

## Osisko Metals interested in buying former Murdochville mining locations from Glencore

Gilles Gagné

MURDOCHVILLE - Twenty years after the closure of the copper smelter in Murdochville and just over 22 years after the closure of the last mine in this town, will mining activity resume? An agreement negotiated between the owner of the former facilities, Glencore, and the potential buyer, Osisko Metals, confirms that mining exploration will take place as early as the first part of April.

Glencore Canada Corporation and Osisko Metals announced on March 29 the signing, on March 25, of a binding letter of agreement giving the acquirer, Osisko Metals, the option to purchase 100% of the former copper mine once operated by Noranda Mines.

Osisko Metals will pay US\$25 million to Glencore upon closing of the transaction, and an additional US\$20 million if there is commercial exploitation for copper ore. The buyer agrees to spend CA\$5 million by June 22 to explore Mount Copper, a deposit mined by Noranda until the early 1980s. The recession of 1981-1982 led to the closure of that open pit mine, not because copper was depleted there.

Osisko Metals will carry out exploration work starting in April to verify before June 30 whether it will take advantage of its \$25 million offer to purchase the Gaspé Peninsula mining property currently controlled by Glencore.

"It's part of our due diligence process. We are in the process of reassessing the potential of Mount Copper to check if the layer of oxidized ore is not too thick before arriving at the exploitable ore. We have done preliminary work and it is encouraging. We will continue this work to better identify the mineralization. If they are encouraging, we have an option and we will take advantage of it," says Robert Wares, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Osisko Metals.

This \$5 million work, carried out between April and



*Murdochville bears the marks of past mining, and has enjoyed a significant surge in outdoor activities over the past 15 years. Both activities are quite visible in the town's scenery.*

Photo: G. Gagné

June, includes the laboratory analyses necessary to determine if the deposit is exploitable profitably. Osisko Metals is also seeking a reassessment of the copper concentration of Mount Needle and the "E Zones," all areas where mining has been carried out based on underground galleries.

"It's long-term (for Mount Needle and the E-Zones). We will reassess, but only in a few years," notes Mr. Wares, who worked for Gaspé Copper Mines and its mother company, Noranda Mines, in the 1990s.

Before resuming mining in Murdochville, "other drilling, feasibility studies, BAPes (environment assessments conducted by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement) will be needed. You can count four or five years," he says.

Osisko Metals does not plan to build a smelter in Murdochville if mining resumes. "The ore will be sent to the Horne smelter in Rouyn-Noranda or to Europe. It's a decision that is up to Glencore, which has smelters all over the world," underlines Robert Wares.

When Noranda Mines closed the Murdochville smelter in the spring of 2002 because it was too old, the replacement cost of it was slightly over \$1 billion. In today's currency, it would be significantly higher.

The agreement in principle between the two companies

stipulates that Glencore "will retain a commercially reasonable offtake for 100% of concentrates produced during the renewed life of the mine at Gaspé Copper."

Osisko Metals is eventually targeting an exploration campaign at Mont Porphyre, on the northwest side of the town, where offtrail skiing facilities have been in place for several years. "At Mount Porphyre, the deposit is one kilometre deep. It's really long term," Wares notes.

Both parties want to finalize and sign a definitive agreement and all related documentation before or on May 16, 2022. This agreement will come into effect on June 30.

Since 2000, the assets of Noranda Mines have found themselves, after several business mergers, in the assets of

Glencore. Noranda closed its underground mines in October 1999. It operated its smelter with imported copper ore between the fall of 1999 and the last day of smelting activity in Murdochville on April 27, 2002. The announcement of this closure occurred on March 27, 2002, 20 years and a few days ago.

Glencore has carried out exploration work in the Murdochville area a few times since taking control of the town's former mining sites, including in November 2019.

The smelter was gradually dismantled following the closure of April 2002. Only a few Noranda-Glencore buildings remain of the facilities that were the livelihood of Murdochville for 50 years, since the town was founded due to the opening of the mine and

smelter, in 1952-1953. The industrial site is located near the Needle and Copper mountains, and also near the old underground galleries.

Osisko Metals mentions that the "support infrastructure necessary for mine development is already in place, including green hydroelectric power with an electrical substation on the former mine site" which constitutes an advantage of the agreement with Glencore.

Osisko Metals will incur a total of \$55 million in exploration and development expenditures, including permitting expenditures, over a four-year period following the date of the definitive agreement, with a minimum of \$20 million to be incurred within the first two years from the date of the definitive agreement.

Resuming full-scale mining in Murdochville could represent an investment of close to \$100 million between 2022 and around 2027, according to Robert Wares. The exploitation of a mine and the copper ore concentrators could give work to hundreds of people, maybe as many as 750, he adds.

Before the closure of the underground mine in October 1999, Noranda Mines was providing work to 660 people in Murdochville, the surrounding villages and the town of Gaspé. The smelter kept 330 of them employed until April 2002.

## Guillaume Molaison expected it

Gilles Gagné

MURDOCHVILLE - A pillar of the repositioning of Murdochville as an outdoor destination following the closure of mining activities 20 years ago, Guillaume Molaison, of the accommodation and adventure company Chic-Chac, expected an agreement like the one Glencore and Osisko Metals are announcing.

"There were clues. Workers were coming here. We knew a deal was coming. We

are talking about an extraction, not a smelter. I am not surprised, in the current global context, that interest in an existing mine is resurfacing. We all agree that there is still copper in Murdochville. It is more interesting as a manager, and it costs less, to open a mine with a history than a new mine. The environmental cost is more acceptable than that of opening a new mine. We already have industrial infrastructure," says Mr. Molaison.

He believes in the possible coexistence between the out-

doors and mining. "If it's a responsible operation in partnership with the community, we could see that positively. Can we go back and still enjoy the natural advantages of Murdochville? The question needs to be asked. With the information I have, I am not alarmed. I am positive. Of course, it could affect our development plan. We expect accurate information as soon as possible. As with wind power, I can balance my thinking and we can coexist with ore extraction," he concludes.

# Major erosion of childcare services in parts of Avignon MRC

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA – There are so few childcare places in the Matapedia and Plateaux area that some parents have to drive 200 kilometres for childcare so that they can continue working.

The five villages of Matapedia, l'Ascension-de-Patapédia, Saint-Alexis, Saint-François and Saint-André-de-Restigouche have lost several home-based childcare centres over the past four years due to the deterioration of working conditions. In fact, there are only three home-based facilities left for the five villages and one of them will close in June.

In the absence of a CPE (Centre de la petite enfance), after June only 12 spots will remain in a family environment, and they are filled, while the unmet needs will be around 25 children from zero to four years old, not to mention the parents who plan to have other children.

This situation risks causing the five villages to lose the momentum that marked the last two years, when the houses for sale have almost all found takers, often young families with children.

Danielle Lévesque, a single mother of three from Matapedia, drives 186 kilometres, twice a week, to ensure that her youngest child, aged two-and-a-half, socializes in a daycare in the L'Alverne sector of Pointe-à-la-Croix. There are no places available in Matapedia.

