

Hong Kong Vet celebrates his 100th birthday

Cynthia Dow

NEW RICHMOND: Former Hong Kong prisoner of war, Philip Doddridge, celebrated a huge milestone on April 2: his 100th birthday!

Asked if during the tough years he spent as a prisoner of the Japanese, he ever dreamed he would make it to his centenary, he told SPEC, "I never thought about it like that. Mind you, it was a long time ago."

He said during his years as a POW (prisoner of war) he did not spend much time worrying about what might happen. "But I never gave up hope," he noted. In his writings on the war years, he stated that his ability to see the positive side of almost any situation helped get him through.

Born to Hugh Doddridge and Emma McWhirter in New Richmond in 1922, Philip was the second of seven children. He has lived most of his life in New Richmond with the exception of the war years, his university years and some time spent working in Quebec City and Sept-Îles.

Mr. Doddridge was just 18 when he signed up with the Royal Rifles in 1940. The regiment was forced to surrender to the Japanese Army on Hong Kong Island on Christmas Day, 1941. For 44 months he survived deprivations of all kinds, a bout of diphtheria, and enforced labour in a mine on the island. Unlike many of his comrades, he was never taken



Phil Doddridge cuts the cake, celebrating the centenary of his birth.

Photo: Cynthia Dow

to Japan as a POW.

Mr. Doddridge is not only recognized for his service during the war, he is also well known along the Coast for his many years as an educator. "I think an important part of recovering from the war years was going to get a higher education," he noted. It was under his guidance that the local school boards along the Coast came together, creating one unified board. He spent about 15 years as Director General of the Regional School Board of Gaspesia (the precursor to the Eastern Shores School Board) before retiring from that challenging position in 1983.

The day of his birthday, and

for several days before and after, Phil fielded many phone calls from family members, fellow veterans, and admirers. Despite the pandemic, he had some visitors on the day itself, including a contingent from Chaleurs Bay Legion Branch 172. "It was very humbling to see so many singing to me in my yard. I guess there were more than 50!" His lane was lined with cars from end to end.

One of his birthday visits was from friend and regional military history researcher Tom Eden. "Our friendship is one of the great gifts of my lifetime," Mr. Eden told SPEC. "He has been a teacher, a confidant, a mentor, and a source of never-

ending encouragement and inspiration to me."

Mr. Eden noted that "Phil has built a legacy of service to others throughout his life, whether it be his time in the military, his career in education, or his involvement in countless community initiatives. He is without a doubt the most widely respected and beloved person I know, and this is across cultural and generational lines. To many people, he represents the very best of our region."

"I am very proud to be able to call him my friend," Mr. Eden concluded, "If only I could get him to convert to becoming a fan of the Toronto

Maple Leafs..."

Mr. Doddridge has served as President of Branch Legion 172 and is a founding member and was President of the Hong Kong Veterans' Association of Canada (Now the HKV Commemorative Association). The Association worked hard for years to receive proper acknowledgement from the Canadian government for their contribution to the war effort.

Mr. Doddridge has received many military honours and awards, including the Sovereign's Award for Volunteers from the office of the Governor General in January 2013 in recognition of all he has done as a volunteer in the community and across the country. In honour of his centenary, the Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge sent him a special award in recognition of his service to the Masons for many years.

The website of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association contains a lengthy description of Mr. Doddridge's memories of his youthful years spent in the Canadian Army, enduring the privations of being a POW in Hong Kong. You can read his testimonial here: <https://www.hkvca.ca/memoriesuninvited/index.php>

As of this date, only four veterans who were taken prisoner in Hong Kong are still alive, out of 1,976 Canadian POWs. Mr Doddridge is the only Hong Kong vet still living in Quebec.

Shrimp: global quotas demanded now

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Shrimp fishermen want to know the shrimp quota now before setting sail while, for the time being, Ottawa has announced an interim quota of 9,000 tonnes.

"We have a lot of concerns about the fact that we don't yet have a decision from the minister on the shrimp quota," says the representative of Mobile Gear Operators at the Association of Captains and Owners of Gaspésie, Patrice Element.

"We have a problem. As for the fishermen, we do not know what we will be able to fish. As for the processors, we don't know what we will have to process. Soon, we will have to start talking about prices," adds Mr. Element.

Cost inflation, especially rising fuel prices, is having a "phenomenal" impact on operations, says Mr. Element.

"The profitability of fishing is at stake. For a shrimp fisherman, we are talking about a few hundred thousand dollars in fuel," he highlights.

"If we don't have enough shrimp, there may be people who won't go fishing," warns Mr. Element, who says that "it's starting to be tight" for a decision.

Earlier this year, the industry had calculated obtaining a quota of 17,000 tonnes, based on the precautionary principle.

The science sector, however, argues that the current conditions of the ecosystem, warming water and predation by redfish could pose a risk to the resource.

"When we say that the redfish could eat several hundred thousand tonnes of shrimp per year, whether we catch 800 tonnes more or less, it will not make a difference to the sustainability of the stock," analyzes Mr. Element.

After determining the quota, it will be time to think about the best way to calculate the stock. "The fishermen have offered to work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to refine the calculation method, but the offer is still on the table. The sustainability of the stock is as

important, if not more to us, than to anyone. We are not interested in destroying the biomass but in the meantime, we must continue to live," he says. In the future, it will eventually be necessary to think about managing fish and seafood stocks in a global way to consider climate change or the predation of species.

"That's what we are advocating for. Have a real ecosystem approach and consider the presence of other fish species and their effects on the given resources," he says.

The mine in Murdochville may possibly reopen: A \$1 billion investment at stake for Osisko Metals

Gilles Gagné

MURDOCHVILLE – The chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Osisko Metals, Robert Wares, estimates that \$1 billion will be required to bring the Mount Copper mine in Murdochville back into production, if the preliminary stages of evaluating the deposit, feasibility, environmental assessment and financing are conclusive.

The company will base its decision to proceed with this project strictly on potential assessments of Mount Copper, which was mined between the mid-1950s and 1982, when this open pit copper mine closed.

“We are considering a project similar to that of Malartic. We want to produce 50,000 tonnes of ore per day for the concentrator,” says Mr. Wares, comparing what he wants to achieve in the Gaspé Peninsula to the gold mine project that Osisko Metals established in Abitibi in 2009-2010. At the time, this project required an investment of \$1.1 billion, equivalent to approximately \$1.5 billion in 2022.

The Malartic ore concentrator has a capacity of 55,000 tonnes per day. The Canadian Malartic mine employs 750 people. Robert Wares thinks that a similar size staff would be needed if the Mount Copper reopens in Murdochville. Workers from outside the region will likely be needed to fill the jobs, he points out.

“Of course, the project will provide jobs to local people but 750 people is a big number and such projects usually require

workers from outside. This is today’s reality. Some people don’t want to move permanently. It is hard to determine the extent of fly in-fly out practices could play in Murdochville but I expect it,” he explains.

Far from the depletion of mineralized rocks, the closure of the Mount Copper mine in 1982 was above all linked to the recession of the early 1980s, fueled by interest rates of at least 20% and low copper prices. The closure of the underground mine located under the town, in October 1999, was also a consequence of the low profitability coming with the low prices.

When the SPEC asks him if he is sure to reopen the Mount Copper mine, Robert Wares replies that “I am moving forward with confidence; otherwise, we are not moving forward at all. We will take risks without economic studies. I am very confident to see the price of copper remaining high and we are heading towards a shortage,” he said.

Copper is intimately linked to the energy transition and this factor partly explains the high demand for the metal.

The risks mentioned by Mr. Wares are related to the fact that Osisko Metals has signed an agreement that could lead to the purchase by June 30 of Glencore properties in Murdochville, for a sum of US\$25 million. However, three months is not enough to carry out complete economic studies.

Osisko Metals will pay an additional US\$20 million if commercial copper ore mining

resumes in Murdochville. The buyer also agrees to spend \$5 million by June 22 on the exploration of Mount Copper. This activity was expected to begin about April 11-12 as the SPEC was reaching its April 8

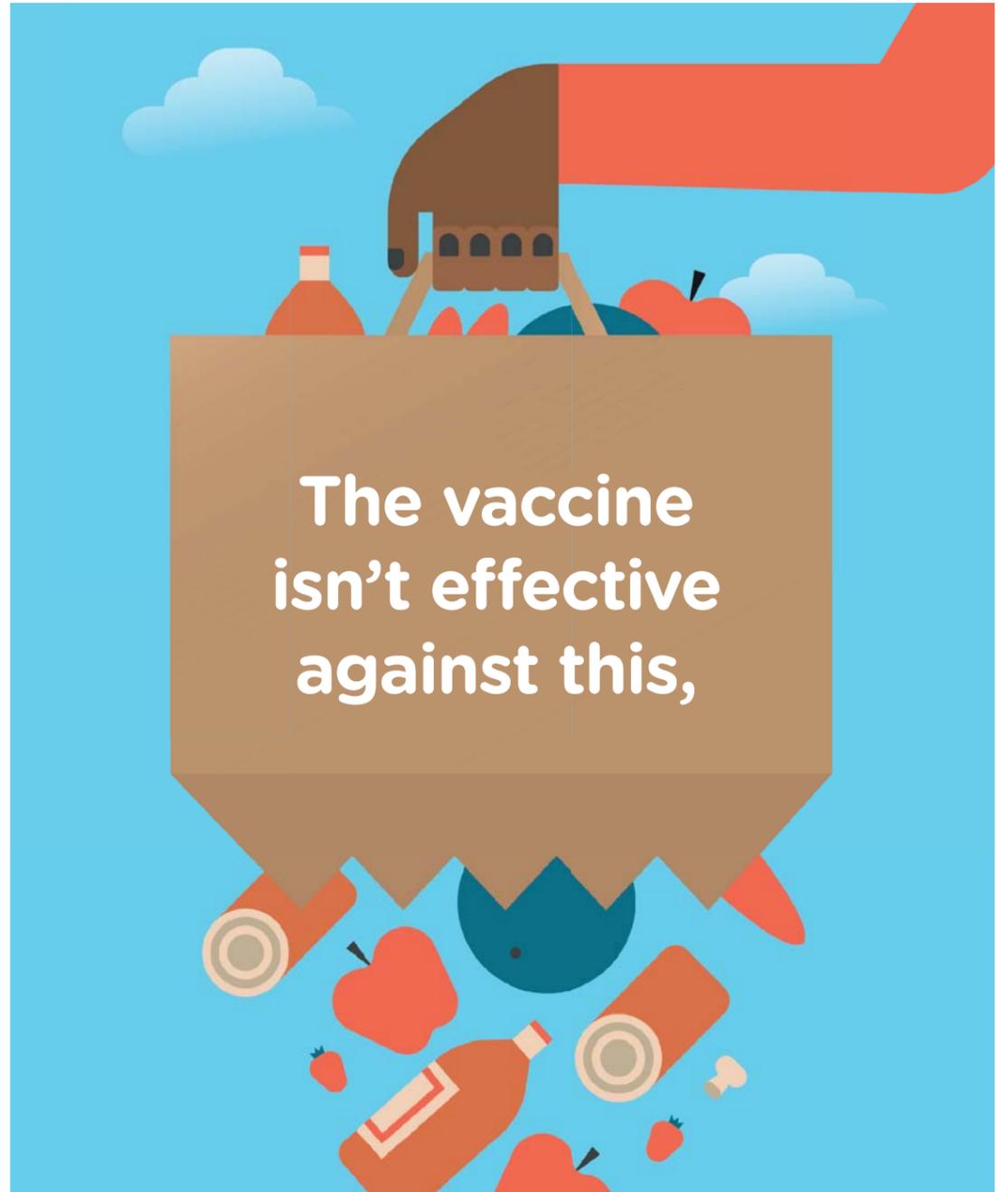
deadline.

