

## Diane Lebouthillier speaks out about the caribou situation, seniors and EI reform

Nelson **Sergerie**

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - The federal minister for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouthillier, endorses the position of her environment colleague, Steven Guilbeault, who is threatening Quebec with intervention if the province does not take the protection of caribou more seriously.

Questioned during a press briefing on April 12 about the federal budget tabled on April 7, Diane Lebouthillier was clear about her support for the approach.

In a letter to the Quebec Minister of Wildlife, Steven Guilbeault gave Pierre Dufour until April 20 to provide firm commitments on the recovery and protection of caribou. If that doesn't happen, Ottawa is threatening to use the Species at Risk Act.

"I support Minister Guilbeault in the interventions he will make if intervention is required. We have a responsibility



*Diane Lebouthillier supports federal action to save caribou.*

to protect species at risk and it is certainly not the caribou (themselves) that will find solutions," says the minister.

Ottawa's intervention would have a major impact because it would cover some 32,000 square kilometres of Quebec's forest.

Environment Canada would thus take control over forest

management and any activity on the territory covered by the decree.

Even though caribou has been listed on the Quebec registry of threatened species since 2005, Quebec has postponed concrete actions to protect it.

The Legault government has now promised a plan for 2023, which is clearly too late

for the federal government. According to the last count, there would be fewer than 40 animals left in the Gaspé Peninsula by that point.

Ottawa's position is being criticized by Premier François Legault who says it's an intrusion by the federal government in a matter of provincial jurisdiction.

### Seniors under 75 not forgotten

On the budget issues themselves, the Member of Parliament defends her government for having "forgotten" seniors aged 65 to 75, a criticism that has been made repeatedly by the Bloc Québécois MP for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia, Kristina Michaud.

The budget provides that seniors aged 75 and over will see their old age pension increased by 10% starting in July.

"These are the most vulnerable seniors, who often have the most difficulty with their health," says Diane Lebouthillier, defending herself from creating two classes of seniors.

### Employment insurance

Expected since the first mandate of the Trudeau government, the long awaited reform of the employment insurance system will finally be carried out.

"With the agreement made with the NDP, I have the impression that during the mandate, something will be tabled with an employment insurance reform," says the elected representative.

The MP notes that the seasonality of the Gaspesian economy, as in some other regions of Eastern Canada, leads to a higher unemployment rate, despite the shortage of manpower.

The Mouvement action chômage welcomes this recognition

This last point made by the Member of Parliament is very welcome by the Mouvement

*Cont'd on page 3*

## CARIBOU:

## Bonaventure MNA supports a citizen initiative calling for the creation of an independent Department of Wildlife

Gilles **Gagné**

CARLETON - Bonaventure Member of the National Assembly, Sylvain Roy, tabled a petition on April 11 calling for the creation of an independent Department of Wildlife. This petition, which stems from a citizens' initiative, denouncing the unfavourable imbalance to wildlife in the balance of power at the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks.

The MNA explains that the problem is not new and that the forest caribou file is only the "tip of the iceberg."

"It's something I've been hearing for several years, as much from the mouths of hunters and fishermen, as from environmental groups, that the



*The Gaspé Peninsula caribou herd has dwindled to about 35 animals since 2019. There were between 700 and 1,500 in 1950.*

forest industry receives a lot more attention than the wildlife sector and that we have to think

about the idea of creating a Department of Wildlife that will be able to defend wildlife is-

ues at the cabinet table," explains Sylvain Roy.

It is for this reason that he

did not hesitate to support the process by filing the petition on the site of the National Assembly.

The text of the petition includes seven main points as basic hypotheses. The first three points mention that the Quebec forest and the wildlife represents a collective heritage that must be enhanced and protected, and that there is an imbalance unfavourable to wildlife in the balance of power within the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks. As well certain logging operations are extremely damaging to wildlife habitats.

It is also specified in the petition that the Ministry of

*Cont'd on page 11*



# Nouvelle: A costly rescue not reimbursed

Gilles Gagné

NOUVELLE – Carleton resident, Stéphane Boudreau, has been trying unsuccessfully for six months to be reimbursed for the \$32,945.46 in damages caused to his inflatable boat a year ago. On April 10, 2021, he and his spouse, Catherine Audet, saved the lives of two canoeists who had previously found refuge in a cliff crevice after capsizing in the Miguasha sector of Nouvelle.

A canoe had capsized with three occupants and a dog. Two of them were in distress and the third had managed to reach the accessible part of the shore.

One of the canoeists, Mathieu Bélanger, succumbed to hypothermia at the Maria Hospital on the evening of April 10, but a friend, Kelly-Ann Dickie, who also took part in the excursion, was saved.

The efforts of Catherine Audet and Stéphane Boudreau that day were deemed worthy of recognition at the end of May 2021. They were presented with the National Assembly's Medal of Courage and Bravery from the Member for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy. He noted the reward was “not a privilege but a distinction.”

The couple also received a message of gratitude from Sergeant Ghislain Rouillard, from the Sûreté du Québec detachment in the Avignon MRC, for their “heroic act.” Martin Dufour, of the Canadian Coast Guard's search and rescue division, noted the couple’s “unparalleled leadership and courage.”

However, this heroism was not enough to convince the Municipality of Nouvelle to reimburse Stéphane Boudreau for the damage to his inflatable boat. On January 20, the municipal administration of the



Photo: Normand Audet  
*Catherine Audet and Stéphane Boudreau received the Medal of Courage and Bravery from the National Assembly in May 2021, six weeks after the Miguasha rescue.*

village of 1,700 people offered 10% of the bill which equals \$3,400 to Stéphane Boudreau.

According to Mr. Boudreau, the total cost of the damages, appraised by Pomerleau Marine in Rivière-du-Loup was \$42,945.46. The value of that type of boat new is approximately \$100,000.

Subtracting the \$10,000 he is prepared contribute himself, Stéphane Boudreau's claim of \$32,945.46, represents a little less than 1% of Nouvelle's annual budget, which stands at \$3,313,755 in 2022.

## The rescue

Stéphane Boudreau had just returned, along with his companion Christian Boudreau to the Carleton wharf following a trip to sea that had begun in the morning when the emergency

call came on his phone. They had seen the canoeists while they were at sea.

After returning to shore a noticeably strong wind had come up after that outing.

“There is no doubt that my boat was requisitioned by the fire chief (Pierre Beaulé) on duty at the Municipality of Nouvelle, who was organizing his team for a rescue. There was no one else available,” says Mr. Boudreau.

“Pierre Beaulé called me at 2:38 p.m. to tell me that people were stranded on a rock and to ask me if I was ready to go to Miguasha by boat. I put the boat back in the water, I called Catherine, who came with me. It was a very difficult rescue, with a southeast wind, the boat was being pushed towards the rocks. There were rocks everywhere, it's usually inaccessible



Photo: Christian Boudreau  
*The stranded canoeists had taken refuge in the crevice located in the cave appearing in the centre right of the photo.*

by boat but when you're attempting a rescue, you do everything you can. I knew that my boat was going to be damaged,” says Mr. Boudreau.

He and his wife quickly located the stranded canoeists. They were out of the water, in the crevice of a small cliff on the east side of Miguasha.

Their legs were out of the water but the waves continued to splash them. The canoeists, however, were overcome by the cold, as a result of being in the water before reaching the crevice.

A few metres above the crevice, the first rescuers, mainly Nouvelle firefighters, tried to locate the individuals, but were prevented from seeing them because of an overhang.

Mathieu Baudoin, who was also part of the canoe excursion was among the rescuers. He had been in a separate boat.

The other rescuers managed to throw a rope to Stéphane Boudreau so that his boat could not move away from the bank during the manoeuvres.

With intense effort Catherine Audet managed to help Kelly-Ann Dickie get on the boat. The situation was more precarious for Mathieu Bélanger.

“The people could not

speak. The hypothermia was advanced, enormously. Mathieu did not have a lifejacket, and he was extremely weak,” says Stéphane Boudreau, adding that the water temperature was 2 degrees celsius that day. Due to the wind, the outside temperature was not much higher than that, despite the sunshine.

From the rock cap located at the top of the crevice, Mathieu Baudoin jumped into the water to help Stéphane Boudreau put Mathieu Bélanger in the boat. The boat was then able to leave.

Upon arrival at Miguasha wharf, the police and ambulance attendants were waiting for them.

Catherine Audet and the castaways were taken to Maria hospital due to hypothermia. At that time Mr. Boudreau was questioned by the police.

The news of the death of Mathieu Bélanger in the evening was a shock to everyone involved.

Both Kelly-Ann Dickie and Catherine Audet suffered from post-traumatic shock. Ms. Audet did not return to work for several months, only returning in 2022.

Cont'd on page 11

## A dispute that could end up in court

Gilles Gagné

NOUVELLE – In a very short exchange with The Gaspé Spec, the mayor of Nouvelle, Rachel Dugas, specifies that her municipality “respects its jurisdiction” by offering only \$3,400 to Stéphane Boudreau, which is 10% of his claim.

