other spots on my skin, many of which I have had since I was young. Somewhere I had heard that moles can prove dangerous if they change in any significant way so when a large mole on my arm became even larger and flatter, I went to my family doctor.

I was relieved that the health care system, even in the midst of the pandemic, was still able to provide the services I needed rather quickly. I saw my doctor within a week, and she sent me to the dermatologist. We are so fortunate to have Dr. Janie Bujold at Maria Hospital. She was able to see me within two weeks. The minute Dr. Bujold saw the mole, she said it could be problematic and she removed it immediately. A few weeks later she confirmed that it was cancerous, and she recommended a follow-up with a melanoma specialist.

I received the call to go to Quebec in mid-January. My very patient brother Bill was with me and we had

wonderful support from friends in Quebec, so this winter excursion in the middle of the omicron crisis went much better than I had feared.

At the Hotel Dieu I met amazing interns and doctors who told me I had acted just quickly enough to avoid having a lymph node removed. Hallelujah! Every spot on my body was checked. So far, there are no new melanomas to worry about, but now I will keep a very close watch.

The melanoma specialist, Dr. Joel Claveau, is renowned across the country for his knowledge, prevention and treatment of skin cancers. I feel very lucky to have been referred to him. He commented that people with fair skin and blue eyes make up the majority of his patients, and told me the cancer was due to sun damage I had experienced in my childhood, not recent exposure.

That took me back, way back. When I was a kid in the 60s and 70s, getting a summer tan was considered aesthetically essential, and even a healthy thing to do. I spent most of my youth outdoors, and a lot of time at the beach swimming (the reflection of the sun's rays on the water increases the risk of sun damage). My friends and I sometimes used baby oil to try to get tanned. It turns out that what we were doing was frying ourselves with harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

In fact, there is no such thing as a "healthy" or a "safe" tan. A tan is evidence of sun damage, pure and simple. Yes, we all need a little bit of sun for Vitamin D production, but we do not need to tan. Since I simply burn under the summer sun, it has been years

since I have sat out to catch some rays. I find I can enjoy a sunny day just fine in the shade, or generously slathered with sunscreen, topped off with a wide-brimmed hat!

I was interested to learn from Dr. Claveau's intern that in fact there are many different kinds of moles and skin spots. Some are simply genetic (genetic moles often have hair growing out of them), some are due to aging, but from what I understand melanomas

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The Gaspe Spec

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2021, a good year for the Gaspesian dairy farmers

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands union of dairy farmers, the Syndicat des producteurs de lait, experienced a good year in 2021. While the number of dairy farmers remained the same at 12 in the region, the average quota per farm increased between 2020 and 2021.

The quota went from 635.11 kilograms of fat per day for the 12 farms in 2020 to 726.31 kilos last year, a 14.36% gain due in part to a program providing Gaspesian and Abitibian farmers the first right to bid and acquire some quota from farms located elsewhere in Quebec where certain quantities are available.

“We lost a farm during the year and we gained one, the farm launched by Marie-Ève Cyr and Maxime Plante in Bonaventure. We have kept our 12 farms. Marie-Ève and Maxime’s farm was the second new farm since 2015. It is good news. Our number of dairy farmers is not increasing and we have in fact lost several producers over the years but, overall, we have a better quota,” points out Normand Barriault, president of the Union of dairy farmers.

Eleven of the region’s dairy farms are located in the Gaspé Peninsula and one is situated in the Magdalen Islands, a farm feeding the area’s cheese-producing plant called Pied de vent.

“We have three prospects interested in starting a dairy farm in the region, including one in the Magdalen Islands,” says Mr. Barriault. The two other projects are located in Port Daniel and Nouvelle. “We are not sure yet that those projects will take off the ground but we are supporting them the best way we can. We might lose another dairy farm or two in the coming years so we really want to replace them.”

Normand Barriault points out that in Quebec, the overall production is stable.

“The population is rising but some international trade agreements are opening the door to overseas cheese products and to American milk. Those agreements have made us lose 18% of our original markets permanently. So, the benefits of an increasing Quebec population are countered by dairy imports. The competition also comes from milk substitutes such as al-



Photo: Guy Gallant

The Gaspé Peninsula group of milk producers, who met on March 7 for their annual meeting, and the UPA Federation, highlighted the recent appointment of Shigawake’s Jennifer Hayes as president of the Canadian Dairy Commission. She is the first woman to hold the position and it comes with great responsibilities. The commission ensures a supply to consumers while ensuring that producers obtain a fair compensation. Jennifer Hayes is surrounded here by UPA-Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine President Michèle Poirier, Normand Barriault, who presides over the region’s dairy farmers syndicate, and Stéphane Day, regional UPA secretary.

mond beverages. Some first-generation immigrants are not milk drinkers but their children are. Overall, we are trying to keep our production stable. The supply management system gives us the chance to get a steady revenue. My son is a cattle farmer and the price of his animals can go from \$1.80 per pound one week to \$1.20 a week later. The ideal situation for Quebec’s dairy farmers would be to live in an expanding market but for now, given the international context, it is difficult,” observes Mr. Barriault.

Trade agreements with Europe and countries located around the Pacific Ocean have eroded the markets of Canada’s dairy farmers, in-

cluding Quebec’s.

“We have so far received our share of compensations for the production losses triggered by those trade agreements. It amounts to \$385 per kilo of fat for a dairy farmer,” says Mr. Barriault.

Considering that the average quota in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands stands at 60.5 kilos of fat, the average compensation paid to each farmer was about \$23,300. It has so far been paid in three installments.

“We are waiting for the fourth installment, that one tied to the United States, Mexico and Canada trade agreement. The federal government promised it to us,” underlines Normand Barriault.



Photo: G. Gagné

UPA dairy farmers Day-Barriault-Soucy: Stéphane Day, secretary of the UPA Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Normand Barriault, president of the region’s union of dairy farmers, handed out a Lait’Xcellent bronze award to long-time milk producer Viateur Soucy of Nouvelle. The silver award went to Jean-François Charest of Saint-André-de-Restigouche and the gold award went to Patrick Arsenault of Caplan.

pect to pay more for their milk and cheese in 2022, due to the rising costs of fuel and fertilizers.

“Inflation has already started in our case with grain and the other products given to our animals. The conflict in Ukraine, a country that is the fourth exporter of grain in the world, is a source of inflation. The cost of fertilizers has already increased from \$600 to \$700 per tonne in 2021. It is close to \$1,000 now. Corn was costing \$250 per tonne in 2021 and it will hit \$400 this year. Supplements will go from \$600 to \$1,000. It is only the beginning. We, the farmers, can hardly predict how it will go because it is our quiet season now, during the winter. Some producers will probably decide to reduce the volume of fertilizers used but it will lead to reduced crops. One sure thing is that the farmers will have to pass on their increased production costs to the consumers,” concludes Normand Barriault.