Even without economic studies, Robert Wares believes he will have a good idea of the size of the copper deposit after the April to June drillings.

“We drill 30,000 metres to

measure and indicate where the ore is, then determine an extent (of the mineralization) in tonnes. The margin of error is no more than 10%,” says Mr.

Cont'd on page 3



The vaccine isn't effective against this,

but it's very effective against COVID-19.

Quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine

Vaccination remains the best protection.

Votre gouvernement

Québec

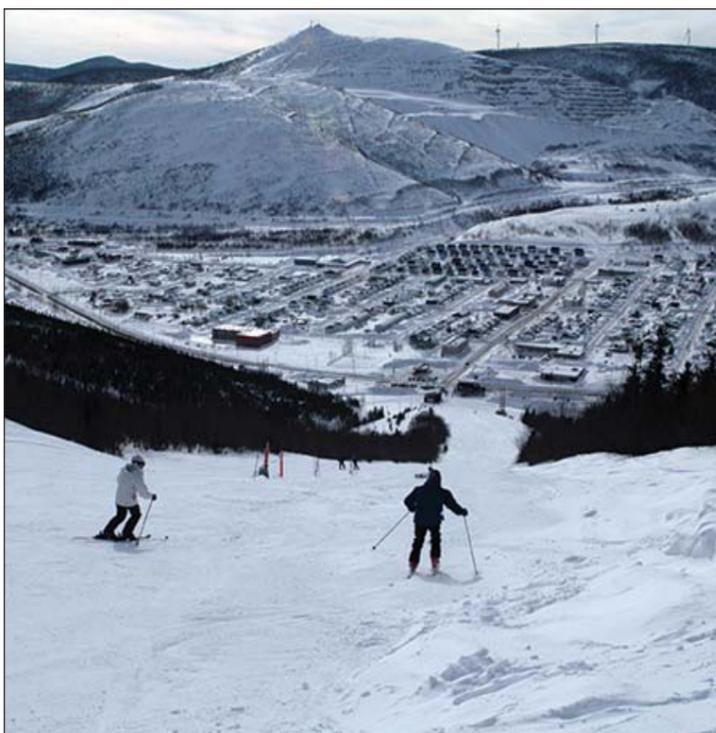


Photo: G. Gagné

Traces of mining activities are still present in the landscape of Murdochville. Outdoor activities and wind power partially replaced mining as economic forces over the past two decades.

“There will be noise and dust”

Gilles Gagné

MURDOCHVILLE – The opening of the Canadian Malartic Mine by Osisko Metals created controversy 12 years ago, but Robert Wares says he and his team “learned in Malartic. It was the noise above all that bothered people. That’s why we built the green wall.”

He recalls that mining “made noise in Murdochville” between 1954 and 1999, notably during underground explosions, which will not be necessary at Mount Copper, if it contains enough ore to justify the reopening of a mine.

“We will do studies to limit the inconveniences,” assures Mr. Wares, who notes that the situations of Malartic, where 138 houses were moved, and

Murdochville are quite different.

“In Murdochville, the mine would be 500 or 600 metres from the town. The buffer zone would go much further. In Malartic, the town is located along the mine. In Murdochville, the mountain will disappear. There will be noise and dust. The problem is when we start digging the pit. When you are on the fourth “bench”, and we are talking about 20-metre benches, the impact is limited. The further down you go, the smaller the impact,” he says.

A bench looks like stair steps in open pit mines.

Would Osisko Metals be prepared to pay royalties to the Town of Murdochville to set up a diversification fund following the eventual closure of its oper-

ations? “It’s rather difficult to open the door to royalties because, first, we risk alienating the government and, second, we risk receiving requests from all the municipalities in the Gaspé Peninsula. This is called “resource nationalism,” which is not managed or regulated at all in Quebec. Once the door is opened, it can quickly degenerate into endless negotiations. That said, there are other solutions to benefit mining municipalities by being a good corporate citizen, and what we have accomplished in Malartic is a good example,” notes Mr. Wares.

Osisko Metals sold its Malartic Mine in 2014 due to a hostile takeover by Goldcorp, a transaction accepted by shareholders but against the wishes of the Osisko board.

trol of Xstrata, which took over Falconbridge, the company that previously bought Noranda Mines. The smelter was operated from 1955 to 2002. It operated only with imported ore between 1999 and 2002.

The price for copper has changed considerably since 1999, with demand for copper being constant and the price having increased almost sixfold since the turn of the year 2000, going from US\$0.80 to around US\$4.60 recently.

The copper grade of the Murdochville ore varied considerably between 1954 and 1999. It was 0.37% at Copper Mountain, an average of 1.5% at Needle Mountain and it reached 3% in the underground galleries beneath the town.

If Osisko Metals decides to mine the Mount Copper deposit and the grade is still at 0.37%, the 50,000 tonnes of ore passing through the concentrator will produce around 740

tonnes of concentrate per day, given that this concentrate contains 25% of copper, the threshold generally sought by smelters such as that of Glencore, in Rouyn-Noranda, Abitibi.

Osisko Metals also expects a reopening of the Mount Copper Mine to supply one or more Glencore smelters. In fact, the two companies have an agreement under which Osisko Metals will sell its copper concentrate to Glencore, under reasonable trade conditions.

Robert Wares predicts that it will take between five and five-and-a-half years to reopen this mine if the copper content measured between now and the end of June are conclusive, since it will be necessary to carry out feasibility studies, environmental studies and financing research before start-up.

Police report

A minor age driver will likely face the justice system following a March 29 head-on collision involving his vehicle and a school minibus at about 4 p.m. on Kempt Road in Ristigouche-South-East. Alcohol is suspected of having been a factor in this accident. The young driver was taken to a hospital for minor injuries and a blood sample was taken. The person accompanying him was not injured.

The minibus was immobilized after being hit by the suspect’s vehicle which was travelling at a high speed. The school bus driver and the five students on board were not injured.

On March 30, around 8 a.m., investigators from the Sûreté du Québec’s organized crime squad in collaboration with investigators and patrol officers from the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC’s main detachment, arrested two men during two drug busts that took place simultaneously in a motel and in a residence on Renard Boulevard West in the Rivière-au-Renard sector of Gaspé.

A 45-year-old man was arrested in his motel room where a small quantity of narcotics was discovered by the police. A 41-year-old man living in a residence located just across the street from the motel was also arrested following the discovery of several types of narcotics and equipment used for drug transactions. The two individuals were questioned and released following their arrest on a promise to appear in court, scheduled for June.

During the two searches, the police seized a total of about 14 grams of cocaine, 140 methamphetamine pills, about 55 grams of illegal cannabis, a certain amount of cash and equipment used for drug trafficking. Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron stresses that “once again, information received from the public, a few weeks ago made it possible to carry out this operation.”

The Government of Quebec will join the Government of Canada in funding the construction of a police infrastructure in Listuguj. The grant totals \$3.2 million over 15 years and is part of a three-way agreement that also involves the Listuguj Mi’gmaq Government. The Quebec’s share will amount to 48% and that of Canada will be 52%. In addition, Quebec is renewing the service agreement with the Mi’gmaq government of Gesgapegiag for a social reintegration program for Aboriginal offenders. The program promotes access to specialized programs and services offered by community resources with the goal of supporting offender rehabilitation.

MURDOCHVILLE:

▶ *Cont’d from page 2*

Wares, a trained geologist.

Osisko Metals eventually intends to carry out checks where Noranda Mines, owner of the mines and the former copper smelter in Murdochville, also operated underground mines, that is to say under Mount Needle and in the E Zones, where four galleries were dug under the town. In these cases, however, the company is targeting a more long-term approach.

“The game plan is to rely solely on the Mount Copper deposit. This is the goal of our approach. We will not be ready to go underground for several years. If it doesn’t work with Mount Copper, we’re not ready to move forward,” says Robert Wares.

Glencore has owned the Murdochville mining asset since 2012, when it took con-

\$350 million for transportation infrastructure over three years

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: An unprecedented amount of \$350 million will be invested over the next two years in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands road, rail and airport networks.

This is the third year that the Quebec government has announced investments of over \$300 million for the region for a two-year period.

“Since our arrival in government, more than \$850 million has been invested in the region, about \$400 million more than the previous Liberal Government. It’s for com-



Minister of Culture and Communications, Nathalie Roy, was delegated to make the announcements.

Photo: N. Sergerie

parison,” launched the Minister of Culture and Communications, Nathalie Roy, who

travelled to Gaspé on the afternoon of April 7 to make the announcement on behalf of

her colleague from the Transport Ministry, François Bonnardel.

No fewer than 74 projects are planned for 2022-2024.

Unsurprisingly, the lion’s share goes to the repair of the railway: \$144 million will be spent on this major regional project, but no new sum has been announced by Minister Roy. The envelope remains at \$235 million.

“For section three, we expect to have additional sums while the costs for section two are higher than what had been originally thought,” underlines Frédéric Bouthilliette who is in charge of the rail-

way file at the Ministry of Transport.

Ottawa also announced \$45.8 million in August 2019 for the Port-Daniel-Gascons-Gaspé section.

Still no date for Gaspé

The minister didn’t have any “good news” for when the rail will reach Gaspé considering that last winter Quebec reneged on its word that it would happen by 2025.