This short exchange held on April 7 was to precede an interview scheduled for 1 p.m. the next day. Ms. Dugas, however, cancelled this interview in writing at 6:14 a.m. on April 8, specifying that she had said everything previously about the rescue of April 10, 2021.

The Gaspé Spec contacted Pierre Beaulé, chief of the fire departments of Carleton, Nouvelle and Escuminac. He firmly refused to grant an interview, specifying that the Municipality of Nouvelle forbade him to speak in the file of April 10.

For understandable reasons, the survivors of April 10, 2021, declined to comment on these events. The other Nouvelle firefighters did not return calls from The Gaspé Spec or CIEU-FM, the Carleton radio station working jointly in this report.

Stéphane Boudreau has the impression that the Municipality of Nouvelle is pushing him to see whether he will take legal action or not.

He claims that the question of money is far from the main issue here, saying he would do it again if he had to. In July 2021, he rescued five people out of the water near Heron Island, New Brunswick, reaching the occupants of an overturned rowboat before New Brunswick rescuers arrived.

“If we have to sue them (the Municipality of Nouvelle) to improve the system, we will sue them. We cannot leave the system with a lack of information. (...) Nouvelle is developing tourist facilities to encourage people to go on the water. (...) It's like saying: we are here to welcome you but if something happens to you, we will leave you on your own.” He adds that one day a person will be in distress and no one will want to help. “We will not be proud then!” he concludes.





Photo: N. Sergerie

A preview of what Gaspé wants to achieve in Rivière-au-Renard.

# Gaspé moves forward with revitalization of Rivière-au-Renard

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - After trying to obtain a better price by launching a second call for tenders, Gaspé is going ahead with the Rivière-au-Renard project, Fisheries Capital, selecting the lowest bid of \$7.2 million made by Entreprises Allen Dumaresq of Rivière-au-Renard.

Initial estimates were around \$6 million.

The most recent tender in March yielded a price similar to the first tender last September.

In order to fit within the budget, the Town revised the file by modifying certain elements.

Another “rationalization” exercise was carried out and \$300,000 was still missing.

“There was thinning. We have found different ways to finance certain aspects of the file. There will be discussions with the financial partners to see if there is not a way to improve certain offers. On our side, there may still be a little pruning to do to find this \$300,000,” says the mayor, Daniel Côté.

The Rivière-au-Renard Fisheries Capital project has been working for more than 10 years with the Corporation de développement de Rivière-au-Renard to revitalize Rue du banc, the road leading to the industrial park, by developing a walkway, public spaces, an observation tower, street furniture, water games and an interpretation of historic and modern fisheries, including a multimedia component in a historic building acquired for the occasion to promote local heritage.

By adding this last component, the total investment

for the entire project reaches \$8.2 million.

The construction site will be launched in May and should be completed in the summer of 2023.

In addition to the municipal contribution, this project is made possible thanks to a financial contribution from Canada Economic Development, the Quebec Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of Quebec and the MRC de La Côte-de-Gaspé.

The two levels of government have injected more than \$5 million into the project.

Recently, the council amended the loan by-law, increasing it from \$4 million to \$5 million.

## An inconvenient detour

The Pointe-Navarre detour when the Saint-Majorique crossing is closed continues to generate complaints about the deplorable condition of the pavement to the Town of Gaspé.

The Town has adopted several resolutions to ask Quebec to move on this file. “There are going to be minor works between now and when we can touch those en-

velopes. We are still waiting and under pressure from the Ministry of Transport,” underlines Daniel Côté.

According to the mayor, the situation is explained by the lack of funds from Quebec.

The detour is priority number 1 in the MRC of Côte-de-Gaspé.

Redoing the entire road requires between \$4M and \$6M.

## Theft and vandalism prevention

Surveillance cameras will be installed in various buildings in the Town of Gaspé to prevent theft and vandalism.

The mayor denies wanting to monitor municipal employees, pointing out that the practice is widespread in the private sector.

An agreement has been reached between the Town and the union, which respects the law and the employees.

“Some specific places may be better monitored on the one hand for the safety of employees, but also to control vandalism and theft. Not necessarily from employees, but from people who can enter workplaces. These are not major investments,” comments Mr. Côté.

## LEBOUTHILLIER:

### Cont'd from cover

action chômage Pabok. "This may not be a first, but it seems that there is official recognition. We like that," says coordinator Nadia Mongeon.

The movement deplores the fact that the consultations are dragging on, while the provincial grouping has already expressed its ideas four

times.

"If this is not resolved before the end of the mandate, it will mean that there is no real desire to take action," warns Ms. Mongeon.

Among the demands, the movement is asking for admissibility at 13-weeks for 35 weeks of benefits at 70% (of insurable income) and recognition of seasonal work.

# Police report

The April 13 court appearance of Brandon Metallic, charged with the May 15, 2021, double murder of a young man and a little girl in Listuguj, was again a bit chaotic as he refused to cooperate with his lawyer and abruptly ended his virtual presence by shutting down the video connection he had been offered in his Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute room. “Around 4:30 p.m., security guards left his room and he turned the computer off. We tried to reconnect and it didn’t work. The following morning, he was brought in a wheelchair to the room where he was supposed to appear and he was handcuffed. The security guards stayed with him. We finished the testimony. Brandon Metallic's attorney tried to get him to testify. He didn't say a word,” explains criminal prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier. Based on the testimony of psychiatrist Chantal Bouchard, Quebec Court Judge Janick Poirier established that the accused is once more unfit to stand trial and ordered another treatment session to make him fit, similar to what happened in the fall of 2021. The treatment period is valid for 60 days. Brandon Metallic will come back to court on June 10.

Isaac Moffat-Swasson, 32, from Listuguj charged with numerous counts of violent crimes, has found a new lawyer, Mathieu Poissant, from Montreal, close to six months after firing his previous attorney. He appeared in front of Superior Court Judge Raymond W. Pronovost on April 6 in order to get a decision regarding his trial date but the criminal prosecutor in that case, Maxime Rocheville-Paradis, informed the tribunal that he intends to ask for a change of venue so that the trial could be held in Montreal.

“We are not able to provide a safe trial here, considering the gravity of the charges laid against Mr. Moffat-Swasson. The New Carlisle prison is not made to house him,” comments Maxime Rocheville-Paradis, while highlighting the fact that the accused faces significant charges in two different cases that warrant two trials which could last one month.

On April 30, 2019, while waiting for a first trial pertaining to charges of a February 2019 robbery, assault, aggravated assault and uttering death threats to a Listuguj woman, Isaac Moffat-Swasson allegedly caused damage worth more than \$5,000 in a section of the New Carlisle jail. That section still has not been repaired and has not housed inmates in three years.

In reality, the damage caused in that prison section is worth tens of thousands of dollars. Maxime Rocheville-Paradis recommends that the trial be held at the courthouse located under the same roof as the Gouin Detention Centre, where the Hell's Angels trials were held from 2001 and on.

Isaac Moffat-Swasson will be back in court virtually on June 8. The reasons behind the change of venue sought by prosecutor Rocheville-Paradis should then be heard. The accused will eventually have to face a charge of attempted murder, following events that took place in Montreal. An inmate was the alleged target of that attempt.

The first two trials will be held in front of a judge and a jury. Two weeks are scheduled for the trial tied to the February 2019 assault in Listuguj, the same period planned for the trial linked to the New Carlisle prison vandalism. In that case, Isaac Moffat-Swasson is also charged with assault with a weapon on prison guards and intimidation. If Judge Pronovost accepts the change of venue, all the witnesses based in the Gaspé Peninsula would likely have to go and testify in Montreal.

The trial of Michael Hackett-Loisel, 29, from Hope Town charged with assault against two senior citizens, was postponed until April 26, at the New Carlisle courthouse. He was initially supposed to stand trial on April 13. Defence attorney Richard Lavigne informed the court that he had to delay his presence for personal reasons that were out of his control. Incarcerated since his September 30, 2021, arrest, Michael Hackett-Loisel will also face a charge of mischief, a charge of breach of probation and a third charge of assault causing bodily harm to his uncle, who intervened upon the initial assault cases. Michael Hackett-Loisel must also face another charge of breach of probation regarding an event that took place in July 2021. He finally faces an accusation of driving while impaired.



COVID-19 UPDATE:

Not out of the woods yet, as number of cases remains high

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – The number of active COVID-19 cases remained high in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands at the end of the second week of April, at 738 on April 14, just a tad under the previous week’s level of 767 cases on April 8.

Unfortunately, two more fatalities were registered during the second week of April, and were reported on April 12 by the Public Health Board. It brought the regional total of fatalities to 67. As of April 14, 31 people were hospitalized in the region, but none of them were in an intensive care unit.

The highest number of active cases per area stood at 234 in the Bay of Chaleurs area on April

14, again the sector with the highest incidence rate in the region. The Rocher-Percé MRC came second with 167 cases, followed by the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC with 143, the Magdalen Islands with 110 cases and the Haute-Gaspésie MRC with 79. Five cases were not geographically attributed as of April 14.