"In winter, it takes two hours to drive 186 kilometres. Imagine if I had a family childcare centre in my village. There was one four minutes from us," she says.

In Matapedia and the Plateaux, an area with a population of 2,200, Ms. Lévesque notices the typical lack of flexibility of the rules for day care services in rural areas, and the absence of sensitivity of the last governments to recognize the particularities of the villages.

"I was thinking of a fourth child, in foster care, but the lack of childcare places is holding me back. I know other parents like that. I am currently on parental leave. I am lucky for that, but I will return to work before my youngest has reached the age of four and there's a possibility of going to kindergarten," says Danielle Lévesque, a perinatal nurse in the western part of the Avignon MRC where Matapedia and the Plateaux are located.

A home-based childcare service closed on March 31 in Saint-François. There were four in Matapedia four years ago. The last one will close in

June. There will remain two in Saint-Alexis from June onwards, the last two of the five villages.

Workload, including meal preparation, insufficient compensation and lack of recognition from the Quebec government are the main irritants leading home day care owners to give up.

Parents like Danielle Lévesque have checked with the *CPE les Joyeux marmots* to see if the Matapedia and Plateaux sector can receive an installation, a day care centre in a building other than a private home. The process did not work. The *CPE les Joyeux marmots* manages the facilities and supervises the home childcare services of the Avignon MRC.

"We would not qualify according to the standards in force. The management of the *Joyeux marmots* formed a parents' committee a year-and-a-half ago. We are talking about the necessary planning, setting up incentives, measures to encourage families to start a home childcare service, but concretely, we are not seeing the results," says Danielle Lévesque.

The parents in Saint-François recently submitted a project to set up a home childcare service with 12 places which would not be located in a house but in a building made available to promoters by the municipality.

"A meeting took place with the *Joyeux marmots*. This is a pilot project, submitted to the Ministry of the Family but the process has not been finalized. It will take one to two years to set up a family day care service outside of a home. We decided to form a committee here, too, in Matapedia to expose the problem but the *Joyeux marmots* are short staffed and we cannot submit two projects at the same time. So, if it takes two years in Saint-François, and two more years in Matapedia, the children who need it right away will be in school!" says Danielle Lévesque.

Many parents of young children in the five villages rely on grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends and neighbours to help, but Danielle Lévesque has no family in the Gaspé Peninsula. "If the Saint-François project works - it's 12 places and I hope it works, we must urgently copy and paste here, in Matapedia. Can we combine day care and school day care, which we do not have at Deux Rivières School? It's thinking out of the box. This kind of model does not pass easily. Can we also look at the private side, a

fully private day care setting without the *Joyeux marmots*? It requires a CPR course for staff (cardio respiratory resuscitation) and no more than six children per worker. Here, everyone knows each other. If the childcare environment is not suitable, no one will go. If it is good, it will be full. At the

end of the year, it's the same thing, at the tax level, for the parents," says Danielle Lévesque.

She fears that the gains made by the Matapedia and Plateaux sector since the start of the pandemic, due to the sale of almost all the available houses, will be lost in the short

term if solutions to the shortage of childcare places don't emerge very soon.

"It's an environment that I love. I feel more at home here than in my hometown, but I see parents who are thinking of

Cont'd on page 9



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# CARIBOU: Demands for a moratorium on logging

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

NEWS - Environnement Vert Plus is calling for a moratorium on logging in the Gaspésie caribou range.

The environmental group is relying on the recovery plan for the species where “habitat alteration and loss through logging are recognized as the ultimate causes of caribou decline.”

Despite this observation, the environmental group points out that the ministry is still planning clear cuts on huge areas in its range.

Caribou are mainly found on the outskirts of the Chic-Chocs mountains, to which the Albert and Logan Mountains belong, and the McGerrigle Mountains, which include the Jacques-Cartier and Vallières-de-Saint-Réal Mountains.

According to the recovery plan, caribou are also present in an area of about ten kilometres surrounding the park.

The group argues that the cuts of the last decades in the range are the first cause of the decline of the caribou. “The pursuit of these policies will not yield better results. We need to stop cutting in order to be able

to restore the population,” says Environnement Vert Plus spokesperson, Pascal Bergeron, who adds that there can be no valid consultations if, during this time, we continue clearcutting in the area.

## Consultations in the Bay of Chaleur area

Since the population of the Bay of Chaleur area is concerned about the survival of the caribou and that its distribution is in the southern management area of the Gaspé Peninsula, Environnement Vert Plus is requesting that the Independent Commission on Caribou, which will stop in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts on April 12, also makes a stop in the Bay of Chaleur region as well.

“Skiers would harm the presence of caribou, but machinery and intensive logging would not. Since the people of the Bay of Chaleur feel concerned, we are asking that the commission travel to the south of the Gaspé,” says Mr. Bergeron, referring to this paradox.

## Fewer and fewer caribou

The last survey carried out in the fall of 2020 by the De-

partment of Wildlife revealed that the number of caribou fell below the 40-animal mark.

During the aerial survey, 19 caribou were observed in the McGerrigle sector, while 10 caribou were observed in the Albert sector for a total of 29, whereas these observations had been 34 in 2019. In the Logan sector, no caribou were observed during this fly-over.

## Discretion on the capture operation

The Ministry of Wildlife refuses to provide information on the operation to put Gaspésie caribou in captivity.

In an email, the ministry mentions operational and security reasons.

Two maternity pens at a cost of \$1.1 million each are being built at the McGerrigle and Albert mountains to ensure the survival of the species. Each site could accommodate five pregnant females.

The ministry indicates that they are partially completed and could be used to accommodate pregnant females in safety. The work is scheduled to be completed this summer.

# Increase in registrations in the 1st round at the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - The Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles is experiencing growth in registrations in the 1st round as the 600 mark was crossed for this first phase, which ended on March 1.

The college institution received 606 requests compared to 582 last year. This figure was 524 in 2020.

“I think it’s the quality of the training offer that we put forward. It is also an interesting formula that we develop and offer to the clientele,” says the director of studies, Jean Gagné, to explain this popularity.

“We welcome a lot of students from outside, whether international students or our unique programs like Technique d’aventures or our national mobility programs,” adds Mr. Gagné.

Sixty-three percent of applications come from outside the region and 75.8% of secondary 5 graduates from Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands register at the regional college.

“You must keep in mind

that you will never reach 100%. It remains a personal decision to choose training outside (the region),” explains the director of studies.

Two programs are suspended for lack of registrations: early childhood education technique at the Gaspé campus and aquatic product processing in Grande-Rivière.

For early childhood education, the lack of registrations is surprising considering there is a strong shortage of manpower.

“We had offered an attractive scholarship program for this program, whether it was program-related or mobility scholarships. It didn’t fly this year. We (in theory) continue to offer this program for which the needs are significant,” notes Mr. Gagné, who nevertheless underlines the significant work improvements in this sector of activity.