The price of milk will increase in 2022

The president of the region’s union of dairy farmers states that consumers can ex-



Ville de Gaspé

PUBLIC NOTICE RÉNORÉGION PROGRAM INSCRIPTION

INSCRIPTION PERIOD

The town of Gaspé wishes to inform household owners that they can apply to the RÉNORÉGION program from **March 28 to April 8, 2022**. The program provides financial assistance in the form of a grant that varies, depending on household income, between 95% and 20% of the cost of eligible work.

ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA DECREED BY THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$ 12,000, HOUSEHOLD OWNERS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- The building must be occupied as the main residence;
- The municipal evaluation of the residence cannot exceed \$120,000 (building only);
- Have an annual household income not exceeding \$25,000 for a household of one (1) person or a couple and \$41,000 for a household of six (6) people or more in order to obtain the maximum grant;
- Not having received financial assistance from the RénoVillage or RénoRégion Program during the last 10 years.

People who are interested may make a phone appointment with the person responsible to fill in the registration form.

Urbanism department:

Phone: 418-368-2104 ext. 8530

Email: urbanisme@ville.gaspe.qc.ca

BEFORE the appointment, the person responsible must have received:

- Notices of federal and provincial assessment for 2020 or 2021 of EVERYONE who lives in the house.

N.B. Other eligibility conditions may apply and the granting of financial assistance is conditional on the sums being allocated for this program by the Québec government to the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC.

FLOOD PREVENTION IN MATAPEDIA: Coast Guard should be there in early April

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA – The Sipu Muin hovercraft, from the Canadian Coast Guard, could arrive near Matapedia at the very beginning of April in order to intervene by breaking the ice and to prevent flooding in the village hard hit by floods in 1994, 2008, 2014 and 2019.

To ensure a presence in Matapedia in less than three weeks, the Coast Guard will have to clear a dozen waterways between Trois-Rivières and Montreal, including the shores bordering the metropolis, an operation that has been underway for a couple of weeks.

The weather conditions will also have to remain relatively constant, without extreme cold and without any heavy rain in very mild weather, says the commander Marty Robitaille of the hovercraft Sipu Muin.

“We are currently working in the Trois-Rivières-Gentilly sector going up towards Montreal. (...) There is a good ice cover. It has been a week and a half since it started. It breaks well. It's going better than we hoped,” notes Mr. Robitaille,

who has been breaking ice on the Restigouche River since 2009.

The citizens of Matapedia are worried in 2022 because the winter is snowy and because the temperatures have been cold. The ice is, therefore, thick on the Restigouche River and its tributaries such as the Matapedia, Patapedia, Upsalquitch and Kedgwick Rivers, in particular.

Commander Robitaille is neither worried nor excessively optimistic. “I have been coming to Restigouche for 13 years, and there is not a year where I have seen the same thing,” he summarizes.

He notes that a hovercraft is not in contact with the ice, and that it must generate a wave, by means of the cushion of air which separates it from this ice. “You have to generate a wave big enough to break ice, which is not flexible. At 70 to 75 tons, a hovercraft, with its distributed weight, cannot break ice on its own. It takes water to generate a wave. It takes water to break the ice,” he says.

Some factors reassure him a little about the type of ice observed on March 10, during a



Photos: G. Gagné

Citizens living along the Restigouche River in the Matapedia sector are worried because there is a lot of ice and a lot of snow on the river, much more than in 2021.

summary examination of the ice floe covering the Restigouche.

“I'm encouraged because it's flat and it's covered with snow. (...) There are no ice peaks, which are very difficult for the hovercraft. It works on an air cushion. Ice spikes may break the skirt that creates the air cushion. When it is broken, the hovercraft does not have the same efficiency,” analyzes commander Robitaille.

The Canadian Coast Guard has suffered its share of criticism over the last years from the citizens of Matapedia, no-

tably following the floods of April 20 and 21, 2019. In the afternoon of April 20, the hovercraft had left Matapedia for the Acadian Peninsula, 200 kilometres away, to clear the harbour of Shippagan and speed up the start of crab fishing.

Asked about the possibility that the Canadian Coast Guard will again give preference to snow crab, as many people from Matapedia said in 2019, icebreaking superintendent Isabelle Pelchat replied that “people always come before snow crab.”

She explains the decision to send the hovercraft to Shippagan in 2019 by the fact that “there was not enough water and because there was nothing in place to tell us that there would be a rise of the water level. When there was a sudden burst of water, we came back urgently,” she said.

“If there is not enough water, we will not wait. (...) We do not sit on a rock waiting for the water to rise. People might like that but we can't do it,” adds Ms. Pelchat, to justify the temporary departure of

2019.

One of the other criticisms made against the Coast Guard work is the lack of use of local expertise to identify the main channels of the Restigouche River downstream from Matapedia. The clearing of these channels is essential so that the ice does not pile up near the village and the ice jam floods it.

Captain Robitaille notes that he consulted guides familiar with the river until 2015, but he also recognizes that the river is changing.

“We have drones this year, to go see places that are not accessible from the road, and provide other information. (...) I would be comfortable (to temporarily take a local expert on board). The other captains? I do not know. If you allow me to have information that makes me more efficient, I will never say no. (...) It is a very technical river, the spaces are very limited. It is the river that gives me the most challenges and the one that gives me the most satisfaction too, when it is decided,” he explains.

The mayoress of Matapedia, Nicole Lagacé, like the regional director of Civil Security, Janick Lebrun, specifies that citizens have been relaying information on the river for several days.

The clue that will prompt Ms. Lagacé to report an urgent situation to Civil Security and the Coast Guard, “will be the Upsalquitch River breakup,” she says of a river flowing into the Restigouche, about 20 kilometers upstream from Matapedia.

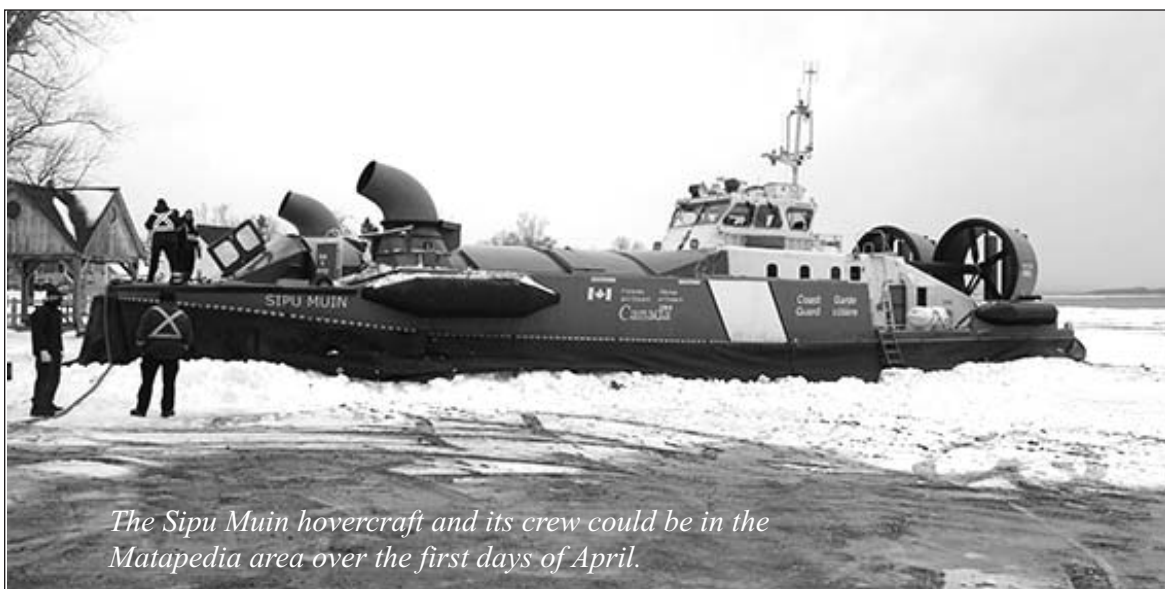
CONSERVATIVES:

▶ *Cont'd from page 3*

When you don't love your dog, you find all kinds of illnesses in it, and you want to kill it. Mr. Charest is a political beast that many people do not want to see on the political scene because I am sure he will win,” says the man who was a candidate for Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine in 2015, 2019 and 2021.