“As for this small detail, I don’t have a date to give you today,” says Ms. Roy.

▶ *Cont’d on page 16*

COVID-19:

Cases stabilize during the first week of April, but six fatalities occur

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – The number of active COVID-19 cases in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands decreased during the first full week of April, from 912 to 767.

However, after a week without any fatalities, the first week of April was marred by six, three in the Magdalen Islands, including the first one since the beginning of the pandemic more than 25 months ago, and three at the Villa Pabos seniors' residence in Chandler. Since March 2020, the number of deaths in the region attributable to the coronavirus amounted to 65 as of April 8.

That day, 21 people were hospitalized due to the COVID-19 in the region's hospitals, and eight people residing in the Gaspé Peninsula or the Magdalen Islands were treated in a hospital outside the region.

Of the 767 active cases registered on April 8, 207 were based in the Bay of Chaleur area, the same number as in the Rocher-Percé MRC. The number of people still considered positive in the Magdalen Islands amounted to 146, compared to 129 in the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC and 71 in Haute-Gaspésie.

The director of the regional Public Health Board, Dr. Yv Bonnier-Viger, points out that the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands were hit hard by the sixth wave triggered by the BA2 variant.

"It seems to have platooned now in the region but it is still rising in Quebec. At one point, we were the "champions" of Quebec for the incidence rate recently," he says.

Dr. Bonnier-Viger maintains that the number of active cases represents 10% of the total population, given the low crosssection of the people who qualify for a PCR test.

"It wouldn't be surprising if between 7,000 and 8,000 people, maybe a little more, are dealing with COVID. The variant is super-contagious but the number of hospitalizations is relatively small. I encourage people to get the vaccine. People must still wear a mask, wash their hands and keep a good distance from people they don't live with," he assures.

Johanne Méthot, who supervises the region's vaccination campaign, says that 94% of the population has received the first shot, 90% the second shot, 69% the third shot and 10% the fourth shot, compared to 4% for the rest of Quebec in the latter case. "We are still the leaders of Quebec," she sums up.

Since the April 6 official start of the fourth vaccination between 800 and 1,000 people converge every day to 17 vaccination locations of the region, she says. Mobile units are also sent to reach various clientele, including people in seniors' residences.

Editorial section

Gilles Gagné Commentary



Another oil exploitation project that should have been waived

By approving the Bay du Nord offshore oil megaproject on April 6, the Federal Minister of the Environment, Steven Guilbeault, disappointed most environmentalists, who are convinced that the initiative can only increase hydrocarbon consumption in the country, but he pleased the Newfoundland and Labrador government as well as the pro-oil movement.

The numbers are impressive, illustrated by the \$6.8 billion investment that could stem from the decision, and the \$3.5 billion in royalties that the Newfoundland and Labrador government could get from the exploitation of the 300 million barrels of oil contained in the deposit located east of the province.

The word "could" is important here because Equinor, the Norwegian company in charge of the venture, might only decide in 2024 if the Bay du Nord offshore field will be exploited.

The Bay du Nord initiative was announced less than a week after an alarming report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, warning that the Paris Climate agreement objective of limiting global warming to 1.5 Celsius above pre-industrial levels is clearly out of reach. On April 4, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres affirmed that investing in new fossil fuel ventures would be "moral and economic madness."

The economic situation of Newfoundland and Labrador is precarious. At the end of 1992, the moratorium on cod catches caused the direct loss of 30,000 jobs in commercial fisheries. That is without counting the side effects of that blow. It took the province almost two decades to recover from that moratorium, and only partially.

In 2011, the go-ahead was given to the Muskrat Falls hydroelectricity project in Labrador, an initiative heavily pushed by the federal government of Stephen Harper, who used the venture to gain some support in the province. It worked to a certain point as Newfoundland and Labrador supported the Conservative Party which was elected with a majority in May 2011.

However, the project was marred by a staggering cost overrun of \$6.8 billion, which surpassed the initial tab of \$6.2 billion, for a total of \$13 billion! As a result, instead of getting a long-term tool to rejuvenate their economy, the province's population is hampered by the effects of a high energy cost.

In 2021, the Liberal Party federal government announced a sum of \$5.2 billion to partially make up for the huge cost overrun and bring down the price of energy to some kind of competitive level. About \$3 billion of that federal money is supposed to come from the royalties of the Hibernia offshore oil field.

If \$6.8 billion is injected in the Bay du Nord project to start production by 2028, between the Muskrat Falls power dam and the Bay du Nord oil field there would be close to \$20 billion invested.

In one case, a renewable energy venture unnecessarily pushed by political opportunism led to a fiasco and, in the second case, an oil rig will encourage Canadians to consume as much hydrocarbons as before, if not more.

The fact that the Bay du Nord venture is presented as a "transition step" towards greener sources of energy because it is less harmful than the Alberta oil tar sands is ridiculous.

It is true that extracting oil from the Bay du Nord field will be less harmful than exploiting the tar sands hydrocarbons, where the sand must be heated to get separated from the fuel. That operation consumes gas or oil. However, the consumption of the finished product, be it gasoline for cars or furnace oil to heat houses, emits about the same level of carbon, with a 5% advantage to Bay du Nord's fuel.

As Gretchen Fitzgerald, national programs director at the Sierra Club Canada Foundation, stressed following the federal government's approval of the Bay du Nord initiative, a significant point of contention is tied to the crucial but "fatally flawed" environmental impact assessment.

The assessment, she assures, does not prove that the project was given the "deep and adequate scrutiny" it warrants, and "completely ignores the global consequences of burning the fuel intended to be extracted." Ms. Fitzgerald adds that the environmental assessment process deliberately downplayed three areas, including the risk of a spill, the risk to sea corals and deep-sea life, and the risk to marine mammals in the areas.

She is right. Despite the fact that cod stocks have far from recovered over the last 30 years, commercial fisheries remain important in Newfoundland, with snow crab catches representing hundreds of millions of dollars in yearly revenues. Over the years of Bay du Nord oil field exploitation, fisheries will far surpass the economic and social impact of that venture, even if it brings in \$3.5 billion to the province in 30 years.

During that span, commercial fisheries will bring in tens of billions of dollars to the population of Newfoundland, the government included. So why take a risk like what happened in 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico, when the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded? It caused damage in excess of \$65 billion, an evaluation dating back to

2018.

As Gaspé's Lise Chartrand, spokesperson of the group Together for the sustainable development of the Greater Gaspé, asked on April 7: "Why not promote offshore wind power (in Newfoundland)? How will the less rich and less democratic countries consider getting out of fossil fuels if we continue on this path? Even if 137 conditions, considered among the most severe, characterize the venture, it is too late to even consider such projects."

She is right, like Gretchen Fitzgerald. In fact, with gusts of wind that are famous in the world, Newfoundland and Labrador have an incredible potential for land and offshore wind farms. Tidal energy could also be considered. In fact, the province's Natural Resources Ministry website underlines that such wind and tidal renewable energies are vastly underdeveloped.

Why wouldn't the same amount of capital slated for Bay du Nord, \$6.8 billion, be invested in wind farms and advance research on tidal energy instead? The production cost of wind energy has gone down significantly over the last decade and it is considered the cheapest source of renewable power now.

As Equinor will take two years before announcing the Bay du Nord venture, wouldn't that period be timely to think and plan renewable options? The number of jobs would be higher with the domestic development of wind energy, compared to oil profits that will be mainly channelled to Norway. Moreover, the knowledge acquired would be beneficial forever.

Canada has set greenhouse effect gas emission goals that require innovation, however, the country is counting on conventional means to reach unconventional obligations. It is destined to fail and the Bay du Nord project will likely prove it once more.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Roger Wise
Vice-President: Elaine Sexton
Secretary: Maria Chatterton
Directors: Hayden Sams, Bonita Annett, Bethany Paetkau, Patricia Ste-Croix Annett

Publisher:

Penny MacWhirter

News Editor:

Gilles Gagné

Office Manager

Joan Imhoff

JOURNALISTS:

Nelson Sergerie

Diane Skinner

CONTRIBUTORS:

Cynthia Dow,
Jeanie LeLacheur

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

Tel: 418-752-5400
specs@globetrotter.net
thegaspec.com

Published every Wednesday by:
Les Publications de la Côte Inc.
(Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)

(Taxes included)
1-year (paper or digital): \$46
6-months (paper or digital): \$25
Outside Canada:
1-year paper \$165 digital: \$46

SPEC welcomes letters to the editor on subjects relevant to topics covered by the paper. Letters must be kept within 300 words or less and may be edited for clarity or to remove any slanderous, sexist, racist or homophobic statements. We reserve the right to reject any letters. Opinions or letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies or beliefs of this newspaper. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include the address and number(s) for verification purposes. (Address & phone number will not be printed.) The Publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.

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

Canada Québec

Member of:
QCNA, CARD

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

CMC
AUDITE

Nurses' union questions the management of the CISSS

Nelson **Sergerie**

MARIA - The management of the COVID-19 pandemic by the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre at the Maria Hospital centre is being criticized by the Union of nurses, nursing assistants, and respiratory therapists of Eastern Quebec.

The union describes the current "difficult" situation as a "big mess" due to the lack of staff because of Covid-19-positive staff and many workers are at their wits end after two years of the pandemic.

According to union president, Pier-Luc Bujold, the beds dedicated to COVID-19 patients on April 1 were full and the management done by the CISSS was deficient.

"In both the east and west wings, the COVID and non-COVID clientele are mixed. There is a lack of personnel but, also, it is the number of allocated resources that is lacking. We have fewer staff on the floor (at Maria Hospital) than before the pandemic in 2020," says Mr. Bujold.



Pier-Luc Bujold is president of the SIIEQ, the union representing Eastern Quebec's nurses.

Photo: G. Gagné

The union president is requesting that positive patients be grouped with dedicated staff.

"Restore the number of workers to the same number as before 2020, so that there is better care for the population. It is unthinkable to give care like that with a reduced staff," he notes.

Mr. Bujold also denounces the new directives on the distribution of the workforce applied to the hospital des Monts in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

"The new distribution puts the population at risk. For example: on the psychiatry floor, on several shifts, no care professional is present to provide care. In addition, on several shifts, the obstetrics nurse is alone to manage everything with multiple clients. If a delivery is rushed, 18 patients are left to fend for themselves without nursing expertise," denounces Mr. Bujold.

The union is asking the senior management of the CISSS as well as the ministry to react quickly with corrective measures to protect the quality of care for the population.