The School of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Quebec in Grande-Rivière experienced a marked drop in registrations: 52 requests were made. This is 32 less than in 2021.

“The analysis is not yet com-

plete, but what we see is that we have had fewer international students. But we continue to open a 2nd, a 3rd or even a 4th round of registrations to ensure and consolidate our offer of programs at ÉPAQ,” says Mr. Gagné, who adds that the future of the school is not in danger.

The English-speaking sector of the Gaspé campus is experiencing an increase in registrations for a total of 25, while the demographic issue in the region is a factor that causes registrations to vary.

“Our desire is to always maintain English training at the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles for the benefit of the English-speaking community. We also welcome nationally mobile (anglophones from other Quebec regions) students,” notes Mr. Gagné.

The francophone sector of the Gaspé campus saw a gain of 64 requests for a total of 365, the Magdalen Islands received 57 requests, an increase of three. These growths compensate for the losses of 12 for Carleton-sur-Mer for a total of 107.

# Police report

Brandon Metallic, 29, from Listuguj charged with two unpremeditated murders, is deemed unfit to stand trial, according to the last psychiatric assessment carried out by Chantale Bouchard of the Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute in Montreal. The accused appeared in court virtually in New Carlisle on March 29. Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida had to deal with the fact that the accused did not want to appear in court. He finally cooperated, from his room, where a computer tablet was brought to him. Judge Almeida has not determined yet if, from a judicial perspective, Brandon Metallic is unfit for trial.

At the end of 2021, he was considered fit to stand trial after a two-month treatment especially designed to make him fit. Earlier in the fall, he had been considered unfit. In the meantime, Legal Aid Attorney Hugo Caissy is back in the Brandon Metallic file to represent him regarding that aspect tied to his ability to stand trial. Mr. Caissy has initiated a procedural step that will eventually lead him to ask the court to consider a counter-expertise about Brandon Metallic’s capacity to stand trial. Judge Almeida will decide if Hugo Caissy’s procedural step will be granted. The case will return to the New Carlisle Courthouse on April 13, a pro forma hearing. Judge Almeida could decide to send the accused back to treatment to prepare him to stand trial, once again. Brandon Metallic was charged on May 16, 2021, with the murder of child and a man in his early twenties, slayings that had occurred a day earlier in a home on Riverside Road in Listuguj.

Danielle Leclerc, 31, from Campbellton, New Brunswick charged with assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm and dangerous driving causing bodily harm, will return to the New Carlisle Courthouse on April 26 to conclude her case, following an out of court agreement that occurred since her March 17 preliminary hearing. She will enter a plea of guilty on certain charges. On June 11, 2021, the accused hit a Listuguj woman with her pickup truck in the middle of the night, on the victim’s property. The victim was slightly injured. Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida determined, following the preliminary hearing, that the case justifies a trial. Criminal prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier points out that “Danielle Leclerc was also arrested on March 18, and likely committed three breaches of court orders. On February 9, 2022, she drove a motor vehicle when she was not supposed to; on March 18, 2022, she failed a legal order forbidding her to use drugs and other substances impairing her driving; and she did not reside where she said she was. She was arrested, detained and released. I received an email from the Campbellton courthouse explaining that on March 23, she reportedly pleaded guilty to the three breaches of court order charges. I will have a better idea once I see the documents.” The sentence should be rendered on May 2, 2022, if Danielle Leclerc pleads guilty on April 26.

Sylvie Paradis, 54, from Saint-Léandre, near Matane, was arrested on March 23 in connection with a possible criminal infraction committed a few months earlier. The woman who, until now, acted as vice-president of the Quebec Conservative Party Association in the riding of Matane-Matapédia, was arrested on March 23 by police officers of the Sûreté du Québec. It is confirmed by the police forces that Sylvie Paradis would have presumably committed an infraction. “She was arrested, questioned and then released with a promise to appear at a later date,” said spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron to the L’Avantage gaspésien newspaper.

However, in a post on social networks dating from December 2021, the organizer of Éric Duhaime’s party explains that she deliberately clogged the Clic Santé site by creating false vaccination appointments against Covid-19. She says the goal was to have “as few appointments available as possible.”

For his part, the leader of the QCP, Éric Duhaime, dissociated himself from these actions, saying that he did not know the lady in question and that she was an activist who had gotten involved on her own in the Quebec Conservative Party Association of Matane-Matapédia. Éric Duhaime also insisted that it was not at all a good idea to have committed this gesture.

Another member of the party association confirms that “no one in the association was aware of Sylvie Paradis’ actions. It is an action that she did on her own. The same day that the executive was made aware of that, a meeting was held and she submitted her resignation in a letter which specified that the members of the executive of the QCP in Matane had no part in the actions committed. It was her initiative and no one else’s.”

# COVID update: record number of hospitalizations

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – The number of active COVID-19 cases increased again in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands between March 25 and April 1. It was another significant hike, from 760 to 912 active cases. That total only includes the limited cross section of the population permitted to have a PCR test. Considering that this number of active cases must be multiplied by at least nine in order to estimate the total number of people infected by the coronavirus in the region, one can assume that at least 8,000 people were in that situation as of April 1.

While no fatality was recorded in the region dur-

ing the last full week of March after several consecutive weeks marked by fatalities, the number of hospitalizations due to the pandemic reached a record of 23 as of April 1 in the region. It was the case for a second consecutive day. Three people were being treated in the region's intensive care units.

Meanwhile, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands health authorities, in accordance with ministerial guidelines, opened vaccination appointments for the fourth dose to people aged 80 and over as of March 29. People who fit into this age category must make an appointment at one of the region's vaccination centres by calling 1 877-725-2515 or by going to clicsanté.ca. This clientele will

be able to receive their second booster three months after obtaining their last COVID-19 vaccination. In order to facilitate the obtaining the second booster, vaccination teams will visit seniors' residences and homes for certain other clientele who cannot go outside easily. People can still receive a first, second or third dose by going directly to a vaccination clinic with or without an appointment.

In the region, the most affected area is the Bay de Chaleur, with 251 active cases; followed by 203 cases in the Percé Rock MRC, 201 cases of the Magdalen Islands, 165 cases of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC and 83 cases in the Haute-Gaspésie MRC. Nine cases were not attributed to an area yet, as of April 1.

## Editorial section



Gilles Gagné

### Commentary

## Murdochville resumption of mining: several checks remain to be carried out

Twenty years ago, the population of Murdochville, the villages of the area as well as the people living in the town of Gaspé were experiencing the shock of the upcoming permanent closure of the Murdochville smelter, announced on March 27, 2002, and scheduled for April 30 or so.

On November 30, 2001, Noranda Mines had announced a six-month shutdown of the smelter, effective seven months later, due to poor markets and an economy that had not been exposed to China's impressive growth yet. The Gaspé Peninsula was experiencing a very rough time, because November 30, 2001, was also the date chosen by Provigo to announce the permanent closure of its Matapedia warehouse which came into effect four months later.