Those cases are tied to the people included in the cross-section of the population who can receive PCR tests. Given that about 90% of the population doesn’t qualify for those tests, the number of active cases must now be multiplied by ten or so in order to evaluate the total number of citizens infected by the coronavirus. There are consequently between 7,000 and 8,000 with the coronavirus in the Gaspé

Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands.

Meanwhile, Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine will soon be offered in the Gaspé Peninsula by the health authorities. It is intended for people aged 18 and over who have a contraindication to mRNA vaccines, Moderna and Pfizer in particular, or who refuse mRNA vaccines because they want a vaccine with a different composition than mRNA vaccines.

As this vaccine cannot be stored for very long after it is opened, the CISSS will arrange Novavax appointment slots to minimize dose losses. People who would like to receive Novavax and who are eligible for it can make an appointment by phone at 1-877-725-2515.

Editorial section

Gilles Gagné

Commentary



For a better access to the justice system

Quebec’s Minister of Justice, Simon Jolin-Barette recently tabled Bill 34 at the National Assembly, a bill with the aim of making the justice system more accessible to the public, making it affordable and sometimes free. Currently, every other citizen represents himself or herself in court, essentially because people cannot afford the thousands or the tens of thousands of dollars necessary to go through an average judicial case. Others hire a lawyer but it takes years to pay off that bill.

Despite valuable efforts, most citizens defending themselves can hardly do so efficiently, as judges are constantly intervening to coach them and make sure that the court ruling is respected. The trials are, therefore, longer and the whole court schedule is hampered by that factor, just like that system’s predictability.

The efficiency of the justice system could make invaluable gains if lawyers working for non-profit organizations could not only give advice to people on the verge of having their case heard by a tribunal, but could also represent those people.

Bill 34 has provisions to give that right of practice to lawyers of non-profit organizations. University level law students could give advice as well when supervised. If the bill is adopted by a majority of National Assembly members, the same right to practice would be granted to 1,400 retired lawyers in Quebec, something they can’t do right now. Those retired lawyers will also be in a position to deploy better efforts when helping organizations protecting vulnerable people, for example. Retired lawyers could accompany that clientele to the courthouse and give advice during trials.

The same reality would apply to the 11 Proximity Justice Centres of Quebec, where legal advice could now be given in specific cases, while currently, the only counsel supplied must be expressed in general terms, not related to a well-determined case.

Minimal fees could be charged for some of the services but Minister Jolin-Barette points out that it would generally apply to clerical costs. Money should never be a barrier to an access to justice.

Although those measures will surely help increase

that access, Bill 34 remains vague about the threshold that must be increased to provide people with an affordable way to reach a court case.

Currently, a person cannot have access to legal aid if he or she earns more than \$24,570 a year. In the case of a family with two children, the upper limit is \$40,291 annually. Those thresholds can be increased if citizens are ready to pay some fees that can surpass \$800.

Simon Jolin-Barette argues that the thresholds are revised annually because they are indexed to the rate of inflation but the pace of increase is obviously not high enough.

In order to make Bill 34 a real game changer, the minister must also revise the Small Claims Court upper threshold, which is \$15,000 in Quebec. Any claim higher than that doesn’t qualify for that tribunal. Only one province, Manitoba, has a smaller threshold at \$10,000 while Alberta’s is reaching \$50,000. Ontario and British Columbia have opted for \$35,000. The minister is reflecting on a reform in that regard but he is not very convincing right now.

Mr. Jolin-Barette has noticed that since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, the efficiency of the justice system has somewhat improved, thanks to online testimonies. He wants to maintain that way of working when it’s beneficial.

Some law constraints prevent lawyers from speeding up court cases. The needs to improve justice are immense and Bill 34 represents progress.

However, the problem of the justice system will remain, in that the legal business model will stay intact. Lawyers are paid according to an hourly rate. That factor comes in direct conflict with the interest of the client. How can you convince an attorney earning \$200, \$300, \$400 and sometimes \$1,000 per hour to deal with the client’s case as quickly as possible? There is no incentive to go faster!

Also, practicing law can only be carried out in a firm, a legal body. There are 29,000 lawyers in Quebec and not all of them are rich. Those who do not want to work in an articling firm can’t practice inside courthouses. There is something quite wrong about that particularity. The justice system would greatly benefit from getting out of that cultural model. Why wouldn’t lawyers practice as members of an articling cooperative, for example?

As Bill 34 is designed right now, the Quebec Bar and the Chamber of Notaries will supervise the suggested changes.

Another potential problem lies there. The Quebec Bar, like most other bars, is not an organization recognized for its flexibility.

In principle, the Bar must protect the public and defend the interests of lawyers. There is an obvious conflict of interest here. Generally, the Bar will defend the interests of lawyers first and foremost. The Quebec Bar has expressed opposition to several progressive elements over the years, such as the no-fault

automobile insurance law because it eliminated many trials, despite being in the interest of the public.

Our society must continue to make breaches in the current business model that runs the justice system. Allowing paralegals, those technicians trained through three years of Cegep studies to serve the public more frequently, would be another progressive move. Currently, the paralegals essentially do research for private articling firms. By doing so, they are not working in the general interests of vulnerable citizens

The Small Claims Court must not only adopt a threshold of \$35,000 or \$50,000 in Quebec, something Minister Jolin-Barette has not decided yet, but it must process cases faster. Currently, in some regions, it takes two years to be heard by that tribunal. To accelerate the process, retired judges could be brought back to hear some cases.

The Legal Aid thresholds are ridiculous. It’s not unheard of for people to have to sell their vehicle, if they want their case to be taken care of by a Legal Aid attorney! In Denmark, a family with two children can access legal aid with a revenue that would amount to \$108,000 here.

A better mediation and arbitration process could also lead to shortcuts that would accelerate the management of court cases. A useful precaution here would be to make sure that we are not creating a justice system for the poor, who would opt for mediation and arbitration due to limited financial means, and court cases reserved for wealthy citizens.

So there is still a lot of work ahead for Minister Jolin-Barette. Maybe it would be time for a Quebec-wide forum about the improvements that must be applied to the justice system. The contribution of citizens would certainly be useful.

The Gaspé Spec

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

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

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

Penny MacWhirter  
News Editor:  
Gilles Gagné  
Office Manager  
Joan Imhoff

**Publisher:**  
**JOURNALISTS:**  
Nelson Sergerie  
Diane Skinner  
**CONTRIBUTORS:**  
Cynthia Dow,  
Jeanie LeLacheur

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.

Canada Québec  
Member of: QCNA, CARD News Media Canada Médias d'Info Canada CMC AUDITE

Page 4, April 20, 2022 - Spec



# Quebec finally confirms Espace bleu site for the Gaspé Peninsula

Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCE - Known since last summer, Quebec officially confirmed on April 8 that the Villa Frederick-James in Percé will be part of the network of Espaces bleus (Blue spaces) that Quebec is implementing throughout the province.

The Villa Frederick-James is the third Espace bleu in Quebec, following one in the Capitale-Nationale and Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

Nearly \$21 million is being invested in the Villa Frederick-James, which was chosen for its emblematic architecture, its cultural history and the heritage value of the landscape of the site.

The Town of Percé is also a major tourist hub in the region, which is a major asset in the choice of Espace Bleu.

The announcement was made by the Minister of Cul-



Photos: N. Sergerie

*The Frederick-James Villa is waiting to be moved to its new site.*

ture, Nathalie Roy, who took advantage of her visit to

Percé to observe the progress of the relocation of the villa from the erosion zone where it was located.

Heritage restoration work, basement expansion and upgrading will then be carried out. All of this will be done while ensuring a perfect integration of the elements in the protected landscape of the site and in full respect of the heritage.

The building will be moved approximately 19 metres from its current location, ensuring its long-term preservation. The angle and elevation of the villa will be preserved in order to maintain the views of the building.

"The new immersive experience will be primarily in

the garden. On the existing floors, there will be a cultural studies room. We would like to have a small café there that serves regional products. The second floor will be reserved for administration," specifies the minister.

## Relief and vigilance

Worried about the fate of the Villa, the mayor of Percé, Cathy Poirier, is relieved.

"We wanted to keep this postcard (image). It was important. It is a source of great pride, a great relief to see that there is a solution for this building," notes the mayor.

Jean-Marie Fallu, the president of Patrimoine

Gaspésie, says that at the beginning the project was not on "the right track."

"The first thing to say is that we must salute the government for leaving us a legacy of the preservation of a major element of heritage in all regions of Quebec," notes Mr. Fallu who emphasizes that the James Villa is an excellent choice.

However, he intends to remain optimistic and vigilant about the content. Mr. Fallu says that the existing museums already touch on the history and identity of the Gaspé.

"At the beginning, it was the Museum of Civilization that arrived with overstepping and asking for collaborations. Now, we see that the wind is changing and they want to work and complement each other. The museums and interpretation centres had the good idea of imposing winning conditions for their collaboration and that shook them up," says Mr. Fallu, who is also president of the Musée de la Gaspésie.