The CISSS replies that the teams in place at Maria are able to absorb the additional volume due to COVID-19.

The CISSS claims to respect the directives of Quebec concerning the isolation of positive cases which are grouped together in the same department, but if the clinical situation of a patient prevents his or her transfer, he or she is isolated in a room.

In addition, if necessary, COVID-19 patients could be

transferred to Chandler.

As for the situation in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, the CISSS indicates that it can maintain quality care.

Positive patients were grouped together and separated from other clientele with dedicated staff equipped with personal protection.

The number of staff members has been adjusted according to needs with the addition of beneficiary attendants and nursing assistants according to work shifts and different needs.

Positive workers on the job

In addition, under a directive from the Ministry of Health, workers who have tested positive and who are not very affected by the virus can now remain at work, a situation denounced by the union.

"It's questionable. This puts the contamination of users or other workers at risk. The directive has been applied by the CISSS de la Gaspésie for several weeks," says Pier-Luc Bujold.

At the CISSS, they justify that in the context where the number of withdrawals from work causes increased pressure on the network, it is possible for establishments to bring back positive employees starting from day six, instead of day 10.

Very strict infection prevention and control protocols are applied. These include self-isolation at work and the wearing of full personal protective equipment.

"It's always the question between do we leave someone on a stretcher with signs of a heart attack without doing anything because we have too many sick people or do we bring in people who are not too sick, who aren't too infected and who protect themselves well? We must appreciate the relatively small risk of transmitting the virus to an uninfected patient and give the service, or not give the service and make him sicker. This is the issue right now," says the regional director of public health, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, who emphasizes that the staff wears appropriate protection.



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada

Canadian Navigable Waters Act

Fisheries and Oceans Canada hereby gives notice that an application has been made to the Minister of Transport, pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*, for approval of the works described herein, its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the said Act, Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Small Craft Harbours – has deposited with the Minister of Transport on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (<https://common-project-search.canada.ca/>) and under registry number **4866**, or under the NPP File Number **2022-305953**, a description of the following works, its site and plans:

- Saint-Godefroi Harbour including the following structures: dock, boat launch, dredging of the harbour and containment curtain (temporary), located around 48°04' 28.09"N - 65°06' 51.40"W, on lots 5 954 226 and 5 954 696, cadastre of Quebec, municipality of Saint-Godefroi, Gaspé, province of Quebec.

Comments regarding the impact of these works on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above referenced number) or if you do not have access to the Internet, by sending your comments directly to:

Transport Canada, Navigation Protection Program
1550 d'Estimauville Avenue
Québec, QC
G1J 0C8
Email: PPNQUE-NPPQUE@tc.gc.ca

However, comments will be considered only if they are in writing (electronic means preferable) and are received not later than 30 days after the publication of this notice. Although all comments related to the above will be considered, no individual responses will be sent.

Posted at Saint-Godefroi, Quebec, this 20th day of April, 2022.

Loi sur les eaux navigables canadiennes

Pêches et Océans Canada donne avis par la présente qu'une demande a été faite au Ministre des Transports, en vertu de la *Loi sur les eaux navigables canadiennes*, pour approbation de l'ouvrage décrit ici ainsi que pour son site et ses plans.

Aux termes du paragraphe 7(2) de ladite loi, Pêches et Océans Canada – Ports pour petits bateaux – a déposé auprès du Ministre des Transports, sur le registre en ligne Recherche de projet en commun (<https://recherche-projet-commun.canada.ca/>) et sous numéro de registre **4866**, ou sous le numéro de dossier du PPN **2022-305953**, une description de l'ouvrage suivant, son site et ses plans :

- Havre de Saint-Godefroi incluant les ouvrages suivants : quai, rampe de mise à l'eau, dragage du havre et rideau de confinement (temporaire) situés environ à 48°04' 28.09"N - 65°06' 51.40"O, sur les lots 5 954 226 et 5 954 696, cadastre du Québec, municipalité de Saint-Godefroi, Gaspésie, province de Québec.

Les commentaires concernant l'effet de cet ouvrage sur la navigation maritime peuvent être envoyés par l'entremise du registre Recherche de projet en commun mentionné ci-haut, dans la section des commentaires (recherche par le numéro référencé ci-dessus) ou si vous n'avez pas accès à Internet, en envoyant vos commentaires directement à :

Transports Canada, Programme de protection de la navigation
1550, avenue d'Estimauville
Québec (QC)
G1J 0C8
Courriel : PPNQUE-NPPQUE@tc.gc.ca

Notez que les commentaires ne seront considérés que s'ils ont été reçus par écrit (préférentiellement de façon électronique) au plus tard 30 jours suivant la date de publication de cet avis. Bien que tous les commentaires se conformant à ces directives seront examinés, aucune réponse individuelle ne sera envoyée.

Affiché à Saint-Godefroi, Québec en ce 20^e jour d'avril 2022.

Shooting range is likely to be up and running in New Carlisle this fall

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – A shooting range project that has been in the plans in the Bay of Chaleur area for close to 15 years will likely be up and running during the fall of this year, along Church Street, about midway between Highway 132 and Saint-Elzéar.

That project was first slated for New Richmond in 2008, near the Pin Rouge Ski Centre, on public land. Opposition to the venture had the promoters, the main one being the Club de tir de la Baie des Chaleurs, move the project along Road 299, north of the Cascapédia-Saint-Jules municipal limit. Again opposition halted this initiative which would have been located 24 kilometres north of Highway 132.

“After evaluating nine locations in New Richmond, we then moved it to the Avignon MRC, to Maria’s municipal limit, in the backcountry, but the council opposed it, for fear that it could hamper housing development in that area. It would have been situated on private land,” explains Marius Dechamplain.

Mr. Dechamplain is a Rimouski resident who acts as a consultant for the New Carlisle project. He has been a shooting instructor for 45 years and has launched other shooting ranges in the Lower Saint Lawrence and Gaspé Peninsula regions.

After Maria, the Baie des Chaleurs Shooting Club considered a landfill site that had not been used by the Gaspesia paper mill, in the backcountry of Chandler.

“We were still considering Chandler when the Municipality of New Carlisle suggested to us that it would make good sense to consider an area safer for the public. It was in November 2021. I went to check the location. I have built some shooting ranges and they are approved by the police, as officers use them to practice. I found it was possible to use the New Carlisle location. It is about eight kilometres from Highway 132 with no houses within six or seven kilometres. There isn’t any problems with that spot. The owner of the property understands the importance of having a shooting range in an area like the Bay of Chaleur,” points



Photo: S.D Captures

Many people attended the English and French presentations about the shooting range project. New Carlisle Mayor David Thibault provided explanations about the municipality’s support of the project.

out Marius Dechamplain.

The shooting range site currently coveted by its promoters should soon receive the official approval of the Bonaventure MRC.

“We are working with local people like Pierre Henry of the Association of sport hunters. In fact, they will operate the shooting range and manage the club. There will be a range of 100-metres for rifles and 20-metres for handguns. People are forced to go to Rimouski or Matane, sometimes Balmoral in New Brunswick, to shoot in a safe location. In Rimouski, we have five members from Chandler who come once a year, and 64 Gaspésians in total, mostly Bay of Chaleur residents. Twenty people from the south side of the peninsula use the Matane facility,” says Mr. Dechamplain.

“I have been in touch with New Carlisle gunsmith Guillaume Després and he evaluates at between 250 and 300 as the number of handgun owners in the south part of the Gaspé Peninsula. In Rimouski, we have 300 members who use handguns. There are thousands of hunters in the Gaspé Peninsula. It is a safe guess to assume that the New Carlisle shooting range will start with at least 150 members,” says Mr. Dechamplain.

The membership cost will likely hover between \$70 and \$90 per person yearly, the variation coming from the type of range that will be used.

The stands will be shel-

tered and the shots will be fired towards mounds of earth specially designed for that purpose. The noise level shouldn’t surpass 50 decibels outside the stands.

“There will also be a place for users of crossbows,” specifies Mr. Dechamplain.

In his mind, it is clear that the purpose of a shooting range is tied to safety and animals’ well-being. “I train more young people and women than ever. The feminine clientele accounts for 28% of my students and I would say it reaches between 16 and 18% for young people. How do people train otherwise, if they can’t count on a shooting range? They shoot

in gravel pits, at road signs and they shoot while hunting. Lots of animals get hurt that way, especially moose and they escape being wounded and suffering. We do protect animals and human beings when people can access a shooting range. We avoid the risk of lost bullets,” stresses Mr. Dechamplain.

Two meetings were held in New Carlisle on March 31 so that Mayor David Thibault could present some details about the project and explain the municipality’s involvement in it. In fact, the Town of New Carlisle will participate in the range’s land acquisition for an amount that will not surpass \$10,000. Up

to 100 people attended both meetings.

There will be room for six shooters in the range’s shelters, which will be made of prefabricated units.

The crossbow shelter will consist of a roof with open sides at the beginning.

The Baie-des-Chaleurs Shooting Club has not released details about the funding of the project so far. Marius Dechamplain has lent some money, thousands of dollars, to the organization to constitute a cash flow for the start up.

Mayor David Thibault stresses that the project makes sense. “We are well-positioned. We have the municipality with the highest number of gravel pits in the area. People are using their rifles in gravel pits. I hear from Loisel and from Roy Blais that people are shooting in gravel pits when their staff are at work! The Béton Provincial gravel pit is 500 metres away from houses. Roy Blais’ gravel pit is located just beside Black Lake, where people go for quiet. We want to encourage people to go to that quiet place. Instead of using five gravel pits as a shooting range, I would rather have the courthouse, prison and police station staff to practice in a real shooting range. In those three places, we have 50 professionals who, according to Law 9, must shoot at least once a year,” says the mayor.

EARTH DAY

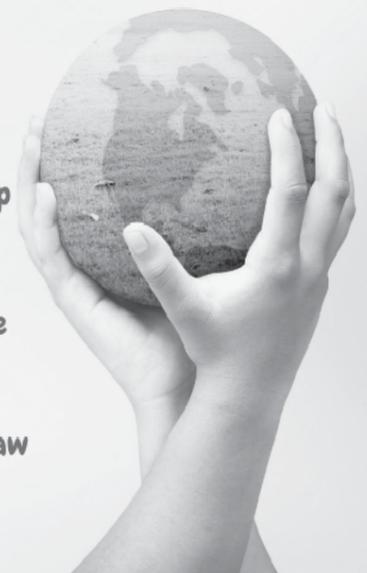
APRIL 22, 2022

CASA

CASA is organizing a
COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP CHALLENGE

To enter is simple:

1. grab a garbage bag, some friends, and go clean up your local community!
2. Send a photo of you and your team at work to the CASA Facebook page
3. you will automatically be entered into a prize draw for a fabulous Gaspesian Way prize basket!