First elected in Sherbrooke in 1984 under the Conservative Party under Brian Mulroney, Jean Charest held various ministerial positions and was briefly deputy prime minister under Kim Campbell in 1993. He took over as party leader from 1993 to 1998.

In 1998, he became leader of the Quebec Liberal Party and premier of the province from 2003 to 2012.



The Sipu Muin hovercraft and its crew could be in the Matapedia area over the first days of April.

Gas prices are up and down like a yoyo

Nelson Sergerie,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ – On March 8 in the Gaspé Peninsula there was a new peak in the price of a litre of gasoline. It even exceeded \$2 at some gas stations in the MRC d'Avignon. By March 11 the price started to fall again.

On March 8, gas stations around the peninsula posted a litre of regular gasoline at \$1.984, another 14 cents increase from the \$1.844 price recorded during the school break week.

But surprise! On March 11,

it fell 10 cents in several places around the coast, settling at \$1.884. However, certain gas stations in Carleton-sur-Mer and Nouvelle were still selling gasoline at the same time for \$2.029 per litre, like the previous day.

It was even spotted at \$1,679 in Pointe-à-la-Croix. It must be said, however, that the region close to the New Brunswick border benefits from a tax credit from Quebec to remain competitive with the Campbellton service stations.

In fact, since the end of February, the price of a litre of

gas has increased by more than 25 cents.

Based on data from the Energy Board, the realistic price for a litre of gasoline was around \$1.86 on March 11, a price that CAA Quebec sets at \$1.87.

Farmers and owners of heavy machinery are also benefiting from the break in prices. After hitting \$2.16 per litre on March 9, diesel fuel was posted at \$1.959 on March 11.

Tensions between Russia and Ukraine explain the unprecedented surge in the price of petroleum products.



Photo: N. Sergerie

The new record was set on March 8, in Gaspé

Letter to the Editor

WION (WorldIsOne) news channel presents what's happening in a stay-out-of-it fashion. They report the day's events and what each side has to say about what's going on, including accusations leveled. WION does all this without telling us what to think, and giving us the facts with which to make up our own minds. It's worth noting that sometimes even the people embroiled in a conflict aren't clear about what's actually happening. (Otherwise, there would be no such thing as "friendly fire" casualties inflicted by one's own side.)

Russian television (RT) has a notice printed on the screen that the channel is partially or completely funded by the Russian government. It's worth noting that the government allows this notification and its cautionary message, as well as allowing criticism against itself. Most media tell a story, with a definite point of view and good and evil characters. They become like advertisements versus television programming. That said, it's possible to find a more reasonable approach, but do the powers that be want it?

Western media tells us that the Russian government has blocked certain media and, presumably, certain points of view. Western governments have done the same, blocking RT and some Google sites. In addition, most Western media have not covered what the Russian president has to say. YouTube has an interesting speech by Vladimir Putin entitled, "Why Are Politicians & MSM Ignoring Russian Warnings!?" In both the East and the West, decisions are being made about what the public should think, denying them the right to their own assessment. War is a terrible business and people kill each other. Both sides suffer casualties, and send sons and daughters home in boxes. Many civilians who have nothing to do with the conflict are forced to flee their homes to escape being injured or killed. They become refugees. Nationality has no place in evaluating these circumstances, or in our expressions of compassion for those involved. While it's understandable for us to identify more closely with certain people, our compassion must extend beyond appearances. Sympathy reserved for white, blond, blue-eyed, Christian, and "civilized" people is a warped sort of caring and unworthy of us.

People are people. Fashioning some as good and others as evil belongs in Grimm's fairy tales or Hollywood cowboy movies. Most people reside in some grey area of neither good nor bad. Often, people have good intentions but don't follow through and act when they should—they're bad simply because they fail to be good. Good people do bad things, and bad people do good things. In general, people live up to our expectations of them and behave better when we tell them that they're worthy.

According to psychologists, each of us believes that he's better-looking, smarter, and nicer than average. According to this metric, there are no average people, much less below-average people. Clearly, some of us are wrong.

Nations are made up of people and run by individuals (with lots of consultation and advice). The interaction between two leaders is also one of two individuals, each of whom believes he's the "good guy." What does that make the other one?

Morality advises us to walk in the other person's shoes. Let's try it—a role reversal with the United States in the same situation as Russia. Imagine that many of the southern states have seceded and become a separate nation, all the while remaining on the United States border. Let's call this new land Neo-America. Fully half of Neo-America's population is old-style American and the other half persecutes them by limiting the speaking of their language. This goes on for some years and develops into armed conflict and a regime change that just happens to be pro-Russian and want to join the huge Eastern Bloc.* Finally, the Neo-Americans attack an American kindergarten and the United States government speeds in and rescues some of these native Americans—would they not come to the aid of their fellows? Would not the U.S. be alarmed at having a Russian-backed government as their neighbour, especially if Russia had coaxed this nation to join it in an Eastern coalition against the West, and it was eager to do so? Wouldn't they feel threatened, even desperate, at the idea of having an enemy on their border (Cuban Missile Crisis)? Let's do a quick switch to the actual situation. To maintain peace, why hasn't the United States and its allies reassured Russia that it has no intention of extending its influence eastward? *This idea is put forth for the purposes of argument only, as a correlation to NATO, but no such body exists.

Constance Brochet

COMMENTARY:

▶ *Cont'd from page 4*

prevails over Ukraine, Russia will almost undoubtedly invade other smaller countries.

Where do we, members of the NATO countries, draw the line? Do we let Putin go unbridled some more, at the risk of Russia gaining some momentum, or do we take a risk in helping Ukraine by closing that country's sky to Russian war aircrafts?

There is a risk that Putin will respond by deploying nuclear weapons towards other European countries. There is also a risk of him deploying nuclear weapons if he gains mo-

mentum. Let's remember that Canada is Russia's neighbour to the north.

For now, despite plummeting living standards caused by recent economic measures adopted by a wide range of industrialized countries, Putin is still supported in his country, whether it is by citizens believing in his campaign to bring Russia back to its yesteryears' grandeur, or through the silence of people scared by what he can do.