The closure of the Murdochville copper smelter came two-and-a-half years after the closure of the underground mines of what was locally called the "E-Zones". Noranda then tried to feed the smelter with copper ore coming essentially from mines located in South America and the operating cost proved too high. Up to 660 Noranda Mines jobs were lost between 1999 and 2002.

Despite mid-sized investments made to increase the production of the smelter over the years, which increased its annual production from 60,000 in 1990 to 120,000 tonnes of copper anodes by 2000, the system put in place in 1954-1955, working with the reverberatory technique, was outdated. An investment of \$1 billion would have been required to rebuild the smelter. Noranda Mines had just invested in a new smelter in South America, closer to the mines, and was not ready to cough up more money while the North American economy was weak.

Most Murdochville people know that there is still copper under and around the town. The three big questions that must always be answered are: what is the concentration in copper of the deposits, what is the current price of copper in the markets and do those prices stand a chance of being stable or

increasing, if they are high?

A well-established mining company, Osisko Metals, which operates a gold mine in Malartic, Abitibi, has decided over recent months to check Murdochville's copper potential.

It is not the first time since the mine closure of 1999 and the smelter closure of 2002 that such checks have been carried out. Noranda Mines did it, the buyer of Noranda Mines, Falconbridge, repeated the exercise and so did Xstrata, the buyer of Falconbridge, in 2010-2011.

Glencore, the worldwide giant that eventually acquired Xstrata, also made serious checks in 2019. Even if the results of all those drills didn't lead to a resumption in mining around Murdochville, they were closely followed by some companies like Osisko Metals.

It is hard to say if that company will be able to restart mining in Murdochville, however, the chief executive officer of Osisko Metals, Robert Wares, knows the area. He worked as a geologist for Noranda Mines for several years in Murdochville. He is aware of the value of the open pit and underground mines when they were operating and when they were closed by Noranda.

During the 1981-1982 recession, the interest rates were hovering around 20% and it was extremely difficult to make profits in a number of fields, including mining. The copper deposits of Murdochville were large but the concentration was relatively low, mainly between 0.8% and 3%. The operating cost of bringing such concentrations to an anode made of more than 99% copper was significant. So in 1981 and in 1999, the operating cost, especially considering the techniques in place at the smelter, made it hard for the Gaspeian foundry to make profits.

When the last E-Zone mine was closed in 1999, the price of copper in world markets was approximately 80 cents per pound in American currency. According to Robert Wares, it is now a tad over \$4.50 per pound, again in US dollars. It has therefore gone up six-fold.

Even if the inflation since 1999 has probably almost doubled the operating costs, but considering that the price has increased six-fold, it is permitted to believe that resuming mining activity in Murdochville could be profitable. The exploration campaign Osisko Metals will conduct between now and the end of June will mainly consist of confirming the copper concentration in the old deposits and, above all, determining if the quantities can justify investing hundreds of millions of dollars in the eventual production of copper ore.

Even if Osisko Metals must invest \$55 million in Murdochville between now and 2026 if an acquisi-

tion deal of the mining properties can be signed with Glencore, a lot more will have to be spent in order to produce copper ore again, says Robert Wares. Considering the coming steps of further exploration, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, search for cash and, above all, the environmental assessment of the whole project, at least five-and-a-half years will be required before the project comes to fruition, if the transaction takes place.

Another important question will need to be answered: is it ideal to restart mining in Murdochville, where the switch to outdoors activities, which required 15 years of patience and hard work, has yielded interesting results?

All depends on Osisko Metals' way of designing and presenting the project, if such a venture is justified financially. Murdochville's former industrial location remains available and operating another smelter is ruled out because of the magnitude of the investment required. Moreover, the seller, Glencore, wants to acquire Osisko Metals' eventual production to feed its other smelters.

Without a polluting stack near the town, Osisko Metals has an opportunity to prove that mining and concentrating copper ore can be done while respecting the environment.

There is a new generation of citizens in Murdochville, people who moved there because of the outdoors. For that reason, Osisko Metals will surely face opposition in the steps leading to the project. Transparency in the communication of the project's details and respect will therefore be the keys to the company's success.



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# DFO halts spring herring and mackerel fishing in 2022 due to poor state of stocks

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI - The Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Joyce Murray, announced on March 30 that there will be no directed commercial or bait fishing for the southern Gulf of Saint-Lawrence spring herring and a 2022 closure of the mackerel commercial and bait fisheries in Atlantic Canada and Quebec.

Southern Gulf spring herring and Atlantic mackerel are two stocks in the critical zone, abundance-wise, according to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). In fact, the fishermen have been worried for years about the future of the two stocks.

“We know more than 90% of fish stocks on the East Coast are in good shape and I am committed to working with the industry to grow the very important fish and seafood industry. Southern Gulf spring herring and Atlantic mackerel are stocks that have been in the critical zone for lengthy periods and need to be allowed to regenerate for the continued sustainability and success of the entire fishery. I recognize many harvesters depend on these fisheries. I will continue working with them and fishing groups from across Atlantic Canada and Quebec to ensure the best outcomes for these stocks and the people who depend on them,” expressed Joyce Murray in a press release.

The so-called “fall” mackerel, caught at the end of the summer, generally from mid-August to the beginning of September, is also a source of concern for the fishermen. The DFO has not announced anything for that fishery for 2022. It is a fishery that has also been declining for decades.

Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands herring fishermen have criticized the lack of action regarding what they call the necessity to reduce the number of seals in Canadian waters. Two Gaspésians, Shigawake’s Jeffrey Vautier and Saint-Godefroi’s Donald Grenier, expressed their acute worries about the future of the mackerel fishery in April 2021. In a press release, Fisheries and Oceans Canada states that “urgent action must be taken in the short-term to give these (spring herring and mackerel) stocks a chance to recover and ensure the long-term sustainability and prosperity of East Coast fish-



*The Lisa Milene, owned by Donald Grenier, and the Tammy M., owned by Ian Vautier, came back from an April 20, 2021 fishing outing with very little or no catches.*

eries.”

During the past several years, Fisheries and Oceans Canada points out that its management put many measures in place to help rebuild these two stocks.

For southern gulf spring herring, Fisheries and Oceans Canada implemented daily catch limits, minimum mesh (hole) size in nets, limits on overall size and number of nets, dockside monitoring of catches and weekend fishing closures.

For Atlantic mackerel, Fisheries and Oceans Canada implemented catch reductions over time, an increase to the minimum allowable size, and reported improvements. In addition, new regulatory amendments came into force in 2021 that set a daily possession limit of 20 mackerel per person when fishing recreationally, established a minimum possession size of 26.8 cm, and closed the recreational fishery from



*Herring is an important food source for other species, including tuna and Atlantic cod, and is a traditional source of bait in some commercial fisheries, including lobster and snow crab.*

Photos: G. Gagné

January 1 to March 31 every year.