According to him, the success of Espace blue must be done in collaboration with existing museums in the region. "Now, having followed the discussions, it bodes well. The collaborative committee is in composition and there will be scientific committees. I am happy that these elements can enhance the pride of Quebecers in their heritage," says Mr. Fallu.

If all goes according to plan, the villa will be in its new location by the end of June. The site will be open year-round.



*Minister of Culture and Communications, Nathalie Roy.*

## Phase 2 already in the works

Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCÉ - While Phase 1 of the redevelopment of the Frederick-James Villa in Percé is underway, a Phase 2 is already in the works.

Questioned on the sidelines of the announcement regarding phase 1, Minister Nathalie Roy remained tight-lipped.

"I have nothing to announce at this time. We will start by moving the house. (...) There will be other phases, but I won't get into that," said Ms. Roy.

Called upon to elaborate, Ms. Roy mentioned some elements. "We will have to ac-

quire land for parking. There will be other developments. Let's put it this way: other developments."

## A street to be redone

Mont-Joli Street, where the Frederick-James Villa is located, has been in a deplorable state since work began on the site.

The street is cracked in several places, muddy, not to mention numerous potholes.

The mayor, Cathy Poirier, points out that we are in a thaw period, which does not help when many heavy vehicles are

driving towards the construction site.

Discussions have been undertaken with the government. "We can't leave the street in this state, to accommodate such a beautiful space. If the entrance is no longer usable, we will have to figure out how to solve the problem," says the mayor.

The minister says the situation will be taken into account. "It will be settled administratively between the ministries concerned," says Ms. Roy, who emphasized that the Town of Percé has nothing to worry about.

## The region has regained its pre-pandemic jobs

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The Gaspé Peninsula-Magdalen Islands had more jobs in March 2022 than it did at the very start of the pandemic. 32,900 people were employed last month, the same number as in February.

However, that's 1,800 more workers than in March 2020 when the world was beginning to see the ravages of COVID-19 on businesses.

This means that the Gaspé Peninsula-Magdalen Islands has not only recovered the jobs lost during the pandemic, but the region has made a net gain in terms of employment.

Statistics Canada notes that in March, there was a decrease of 100 full-time positions, which was entirely offset by the creation of 100 part-time positions.

There were 300 fewer unemployed people in the region last month compared to February, but 500 more than in the same period last year.

The unemployment rate remained the same as February at 15.2 percent.

The rate was at 15.5 percent in March 2021.



# Reflection on regional air transport

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The upcoming Quebec plan will stimulate ridership to promote competition and reduce ticket prices, while eliminating the air transport policy.

These are the main lines of a half-day of reflection held virtually on March 25 during the initiative of the Côte-de-Gaspé Chamber of Commerce.

Professor Mohamed Reda Khomsi, from the Department of Urban and Tourism Studies at UQAM (Université du Québec à Montréal), presented the profile of the request for regional air passenger transport in Quebec to set the stage for reflection.

The document aims to identify and analyze needs and to establish a trend in relation to other modes of transportation, while proposing avenues for the future.

In the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, the use of air transport is primarily to meet family or friends and medical appointments, while in Quebec as a whole, it is

primarily for work that people choose to fly.

Unsurprisingly, a personal or rental vehicle is the mode of transport most used to travel outside the region in a proportion of 71%; an airplane is second at 17% and a bus is only used by 4%.

The study proposed by Professor Khomsi notes that the main factors to stimulate demand would be price, access to a carrier that serves national and international networks and frequency. However, what hinders the use of air transport is the practically absent need and the price.

The document concludes that the stimulation of competition, the tariff reduction program, the reduction of taxes of all kinds, but also a real policy in terms of regional air transport for the medium- and long-term development of the sector are the points to be considered.

One of the suggestions raised by Professor Khomsi is to remove politics from the file.

“I think we must get out of political logic and define regional air transport in the

medium and long term. Carriers need predictability to be able to invest or not for the future,” explained the professor who adds that a floor price and the development of demand are also in his suggestions.

The co-owner of Pascan Aviation wants to try but the communities must also show openness. He gave as an example what the company experienced in the Magdalen Islands. “On September 30, we arrived. On October 1, we walked on the Greve and it was closed up. There is nothing. We must boost the volume over the entire year, but the infrastructure has to be there, and it has to follow,” says Yani Gagnon, who points out that the traffic is there during the summer season.

One of the factors often pointed out by the population is the high cost of tickets.

Carriers are aware of this but point out that they have no control over 40% of the ticket price. PAL Airlines uses the example of West Jet in the western part of the country.

“In an ad, they displayed tickets for \$1. Total ticket price: \$99. There was \$98 in fees: airport security, NAV-CAN, etc.,” says Alain Boudreau of the airline company.

## An expected plan

Industry players have been waiting for Quebec's plan for regional air transport for months.

Pascan wants Quebec to be able to ensure the viability of the industry, while Quebec had quietly announced last Tuesday that \$255 million will be available over five years in its budget of which \$234 million must be used to improve regional services.

“If it stimulates demand, the fill rates will be higher. Let's say that in the long term, if this is the case, the carriers will be able to do well,” says Yani Gagnon who thinks that the Quebec plan could be the first step to make the cost of the ticket more affordable.

“You shouldn't just focus on the tourist season. It's already okay. It's the rest of the year. Will these initiatives

over the next few years ensure the sustainability of air transport? I don't have a crystal ball, unfortunately,” says the co-owner of Pascan.

In addition to the two carriers serving Gaspé, people from the travel and tourism industry, users and business people also took part in the discussion.

“There are a lot of myths out there. People often compare apples and oranges. This is the kind of exercise to democratize information. It's really something that is fun to do,” says Mr. Gagnon, taking stock following the reflection, which he wishes to do regularly.

“There is ignorance on both sides. It is by dissecting the business model a little more, that together we can understand each other better.

This does not mean that we will accept exorbitant prices. But at least we will be able to better understand,” concludes the director of the Chamber of Commerce, Marie-Claude Brière, who says she was touched by the participation rate in the activity held by Zoom.

# Tourism Gaspésie is pulling out all the stops to attract tourists

Nelson **Sergerie**

MONT-JOLI - L'Extraordinaire. Simplement (Extraordinaire. Simple) is the new slogan for the 2022 summer-fall tourism season campaign in the Gaspé.

Tourism Gaspésie, which has a mandate to promote tourism in the region, emphasizes that this campaign marks the new positioning of the Gaspé Peninsula and is the culmination of substantial work by the organization over the past few months to redefine the brand strategy of the destination.

The campaign aims to fuse all the elements that the region has to offer. “It is a human encounter in a typical activity and in an emblematic Gaspesian landscape. It's not just an activity. It's the point of fusion that makes the destination so extraordinary,” says Stéphanie Thibaud, Marketing Director of Tourisme Gaspésie.

## \$700,000 invested

Since March 16, the 2022



Photo: Tourisme Gaspésie

*\$700,000 invested to attract tourism to the Gaspé Peninsula*

summer-fall promotional campaign has gradually started being rolled out in Quebec. A total of \$700,000 has been invested to ensure the destination's visibility until the end of September for Quebec's French and English-speaking clientele as well as the Maritime market.

The media plan includes various formats, including several high impact ones, on a

variety of platforms chosen for their ability to reach the various target clienteles.

In addition, with the confinement rules changing around the world, Québec Maritime has resumed its activities, making it possible to reach customers in Ontario, Northeastern United States and French-speaking Europe.

Reservations are going well. “Almost half of our es-

tablishments have the same percentage of bookings and another 50% say they are increasing,” says Ms. Thibaud.

## Doing as well as 2021

In 2021, the region attracted no less than 523,000 visitors from June to September, which was the best year in the 20 years that Tourisme Gaspésie has been keeping at-

tendance statistics.

The economic benefits were estimated at more than \$300 million for the first time in the region's tourism history.

A recent survey commissioned from the SOM firm revealed that the Gaspé Peninsula remains among the top destinations considered by Quebecers for their next vacation. In addition, 94% of respondents stated that they have a positive image of this tourist attraction.

## A good winter

The winter that is ending will also have been very good for the tourism industry, even if the beginning of the year was marked by sanitary restrictions of the province.

The organization has not yet completed consultations in order to draw up an assessment.

“What we're hearing, yes, it was a good winter season despite the downtime. There were people in the area. We had a lot of snow,” notes Mr. Thibaud.