The courageous opposition to his reign is either put in prison or has been forced to leave the country.

The Russian army has a hard time dominating the

Ukrainian ground. Without air attacks, Russia would hardly have been able to control any of Ukraine's cities and towns. That's why the NATO countries have to seriously consider blocking Russian aircrafts from bombing Ukraine.

It sure is risky but the question must be reflected upon. Ukraine is pretty much alone defending democracy against the ambition of Vladimir Putin. Better support must be considered. Ukraine deserves more than words of encouragement, promises that refugees will be welcomed here as well as boxes of food and clothes.

GUEST COMMENTARY:

▶ *Cont'd from page 4*

can appear on any kind of mole. While frequently found on areas of the body exposed to the sun such as arms, legs, chests and backs, they can

also appear on hidden parts of the body, even on the bottom of the feet.

If you are blue-eyed and fair skinned like me and, even more so, if you are covered with moles, take heed. There is a wonderful website by the

cosmetics firm Laroche-Posay that gives you step-by-step instructions on how to check your moles: <https://www.laroche-posay.ca/en/skinchecker-step1.html>

Check your "beauty spots" regularly! Better safe than sorry!

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



The world is on fire and we can no longer ignore it

It is easy to put it in the background lately but the world is still on fire. Climate change is devastating the world and there is only so much horrible news we can process at one time: wars, pandemics, economic challenges, and food shortages. These fill our news every day but when this eases a bit, and let us hope that it does, we still must face the consequences of climate change and what can be done about it.

Climate "breakdown" is accelerating and rapidly. Scientists warn us that there is a slightly open window of opportunity to slow this down, but the window is closing.

As a species, we continue to change climate through the use of fossil fuels and plastic and the changes are already dangerous and threaten much of the planet and things can become worse. Flooding, droughts, heat waves and all types of extreme weather are continuing to do considerable damage.

Scientific evidence is undeniable. If global temperatures rise more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, the impacts will be huge. The polar ice caps and glaciers will melt. Wildfires that cannot be quelled will kill off trees and raze communities. The health of the planet must be addressed and that is in the hands of governments and world leaders.

The facts are indisputable: There are virtually no regions that will be spared changes. Climate change will affect us all. Millions will face food and water shortages. Species of animals and plants will disappear. Low-lying coastal areas will be flooded. What can one person or a community do? We can do something because giving up is not an option.

We can:

- Cut back on carbon pollution. When we burn oil, gas and coal, the carbon becomes carbon dioxide and goes into the air. This carbon makes the planet warmer.
- Use political pressure to change minds and thereby lead to action. Local politicians and businesses must be challenged. Ask hard questions such as "What steps have you taken to combat climate change? What steps are planned for the future?"
- Drive less. Drive only when necessary. Combine outings by going to three stores in one trip rather than three stores on three different days. Shop with a friend and take only one vehicle.
- Explore the use of solar panels.
- Turn down your heat and turn off lights when not needed.
- Insulate your home and, in particular, your roof. Then you will be warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.
- Eat locally sourced foods and seasonal foods which require less fuel for transport. Learn to forage. Picking berries is foraging!
- Do not waste anything and this includes food. Learn some lessons from your ancestors who wasted very little.
- Compost food waste so that you can use it to feed your garden.
- Buy clothing responsibly. Fashion accounts for about 10% of the world's carbon emissions. Buy less. Buy second hand. Forget about disposable fashion – clothes that you wear one season and then discard.
- Plant trees. This will protect biodiversity and help to build healthy ecosystems.

This all seems so negative and even depressing but we cannot ignore it. Do your part today. One person can make a small difference. Then a community can make a bigger difference, then a province and then a country!

Policy-makers fulfil your mandates. Politicians enforce guidelines and institute tough measures and laws. In the meanwhile, each of us can make a small but important difference.



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Controversial line-up at the Festi-Plage

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

PERCÉ - Surprised and saddened, that's how the organizers of the Festi-Plage in Cap-d'Espoir reacted to the turn of events surrounding the beginning of March unveiling of a male only lineup for the 2022 festival.

The controversy hit the organization, which is made up of both male and female volunteers, when artist Émile Bilodeau criticized the all-male lineup presented on March 3.

"We are very surprised by everything that has happened in the past week. It's incredible. We never, ever thought that our programming would generate such a reaction," explains Festi-Plage president, Ghislain Pitre. He notes that most of the comments are positive, and people are satisfied.

"The next day (following the release, March 4), there



The programming of the Festi-Plage in Cap-d'Espoir draws controversy.

Photo: Festi-Plage Facebook

was talk about the fact that the programming was all male. It wasn't intentional. We couldn't do anything. We said to ourselves 'we'll live with it,'" he adds.

On March 9, the organization had to make a clarification after an emerging artist came out on March 8, stating that he

no longer wanted to participate in the festival.

A crisis unit was created, and the artist's agency was involved in order to find a solution.

"After he came out that he didn't want to participate in the festival, we called his agency.

We have a contract, and we are continuing. We negotiated

with them to improve the show to add female names to his show with only one condition: that he withdraw what he said and that he will not add more."

All was well in the negotiations until 5 p.m. on March 8. "He still said some things about the Festi-Plage. Wednesday morning (March 9), we met. He did not respect the first

condition not to speak badly of us again. We decided to end our association with Émile Bilodeau," says the president.

According to Mr. Pitre, it was an accident and believes he has the full support of festival-goers. "We didn't have a male/female constraint. We went for people available to entertain on the beach. That was our only goal. Everyone is unanimous and is behind us," explains Mr. Pitre.

Passport sales are at an all-time high and the organization believes it will soon be able to announce that the festival is sold out. He adds that no one has asked for a refund.

"It may be a small squabble that took place in an urban environment. But it is certain that, in 2023, we will be a little more careful and make the necessary corrections to satisfy these groups of people who defend a position that we respect," concludes the president.



Normal rainfall provided for a better hay harvest.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Hay compensation significantly less in 2021

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

CAPLAN - The compensation paid to hay producers by the Financière agricole was 10 times lower in 2021 in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands compared to 2020.

Barely \$141,000 was paid to farmers in 2021, while \$1.4 million was paid in 2020, a summer that was extremely dry.

In fact, this is the first time in four years that compensation for hay has been so low. In 2019, payments totalled \$640,000 and \$784,000 in 2018.

The summers of 2018, 2019 and 2020 had been extremely dry in the Gaspé Peninsula and elsewhere in

Quebec, particularly in the Lower Saint Lawrence.

The summer of 2021 saw precipitation reaching almost normal levels for that time of the year, which explains the low level of compensation in the region.

A total of \$201,000 was paid out to 45 producers who claimed losses, including \$55,000 for cereal crops, grain corn and protein crops while 104 producers were insured last year for a value of \$9.8 million.

In Quebec, 6,680 businesses suffered losses worth nearly \$96.3 million.

Nearly \$50.1 million was for hay and pastures and \$10.6 million for berries.

Some 11,580 businesses were insured for a value of more than \$1.9 billion.