“Unfortunately, these measures have not been enough. Under Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s Precautionary Approach Framework, when a commercially-fished stock is in the critical zone, removals from all sources must be kept to the lowest possible levels. Reduced fishing pressure may help these stocks to mature, reproduce and

rebuild,” adds the department’s press release.

DFO mentions that the closures will be revisited following the next stock assessments. As some pelagic forage stocks have been in decline for several years, many harvesters have already begun sourcing bait from elsewhere or using alternative bait. DFO has invested in projects that support more sustainable, alternative bait.

## Pelagic fishermen knew something bad was coming

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI – Fishermen of pelagic species knew that their resources were in bad shape. One of them, Ian Vautier, was already very worried in April 2021 when some of his sea outings were marked by zero catches of herring.

He learned about the spring herring and mackerel fishing closure on March 30, like everyone else, through a press release issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. He had heard rumours about that possible closure and further decline in the stock but not much else. The effect on his 2022 revenues will be significant if he can’t find replacements.

“Last year, I made between 60 and 70% of my revenues with mackerel and herring catches. I made the rest with flounder. My halibut quota was

cut a lot last year. What will I do? It is really a good question,” reacts Ian Vautier, who is not impressed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s capacity, or lack thereof, to communicate.

“Nine times out of ten, DFO will not answer my calls,” he summarizes.

Since he doesn’t expect much, spontaneously from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, he has formulated a request that would have the federal department allow some snow crab quota to the 12 fishermen who rely solely on pelagic fish catches, like himself. They form the *Regroupement des pêcheurs pélagiques professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie*, not to be confused with the *Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie*, which represents mainly the lobster fishermen.

“The snow crab quota is in-

creasing this year in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence. I am asking the *Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie* to consider our situation: that we could catch their crab quota or some of it. I think DFO and the *Regroupement* should reach an agreement and allow us to fish for crab. We are, right now, in a serious situation. I am young. I can go away and work. Some older guys are on the verge of selling their boats and permits. It is a bleak picture,” analyzes Ian Vautier.

Even if most Gaspé Peninsula pelagic fishing is carried out on coastal boats and the large majority of snow crab is caught with larger, high sea boats, Ian Vautier has no doubt about his capacity to go to sea and catch crab.

“My boat was rigged to fish for snow crab a few years ago.

In 2021, the volumes of pelagic fish like herring, capelin and mackerel landed in Quebec continued their slow descent, decreasing by 25%, to 4,277 metric tons, compared to 5,700 metric tons in 2020. This is the lowest volume landed since 2016. Six years ago, this volume was 7,700 tons.

Between 2020 and 2021, the value of landings followed the same trend while a 14% decrease was observed, with a total of \$2.8 million, less than the \$3.2 million of the previous year. Herring is the main species of importance in this category with 40% of landed values for \$1.1 million, followed by 38% and \$1 million for capelin, and mackerel with 22% and \$600,000.

Capelin and herring prices increased by 27% and 23% respectively in 2021 compared to 2020, while the price of mackerel fell by 28%.

By maritime sector, the North Shore dominated in pelagic fish a year ago, with landings of 2,464 metric tons worth \$1.3 million, or 64% and 53% of the Quebec totals, respectively. The Gaspé Peninsula followed with 1,251 tonnes worth \$1 million, for respective proportions of 33% and 42% of the Quebec totals. Pelagic species represent a very small part of the landings in the Magdalen Islands, with catches of 102 tonnes worth approximately \$100,000, or respectively 3% and 5% of the Quebec totals.

Given a quota, I could be ready to go to sea tonight! It may be too late to get some crab quota this year but if we get some next year, it will be a major development,” concludes Ian Vautier.

The snow crab quota in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence will reach 32,519 metric tons this year, an increase of 34% compared to the 2021 quota. The price will hover around \$10 per pound, an all-time record. The overall value of the quota will therefore reach close to \$700 million, maybe a bit more, and around 30% of that value will go to Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands fishermen, most of it being caught by genuine snow crab permit holders. The share of the region’s lobster fishermen represents a small fraction, still worth more than \$1 million.

## PERCÉ MUNICIPAL UPDATE: Pratto roof will be redone

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

PERCÉ - The roof of the Pratto building in Percé needs to be refurbished.

In 2019, the town council had started plans to repair it, investing \$75,000 in 2020, but the situation has since deteriorated.

"It was essential to act. The more time passes, the more the entire building is affected," says Mayor Cathy Poirier, who mentioned several hundred thousand dollars to restore the roof.

"We are not just talking about the repair of the roof, we are really talking about the structure. When we talk about the urgency of doing it, that's all. What will the cost be? We don't know yet. We are in a call for tenders," she says.

The CNESST had closed the building in May 2019 due to various problems. The building is part of the Convention and Culture Centre concept with the Saint-Michel church and the tourist office.

The project is at the analysis stage and the architectural competition should be

launched this year.

### L'Assomption School will belong to Percé

The Centre de services scolaire René-Lévesque has agreed to sell L'Assomption School in Val-d'Espoir to Percé for \$25,000.

The centre's board of directors accepted the purchase offer recently made by the Town.

The Town had offered this amount to establish the school of permaculture and innovative agriculture. The centre will have to obtain authorization from Quebec, but maintaining an educational vocation is a plus.

"It is certain that at the level of the mission, it is an important and positive factor for the acceptance of the Ministry of Education," says the director general, Louis Bujold.

In the short and medium term, professional training will be offered, so that in the long term, training recognized by the Ministry of Education could be provided.

The project aims to develop short circuit agriculture with the land available in the region.

## Crab fishery delayed by ice in New Brunswick

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

SAINTE-THÉRÈSE-DE-GASPÉ - Gaspesian crabbers in Zone 12 will have to wait a little longer this year before starting their season. Zone 12 covers most of the Southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

The reason for the delay is because their New Brunswick colleagues are still "stuck" in the ice. "Compared to last year when we had a departure on April 2, it seems that we are in line for a departure on April 9 or 10," says the vice-president of E. Gagnon et Fils de Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, Bill Sheehan.

"There is pressure from the Quebec Association of the fishing industry and fishermen of the Gaspé Peninsula. On our side of Zone 12, we would be able to start the season at the beginning of April," adds Mr. Sheehan.

According to what he knows, the icebreaker would be in the vicinity of Caraquet or Shippagan in the neighbouring province of New Brunswick and mechanical "frogs" are in place to break the ice. "It should still go fairly quickly. Mother Nature is a little less on our side this year than she was

last year," says Mr. Sheehan.

The snow crab industry has been turned upside down this year, particularly by the crisis between Russia and Ukraine. Approximately 40 million pounds of Russian crab will not end up on the United States market due to economic sanctions issued against Vladimir Putin's country.

Added to this is the massive reduction in quotas of 89% in Alaska, which deprives the United States of an additional 20 million pounds. In addition, Japan has imposed 350% taxes on imports of Russian crab, which will have an impact on prices.