RENÉ LÉVESQUE HOUSE: Ministry favours the transfer of ownership to a regional organization

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – The Minister of Culture and Communications, Nathalie Roy, favours a possible transfer of ownership of René Lévesque's house to one or more Gaspesian organizations once the New Carlisle residence, expropriated by the Quebec government in September 2021, will be completely renovated.

The chairman of Espace René-Lévesque's board of directors, Gaétan Lelièvre, indicated when the expropriation was announced 6.5 months ago that his organization, which manages an interpretation centre on the life of the former Quebec premier, wishes to at least be consulted on the subject of the residence's future. The two sites are only separated by a few hundred metres. Minister Roy took this expression of interest from the Espace René-Lévesque as a desire to become the owner of the house located at 16 Mount Sorel in New Carlisle.

"Initially, they wanted it. I am in discussion with the people of Espace René-Lévesque and I think that they could make excellent partners. (...) The two places could be man-



Photo: Joan Imhoff

aged in complementarity," specifies Minister Roy.

She says any scenario suggesting when the transfer of ownership could take place and who will be the new owner is "hypothetical."

In September, Gaétan Lelièvre also indicated that a possible transfer of ownership or management of the house to Espace René-Lévesque should be done at zero cost to his organization, if chosen.

On this subject, Nathalie Roy is reassuring. Responsibility for management or ownership of the 16 Mount Sorrel house will come with a budget.

"There will be money to do it. There's nothing to worry about."

The New Carlisle house was in a poor state when it was expropriated, the result of decades of maintenance shortcomings. The state of the house has then been a concern for over 25 years. Moreover, efforts to give it heritage recognition date back to 1989.

It benefitted from this recognition in 1995, but this highly symbolic status did not oblige the owner, Denis Cloutier, to carry out specific work. He carried out certain repairs without completing them.

The house was classified in 2012 thanks to the adoption of the Cultural Heritage Law. It then conferred better protection but discussions between the owner and the Ministry of Culture to initiate a real repair or sale to the Quebec government never came to fruition.

The desire to protect the house comes essentially from the notoriety of the person who was brought up there, since its architecture does not stand out. The ministry tried to negotiate with "the negligent owner of the classified house since 2012. A classified house comes with responsibilities. He did not re-

Timeline of René Lévesque house
 1905: Construction at 16 Mount Sorel
 1920: Acquisition by lawyer Dominique Lévesque
 1922: Birth of René Lévesque on August 24.
 1938: Lévesque family moves to Quebec City.
 1987: Death of René Lévesque, November 1.
 1989: Gaspesians request that the house be protected for heritage purposes.
 1993-1994: Acquisition of the house by the last private owner, Denis Cloutier (source: Ministry of Culture)
 1995: Heritage recognition of the house by the Quebec government
 2012: The house is listed under the new cultural heritage law.
 2017: The preliminary expropriation process is initiated in August.
 2019: The Quebec government publishes a decree on September 11 confirming its intention to expropriate the house.
 2021: The expropriation is settled at the end of September.

spect them and the house was abandoned," says Minister Roy,

Cont'd on page 11

PRICES IN EFFECT UNTIL MAY 2, 2022

21 VERSA

\$202
MONTHLY

64 mos.
LEASE
\$595 DOWN

SMT

\$83
WEEKLY

64 mos.
LEASE
\$1,895 DOWN

SAWD

\$55
WEEKLY

24 mos.
LEASE
\$1,495 DOWN

SCVT

\$106
WEEKLY

60 mos.
LEASE
\$1,995 DOWN

SVAWD

\$62
WEEKLY

24 mos.
LEASE
\$1,495 DOWN

S

\$495
MONTHLY

60 mos.
LEASE
\$995 DOWN

KCS4WD

\$67
WEEKLY

24 mos.
LEASE
\$1,995 DOWN

S FWD

\$413
BI-WEEKLY

64 mos.
LEASE
\$0 DOWN

SL

ROY NISSAN

158, boulevard Gaspé, Gaspé, Quebec
 Tel.: (418) 368-6226 Fax.: (418) 368-1221
 E-mail: roynissanventes@cgocable.ca

Page 7, April 13, 2022 - Spec



Traditional Easter-time food: Hot cross buns

- Diane Skinner



or at funerals.

Over the years some strange superstitions emerged. One is that hot cross buns baked on Good Friday will not go bad through the whole year. Willing to test that one? Another superstition is that if you bake the hot cross buns on Good Friday, small pieces broken off the bun have benefits for some illnesses. Seafaring folk believed that taking the buns on your voyage prevented shipwrecks. Finally, some cooks believed that hanging a bun in the kitchen would prevent fires and ensure that all a cook's baking would turn out well. If it were only that easy!



Perhaps you remember this little rhyme from your childhood. Maybe you learned to play a little tune on a recorder or even the piano to accompany this simple little ditty.

Of course, this nursery rhyme is all about that delicious sweet bun made tastier with the addition of raisins, currants or candied citrus (lemon and orange) and a load of spices, including cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. They are topped with a sweet, light glaze and then with a cross in honour of Good Friday. The origins may go back as far as the 12th century. The addition of the cross is said to have been in-

troduced by an Anglican monk, Brother Thomas Rodcliffe, and through the many years since have become an iconic symbol of Easter time. The cross is made with a mixture of water and flour to make a paste so that part is not particularly tasty

The hot cross bun has been traditionally baked and served in Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, India, New Zealand, U.S., and South Africa. Historically eaten after noon on Good Friday.

During the reign of Elizabeth I, there was a decree issued that banned the selling of hot cross buns with the exception of Good Friday, Christmas

There are some more modern variations on the traditional hot cross bun. Some bakers add cranberries, chocolate

chips, raspberries or chunks of apple and cinnamon.

The hot cross bun is a food that has so much tradition and

history attached to it. Most of all hot cross buns are delicious and best served warm with the addition of butter!





Easter Quiz

- Diane Skinner

1. The Ukrainian tradition of painting eggs is called (pysanka or psyllium)?
2. Giving Easter eggs was originally a symbol of (rebirth or spring)?
3. The most popular non-chocolate Easter treat is (Peeps or jelly beans)?
4. What part of a chocolate Easter bunny do most people eat first (feet or ears)?
5. Is it Halloween or Easter when the most candy is eaten?
6. Easter is the Christian celebration of?
7. How do Christians observe Lent?
8. The idea of the Easter Bunny giving chocolate treats originated in (France or Germany)?
9. The official flower of Easter is (the white lily or daffodils)?
10. There are many kinds of Easter candy. What percent of that candy is chocolate (90 or 70)?

Do you know how the date of Easter is determined?
It is held on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs after the vernal (March) equinox. The vernal equinox is the first day of spring. Easter is based on the cycles of the moon. This means that the earliest date that Easter can fall is March 22 and the latest possible date is April 25. This year it will be observed on Sunday, April 17.

Pysanka

Diane Skinner

A pysanka is a Ukrainian Easter egg which is traditionally decorated using wax and colourful dyes. Pysanka is sometimes used to refer to any type of decorated egg, but a true pysanka is created using beeswax. This ancient art practiced by Ukrainians has been around for many centuries, but not many of the eggs still exist from long ago because eggs are very fragile.

Each region, and each village and even each Ukrainian family has their own distinct way of making pysanka and these methods are passed down through generations. Traditionally these colourful and unique eggs are given to family members and close friends. Others are taken to the cemetery and are placed on family members' graves. Single ladies give them to eligible bachelors and some are placed in barns to protect the animals.

The eggs are decorated with symbols and often these are designed expressly for the



Photo: ukrainiannationalmuseum.org

person they will be given to.

Every person in Ukraine receives at least one or more of these lovely and unique eggs. Eggs decorated for young children are bright and colourful and those for older adults are darker in colour. Some have geometric designs, pictures of plants and animals and "eternity bands" which are lines with no beginning and no end. These lines can trap evil spirits. In addition, each colour means some-

thing different. Some of the pysanky are

boiled so that they are edible. Others have the yolk and white (albumen) blown out through a small hole made in the bottom of the egg. If you have ever tried this, it is not an easy feat.

There are a variety of types of pysanky which are less traditional including:

Krashanky – Eggs are boiled and dyed a single colour.

Krapanky – A raw egg is decorated using beeswax and then painted.

Lystovky – Small, overlapping leaves are attached to the egg.

Malvovanky – These are painted with paints or sometimes markers.

Nakleyanky – Small objects are glued to the shell of the egg.

Superstitions

Some Ukrainians believe that their fate and the fate of the world depends on the pysanka. As long as pysanka keep being made, the world will carry on. There is also a belief that the pysanka protects households from evil. In addition, an old or damaged egg must be ground up very finely and fed to chickens.

We certainly hope that the pysanka are still being made during these tragic times.

As winter ends and April showers fall on our doorsteps, it's soon time to celebrate Easter with family and friends. Let's take time to visit friends and family, whether in person, over the phone or online. There is no better gift than giving a decorated basket filled with blessings of happiness, peace, and harmony.

Easter is more than those baskets of decorated eggs but a time to celebrate Christ. This Easter and every Easter many take time to celebrate His resurrection. The renewal of hope, health and the spirit of God can open one's heart with love and joy. Easter teaches us the meaning of faith and what it is to feel the Lord's blessing in our lives.

For the little ones, enjoy your Easter egg hunt. It's a great time to show adults just how good children are at finding things.

Ken Ross, New Carlisle

Happy Easter!

E. GAGNON & FILS LTÉE

Gaspe Shore

E. GAGNON & FILS TRANSPORT

ARRIVAGES de GASPÉ GASPÉ HARVEST

E. GAGNON & FILS Sainte-Thérèse

405, route 132, Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé (Québec) Canada G0C 3B0
 Tel.: 418-385-3011 Fax: 418-385-3021

Lobster • Snow Crab • Rock Crab

Fondaction lends more than \$1 million to Gaspé-based Kuma Brakes, manufacturer of brakes pads

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – Fondaction, a CSN union investment fund, is lending slightly more than \$1 million to a Gaspé-based company, Plaquettes de frein BB, also known to its customers as Kuma Brakes, for its development as a brake pad manufacturer in the field of windmills and trains.