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Announcements



Obituaries



MACNAUGHTON: Rita Willett

September 15, 1933 - February 20, 2022

It is with great sadness that our family announces the loss of Rita Willett MacNaughton of Cascapedia-St. Jules on February 20, 2022 at the age of 88. She will be deeply missed by her beloved husband of sixty-six years, Charles MacNaughton. She leaves behind her children: Debbie, Bruce (Lisa), and Cynthia (Bill), who cherish fond memories of a caring mother. Rita will be greatly missed by her granddaughters: Tess, Sarah, Selena and Jade. She will be missed by her brothers: Kenny (Ann), Norman (Judy), and Gerry, all of whom she loved dearly. Rita will be fondly remembered by many special friends, nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by sisters Betty, Margaret, and Mona and brothers George, Jackie, and Harold. Rita shared a special bond with her sister Mona who was closest to her in age. From sharing a bedroom as little girls, to moving away to Montreal as young women, to picking strawberries and going to bingo in their later years, you could always count on lots of laughter when they got together.

There are sometimes people who make the days a little better and the difficult times a little easier. Special mention goes to Jimmy and Linda Cahill and Ruth McWhirter who provided Mom with friendship, laughter, and love over the years, and her life was richer for it. We also value the superb care she received from Dr. Prévost and the staff at St. Joseph's Residence over the last 10 months of her life. Your care and compassion will never be forgotten.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the Résidence St. Joseph in Maria, Quebec.



MCGREGOR: Lila Smith

Lila McGregor, wife of the late Allen Smith and mother of the late daughter Bertha Conoley, passed away at Mgr. Ross in Gaspé on February 13, 2022.

The family, Ellen (Pat), Gloria, Gail-Ann (Jean), Caroline (Louis) and Tara-Ann (Sylvain), wish to extend sincere appreciation for your heartfelt expressions of condolences, cards, donations, masses and meals, as well as your participation in the HG Division "Celebration of Life" web viewing. Thanks very much to our relatives who visited her in Palliative Care and for the many Face Time and phone calls. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are most appreciated.

Many thanks to the Care Unit (200), the administrative and support staff at the CHSLD Mgr. Ross, in collaboration with the CISSS team. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Palliative Care team. Each and everyone of you played a significant role in providing quality care. We are deeply touched by the compassionate care and professionalism demonstrated towards our mother, as well as our family. You will forever remain in our hearts.

Special thanks to Father Chester Cotton for his many visits, support and his personal touch in officiating his Aunt Lila's Celebration of Life, which was held privately at the Valère Fortin Funeral Home in Gaspé.

Furthermore, we will forever hold in our hearts the fond memories of the hospitality and support demonstrated by the administrative/nursing staff and employees of the Manoir St-Augustin. You truly exemplified an extended family. Many friendships throughout the years will forever remain precious memories.

Our immense gratitude to Dr. Esthère Landry, her family doctor for almost 40 years. Your relationship was much appreciated.

To all those who were unable to participate in the web viewing of the Celebration of Life, please know that you were in our hearts.



PALMER: Sybil Reida

1923-2022

On Saturday, February 19, 2022, one day short of her 99th birthday, Sybil (Nanny) passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home in Ajax, Ontario. A beloved matriarch, Sybil was the foundation that kept the family close over the many wonderful years of her long healthy life.

A formidable knitter, Nanny has left a trail of cherished hats, blankets, dishcloths, sweaters and teddy bears across North America. Anyone fortunate to visit her home would have also been provided (likely very fresh) homemade bread or buns, and if near Christmas, world-famous ginger snaps and shortbread. An Olympic caliber walker, the sidewalks of Ajax will miss Nanny's daily, multi-km walks.

Shortly after the second world war, Sybil met Weston, the love of her life, and they were married in 1946. They raised their loving family in Murdochville. After many years apart, they are finally reunited.

Sybil is survived by a robust family whose photos adorned both her sitting room and bedroom and pretty much all available wall and dresser space. Loving mother to: Dinah (Richard), Brent (Ree), Scotty (Susie), Lana (late Tony). Devoted grandmother to: Troy (Connie), Dwayne (Wendy), Rick (Leslie), Rocky (Lindsay), Ryan (Vero), Maureen (John) and Jason (Ashley). Sybil was also blessed with seven great-grandchildren: Paige, Aidan, Connor, Abbey, Sierra, Braelyn, and Ezra.

Pre-deceased by siblings: Elvin, Edna (Jerry), Percy, Sammy (Audrey), Frank (Ruth), Minnie (Ken) and Pauline (Gary). She is survived by: Mary (Gerald), Paul, Ethel (Tom), Marge (Bob), Gerald (Freda).

We loved Nanny, Mom, Sybil very much and will miss her more than words can say. A funeral service will be held in Gaspé the week of July 25.

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 it is 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 should be typed and can be submitted by mail or online.

PHOTO

When submitting a photo for this page, please send in a digital photo (.jpg) to specs@globetrotter.net.

You can also send your photo by mail.

It is essential that the photo is not a copy printed at home or by the funeral home. It will not reproduce well.



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SULLIVAN-LAMBERT: Gloria May Wylie
1929 - 2022

Our Wren, small but mighty, is greatly missed by her children, Jane (Bruce), Dawn, Jonathan (Martha), and James (Wendy), and by her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was the eldest child of Austin and Jane Sullivan (deceased), and is survived by siblings Frances (late Lloyd), Alice (Jim), David (Iris), Daniel (Hilda), and by her sister-cousin, Connie. Predeceased by siblings Nellie, Robert, and Jonathan. Greatly missed by her many nieces and nephews.

Gloria's full and remarkable life included work in church and missions in Canada, France, and Africa, with her beloved husband Richard (deceased), and, later, her successful career in the visual arts.

Heartfelt thanks to staff at the University Hospital, London, Ontario, for the excellent and compassionate care provided Gloria in her final days.

If desired, donations in Gloria's memory may be made to Sleeping Children Around the World.

A memorial service for Gloria will be held at Westview Baptist Church, London, Ontario on April 30, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at Hope Baptist Church cemetery, Hope Town, Quebec. www.harrisfuneralhome.ca

*"Weeping may endure for a night,
but joy comes in the morning."*



In Memory



RENOUF: Harold (Buddy)

In loving memory of my dear husband and father, who passed away five years ago on March 16, 2017.

Buddy 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 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

That's enough to comfort me

While you're in heaven above.

We miss and love you every day oxox. Wife Leila, children Donald, Richard and Karen and families.

You can pay online at
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Special Note of Thanks

To: Ellen Smith and Pat Shannon

Following the passing of our mother, Lila McGregor (Smith) on February 13, we want to convey to both of you our sincere gratitude for your love and devotion towards Mom and Dad over the years.

Most importantly, for the sacrifices made over the past few years with the decline of Mom's health. Thank you Pat for your continued support for Ellen who could not have done it alone; for the many moves, your patience, all the phone calls and the constant reassurance. You have been a true gentleman!