"The species will be in high demand in the United States, even Japan. They will not be able to stock up as they please with the cessation of imports of Russian crab. This is a huge deficit to fill, and they will have to turn to Canadian crab," says Mr. Sheehan.

The quotas in Zone 12 are up 34% and those coming from the Newfoundland and Labrador side could increase by 35%. "It's one thing to see the quota on paper, but you have to be able to fish it. It is important to have an early start because the right whales will arrive, and this complicates the

fishing efforts. It leaves the quota in the water and it puts upward pressure because the Americans and the Japanese will have a hard time getting supplies," says Mr. Sheehan.

Two years ago, even though the quotas were good, the rapid arrival of right whales forced fishermen to leave 10% of the potential catch in the water, which represented some 8 million pounds.

Meanwhile, as a result of the overall situation, the price for live crab in fish markets reached \$16 per pound and cooked crab \$32 per pound when fishing opened in the Rimouski region on March 25.

"It is a relatively high price. It will stabilize, but my crystal ball is not very precise with all the factors beyond our control. We must think of the exchange rate, the conflict in Ukraine, the right whales... There are too many factors to see into the long term," says Mr. Sheehan.

Fishermen are expected to earn \$7.50 a pound initially, while Newfoundland and Labrador sets prices, which can be adjusted shortly after the season start.

The crab fishermen are in the final preparations to start their season as soon as the starting signal is given.

## LA BELLE VIE SAILING – BUSINESS ON A SAILBOAT

**MARIE-PIER GRENIER** and **ADRIEN**

**BERNIER NADEAU** founded La belle vie sailing in Paspébiac, in 2019. Since then, the popularity of their sailing company hasn't stopped growing. In fact, the couple obtained support from the SADC Baie-des-Chaleurs in 2021 to ensure its expansion. A conversation with Marie-Pier Grenier, co-owner.

### HOW DOES YOUR COMPANY STAND OUT?

According to Marie-Pier, La belle vie sailing is one of the few if not the only businesses in Quebec to offer its sailing stayover services year-round. "It's our sailing ship, we bring it down to the Caribbean and this makes our company original and unique!" Another distinguishing point: "We are both on board the ship on a full-time basis to offer our services. In a complementary manner, the couple offers a personalized client experience, with stayovers and meals on board."

### WHAT DID SUPPORT FROM THE SADC GIVE YOU?

"It allowed us to complete a first phase in the expansion of the company. We obtained financing to purchase a live-in multi-hull catamaran sailing vessel to have room for more clients at the same time and cater to the strong demand. Secondly, we will want to purchase other sailing vessels."

### TELL US ABOUT A RECENT GOOD MOVE OF WHICH YOU ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD (EX. REGARDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT).

"We use renewable energy on board. We make our own water and electricity independently." The couple also uses lithium batteries. Using solar energy, they power their navigation instruments and the desalination device that pumps in and filters seawater, and pumps out soft drinking water.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A PERSON WHO WANTS TO START UP IN BUSINESS IN THE BAIE-DES-CHALEURS REGION?

"Do not hesitate to contact other businesses and organizations in the Baie-des-Chaleurs region. It is necessary to develop links and partnerships with locals. With strength in numbers, we can go farther and faster!"

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During the summer, La belle vie sailing features short outings and sailing courses on the Baie des Chaleurs. In winter it features "sailing holidays" in the Caribbean. Marie-Pier Grenier takes care of client service while Adrien Bernier Nadeau is the captain and sailing instructor.

# Winter Carnival CELEBRATION

## Shigawake Port Daniel School

On the week of February 21 to 25, Shigawake-Port Daniel School celebrated its annual winter carnival. The carnival theme was Winter Olympics and past Canadian gold medalists. Students were divided into three teams, each with a Duke and Duchess: Wicked Icers, Chad Major and Alexa Hottot; 360 Snowboarders, William Wylie and Spirit Martin; and The Sliding Smashers, Tristen Almond and Zoey Rideout.

The carnival consisted of many activities including themed days, team t-shirt designing, a coin race, snowshoe races, skating and tubing.

The Wicked Icers took first place and Chad Major and Alexa Hottot were crowned Carnival King and Queen.

The following photos are from the fun-filled tubing activity that took place at Pont Rouge in St. Isidore.

Photos: Courtesy of Bethany Fehr



Nate Major



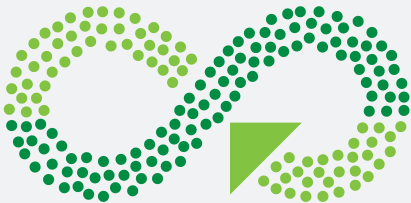
Autumn Kruse



Jarrett and Dawson White

MEDIA SMARTS - SPDS STUDENT AMBASSADORS

2ND EDITION



## RENDEZ-VOUS DE L'ÉCONOMIE CIRCULAIRE GASPÉSIE

PRESENTED BY:



MAJOR PARTNER:



PARTNERS AND  
CONTRIBUTORS: RCM AVIGNON  
AND RCM BONAVENTURE

**Canada** Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions offers a financial support to the SADC

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

- IN PERSON AT THE GASPÉSIE CONVENTION CENTRE IN CARLETON-SUR-MER
- OR ONLINE

AMONG OTHERS:



MARC  
JOURNEAULT  
PH. D., CPA, CMA,  
UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL



CHLOÉ  
LEDUC  
PROJECT HEAD,  
SYNERGIE  
GASPÉSIE



JULIEN  
BEAULIEU  
RESEARCHER AND  
EXPERT IN THE  
CIRCULAR ECONOMY,  
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## Quebec finally adopts Industrial Road decree

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

**GASPÉ** - Gaspé had been waiting for it for months: Quebec finally published the decree on March 30 granting \$19 million for the Industrial Road in Gaspé.

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, had been waiting impatiently for a few weeks for the precious document confirming the realization of the project, even if behind the scenes, it was a given.

The decree provides for a first installment of \$15 million to be disbursed immediately and another amount of \$4 million in the next fiscal year, 2022-2023. The first amount covers 100% of the work and the second up to 80%.

In total, the mayor says Quebec will finance 80% of the total costs of the \$22 million project which will be used to transport 107-metre windmill blades between the LM Wind Power facility, located in the Augustines' Industrial Park and the port of Sandy Beach, a distance of approximately 7 kilometres.

"Months and months of effort have led us to this result.

This is a big step taken. This is extraordinary help for an exceptional project. I am very satisfied with the openness of the government," explains the mayor.

Gaspé did not wait for the Quebec decree and on March 23 launched the call for tenders for the construction of the link.

The Town had even signed the framework funding agreement which was sent to Quebec on March 21.

"Normally, with this type of project, it is almost impossible to get help from the government. Considering that it was an exceptional project which will supply the sea port of Sandy Beach which is the property of the Quebec Ministry of Transport, it will bring income to the port and there was an interesting partnership to be made," adds the mayor.

Gaspé will assume the costs of acquiring the land to build the road, engineering, and deforestation.