Kuma Brakes and Plaquettes de frein BB developed their models of brake pads over a ten-year period, between 2005 and 2008 in Mr. Babin's mind and computer, between 2008 and 2010 with his consulting firm, and with a Saguenay partner called Hydrep between 2010 and 2015.

He then submitted those models through tests in 2016 and 2017. The company's models for windmills were certified in 2018 by GE, or General Electric, one of the world's main manufacturers of windmill turbines.

Before getting the Fondaction loan, the company had already invested a little more than \$1 million in the equipment required to make its brake pads. The equipment includes a 50-foot-long industrial oven that can reach a temperature of at least 1,000 degrees. This is how the pads are connected to the metal plates that are placed in the calipers.

The company's manufacturing technique has the advantage of extending the life of the brake pads, as they are more resistant to heat during braking. GE made Kuma Brakes the only North American certified manufacturer of this type of part to equip its windmills.

"I cannot give the exact amount of the loan awarded by Fondaction. It is part of a private agreement. It is more than \$1 million. The money will allow us to go from the start up phase to a growth phase. It is an investment requiring more than \$1 million," points out Christian Babin, a 67-year-old former Gaspé Cegep industrial maintenance teacher who saw business opportunities in the wind energy sector while still working as an educator.

When the wind energy sector was emerging in the Gaspé Peninsula in 2005, Mr. Babin looked for a certain set of windmill components that could be fabricated in the Gaspé Peninsula. Brake pads qualified for his list. A 10-year period of research and development followed, in collaboration with Hydrep, a firm based in Sague-



Photo: Courtesy of Kuma Brakes

Greybys Heredia, an operator in charge of quality control on the Kuma Brakes production line, installs the components of future brake pads.

way. By 2015, some prototypes were ready.

"We are selling our windmill brake pads everywhere in North America. It is beginning in Asia, as we just received an order from India and we are now looking at the European market," he says.

Ten people work for Kuma Brakes in a rented space owned by the Town of Gaspé in Sandy Beach. The green building that was erected by Groupe GDS to dry and plane lumber is now mainly used as the municipal garage and Kuma Brakes.

"With our projects, we will need an expansion at one point. There is still some space left for us in the building but I can envision that we will have to build our own plant somewhere down the road," explains Christian Babin.

One of the company's projects consists of getting more certifications from other windmill turbine builders like Denmark's Vestas, Spain's Gamesa and Germany's Siemens. Mr. Babin will attend a trade show at the beginning of April in Bilbao, Spain, and from there, he will meet with potential customers in Spain, Germany and Denmark. He will spend three weeks in Europe.

"We haven't been able to travel for two years because of the pandemic but, normally, one must attend these trade shows and business meetings every year," stresses Christian Babin.

The other main Kuma Brakes project for the short term consists of selling train brake pads. Some Quebec regions' customers have already indicated a keen interest for the railcar brake pads developed by the Gaspé company.

"We get good comments from the mining companies operating trains on the North

Shore. They will be our first customers. They are showing a lot of openness. We will start slowly in the railway business with regional mining companies and then look for the Canadian market. There are about

90,000 windmills in North America but there are 1.6 million freight cars. It is an enormous market," underlines Christian Babin.

He is working on the development of another product that

could have a major impact on Kuma Brakes. "I cannot talk about it right now but it is a major file," he concludes.

"BB Brake Pads stands out for the quality and durability of these critical parts for the wind industry and is part of the value chain of companies that have a positive impact on the reduction of greenhouse effect gases," underlined for her part, Claire Bisson, deputy chief investment officer at Fondaction.

Founded 25 years ago, Fondaction is a labour-sponsored investment fund representing tens of thousands of citizens and hundreds of companies "committed to advancing Quebec," mentions a press release. It manages net assets totaling more than \$3.34 billion invested in hundreds of companies and in the financial markets, favouring investments that generate positive economic, social and environmental impacts in addition to a financial return.

**GO FOR A
Modern and Affordable
Well designed
Quality home**



Dream it! Build it! Live it!

CHOOSE AN HMC BUILT HOUSE

Factory-built, sheltered from the weather using a method which reduces costs and production time offering the highest quality standards and the best energy efficiency

IMAGINE YOUR HMC HOME A move in ready home with the decor of your choice and designed the way you want, no hassles, no worries

Representative
Robert Bilodeau



 **hmc**
Les Habitations Mont-Carleton

1 877 666-3168
hmcmaison.com
RBQ: 8000-7883-06

Wakeham-York Winter Carnival

WAKEHAM-YORK: After fifty successive carnivals, COVID-19 prevented the York Youth Center from hosting their annual event in 2021. This year, when the Quebec government began lifting restrictions the committee immediately set to work and planned a stripped-down version. Unable to bring several other local groups on board, they planned only the most popular events, including, family day, tuck night, poker night, and, of course, the annual snowmobile poker run, followed by a dance with Nash Stanley.

On March 12, already a month late and amid one of the worst blizzards of the winter, festivities began with the masquerade. Surprisingly, over a dozen people showed up in costume. The most original prize went to the helicop-



Snowmobile poker rally participants

ter, Jake Patterson. Next came the ever-popular ice bowling held inside the Community Hall. All the other events on Family Day had to be cancelled due to the inclement weather.

On Tuesday evening twelve teams squared off for the Tuck Championship. The B winners were Melissa Patterson and Patrick Clark, and

winners of the A division were Drapper Clark and Danny Bechervaise. A small gang showed up for the Poker tournament on Friday, but the competition was fierce. Dorman Leggo walked away with the first prize.

The final Saturday began with breakfast. The crowd was a bit smaller than usual, with only 88 customers

served. Next began the annual poker run with around 45 snowmobiles heading off for a very enjoyable day snowmobiling.

The weather was very cooperative, with temperatures above freezing and a clear blue sky. One hundred and seventy-one poker hands were sold and Sylvia Bourgaise won the grand prize with a King high flush. The day finished with a dance featuring Nash Stanley, and fes-

tivities continued well into the early hours of the morning.

Except for the wonderful weather on the day of the poker run, it seemed like we were constantly battling the weather gods and the covid pandemic. Besides being a month late, and having our attendance down slightly, a snowstorm on Sunday forced the postponement of one of our most popular events, the bingo. In any case, the committee is not to be deterred, as plans have been made for two Carnival bingos, April 24 and May 29. The future of the York Rink depends upon the money raised during carnival, so we hope large crowds will turn out for these two events. Each bingo will have over \$1500 in prizes, and our 50/50 draw will take place at the first one, so make your plans to attend.

*Andrew Patterson,
Community Correspondent*



So many interesting costumes displayed in the masquerade.

RENÉ LEVESQUE:

Cont'd from page 7

who was in the Gaspé Peninsula on April 7 and 8 to make announcements of the region's road network and the Frederick James house in Percé.

The minister does not reveal the amount of acquisition of the house, an expropriation carried out, as is the norm in the Government of Quebec, by the Ministry of Transport. The reason is simple.

“Legal proceedings are still underway with the owner, who is not happy (...) It (the sale) went according to the market price,” specifies Nathalie Roy about the price paid.

Since September 2021, experts from the Ministry of Culture have begun a diagnosis of the condition of René Lévesque's house and they are preparing a health record for the attention of Minister Roy, who expects this document before the end of April.

The house was in such a state during the September 2021 expropriation that “emergency work was carried out to

protect the house because it was not heated. There had been no heating for years, with the problems that it caused, infiltration, ice, mold,” she says.

Nathalie Roy does not dare to suggest an approximate amount to be injected to restore the house to the state it was in when René Lévesque lived there, between 1922, the year of his birth, and 1938, the year of departure of his family for Quebec City following the death of his father, lawyer Dominique Lévesque.

The minister also does not know how long it will take to renovate it, but she can't wait for it to start. “I have no control over the schedule of the contractors who will carry out the work. (...) It is the centenary of the year of birth of Mr. (René) Lévesque in 1922. We can't wait to have the report card pertaining to the physical state of the house and to start the work.”

She is not worried about what will attract visitors to the house when it is renovated. “I will let the community, the people at Espace René-Lévesque

and the creative specialists decide. When we come to decide what we are going to put in it, it will not be a problem. It will not be a problem to bring the building to life.”

Gaétan Lelièvre, of Espace René-Lévesque, is delighted that the Quebec government is paying 100% for the upgrade of the residence.

“As for the operation of the house, we will have to sit down with the government to develop a business plan. We do not have the means to increase our expenses without increasing the income accordingly, ideally additional income which would be reinvested in the two sites, hence the need to develop a good business plan,” he says.

“With our budget of less than \$100,000 per year, we cannot afford to take the house under our responsibility. It is clear that we will not give up. Overall, this is a very good position on the part of the minister and we are reassured, for the moment. There is openness on the minister's part and a positioning favourable to our orientation,” concludes Mr. Lelièvre.

The Wakeham York Winter Carnival committee would like to thank the volunteers and the community for their support.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| A Chacun ca Bête | Les Creations Marie Gaudet |
| Association Chasse et Pêche | Les Equipments Motorisée |
| Assurance Leboutillier | Les Excavations Dubé Cassivi |
| BLAC5 | LM Wind Power |
| Bois et Matériaux Kega | Location Gaspé |
| Boutique Lisa Bond | M J Entretien (Miles Jean) |
| Brise Bise | Marche des Saveurs |
| Café Des Artistes | Mario Sheehan |
| Canadian Tire | Mauger Ford |
| Cap Gaspé | McDonalds |
| Carquest | Multi-Service Cam Jean |
| CASA | NAPA Gaspé |
| Casse Croûte Joanne | O'Dwyer Distillerie |
| Casse-Croute La Banquise | Oh Les Pains |
| Centre Alignement et | Old Dutch Roger Roberts |
| Transmission Gaspé | Paquebot |
| Coiffure Vicky Jacques | Photo Cassidy |
| Dean Jacques | Produit Cloutier |
| Dépanneur du Versant | Provigo |
| Dixie Lee | Réfrigération Pro-Nord |
| Dollarama | Restaurant Adams |
| EDF Renewables Dev Inc | Restaurant Chez Ron |
| Esthétique L-K | Resto Place Jacques Cartier |
| Excavation John Fitzpatrick | Rona Hardware |
| Excavation Robert Touzel | Rush Motosports |
| Ferblanterie Gaspé | Salon 80 |
| Filets Sport Gaspésie | Service KCM (Mike Cyr) |
| Garage Harry Stanley | Simpsons Chevrolet |
| Gaspé Honda | Société de Gestion des |
| Gaspé Toyota | Rivières de Gaspé Inc. |
| GoGaspé.com | Sports Experts |
| Gym Le Garage | Station Service 198 |
| Home Hardware | Super C |
| Hôtel Plante | Thoney Fournier |
| IGA | Tim Hortons |
| Ivan & Garry McKoy | Transport Fournier |
| Jean Coutu | Tupperware - Arianne |
| Jennifer Avon | Fournier |
| JRC Multi Service | Uniprix |
| La P'tite Marmaille | Ville de Gaspé |
| Les Breuvages Gaspé | Vision Gaspé Percé Now |
| Les Creations Kalico | |

St Andrew's United Church welcomes new minister



Photo: C. Dow

Celeste and Pierre Momberg at the door of Saint Andrew's United Church.