Ellie, Mom is now our angel and finally at peace. She knows that you have always been her angel; through the wonderful times and there were many, through the difficult times, the pain, the hardships, the tears you shed for her and with her, and especially for all the joy that you tirelessly strived to bring into her life.

Ellie, Mom now wants you to be at peace, to spread your wings and fly, to enjoy every precious moment of your life, to take good care of yourself and to be truly happy!

With immense love and respect, your sisters who want the same for you as Mom.

Gloria, Gail-Ann, Caroline and Tara-Ann

Please note

The Gaspé Spec office will be temporarily closed due to major building renovations and employees will be working from home offices.

Customers can continue to reach us by phone 418-752-5400 or by email at specs@globetrotter.net

Passion, not patience: a dedication to craft

Rev. Joshua Paetkau

NEW CARLISLE: - On Sunday, March 6, the congregation of St. Andrew's Anglican Church gathered to observe the first Sunday of the Lenten season, and to appreciate the work of local craftsman Marcel Arsenault.

Marcel Arsenault builds churches, or rather, he builds miniature replicas of many of the beautiful and historic church buildings that can be found throughout Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands. Many of these miniatures can be found gracing the narthex of the Catholic Church in neighbouring Bonaventure.

Marcel began building miniatures 25 years ago, at the age of 55, following a career in the furniture business. The first church he built was a replica of Bonaventure's Catholic Church as it was in 1950. Over the years he has built around 50 miniature churches, as well as a number of miniature Christmas village scenes. Most recently, Marcel had turned his attention to St. Andrew's Anglican Church in New Carlisle, and following Sunday's service he presented it to the people of St. Andrew's. It is to be installed as a permanent feature within the church.

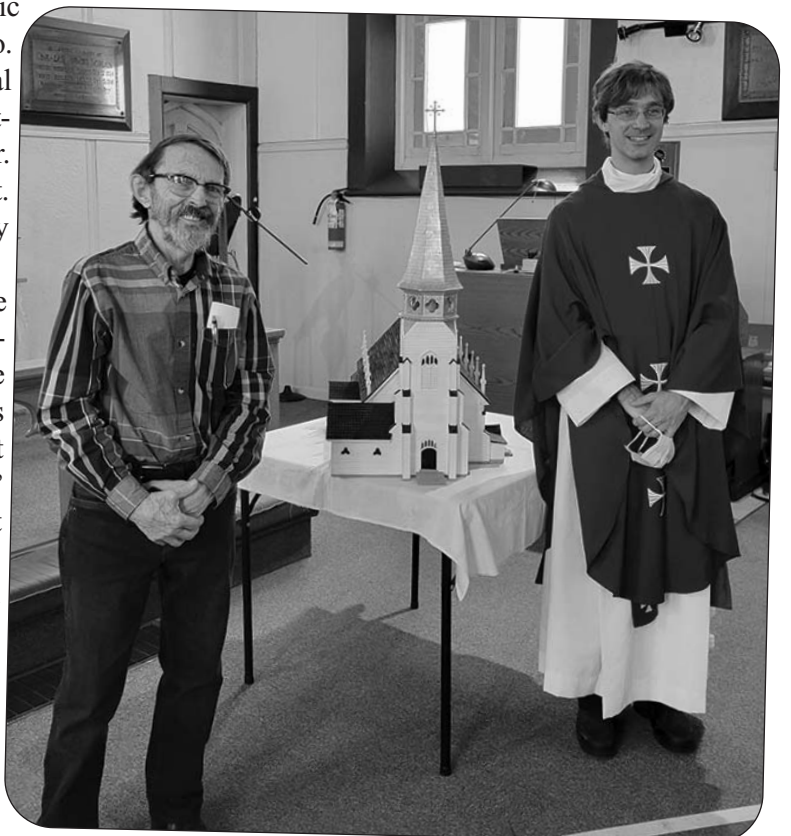
The attention to detail on the miniature is exquisite, as it is on all of Marcel's work. Prior to Sunday's event, I had the opportunity to visit Marcel in his workshop. The shop was compact and tidy, with everything in its

proper place. Strains of Mozart's The Magic Flute could be heard playing on the stereo. This was followed by a CD of a local Gaspesian organist, Jean Thibault, interpreting the work of Johann Gottfried Walther. "Music," Marcel said, "is very important. There is almost always music playing in my workshop."

The process of building a miniature like St. Andrew's takes around 175 hours. Observing the process of putting each of the tiny tiles which cover these buildings in its proper place, I remarked that this craft must require a great deal of patience. "Passion," he corrected me, "and not patience is what is needed."

Passion is what transforms a task that might otherwise seem tedious into an outpouring of joy; a labour of love. The hands of the craftsman pay tribute to the history, the life, and the faith that have grown up in these churches and their surrounding communities. On Sunday we were able to share in some of that passion, granted a bird's-eye view of the place in which we stood.

Marcel smiled as he spoke "I'm just happy to share my hobby with you," he said.



Marcel Arsenault and Rev. Joshua Paetkau stand next to the replica of St. Andrew's Anglican Church.

COAST ROUND-UP

GASPE:

Gaspé Cancer Foundation

Please be advised that the annual renewal of your membership card is coming due in March and this year you will receive in your civic mailbox, the blue renewal form to be returned with your cheque of \$12 (per person). If you would like to renew before then, you can mail in your cheque to The Gaspé Cancer Foundation, PO Box 6078, Gaspé, G4X 2R6, or contact: Tony Patterson at gaspe45@hotmail.com to make an e-transfer. You can also visit our webpage at fcg-gcf.com to renew your membership with PayPal, or make a donation. Tax receipts mailed out for donations over \$10. Thank you all for your continued support, and remember your support is helping a cancer patient.

YORK:

York River Community Centre

The AGM for the York River Community Centre will be held on **Tuesday, March 22**, 7 p.m. at the Community Centre. There will also be the election for the two directors from the public. The financial statement will also be presented. Please come out and show your support for

the Community Centre. York River Community Centre, 702 York Blvd W, Gaspé. For information call: 581-887-9351

DOUGLASTOWN:

Douglas Community Centre

March 20: Arrival of the Chic Choc dog sled race and snow festival. Outdoor activities begin at 11 a.m. and mushers will arrive around 3 p.m. Everyone welcome.

March 24: Spanish conversation club with Juan Sabastian Larobina beginning at 6:30 p.m. Voluntary contribution, \$5 suggested.

March 25: Free Ecstatic dance group with Gabrielle Roth beginning at 6:30 p.m. to sign up email info@douglastown.net.

March 26: Seedlings vs hardiness zones and climate change with Louis Vallée to register email: info@douglastown.net.

March 27: Community breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. \$8 per adult and \$4 per child (5 to 11 years old), free for children under 5. Welcome to all. Please be advised that the vaccination passport is no longer required.

NEW CARLISLE:

Ladies remember 1984?

Did you make a dress for Loyalist Days? If so Heritage New Carlisle would

be delighted if you would consider donating it to the Centre. We are able to give you a receipt for donation of material. Think about it please!!