It's really a cornerstone for the future development of Gaspé that we are building," says the elected official.

Construction should begin as soon as the thaw ends and be completed in the fall. The

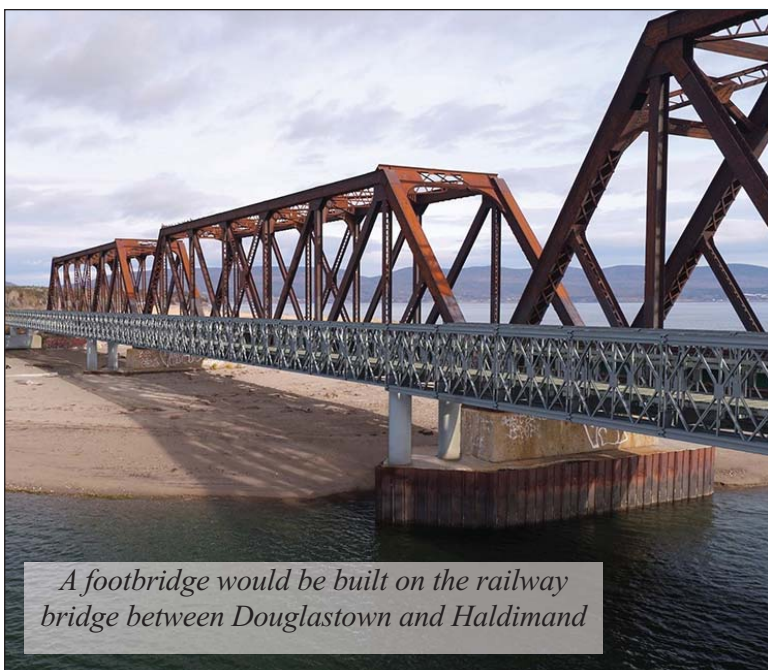
work is being done at the same time as the massive \$170 million expansion of General Electric's blade manufacturing plant for the world's longest blades.

The new link will be of public utility, except when the blades are circulating. The mechanics will be determined when the convoys use the road.

This new construction opens up a new development sector for Gaspé.

Asked whether new streets could connect to the Industrial Road, the mayor says anything is possible. "It could come. Currently, we are not there. We have just opened around forty properties. It creates room for residential, commercial, and other development. On the other hand, if a promoter bought a series of contiguous lands and wanted to develop a district, nothing prevents it," says the mayor who adds that currently there are no requests in that direction.

The Town has made several acquisitions of land on that route in recent months. Of the forty lots to be acquired, there will be an expropriation process in four cases.



A footbridge would be built on the railway bridge between Douglstown and Haldimand

Photo: Facebook

## GASPÉ: Bike trail project underway

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

**GASPÉ** - Two bike trail projects are underway in Gaspé, but they won't be ready for quite some time.

The Cap-aux-Os roundtable recently received the feasibility study for the Forillon Peninsula circuit. The promoters are not surprised that the document prepared by Vélo-Québec has received positive feedback.

The cycling circuit would loop the east of the Forillon peninsula from Penouille, passing through Cap-Bon-Ami, Anse-au-Griffon and the Portage trail.

With the document in hand and support already acquired from Forillon Park, the Town of Gaspé and the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, work on the project will continue.

"This is a project where everyone is stimulated. It is a structured project that will gain interest among Gaspesian men and women regarding the appropriation of the Forillon peninsula," says the director of the project, Gérald Fafard.

A few million dollars would be necessary to make the circuit a reality, says Mr. Fafard who didn't want to provide more precise numbers. The goal is to achieve the project by 2028.

Meanwhile, on the other side of Gaspé Bay, the project

to connect the Haldimand and Douglstown sectors via the railway right-of-way and the Haldimand Bridge is progressing while Quebec is showing openness.

"The Ministry of Transport even included our project in their engineering studies for the footbridge, for example," explains one of the members of the implementation committee, Pascal Savard.

The plans and specifications for the track would be integrated into the rail repair process in this sector, which is vulnerable to climate change. However, there is no timeline. Quebec had planned for the train to reach Gaspé by 2026, but recently announced that it was no longer able to provide a date due to the complexity of the work to be carried out on the railway line between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé.

Consolidating the right-of-way by including the bike path is also a safety issue.

The bike trail would prevent people from walking on the railway tracks and crossing the Saint John River on the railway bridge.

The committee hopes to obtain 50% funding from the MTQ. The project, which was estimated at \$2.3 million at the end of 2019, also hopes to count on help from the Town, the MRC and other partners.

# Quebec Heritage

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Cégep de la Gaspésie  
et des îles



# BONAVENTURE: First collective agreement

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

BONAVENTURE - Nearly six months after reaching an agreement in principle, the CSN-affiliated workers union and the town of Bonaventure have finally signed a first collective labour agreement.

Almost three years have passed between the time the workers obtained their union certification in April 2019 and the signing of the document which grants a wage increase of 12.75% for the six years of the agreement retroactive to January 2021.

After the signing of the document on March 23, both parties said they were satisfied, even if certain specific elements will have to be clarified as a result of questions raised between the conclusion of the agreement in principle last October and its signing.

"There were discussions, and it raised some questions. It

was determined that these would be files to review, if only to ensure that we have an understanding in the labour relations committee," explains the mayor, Roch Audet.

The winter agreement, which manages the schedules during snow removal, has been included in the collective agreement, but requires certain clarifications.

"The process should not be delayed. It has been six months since we had an agreement in principle. People were waiting for feedback regarding their salary. Something had to be done quickly. This is the first agreement. We are going to have trial and error and we are going to have to adjust," says the mayor.

The document concluded that it is important to keep blue collar workers employed. "We did the exercise of comparing ourselves to the market as much as possible. We will become an attractive town to accommodate employees in

different positions because we will be competitive," says Mr. Audet.

The expenses generated by the new collective agreement were planned in the municipality's 2022 budget.

For the union, the primary objective of unionization was to obtain respect and the agreement will provide the tools to impose it.

The CSN says that the parties had to have recourse for several months and until the very end to a mediator. The union also had a unanimous strike mandate which was not used.

"These negotiations did not go smoothly and the union members showed a lot of solidarity and courage. They deserve the greatest respect," says the president of the Central Council of Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine – CSN, Serge St-Pierre.

This first collective agreement will be in effect until December 31, 2026.

## Non-profit organization wants to save Château Dubuc

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

CHANDLER - The preservation of Château Dubuc, the last vestige of the industrial past of the Town of Chandler, takes a new direction with a nonprofit organization showing interest in taking up the torch.

The organization wants to highlight the building, but first, a discussion must take place with the Town. "If you don't have land, there's no point in getting into it and taking big steps. This is really the first step," says the current spokesperson, Joanie Fortin. Three individuals have come together to oversee the project.

Requests to meet with the Town have been made, but the group is still waiting for an official response, while the council has decided to reflect upon the subject before granting any interviews.