COMMISSION SCOLAIRE  
**Eastern Shores**  
SCHOOL BOARD

# **JOB FAIR & CAREER EXPO 2022**

**APRIL 27, 2022**

**CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE  
ADRIEN-GAUVREAU**

**NEW RICHMOND**

**10:00 – 12:00 ESSB High School Visits**

**1:00 – 3:00 Open to the public**

**Public transportation available from  
The Anchor to Job Fair and Career Expo**

**Departure: 12:30**

**Return: 2:30**

**AMAZING DOOR PRIZES**

**INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**FREE PARKING**

**20+ CAREERS FEATURED**

**MORE INFORMATION:  
[EMILIE.WOODS@ESSB.QC.CA](mailto:EMILIE.WOODS@ESSB.QC.CA)**



# VOLUNTEERING IS EMPATHY IN ACTION

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK  
APRIL 24-30, 2022



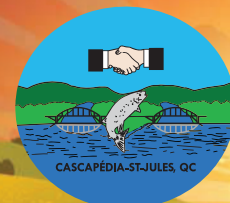
April 24-30

## VOLUNTEER

## WEEK

"Volunteers do not necessarily have  
the time; they just have the heart."

-Elizabeth Andrew



Thank you to all the  
volunteers who  
strengthen our  
community!

THE MUNICIPALITY  
OF  
CASCAPÉDIA-ST-JULES



Family Ties

To all our volunteers  
**THANK YOU**  
For everything you do...  
You make the difference

<https://family-ties.org/>

**Congratulations  
to all the volunteers!  
You make a lot of people  
happy with your work.**

**OPTO**  
RÉSEAU  
**EN VUE**  
GASPÉ

Dre Lucie Tremblay O.D.  
Dr. Louis Thibault O.D.  
Dr. Pascal Soucy O.D. *Optometrists*  
8A Rue de la Cathédrale  
Gaspé, Québec G4X 1N8  
418-368-2122  
*Appointments: [opto-reseau.com](http://opto-reseau.com)*

**THANKS,  
VOLUNTEERS!**

Volunteers are a very valuable  
part of any community.  
We wish to thank all volunteers  
for their precious help!



Municipality of New Carlisle

138 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd  
New Carlisle, Quebec





**NEW CARLISLE:** Family Ties encourages all members to consider being volunteers, including the youth who are participants in groups led by Maria Chatterton, Youth Program Coordinator. Maria tells SPEC that most families and members are encouraged to volunteer in an area of their interest. It is a way of giving back to the community and actively participating in events.

The youth volunteers enjoy spending time with the participants in activities and feel good when the children are glad to see them. When the younger children see the volunteers at school or out in the community, they will greet them by name and they say it is the greatest feeling.

Volunteering helps to de-

Family Ties promotes and values volunteerism for all ages. Adult volunteers help out with community events and activities such as Family Literacy Day, AGM, Christmas Dinner, pizza deliveries, Annual Corn Boil and Family Day at the Chalet just to name a few.


Volunteers are recognized during Volunteer Week with a free membership and a little token of appreciation. At Family Ties' AGM (Annual General Meeting) both an adult and youth volunteer receive special recognition for having gone "above and beyond."

*Family Ties volunteer Keysha Walker-Skeene helping out participants Sofia Leberre (left) and Stephanie Huntington (right).*

**LIVES!**

**48<sup>th</sup>**  
EDITION

Presented by

 **Hydro Québec**

A full-body illustration of a woman with brown hair tied in a ponytail, wearing glasses and a maroon dress, holding an open book. She is standing against a light blue background.

ESTABLISHED • MAY 1976

**LGC**  
CENTRE D'ACTION BÉNÉVOLE  
La Grande Corvoise



# An economic revitalization for Chandler

Nelson **Sergerie**

CHANDLER - The Town of Chandler's intention to divest itself of surplus buildings and land could signal an economic revitalization for the community.

At the April 4 Town Council meeting, several councillors commented on this possibility, mentioning all kinds of projects.

Mayor Gilles Daraîche spoke in particular about the creation of small businesses that could diversify the services offered in the town.

The mayor wants to facilitate this development. "There are people who are interested in taking over certain buildings and making them a success. It's something that we're nonetheless going to keep an eye on regarding direction of these buildings," says Mr. Daraîche.

According to Mr. Daraîche, the interest shown for some time by promoters would be linked to the calm that has returned to the town council. "We are working together. Projects that start in Pabos extend to Pabos Mills. That's why people want to help each other and work together. It's amazing. It doesn't get any better than this," says the mayor.

## Investment in equipment

Chandler plans to invest \$750,000 to upgrade and ac-



the bill now stands at \$273,454.

## Major junior hockey?

Two Quebec Major Junior Hockey League exhibition games between the Rimouski Oceanic and the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada could take place at the end of the summer. Local promoters want to convince the municipal leaders to accept the proposal.

Gilles Daraîche is enthusiastic about the idea. "Hockey has always been strong in Chandler. People eat it up. We can't have an arena with nothing in it. We have a great facility and we need to furnish it with sports activities. It is our mandate to revive it," says the mayor.

Last fall, the Océanic played an exhibition game in Bonaventure against the Acadie-Bathurst Titan.

quire public works equipment. Noting the complaints made by the population regarding the quality of the snow removal of the Town's streets, especially since February, the mayor admits that the winter was difficult.

"The Town of Chandler is a large town. We only have one (snow) blower. It is clearly insufficient to maintain properly. We can do it but in a long time frame. If we want to have a short delay, we need more equipment to better serve the population," says the mayor.

## The Langlois saga continues

The saga opposing former Mayor Louisette Langlois and the Town concerning the bills for her defence before the Quebec Municipal Commission,

where she was suspended for 180 days between January and July 2021 for 20 breaches of the Code of Ethics for elected officials continues.

The council authorized the payment of \$5,954 to Morency, a lawyer, to prepare the case seeking to claim \$230,411 for her legal battle.

In a motion filed in January, the Town alleges that the former mayor has engaged in multiple proceedings, some of which were unnecessary, unfounded and truncated in light of the evidence presented before the Commission, Superior Court and Court of Appeal in an attempt to overturn the sanction.

"We would not have wanted to go there, but in this situation, we have no choice but to face the fact that we also have rights. It's the public's money.

## Musée de la Gaspésie no longer plans to house Forillon artifacts

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Four years after contemplating the idea of housing the artifacts relating to Forillon's expropriation, the Musée de la Gaspésie is taking a step back and putting the project on hold.

In 2018, the museum made the suggestion, which had been well received by Parks Canada, to the point where a letter of intent had been received to transfer the 1971 expropriation collection to Musée de la Gaspésie.

In addition, the document pointed out that Ottawa was prepared to add some of the Gaspé objects acquired in the 1980s.

To do so, the museum had to build a new wing, a condition put on the table in order to preserve the pieces in optimal conditions.

The project would have required an investment of \$5 million for the Gaspesian museum.

"There was the pandemic that put many projects that the museum wanted to develop on pause, but it allowed others to arrive and be launched. In this case, this huge project was put into a strategic planning process last December," says Martin Roussy, the museum's director.

Once that analysis was completed, the project was put on hold. "The immediate plans for the development of the museum on the territory and with the clientele do not include the expansion of the museum in the short term," adds Mr. Roussy.

## Parks Canada always ready to collaborate

Parks Canada had been informed of the turn of events and said by email that they will continue to ensure the conservation of the collection of objects.

The artifacts are currently in Parks Canada's collection storage facilities in Gatineau and Quebec City, and in an environmentally controlled facility in Rivière-au-Renard.

Parks Canada is open to working with an organization that has the capacity to preserve the artifact collection in a location with ideal storage conditions.

"There may be something else that will come out of this so that we can have a significant return of artifacts to the Gaspé," Mr. Roussy hopes.

As for the strategic plan of the Musée de la Gaspésie, the management intends to outline the document in the coming weeks.



Photo: Allyson Hocquard

## Curling for a cause

Joan Imboff, *Community Correspondent*

The Linda Lemore-Brown Foundation held its curling bonspiel fundraiser on the weekend of March 18, 19 and 20, 2022, with a total of 11 teams participating. The fundraiser was successful, earning over \$5,000 for the Foundation. The winners of the "A" was the team of Denis Babin, Jean-Marc Chouinard, Pauline Lebrasseur, Dorine Lebrasseur and Magella Chouinard. "B" finals winners were Jean Delarosbil, Steven Castilloux, Stéphane Duchesneau and Mario Horth. Winners of the "C" were Brent Hocquard, Malcolm Mason and Dominic Bélanger and "D" winners were Kylie Bourdages, Samantha Grey, Jennifer Bujold and Jessica Main-Denis.



# Private sector wants to revive the Rivière-au-Renard-North Shore ferry service

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - After years of trying to convince the Quebec government of the usefulness of a ferry between Rivière-au-Renard, Anticosti Island and Havre-Saint-Pierre, the Town of Gaspé is giving way to private enterprise.

It was the owners of the Havre-Saint-Pierre wharf - a private entity - who made the request to the Town, explains Mayor Daniel Côté.

“We were recently contacted by the private port of Havre-Saint-Pierre to see if we were ready to give them the file. They said to themselves that the policy has gone a long way and there is still no maritime link. Do you mind if the private sector tries? We say no. The end justifies the means,” says the mayor.

A resolution was adopted-support, if needed, the private developers interested in reviving the file.

We'll see where it takes us,” says Daniel Côté, who adds that public attempts have failed. The project is officially on ice at the government level and the Port of Havre-Saint-Pierre wants to move it forward. It's their turn.