NEW CARLISLE:

Curling Club

The New Carlisle Curling Club will be holding its annual Linda Lomore Brown Curling Bonspiel from **March 18 to March 20**. Canteen and bar service available: Soup, sandwiches, chili dogs, etc. All profits will be donated to the LLB FOUNDATION. Come play, eat or have a drink for this worthy cause.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64

New Carlisle Legion Branch #64 will hold their general meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Next scheduled meeting will be April 5, at

7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

Please be advised that darts will take place every Friday at 7 p.m. beginning **March 18**. New members are welcome. \$5 to play. Bar opens at 6 p.m.

The Legion will also be open every Saturday beginning **March 19** at 1 p.m. Everyone welcome.

April 1: Gift Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

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.

ROTARY CLUB

WINNERS

The winners for the week of March 6 are:

Alain Henry, Claudine Boudreau, Raoul Boudreau, Annie Dubé, Jules Bernard, Lyne Boissonneault and Jackie Cyr.

UNITED CHURCH NEW RICHMOND

Sunday, March 20

10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN

Sunday, March 20

2 p.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, March 20:

SHIGAWAKE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

NEW CARLISLE

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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If your organization is a frequent user of the Coast Round-Up section of Spec, we would like to offer you a special deal! For a flat rate of **\$60**, we will publish all your Coast Round-up announcements for **one year**.

This should prove financially beneficial and more convenient for you. If you would like to take part in this deal, just send us your cheque for **\$60**, with the name and address of your organization.

All you have to do is call 418-752-5400 or email holly.smith@globetrotter.net without having the hassle of making individual payments each time! Keep in mind, Coast Round-ups are \$5 per week, making this plan an even more profitable deal!



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

This week you will have an opportunity to see things how they are and not necessarily as you imagine them to be, Aries. This clarity could require some restructuring.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Long-term goals are nearing completion, Taurus. You have gained so much from your pursuits and you have made plenty of friends along the way. Take time to appreciate that.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Communication difficulties arise this week, Gemini. Someone can coach you into

getting your point across with sufficient finesse. Seek a communication mentor.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, there may be some passionate discussions coming up this week with family members. Everyone wants his or her point of view to be heard.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, you need to be flexible, especially over the next few days. People may put you to the test with a perceived unwillingness to compromise, but cooperate when possible.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, in order to reach a destination you have in mind, you may have to rethink the route

you're taking. A direct course just may not be the way to go in this instance.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Always be honest with yourself and others, Libra. That means being true to you and never putting on masks just to hide others from how you are truly feeling.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you want to do things for others out of the goodness of your heart, and you will not need anything in return. Good deeds are their own reward.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, dining out too many days in a row may leave you feeling sluggish. Reassess

your eating habits and commit to making more meals at home for a bit.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, recognize that not everyone has your best interests at heart. Others' intentions may not be sinister, but your own interest and the interest of others may not align.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Sometimes you are a bit proud and do not like asking for or accepting others' help, Aquarius. You deserve the breaks that others are willing to offer you, though.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

This is a good time of the month to nurture loved ones,

Pisces. Play with your kids or sit and chat with an elderly relative who needs you.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 13

William H. Macy, Actor (72)

MARCH 14

Simone Biles, Athlete (25)

MARCH 15

will.i.am, Rapper (47)

MARCH 16

Alexandra Daddario, Actress (36)

MARCH 17

Hozier, Singer (32)

MARCH 18

Lily Collins, Actress (33)

MARCH 19

Glenn Close, Actress (75)

Women's Day with an Indigenous flavour

Cynthia Dow

ST-OMER: - Despite high winds and road closures, 50 participants made it to the OTJ hall in St-Omer for Centr'Elle's annual Women's Day event on March 8. The evening focused on Indigenous themes, with Jeannette Martin of Gesgapegiag serving as MC.

Several presenters portrayed the four elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water, with their faces brilliantly made up for the occasion by artist Caroline Dugas. Denise Larocque, representing Earth, recited a Kasàlà poem she had written conveying the lament of Mother Earth given the current environmental crisis. Her daughter, Kenya Laliberté, sang "La vie en rose" in English and French, portraying Air. Manon Lewek evoked waves and Water, while Cecile Martel-Robitaille and Anjuna Langevin performed an artistic dance simulating Fire. The Indian tacos served were prepared by a Gesgapegiag caterer, Angélique Condo. Centr'Elles offers

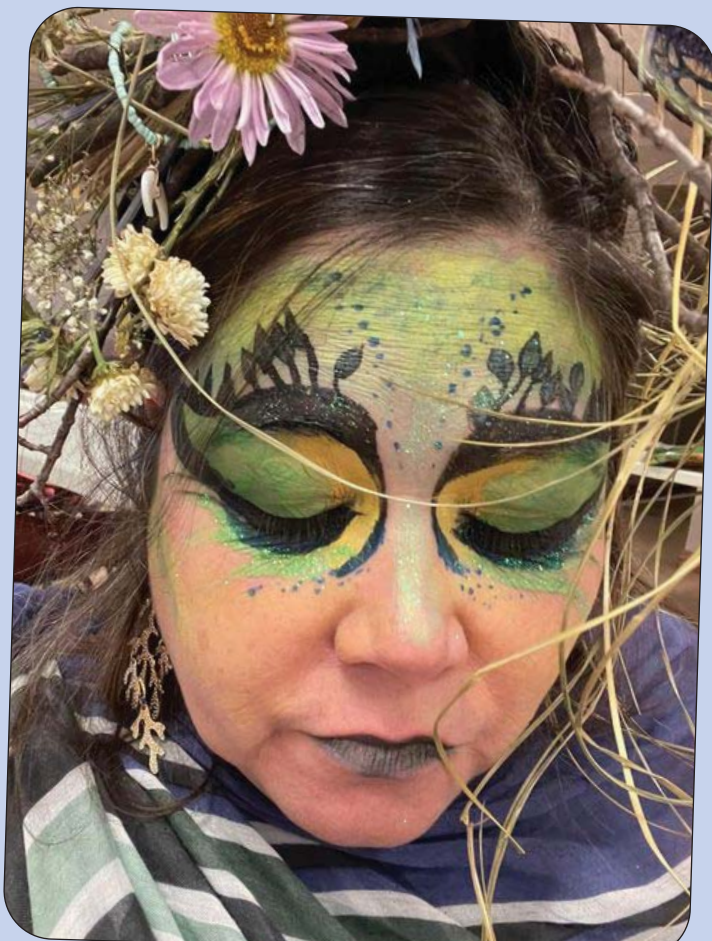


Photo: Kenya Laliberté

Denise Larocque, with her face made up by Caroline Dugas, portrayed Mother Earth at the Women's Day event.

support to women throughout the Avignon MRC with the aim of improving women's social conditions.



Two covid casualties and an increase in new cases

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – Two new fatalities were recorded in connection with COVID-19 in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands between March 4 and 11. They bring the total of deaths to 57 since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. One death was reported on March 8 but the second one was not specified by Quebec's Institute of Public Health.