Cynthia Dow

NEW RICHMOND: - St Andrew's United Church welcomed a new minister last fall. Pierre Momberg immigrated to Canada from Grootvlei, South Africa, to take up his new function on September 21, 2021. He has since been joined by his wife, Celeste, at the manse in New Richmond.

In fact, both Pierre and Celeste are trained ministers, but the latter does not have permission to work in this country. Both were ordained in the Dutch Reformed Church. They met in 2003 at the University of Pretoria and were married in 2007.

After deciding to leave South Africa, the couple at first considered the Netherlands as a potential destination. Celeste had spent a few months working in the Netherlands as a minister. Pierre wanted a more expansive country. He told SPEC that when he saw the photographs and description of St. Andrew's, he was hooked.

"The photographs of the sunsets with the church and the mountains in the background were so beautiful," Pierre noted. "And I liked the informality of the text. The description of the needs was short and concise. The congregation simply wanted someone to help them grow again."

There were several motivations for leaving South Africa. Celeste is not a fan of the heat, and this past Christmas saw a record of 45 degrees celsius where she was staying with her mother. It was quite a challenge to face minus 11 at the Montreal airport when she arrived in February. "It has been unique to experience two such extreme climates," she noted.

In fact, Celeste happened to arrive in the middle of one of Eastern Canada's major blizzards. After a connecting flight to Bathurst was cancelled, it took several days to get her in Montreal and bring her to her

new home, with the help of Bruce Willett. She arrived on February 5.

Another motivation for the couple to move was the constant concern over burglary and violence in South Africa. Every evening involved the ritual of closing and locking all doors and windows in the house, including inside doors, to reduce the risk of theft. Computers, phones and other expensive items had to be moved into the bedroom every night, with the door bolted. According to Wikipedia, burglary of residential properties is the most frequent crime in South Africa, with assault a close second. The country also suffers from occasional water shortages and electricity failures.

"We like how calm everything is here," Pierre said, "There is a lot of emigration from South Africa at this time." He noted that a colleague both he and Celeste studied with is working for a Lutheran congregation in the Prairies, and there are many South Africans in Vancouver. They are surprised and pleased that, even with the winter weather, they have not had to deal with an electrical outage yet!

Pierre and Celeste speak very fluent English, but their mother tongue is Afrikaans, a language derived from Dutch and an assortment of other colonial and native languages

in South Africa. While both newcomers have French first names, they do not speak French, but are working hard to learn it using the online tool Duolingo. "Once we have permanent residency, that will give us access to the free courses offered by the provincial government," Pierre explained.

The couple was surprised to learn that not everyone in Quebec speaks English. They find that people in New Richmond are friendly and generally can find someone who can speak English when they need help in the local businesses.

Pierre made the formal decision to become a minister when he was 17, but it was a natural path for him. "From my youngest days I would organize everyone at Christmas to sing, and hand out the hymn books," he told SPEC. "I loved Sunday School, loved the meetings, and always knew the Bible stories discussed."

For her part, Celeste has many ministers in her family tree, including the first Christian minister in South Africa. She is the 44th minister in her family, and the first female minister.

Asked whether they intend to stay in the area for some time, the couple were emphatic: "We want to stay for a while. We have moved a lot. It is time to settle down."

Vigil in support of Ukraine to be held at St. Andrew's

Cynthia Dow

On Sunday, April 24, at 6 p.m., an ecumenical service will be held at St Andrew's in support of the people of Ukraine. The United Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church are cooperating in the service and, as SPEC went to press, outreach was being made to spiritual leaders in Gesgapegiag.

"We are asking people to come dressed in the colours of the Ukraine," Pierre Momberg, the United Church Minister, explained, "There will be a collection box at the back for Ukrainian humanitarian aid which will be processed through the United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund."

The vigil will be live-streamed and the link will be posted through the St Andrew's Facebook page.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



The power of friendship: I'll always be with you

An innovative initiative was outlined in a SPEC article published March 23, 2022. The Forget Me Not project provides seniors friendly contact by phone. This CASA project brings together volunteers and seniors for friendly contact by phone. Human contact is so critical to our well-being. Particularly in these times due to the social isolation during the pandemic, we have all been spending more time without the company of others. It has been a challenge.

Staying connected to others is the key to our healthy well-being. People can feel isolated at any age but the incidence increases as we age. Other factors can come into play – those who live alone, lower income, lack of transportation and chronic health challenges all increase the likelihood of loneliness.

Face-to-face interaction with our "significant" people is beneficial in a myriad of ways. Friendship is a relationship of mutual affection and is a stronger bond than an acquaintance. Friends are your "chosen family."

Friendship relieves stress. Friends are who we talk things over with when times get tough. Even knowing an ally knows about your struggles can reduce your stress levels.

Friendship makes you feel confident. They build you up and maybe even tell you that you are the best! We all need to hear that once in a while.

Friendships provide guidance. Those very same friends can tell us when we are wrong and if they tell us the bare truth, we can learn from that. "A friend can tell you things you don't want to tell yourself."

Friends just listen. They are observers to our life. We can tell them all the details about a dream, a hope or a wish. They can be our cheerleaders when we need them.

With friends you're not alone. Speaking with friends gets rid of that "all alone" feeling. Someone out there cares and listens. Friendship helps to deal with depression. That friendship is a glowing light in the darkness we may be feeling. Sometimes that glimmer is what we need in order to turn things around towards the positive. Being with a good friend may be all the therapy you need.

Friendship is a drug-free stress reliever and mood enhancer.

Having a good friend or group of friends improves your own social skills. You learn to communicate and to listen.

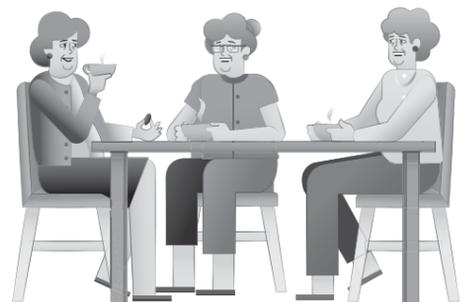
Friends are there when you really need them. You need acceptance, encouragement and love? Friends can give you all that. "A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

Friends do things together. They go for walks, go out for coffee and go to events together. Having a friend by your side to share experiences with is a wonderful feeling.

Friends are dependable. You have someone outside your immediate family to depend on. Friends "have your back." Besides, family is sometimes the cause of some of our problems and an objective friend might be the right person to discuss this with. Friends can make us laugh and be there if we need to cry.

Friends are there to help. True friends are there to help us through the hard times. "It's the friends you can call up at 4 a.m. that matter."

A.A. Milne got it right – "If ever there is tomorrow when we're not together, there is something you must always remember. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think but the most important thing is, even if we're apart ... I'll always be with you."



Business & Professional DIRECTORY

Grenier, Grenier & Grenier LAWYERS



Réal Grenier, b.a.ll.l.
Jules Grenier, b.a.ll.l.

96 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd, P.O. Box 519
New Carlisle (Quebec) G0C 1Z0
Tel.: (418) 752-3308 • Fax (418) 752-6935



Gagnon Claveau Law Firm

Isabelle Gagnon
Attorney and family law mediator

Ann-Chloé Boudreau
Attorney

418-392-3542
www.gagnonclaveau.com
info@gagnonclaveau.com

Fully
bilingual
services in
the whole
Gaspé
peninsula



Tremblay & Barriault, notaires inc
Notaries & legal counsel

Gaël Tremblay, notary
Serge Barriault, notary

119B Perron Blvd West, New Richmond, Que.
Tel.: (418) 392-5282 • Fax: (418) 392-6155
E-mail: gaeltremblay@notarius.net

FULLY
BILINGUAL
SERVICE

Our services :
Support | Training | Tools

TECHNOCENTRE
TIC

Leading the region's digital transformation

ITC Technocentre Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands
163, Commerciale Street West, office 101
Chandler (Qc) G0C 1K0

technocentre-tic.com

Local Advertising That Makes the Cut



VILLAGE
Real Estate Agency

Suzanne Landry

CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE BROKER AEO
418-752-0792
suzannelandry@royallepage.ca
www.suzannelandry.ca

Friendly bilingual service
from Matapedia to Port Daniel
19 years experience

Forage Moreau Inc.
418-392-9501
Mathieu Mercier - Driller/Owner



- Artesian Well Drilling
- Budgetary Price
- Bilingual Service
- RBQ: 5672-1467-01

foragemoreaumercier@gmail.com



By Appointment

Richard Ste Croix

Denturologist

Construction and repair of dentures.
We also make dentures on implants.

9 Adams Street, Gaspé
Quebec G4X 1E5

Tel.: (418) 368-1525
Fax: (418) 368-1542



OHMEGA
Going beyond and reliable sir



Electricity - Plumbing
Automation
Industrial computing
Counter sales

3 Rue Cerisiers
Gaspé, Québec G4X 2M1
Tel. (418) 368-5425
Fax (418) 368-7290
www.groupeohmega.com

To reach the anglophone
population, advertise in
The Gaspé Spec!

Contact our
Advertising Representative
Heather Imhoff
581-233-2062
gaspespec.revitalization@gmail.com



Pro Pieds de la Baie

Roxanne Major N.D.
Foot Care Technician

Service in the comfort of your own home.

418-752-3670

NEWPORT TO NEW RICHMOND

Free advice with every visit!