Photo: Mac McKay

*The Nordik Passeur was formerly called Confederation and was linking Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick before being bought in 1993 by Groupe Desgagnés.*

According to Mr. Côté, there are many reasons to justify the file not moving at the political level.

“When the Société des traversiers du Québec (STQ) was involved, we believed in it. But through that, on the side of the STQ, they were caught with the file of the F.-A. Gauthier in Matane. With this file, they said to themselves ‘Why put another ferry on our back?’” analyzes the mayor.

The failure of the ferry service between Rivière-au-Renard

and the North Shore in the mid-1990s has also tainted the situation. “We live with the aborted attempt between 1994 and 1996 where there was this maritime link that worked the first two years, but in the third, it crashed. There is this issue behind us,” says Mayor Côté.

The elected official wants it to happen and will let the developers work.

## Relaunched in 2014

It was in 2014 that the ferry

project between the two shores returned to the table.

One of the arguments used at the time was to create a tourist loop in Quebec.

An opportunity study commissioned by Gaspé, Anticosti and Havre-Saint-Pierre showed a possibility that had to be confirmed by a feasibility study.

The Couillard government had commissioned this study, published in April 2019, which concluded that such a crossing with a used ship would have generated an operating deficit

of \$7.5 million for the years 2025-2030, a bill that would have climbed to \$12.9 million with a new ship.

Infrastructure costs with a new vessel were estimated at \$136 million, including the ship acquisition, a cost estimated at \$44 million with a used vessel.

Infrastructure improvements were estimated at \$5 million in Rivière-au-Renard, \$4.3 million in Havre-Saint-Pierre and \$6 million in Port-Menier.

The potential number of clients was estimated at nearly 33,000 on an annual basis for the period 2025-2030.

At one point, it had even been mentioned to use the Apollo ship that the STQ had purchased as a replacement for the Matane-North Shore crossing in February 2019.

At that time, the F.-A. Gauthier had propulsion problems and was in dry dock.

The Apollo had been withdrawn from service some 20 days after its commissioning following various incidents.

The Transportation Safety Board questioned its ability to navigate the St. Lawrence River.

## SYLVAIN ROY:

### Cont'd from the cover

Forests, Wildlife and Parks has shown its inability to adequately protect wildlife, as demonstrated by the forest caribou and white-tailed deer files, that the wildlife sector in Quebec is not recognized by the government as an economic activity and that studies on the spinoffs of the sector are often likely to devalue it.

The next to last argument of the petition underlines the facts that hunters and anglers in Quebec, more than 1.3 million people, monitor wildlife resources, manage the forest and even propose regulatory changes to protect wildlife in Quebec. Lastly, the document acknowledges that the protection of both the forest and wildlife stems from a fragile balance that is difficult to preserve and that the development of our wildlife heritage will have a significant impact on the protection of the environment.

For all those reasons, people who sign the petition ask the Government of Quebec to create a wildlife department with a minister in charge who will

have the mandate to defend the interests of the Quebec wildlife sector and that this department has all the resources to allow the wildlife sector to prosper, become more democratic and independent.

According to an estimate made by the Department of Forests, Wildlife and Parks over the years, there were between 700 and 1,500 caribou in the Gaspé Peninsula in 1950, and 223 in 1983, the year the aerial assessment was implemented. By 2003, the number of caribou had dwindled to 131, and it rose to 189 four years later, in 2007.

Since then, the fall has been constant, as the number went from 104 animals in 2013 to 75 in 2017 and to 40 in 2019. The last assessment, in 2021, gave a result of about 35 caribou.

Most observers deplore the fact that the Quebec government has put together a salvage plan to protect and favour the repopulation of the caribou in the Gaspé Peninsula, a plan that is not enforced yet.

online petition:  
<https://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/express-your-opinion/petition/Petition-9603/index.html>.

## RESCUE:

### Cont'd from page 2

#### The aftermath of the tragedy

Since Stéphane Boudreau's boat was damaged and he had inquired about reimbursement for the repairs after receiving reassuring verbal messages from the fire department of Nouvelle to the effect that it was normal that he be compensated, he had his boat appraised at the beginning of the summer of 2021.

Since he decided to pay a portion of \$10,000 as a “personal contribution to the rescue,” he sent a bill for \$32,945.46 to the Municipality of Nouvelle in the fall.

Laws and regulations justify Stéphane Boudreau's approach. The Fire Act, in articles 40 and 42, stipulates that a citizen engaging his equipment in a rescue operation must be

compensated if this equipment is damaged during the intervention. The fact that his services were requisitioned by the fire chief adds a favourable argument to his case.

In addition, the Good Samaritan law provides for compensation of \$1,000 for this type of action. The Quebec Department of Justice has a decree that can lead to a \$5,000 payment per rescuer whose equipment has sustained damage during an operation. Stéphane Boudreau is the sole owner of the boat, so he would be the only person to get \$5,000.

When Stéphane Boudreau sent his claim to the Municipality of Nouvelle, the administration refused to pay.

“At the end of November, there was hope, with a new mayor, a new director general. That changed everything in December-January. According to the council, it is up to the Coast

Guard to pay, because the rescue took place in waters under Canadian jurisdiction,” says Mr. Boudreau.

Yet he is categorical: “The people in distress were above the point of high tide. They were being hit by the waves.” This high tide point is generally considered the limit of federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Boudreau wonders if it is because there's a perception that the rescue took place in the water. He is worried about the consequences that such perception could have on future rescue operations.

His boat insurance is of no help at this time. “I am insured for yachting, but not for rescues.” In addition, since he was not a member of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary service in April 2021, this organization cannot reimburse him. He is now a member.



**You don't have to miss a week of  
The Gaspé Spec.**  
**Renew early to guarantee continued delivery  
of your paper.**  
**If you are moving, give us your new address early.**  
**Our labels are printed in advance**



# 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



*Fully  
bilingual  
services in  
the whole  
Gaspé  
peninsula*

## Gagnon Claveau Law Firm

**Isabelle Gagnon**  
Attorney and family law mediator

**Ann-Chloé Boudreau**  
Attorney

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



**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](http://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 Matapédia to Port Daniel**  
19 years experience

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



foragemoreaumercier@gmail.com

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



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



*Going beyond and reliable*



**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](http://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](mailto: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!*



ASSOCIATION DES  
NATUROTHÉRAPEUTES  
DU QUÉBEC

## 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**



**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](http://harnoisenergies.com)**



# Announcements



## Obituaries

**SCOTT: Paul George**  
March 29, 1932 - April 6, 2022

Family, relatives and friends were saddened to hear of the passing of our dear brother, Paul, at the CHSLD in New Carlisle on April 6, 2022, at the age of 90.

He was an active and energetic man who worked for the Canadian National Railway for many years before retiring. He enjoyed the outdoors especially working in the woods. He was always ready to lend a hand for all types of tasks.

He was an elder of the United Church where he was very active for cemetery maintenance. He kept the church ready for Sunday services and other events.

He will always be remembered as a good man, considerate and meticulous. He was a dear friend who impacted the lives of many. He is sadly missed and will always be in our thoughts and memories.

He is part of a large family and is survived by his brother, Gerald; sisters, Mary, Ethel and Marjorie; and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the health care workers at the CHSLD for their professional care and compassion. Thanks also for all the messages of condolence.

The burial will be held in the summer at the United Church Cemetery, New Carlisle East.

**SUDDARD: Shawn Stanley**  
May 15, 1975 – February 14, 2022

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Shawn Suddard in his apartment on February 14, 2022. He is survived by his loving parents Carol and Stanley Suddard. Shawn will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his aunts, uncles, cousins and long time friends. He will also be missed by his landlords Maureen and Kevin who were his family also.

Shawn was born in Gaspé, Quebec. He moved to Ajax and Pickering in Ontario where he worked for more than twenty-five years.

A celebration of Shawn's life and burial of his

ashes will be in Gaspé early this summer. An exact date will be announced at a later date. Donations in Shawn's memory would be appreciated by the Heart and Stroke Foundation.



## In Memory

**ASSELIN: Anthony**  
January 28, 1926 - April 10, 2002

**ASSELIN: Kevin**  
January 28, 1953 - April 19, 1983  
*Deep in my broken heart lies a picture  
Of my father and brother laid to rest  
In memory's frame I shall always keep it  
Because they were the very best.*

Sadly missed by Marlee and Boyd.

**LANGLOIS: Leonard**  
In loving memory of a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who passed away March 10, 1998.

*You were someone very loving  
And special who can never be replaced.  
Your memory will always be with us.  
Time cannot steal our memories,  
We carry them deep within our hearts,  
Or take away the happy loving years  
Of when we were all together.  
We will always love you and miss you.*

Lovingly remembered, Iona and all your family.

### 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.**

**ROBERTS: Earl**  
Dad: April 6, 2000  
**ROBERTS: Beatrice**  
Mum: February 16, 2003

In loving memory of both Mum and Dad and our loving grandparents.  
*You were both parents  
And grandparents whom we always loved.  
You both guided our paths  
And helped us along.  
You both were someone  
On whom my family  
And myself could always depend on.*  
Love you both, Iona and family.