As of March 11, four people remained hospitalized, including one in the intensive care unit of Maria Hospital, the same as the week before. On March 8, the regional Integrated Health and Social Services Centre confirmed an outbreak at the Saint-Joseph Residence in Maria, a home for seniors. At the time, 13 residents were affected in the same unit. Infection prevention and control measures are being applied with dedicated staff to treat people affected by the virus. Wearing protective equipment is also required when in contact with patients.

The Public Health Board is investigating to find out how the virus entered and spread in the residence.

As of March 11, a total of 343 people were infected by the coronavirus, a number only taking into account the cross section of the population that can be tested using the PCR method. It was an increase of 89 cases from the March 4 total.

St. Patrick's Day

March is known for its windy weather, but let's not forget that heavy, wet snow is still often in the forecast.

When you get visitors this St. Patrick's, make the occasion extra special by serving them a hot Irish tea in a green cup or one with green designs, and why not add a little touch of Irish crème.

Their luck can remain throughout the day and more. Let this St. Patrick's Day bring you joy and happiness and maybe even a little Irish luck. So many of us are lucky and don't even realize it, so maybe take a minute to reflect on just how lucky you are.

Let this Irish holiday be filled with good health and gladness. May your pockets be rich in kindness and the luck of St. Patrick's Day follow you and yours throughout the year.

Ken Ross, New Carlisle, Quebec.



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SAWD

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WEEKLY

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\$1,895 DOWN

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SCVT

\$55
WEEKLY

24 mos.
LEASE
\$1,495 DOWN

22 MURANO



SVAWD

\$106
WEEKLY

60 mos.
LEASE
\$1,995 DOWN

22 KICKS



S

\$62
WEEKLY

24 mos.
LEASE
\$1,495 DOWN

22 FRONTIER



KCS4WD

\$495
MONTHLY

60 mos.
LEASE
\$995 DOWN

21 QASHQAI



S AWD

\$67
WEEKLY

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21 ARMADA



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There is more to Irish food than potatoes and cabbage!

Diane Skinner

Make your St. Patrick's Day celebration even more authentic by serving a traditional or more modern Irish food. While preparing your dish, listen to music of The Irish Rovers such as Drunken Sailor, The Unicorn or the Orange and the Green.

There are so many recipes to choose from. Perhaps you have Irish heritage and have some recipes of your own. You can also search online for a new recipe. These recipes run the gamut from traditional to a bit more unconventional.

Due to their abundance, potatoes and cabbage play a starring role in many Irish recipes. Colcannon is a traditional dish made from mashed potatoes mixed with greens, often cabbage or kale.

Coddle is also based on potatoes with the addition of whatever you have on hand including bacon and sausage. It is simmered a long time (coddle means simmer) and the added seasonings produce an immensely flavourful dish.

Irish stew was traditionally made with mutton, potatoes and onions. Other ingredients added may include carrots,

parsnips, turnips and even lamb.

In the 19th century, Ireland went through a potato famine also referred to as The Great Hunger. This lasted for over seven years so people were forced to try other more readily available ingredients. Irish soda bread uses baking soda instead of yeast. Necessity is the mother of invention! During the early days of the pandemic, Gaspesian bakers also found ways to improvise for yeast that was at times unavailable. The ingredients for Irish soda bread are simply flour, baking soda, salt and buttermilk.

Bailey's Irish Cream French Toast is not an old-time recipe but it does use Bailey's Irish Cream liqueur so it qualifies as a more modern Irish recipe. The addition of Bailey's Irish cream gives a whole new twist on the flavour.

Bailey's French Toast

Serves 2

Ingredients

3 ounces of Bailey's Irish Cream
2 eggs
2 tbsp. milk
4 slices bread
3 tbsp. butter
Whipped cream

Raspberries or blueberries
Icing sugar to garnish

Instructions

Beat first three ingredients together. Place bread on a plate and pour the mixture over bread slices allowing to soak for a few minutes. Melt butter in a frying pan over medium heat. Fry for 2 minutes on each side – until the bread is golden. Place toast on serving plates and top with whipped cream and berries. Dust with icing sugar. Enjoy listening to more Irish Rovers music or if you prefer more contemporary Irish musicians, choose U2, Sinéad O'Connor or The Cranberries.

Irish immigration: Lasting impact

Diane Skinner

During the years, particularly from 1830 to 1850, many Irish immigrants came to Canada seeking a better life. Escaping poverty and famine during the potato famine, their impact on the Canadian Mosaic is indisputable. As of the Canadian census of 2016, almost 15% of the population claim full or partial Irish ancestry.

Irish immigrants established communities in urban and rural Quebec and the descendants of these immigrants still live on the Gaspé Peninsula today. A large number settled in Montreal and were hired as labourers who helped to build the Victoria Bridge while being housed in tents near the bridge. In 1847 to 1848, an outbreak of typhus in the area took the lives

of 6,000 Irish immigrants.

Today, Irish descendants are found throughout the province with significant numbers in and around Montreal and in the Eastern Townships. The Irish settled in Pointe-Saint-Charles and Griffintown. The Catholic Church in Quebec welcomed the Irish-Catholics by helping them to build churches, hospitals and schools. Loyola College was built mainly to serve Irish English-speaking Catholics in the late 1900s. The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Montreal dates back almost 200 years!

The Irish also settled in other areas of Quebec including Gatineau, Pontiac, Papineau and the Gaspé. A number of political leaders from this province who claim Irish ancestry include: Claude Ryan,

Premiers Daniel Johnson and Jean Charest and Prime Ministers Louis St. Laurent and Brian Mulroney.

La Bolduc: Born in Newport in 1894, Mary Rose Ann Travers is also remembered as La Bolduc. The influence of her father, Lawrence Travers, who was of Irish heritage is evident in her music. Her only music teacher was her father. He taught her and her 11 siblings to play the fiddle, accordion, harmonica, spoons and "jaw" harp. She learned a blend of musical heritage from both Irish and French-Canadian folk songs and created a new style of music, uniquely hers. She performed at logging camps on the Gaspé when she was just 12 years old. You can listen to her music on YouTube: La Bolduc.

The Carricks: In 1847 a terri-

ble tragedy occurred near Cap des Rosiers. An Irish ship, the Carricks, was destroyed during a storm and an estimated 120 to 150 Irish immigrants, hoping to make a new life in Montreal, perished. Amazingly, 48 people survived the shipwreck. Those making this perilous journey were fleeing the Potato Famine, also referred to as The Great Hunger. On April 28, the ship ran into a severe storm about 6 km east of Cap des Rosiers. The passengers had been at sea for 23 days and the captain was navigating through a blinding snowstorm in the middle of a dark night. Nearby residents came to rescue and help the survivors. The crew all survived, except for one young boy. A few members of the Irish family named Kaveney survived and became the Kave-

naghs whose descendants still live in the area.

Irish heritage on the Gaspé
Many descendants of Irish immigrants live on the Gaspé today. They proudly celebrate their heritage on St. Patrick's Day and the influence of Irish music is still with us. The fiddle music and festivals in Douglstown are living proof of the appeal and endurance of traditional Irish music.

Traditional Irish blessing
May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at
your back.

May the sun shine
warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft
upon your fields.

And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the
palm of his hand.

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