AVAILABLE TREATMENTS

- Health Checkup / Thick nails
- Nail maintenance / Corns / Calluses
- Nails with fungus or mushrooms
- Ingrown toenails / Plantar warts
- Preventive care for diabetics
- Massage on certain reflexology points
- Insurance receipts available
- Appointment only / Bilingual service
- Gift certificates are available



Dr. Pascal Cyr
Optometrist



Dr. Stacey Starrak
Optometrist

CLINIQUE D'OPTOMÉTRIE



L'ÉMERILLON

LENSES CRAFTED ON THE PREMISES

PASPÉBIAC: 104 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd West • 418-752-5553

CHANDLER: 260 René Lévesque Blvd East • 418-689-5553

MARIA: 435 Perron Blvd West • 418-759-5553



BILINGUAL
SERVICE

MEMBER
OF



Canada's Largest Network of Optometrists

Les
Pétroles
C. Poirier inc.

SUBSIDIARY OF



DISTRIBUTORS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS:

DIESEL, FURNACE OIL, STOVE OIL, DEF, GAS AND MOTOR OIL

BONAVENTURE
125, Route 132
Bonaventure QC G0C 1E0
418 534-2777

CHANDLER
125, Route Leblanc
Pabos QC G0C 1K0
418 689-2595

Proud to serve you!

harnoisenergies.com

Announcements



In Memory



RENOUF: Rhoda (nee Sawyer)

In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away four years ago April 16, 2018.

*It's been four years since you left us,
The time has gone quite fast,
And though you can't be with us now,
The memories will forever last.
If tears could build a stairway,
And memories were a lane,
We would walk right up to heaven,
And bring Mom back again.
The flowers we lay upon your grave,
May wither and decay,
But the love for our Mom who lies beneath,
Will never fade away.*

Thank you for your precious memories Mom. Sadly missed and never forgotten by your son Robert, daughter-in-law Glenna, grandsons Troy (Sheryl) and Trevor (Jessica) and also great-grandchildren Hayden, Joseph, Mariah and Olivia.

WYLIE: Alton

WYLIE: Orva

In loving memory of our father Alton Wylie who passed away on March 25, 2017 and our mother Orva Wylie who passed away on April 18, 2017.

*It has been five years
That you both had to leave us.
There is not a day goes by
That we don't think of you
And miss you both so much.
For none of us could say goodbye,
So we wiped our tears
And held your hands
And told you both
We will see you again one day.
Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard but always near,
So loved, so missed so very dear.*

Forever in our hearts, Lance, Spence (Crystal), and Lisa.

PHOTO QUALITY

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

Unfailing Prayer to Saint Anthony

O holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for his creatures made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle; even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours.

Amen

Announcements

Deadline: Wednesday at 4 p.m. to appear in the 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 must be typed and can be submitted by mail or online.



Four Generations of Monument Craftsmen

HIGHEST QUALITY - BEST PRICES

MONUMENTS, MARKERS, CEMETERY LETTERING, LASER DESIGNS AND PORTRAITS

SALES REP:

Steven Imhoff

418-752-6041

Covering Port Daniel to New Richmond

COAST ROUND-UP

COAST ROUND-UP: \$5 per week
CLASSIFIED: \$6 per week

COAST ROUND-UP

PORT DANIEL:

Mother's Day Bingo

Join us for a fun evening on **Friday, May 13**, at 7 p.m. at the Three Star Golden Age Club in Port Daniel. \$10 for 1 series and \$20 for three series. Canteen available.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64

General meetings will take place on the first Tuesday of each month. Next scheduled meeting will be **May 3**, at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

Fridays: Darts at 7 p.m. New members are welcome. \$5 to play. Bar opens at 6 p.m.

Saturdays: Open at 1 p.m. Everyone welcome.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Breaking of Bread for believers and 2 p.m. Gospel meeting.

Wednesdays: 2 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study.

Thursdays: 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. Everyone welcome, in person and on Zoom. For more information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Interested in meditation?

Scientifically proven benefits of a meditation practice include: Relaxation, better sleep; deeper connections, improved emotional well-being. Two experienced practitioners, Ann Kelly and Cynthia Dow, invite you to explore:

Centering prayer: Thurs-

day, April 21, 7 to 8 p.m. at St Andrew's Anglican Church, New Carlisle.

Mindful walking: Saturday, May 7, Hope Town Trail (near the Hopetown Park) at 10 a.m. It is important to register so we can follow COVID regulations. For more information and to register: cynthiadow@me.com

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: 50 Plus Club

Tuesdays: Grocery Bingo every Tuesday night beginning at 7 p.m.

May 8: Mother's Day brunch from 9 a.m. to 12 (noon), \$15 per adult and \$10 for children under 12.

May 28: Spring Bingo at 1 p.m. \$10/3 cards and \$1 for each additional card.

June 19: Father's Day Brunch from 9 a.m. to 12 (noon), \$15 per adult and

\$10 for children under 12.

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 April 3 are: Lucie Duguay, Jeanne Robichaud, Michel Henry, Jeremy Chirara, Liette Poirier, Mariette Arsenault and Jonathan Sweeney.

UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN
Sunday, April 17
2 p.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH

NEW RICHMOND

Sunday, April 17

10 a.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Saturday, April 16

NEW CARLISLE

5 p.m. Holy Saturday

Sunday April 17

NEW CARLISLE

6 a.m. Easter Sunday in the chapel Sunrise

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

SHIGAWAKE

11 a.m. Holy Baptism

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Easter Vigil, April 16

7 p.m. St. Andrew's - York

TRANSPORT:

▶ Cont'd from page 3

This isn't preventing the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie from remaining optimistic, even if there's no planned budget for this year.

The president of the Société, Éric Dubé, mentions that preparatory work, in particular engineering, is being done on section three between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé.

"When we know the real costs, that's when we will have claims to make. But in the meantime, we have always had signs that the government would invest the necessary sums," says Mr. Dubé, who remains confident that the new date of 2024 to return the train to Port-Daniel-Gascons will be respected.

"With five calls for tenders on the section that will go out by the end of spring, everything is going according to plan. The work will be able to start this summer and finish next year," believes Mr. Dubé.

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, is always looking forward to having a date for the rail to return to his backyard.

"I understand the technical issues and I am not an engineer. Above all, I want the govern-

ment's commitment for repairs of the rail to Gaspé to be maintained. This is the case until now. I hope this will be the case in a sustainable way," says Mr. Côté.

While galloping inflation causes surprises when opening bids, the regional director of the Ministry of Transport, Yves Berger, cannot move forward.

"It's a bit difficult to answer. There are projects in call for tenders that arrive under the estimates. There are others that are above our estimates. It depends a lot on the time of year when we make our calls for tenders and the contractors. There is a fluctuation, we admit. But to give precise figures, we will wait to move the season forward," says the director.

Pointe-Navarre Boulevard

Among the other projects, Gaspé had been claiming work for several months to correct the roadway on Boulevard de Pointe-Navarre near the Saint-Majorique crossing.

Work planned for this summer on the crossing and the boulevard is estimated between \$1M and \$5M for each of the projects and 5.4 kilometres of asphalt from the bridges to the

town centre.

"That road is a minefield, and it is one of the busiest roads in Eastern Quebec. Excellent news," says Daniel Côté, who recalls that this is a sector that "works a lot."

Elsewhere in the Gaspé Peninsula

There are no major announcements regarding the issue of coastal erosion and the fragility of Highway 132 in Haute-Gaspésie. "They are aware of it. Everything still depends on future studies. We hope that it will be done as quickly as possible to do work to protect the population and keep our only link," notes the prefect of Haute-Gaspésie, Guy Bernatchez.

Major works are planned at La Martre, Marsoui and Anse-Pleureuse.

In Rocher-Percé, the redevelopment of Highway 132 in the Pabos Mills sector between rue de l'Église up to the new connection of Highway 132 in Chandler is in the plans.

In Cascapedia-Saint-Jules, the bridge over the Trout Brook will be rebuilt. The construction site is estimated between \$5M and \$10M.

Erosion protection struc-

tures will be built along Route 299 in Rivière-Bonaventure and Chemin Saint-Edgar in New Richmond.

The York west and York south intersection and York Boulevard south will be redesigned.

A traffic light will be installed at the intersection of Chemin Saint-Edgar and Highway 132, as will the bridge over the railway on 3rd range west

in New Richmond.

Finally, a protective wall will be erected at the cove along Highway 132 in Shigawake, a stretch of 200 metres. In addition to the \$144M for rail, \$56M will go for roadways, \$57M for structures and \$6M for airports, notably that of Bonaventure.

In 2021, the protection of Highway 132 at Pic de l'Aurore in Percé was completed.

Gaspé received a lot of snow in March

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Gaspé received nearly twice as much snow as normal in March, making it the "snowiest" place in Quebec. In March, 128 centimetres fell, placing Gaspé ahead of Saguenay, which received 119 centimetres. The normal for Gaspé is 72 centimetres in March.

Three snowfalls exceeded 20 centimetres: 33 centimetres fell from March 6 to 8; 21.2 centimetres on March 12 and 26.6 centimetres on March 20. In fact, the region experienced snowy weather virtually every weekend in March. The amount of snow seems impressive with 86 centimetres on March 31, but it's not exceptional. In 2017, there were 95 centimetres on the ground, but 2014 was more significant with 129 centimetres. This remains far from the 136-centimetre record of 1995.

Normal temperature

The mercury remained within the seasonal normal at -5.4 degrees Celsius. Environment Canada predicts that it won't be particularly mild during April. Although the temperature will be above normal at times, the trend should be a month of below average temperatures. With cooler temperatures, the federal agency says it shouldn't be surprising to see snow. Gaspé receives an average of 37 centimetres of snow in April.

Business & Professional Directory



DIANE LEBOUTHILLIER
 MP • Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine
 Serving the English-speaking community of our beautiful region!

Grande-Rivière office 418 385-4264	Magdalen Islands office 418 986-1489
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts office 418 764-2890	New Richmond office 581 355-0060

Email: diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca



AXIO
 arpenteurs-géomètres inc.
 land surveyors
 151B, Avenue de Grand-Pré, Bonaventure (Québec) G0C 1E0

Alexandre Babin, Arpenteur-géomètre
 C abag@axioag.com
 Guillaume Lapierre, Arpenteur-géomètre
 C glag@axioag.com

Membre de l'Ordre des Arpenteurs-Géomètres du Québec

418 534-3113 / info@axioag.com
 axioag.com



LFG CONSTRUCTION

PROUD PARTNER IN YOUR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR MORE THAN 45 YEARS!

constructionfg.com

REG. 2534-817-98

Gaspésie-Les Îles | Côte-Nord | Bas-Saint-Laurent

BUILDINGS ENERGY AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC



ENERGY
 TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Are you **Driven to be Different?**

Discover our career opportunities!

www.shipENERGY.com



Register now!
cegepgim.ca/english-section