**The New Carlisle  
Funeral Association**  
extends sympathy to the family  
of Paul Scott.





**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*

# Start your Mother's Day shopping early

*Surprise her with a special gift that will last all year!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Your gift Message: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1 year: Canada \$46 ☐ 6 months: \$25 ☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Your gift Message: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1 year: Canada \$46 ☐ 6 months: \$25 ☐

Mail your form along with your  
cheque or money order to:  
**The Gaspé Spec - 208-B Gérard D. Levesque,  
New Carlisle, Quebec, G0C 1Z0**  
Call with your credit card at 418-752-5400 or  
order online at: [thegaspespec.com](http://thegaspespec.com)



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 one series and \$20 for three series. Canteen available.

NEW CARLISLE:

Funeral Association

The Annual General Meeting of the New Carlisle Funeral Association will be held on **Thursday, May 12**, at 4 p.m. at the Town Hall. Everyone is 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.

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.  
**April 23:** shuffleboard tournament at 12:30 p.m, \$20 registration.  
**April 30:** Karaoke night at 8 p.m.  
**May 7:** Mother's Day Lobster supper 5 p.m. Members: \$25, non-members: \$30. Only 50

tickets available for sale. Call Fay 418-752-9158 or Mary 418-752-2845 for tickets.

**May 14:** Poker Tournament \$35 registration at 12:30 p.m.  
**May 21:** Dart Tournament \$10 registration at 1 p.m.  
**May 28:** Ladies night with a D.J. \$5 entry

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:  
**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: cyn-

thiadow @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:** Darryl Beebe, Lucie Duguay, Jewell-Allen Roy, Antoinette Bélanger, Esther Bujold, Jean-David Leblanc and Gérard Porlier.

**UNITED CHURCH  
NEW RICHMOND  
Sunday, April 24**  
10 a.m. Service

**UNITED CHURCH  
HOPE TOWN  
Sunday, April 24**  
10 a.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH  
OF CANADA

**Sunday April 24  
NEW CARLISLE**  
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
**PORT DANIEL**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**PARISH OF  
GASPÉ  
Sunday, April 24**  
9:30 a.m. St. Paul's - Gaspé

Easter Quiz Answers  
- Diane Skinner

1. Pysanka
2. Rebirth
3. Jelly beans
4. 75% of people eat the ears first.
5. Halloween!
6. The resurrection of Christ
7. By giving up something such as chocolate!
8. Germany
9. The white lily
10. 70%

GREEN THUMB WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

AERATION  
COMPOST  
CONTROL  
CRABGRASS  
DROUGHT  
ENRICHMENT  
FERTILIZATION  
GRASS  
GREENERY  
GRUBS  
HOSE  
IRRIGATION  
LEVELS  
MOLD  
MOLES  
MULCH  
PESTS  
PLANTS  
PRUNING  
RAINING  
RESEEDING  
SOIL  
WEEDS  
YARD



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, now is a great time to try your hand at a new creative pursuit. You may be surprised at the results. Encourage others to join and embrace a collaborative effort.  
**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, this is the ideal week to get outdoors more. The great outdoors can be a medicinal, so take advantage of any opportunity to bask in the fresh air.  
**GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, it is easy to get frustrated with a close friend or romantic partner who is less ambitious than you. Try to be

patient, as each person moves at their own pace.  
**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Try to get some group activities together this week, Cancer. This can be valuable if it has been some time since you socialized. Enjoy the change of pace.  
**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, if you have been lacking a regular exercise regimen, this could be the week to make some changes. Participate in an organized sport if heading to the gym isn't your thing.  
**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
It's a good time to put your ambition into action, Virgo. You're likely to be full of energy and you have had plenty

of good ideas just waiting for an outlet.  
**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, do not hesitate to take on projects this week, particularly those that show your management skills in action. Others will be quick to complement your organizational prowess.  
**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Expect to feel a renewed sense of energy and purpose this week, Scorpio. This will motivate you to finish existing projects or to get started on new ones.  
**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
This week you may be feeling extra creative and ambitious,

Sagittarius. Use your strengths to work on an artistic project or one that is outside of your comfort zone.  
**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
This is a good week to tackle projects that require you to get up and go, Capricorn. It may involve heavy yard work or even rearranging furniture.  
**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, any lethargy you've been feeling will likely vanish in the days to come. Fresh air and physical exercise can be just what you need to feel reenergized.  
**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, it is time to take charge of your health. Consider all as-

pects of well-being, including physical and mental health.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

**APRIL 17**  
**Jennifer Garner,**  
**Actress (50)**  
**APRIL 18**  
**Conan O'Brien,**  
**TV Host (59)**  
**APRIL 19**  
**Maria Sharapova,**  
**Athlete (35)**  
**APRIL 20**  
**Miranda Kerr, Model (39)**  
**APRIL 21**  
**James McAvoy, Actor (43)**  
**APRIL 22**  
**Jack Nicholson, Actor (85)**  
**APRIL 23**  
**John Oliver, Comic (45)**



# Canada Book Day

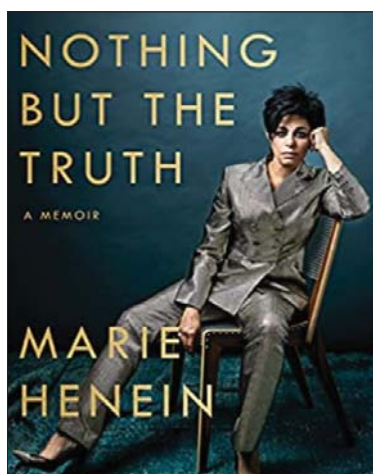
Discover a great book here!

Diane Skinner

Canada Book Day, observed on April 23 this year, is part of World Book Day, a day for celebrating books and the love of reading. This annual event is organized by UNESCO (an agency of the United Nations set up in 1945) to promote the exchange of information, ideas and culture. Enjoy these book “favourites” shared by SPEC readers and celebrate the day with a good book! You may even discover a new book that you wish to read in this article!

With the title **Les Misérables** one might wonder what is so great about that book. Its story of second chances, redemption, romance and sacrificial love make it a page turner. In 1979 I got hooked on the story when I watched the 1935 b/w movie. Since then, I've read the book a few times and watched several movies based on the book. I love the musical and watch it over and over. Thank you, Victor Hugo. My life is so much richer because of you.

Rose McCollm Roussy



**Nothing But the Truth** by Marie Henein is a memoir. Having achieved notoriety through her work as a criminal lawyer, including client Gian Ghomeshi, she tells her truth about growing up in a close Egyptian – Lebanese family. She speaks to the ethical and practical aspects of being a criminal lawyer today. It's a book that will keep you up all night. At the end of the 266 pages, you will wish to lose another couple of nights' sleep and wait with baited breath for her next book.

Sandra Beebe

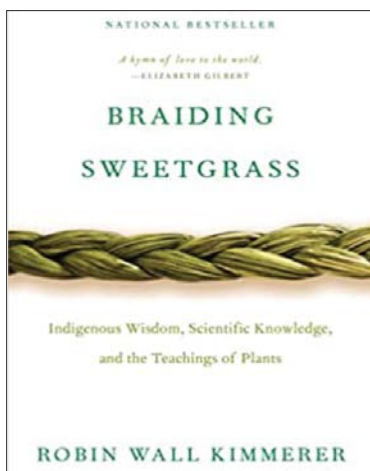
One of my favourite books is **The Death of Virgil** by Hermann Broch. Out of the last

few hours of the poet Virgil's life, Broch creates a novel which combines history and poetry. The result is a beautiful meditation on life, death, and the meaning of language.

*The Reverend*  
Joshua Paetkau

**The Secret Chord** by Geraldine Brooks is an amazing book which offers a very believable account of King David's life. We read about how he was chosen as a young boy. As well, the reader gains insight into the infamous relationship with Bathsheba. I will be reading it again!

Ruth Dugdale



This book changed my perspective on nature. I have always appreciated the outdoors and have always spent much time outside participating in activities like camping, hiking, skiing, and cycling. But after reading **Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Wall Kimmerer, I fell in love with creation and now believe she loves me back. I have developed deep respect and gratitude for Earth and all my relations thanks to the writing of Wall Kimmerer which weaves together scientific knowledge, Indigenous wisdom and storytelling.

Ann Kelly

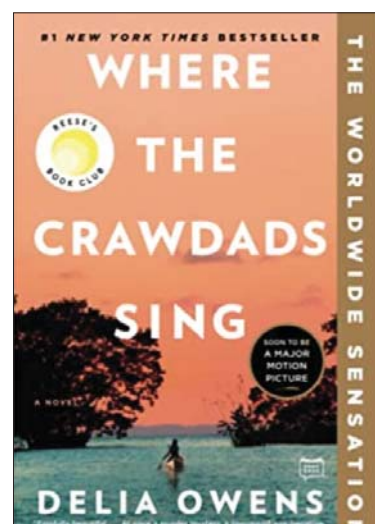
**Book of Lost Names** by Kristin Harmel is a powerful story set during World War II about a young woman working as a forger who risked her life to help Jewish families to escape Nazi occupied France. It is an emotional historical read about love, loss, and sacrifice, all based on a true story.

Chelsea Flowers

**Total Freedom** by J. Krishnamurti. Whenever you think of something, Krishnamurti says, “Ask ‘Now where did that come from? Is it true? Do I re-

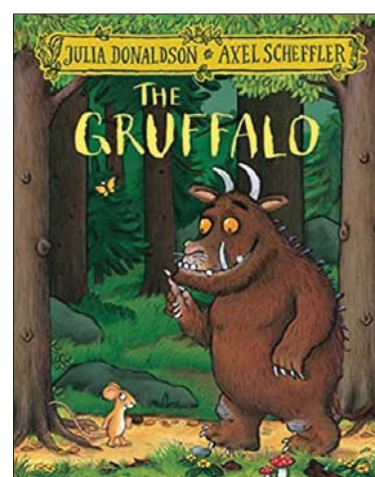
ally believe that?’” Spiritual teacher Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895 – 1986) gave many talks later compiled in his book. A must-read for wisdom seekers.

Constance Brochet



**Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens. Abandoned by her mom, her siblings and finally her drunk and abusive father, Kya is forced to be a survivor in the marshlands of North Carolina. Kya yearns for human contact, but hides in the marsh when the authorities try to force her to attend school. Finally, school is her key to freedom and the ability to show her talents as a writer. The ending will take you completely by surprise.

Anne MacWhirter



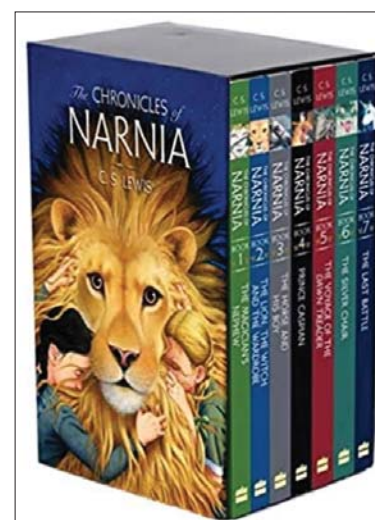
My favourite book to read with my children is **The Gruffalo** by Julia Donaldson. The story takes place in “The Deep, Dark Woods,” where a little mouse outsmarts all of the bigger animals who want to eat him... even the terribly fierce Gruffalo. We love this imaginative story which rhymes throughout, has beautiful illustrations and is incredibly fun to read. The book gives us inspiration for our own adventures. We often visit New Carlisle's very own “Deep, Dark Woods (the trails at the Optimist Chalet)” to

bring the story to life for the Gruffalo and our other favourite characters.

Bethany Briggs

The **Italian Girl's Secret** by Natalie Meg Evans. This historical fiction is the story of a young Italian farm girl living near Naples, Italy during the German occupation in the Second World War. It shows the terrible atrocities suffered by the people at the hands of the Nazis and the Blackshirts. Carmela del Bosco, a courageous girl, shelters and helps an English spy and endangers her own life many times in tracking down other members of the resistenza. This girl risks everything in order to save a stranger's life and bring about the final overthrow of the Nazi regime.

Mark Franklin



The **Narnia** series by C.S. Lewis was introduced to me by my third-grade teacher, Dorothy Carrier. I eventually read all seven novels in the series. The plots involve children, through magic or some mystical means, being thrown into serious adventures, far away from home or adults to take care of them, and where they need to act as adults, fend for themselves and use their courage, critical thinking and humanity to conquer insurmountable challenges. As a young person, the plot instilled much inspiration and confidence I needed to believe in my ability to venture into the world, to explore and take on projects.

Adam Normand

## Book reviews by students



### Climate Crisis for Beginners by Andy Prentice and Eddie Reynolds

**Author's Purpose:** is to inform

**Genre:** non-fiction

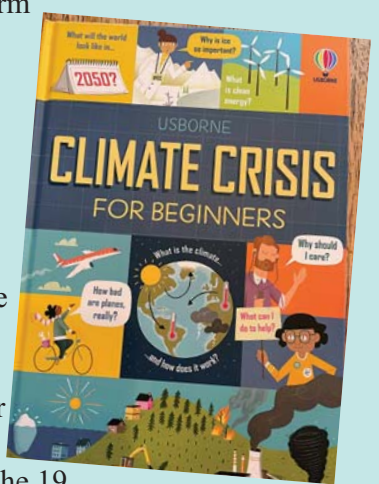
**3 words that best describe the book:**

- 1 Climate
- 2 Crisis
- 3 Helpful

**Favourite part:** My favourite part is a bar graph that shows the world temperatures over the last 170 years. The colder years are blue and the warmest ones are red. 18 of the 19 warmest years happened since 2001.

**My recommendation:** I would recommend this book to children and adults who want to help the environment. It helps to understand pollution and what is happening to the Earth. If you like pictures, you will really like this book because there are a lot of graphics. - Axl Major, grade 5

Contact [mediasmarts.spec@gmail.com](mailto:mediasmarts.spec@gmail.com)  
for information on submitting a book review





# Earth Day 2022, invest in our planet

Diane Skinner

*“The environment is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest. It is the one thing all of us share.”*

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. This massive environmental movement brings awareness about the state of the planet and the hope that this will lead to action. The theme for this year’s Earth Day is *Invest in our Planet*. The hope is that the message will inspire citizens of all ages to find solutions. This is an example of “Think globally, act locally.”

We have just one Earth and it is the job of all of us to see that it is taken care of. Sadly, we are at a point now where we have to restore the Earth as much as we can. Children are the future and they will inherit this planet. It is never too early to teach them about the Earth and how they can help. Planting the seeds while they are young (both literally and figuratively) will help them to understand.

Have a chat with your children or students and after that make the day all about fun. Let



Time spent among trees is never wasted.

Photo: D. Skinner

them get their hands dirty and connect with Mother Nature.

### Celebrating Earth Day with children at home, in the community and at school

Be a good example at home. Recycle. Compost. Use reusable bags instead of plastic. Decrease food waste. Do not buy disposable clothing which is clothing worn for one season and then discarded. Stop using plastic water bottles and opt for refillable bottles. Every step you and your family take is a

step in the right direction.

Let your child participate in a local cleanup event. As Bill Nye, the Science Guy, said, “To leave the world better than you found it, sometimes you have to pick up other people’s trash.”

Schools can have a cleanup of the schoolyard in the afternoon. Show them the power of everyone working together towards a common goal. If there is no community event, go with your children to the beach and take a garbage bag. Wearing disposable gloves is a must.

Discuss this year’s theme –

*Invest in our Planet*. The take-away message could be that we all should work to help the planet not just on April 22 but every day of the year. Talk about what investment means – in this case, devoting time and effort that will pay off in the future.

Go outside. Go for a nature or beach walk. Observe litter. Allow them to enjoy the great outdoors and help them to discover the beauty. Time spent among trees is never wasted. Appreciating the Earth is a big part of people wanting to take care of it. “Gold is a luxury. Trees are necessities. Man can live and thrive without gold, but we cannot survive without trees.”

Have them make a list (or illustrate) ways they can help their planet. This increases awareness too. These early experiences will stay with children as they grow into adulthood.

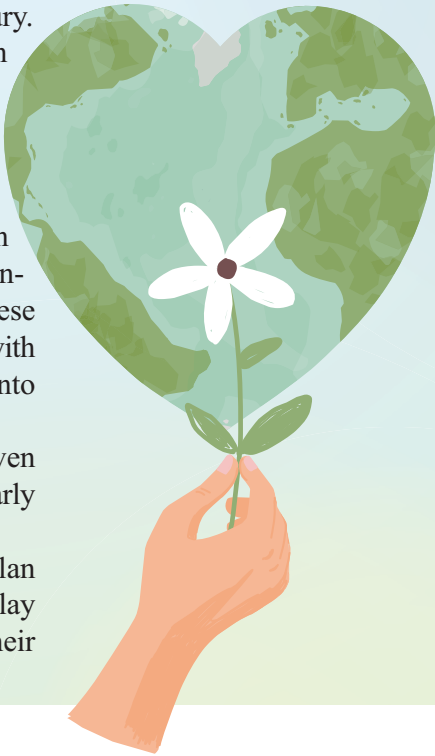
Plant something even though it still may be a bit early for outdoor planting.

Shop for seeds and plan ahead. Buy them some clay pots and let them start their

seeds. Tell them about how important the oxygen that plants and trees supply is to our survival.

The final words go to Jane Goodall, anthropologist, “You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.”

**Happy (make a difference and invest in our planet) Earth Day, 2022!**



## 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

**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!

constructionlfg.com

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](https://cegepgim.ca/english-section)

**Cégep de la Gaspésie  
et des Îles**