Despite everything, taking charge of this heritage monument is an ambitious gesture.

"It's really not a foregone conclusion. The goal is to try. We are not saying that we will succeed. If we don't try, we get nothing. We are going to try it," admits Ms. Fortin.

Last fall Chandler said "no" twice to a request for financial assistance for the building.

The previous and the new council both made the same decision. Last December, the decision was unanimous.

The co-owner, Michel Saint-Pierre, was hoping for \$10,000 to secure the facilities for the winter since it was too late to proceed with the work to move the building to protect it from the weather.

However, town officials found it took a lot more than that to secure the building. \$10,000 would have been throwing money overboard, directly into the bottom of the sea, summed up the mayor, Gilles Daraïche.

The project mentioned consisted of moving the building to the former Gaspésia mill lot, an option the mayor is still contemplating on the condition that

partners join the Town.

Witness to more than 100 years of history, the building represents the presence of the newsprint industry in Eastern Quebec nicknamed the King of Pulp. J. Alfred Dubuc ran a multinational company that had plants in Chandler, Val-Jalbert, Chicoutimi and Port-Alfred, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Brooklyn, and in the United States. He also invited American and European personalities to the chateau at the beginning of the last century.

Admitted to the upper echelons of American finance, he ended his career as a member of the House of Commons.

So far, the building is holding up this winter after work initiated by Mr. Saint-Pierre at the end of autumn.

### DAYCARE:

▶ *Cont'd from page 2*

leaving," says Ms. Lévesque.

Nancy Bernard refused to give an interview to the SPEC but she confirmed that her family would leave Matapedia and the Plateaux. The real estate agent has been given the mandate to sell the house.

Nathalie Gignac, acting spokesperson for the Joyeux

marmots, told the SPEC that her organization is about to issue a press release. Her organization wrote to some parents on March 29 to say that the reduced team is trying to quickly find quality day care places in the Matapedia and Plateaux sector.

Several comments on social media, however, imply that the Joyeux marmots could have been active in this sector for a long time.

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### So much wisdom

*"You have been my friend.*

*That in itself is a tremendous thing."*

I was slightly shocked the other day to hear a young mom say that she had never heard of the children's book *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White. This meant that in her childhood nobody had read her the book or suggested that she read it and now her daughter was possibly being denied the pleasure of knowing all about Charlotte.

Originally published in 1952, the novel tells the story of Wilbur, a pig, and his friendship with a spider named Charlotte. The style is gentle and sweet and it is considered a classic of children's literature. It can be enjoyed by adults as well as children. It remains the best-selling children's paperback of all time.

The opening sentences of the book grab you immediately, "Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast."

"Out to the hog house," replied Mrs. Arable, "Some pigs were born last night."

"I don't see why he needs an ax," continued Fern, who was only eight.

"Well," said her mother, "one of the pigs is a runt. It's very small and weak, and it will never amount to anything. So, your father has decided to do away with it."

What a concise and impressive piece of writing that is. In the first paragraph, you already know three of the main characters (and the pig not yet named). As a reader you are already wanting to read more to see what happens next and how it affects Fern, the little girl.

I will not give away too much more about the story because if you read it to a child or have them read it or even read it all by yourself, the unfolding of the events is written so masterfully. It will soften the hardest heart and teach some life lessons along the way. Ultimately this book is best to read to a child or a class because the opportunity for discussion is amazing and important. By the age of seven or eight, children know enough about the world to know that people and animals die. This book helps them to understand this a bit more.

The themes in the book are big ones: the passing of time, friendship, innocence and life and death. Do not worry because in the hands of a gifted writer the story is sensitively told. If you are hesitant to read it to a young child, read it yourself first. It will be a quick read at 184 child-sized pages.

#### Some examples of E. B. White's writing from the book:

I don't understand it, and I don't like what I don't understand.

*Salutations are greetings; it's my fancy way of saying hello.*

It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer.

*After all, what's a life, anyway? We're born, we live a little while, we die.*

Never hurry and never worry!

*Wilbur didn't want food, he wanted love.*

Nobody, of the hundreds of people that had visited the Fair, knew that a grey spider had played the most important part of all. No one was with her when she died.

*Charlotte's Web* has been read by millions and by most reports it is a book they never forget. Part of it sticks with readers for many, many years. If one person decides to read the book, or read it to a child or a class, my heart is glad. Such a worthwhile book and if you have no children to share it with, read it anyway because you will be moved. Then pass it on.

Mrs. Ida (Henley) Tapp who was featured in an article (Gaspesian born in 1919 recalls living through the depression) published in Spec on March 23, 2022, has sadly passed away this week at the age of 103. Our deepest condolences to her family.

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## COAST ROUND-UP

### GASPE:

#### Gaspé Cancer Foundation

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

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64

New Carlisle Legion Branch #64 will hold its general meetings on the first Tuesday of each

month. Next scheduled meeting will be April 5, at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

**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 9: NEW DATE** Gift Bingo beginning at 7 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.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Ladies remember 1984?

Did you make a dress for Loyalist Days? If so Heritage New Carlisle would be delighted if you would consider donating it to the Centre. We are able to give you a receipt for donation of material. Think about it please!!

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### Important Notice

The Agricultural Society is in need of a president and secretary for 2022. We cannot function without your help. If you would like to volunteer for either of these positions, please contact James Martin at 418-392-5655 or Billy Joe Gallon. The next meeting is April 14 at 6 p.m. at 3 Route 299, Cascapedia-St-Jules.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: 50 Plus Club

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

**April 9:** Roast Pork supper will be held at the 50+, 319 Route 299, from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$15 per adult and \$10 for children and under. Roast Pork, gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, coleslaw, dessert, tea and coffee will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**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 addition 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.

### 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: Thursday, 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.

### ROTARY CLUB WINNERS

The winners for the week of March 27 are: Kimberly Henderson, Jimmy Bujold, Carole Leblanc, Nathalie Clark, Cathy Fortin, Yves St-Pierre and Alain Laganière.

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

**UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN**  
**Sunday, April 10**  
2 p.m. Service

### ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Sunday, April 10**  
**NEW CARLISLE**  
10 a.m. Morning Prayer  
**PORT DANIEL**  
10 a.m. Morning Prayer

**PARISH OF GASPÉ**  
**Sunday, April 10**  
**Palm Sunday**  
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
St. Paul's - Gaspé  
*Annual Vestry meeting immediately following service*

**Good Friday - April 15**  
10 a.m. St. Paul's - Gaspé  
**Easter Vigil, April 16**  
7 p.m. St. Andrew's - York

**DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE: WEDNESDAY AT 4 P.M.**  
**Please send your Classified or Coast Round-Up to:**  
**holly.smith@globetrotter.net**



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Enhanced feelings of determination motivate you this week, Aries. You will be able to wrap up projects that you've thus far been unable to finish. You will be able to handle anything.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

The end of the tunnel isn't as far away as it may seem right now, Taurus. Take one step at a time and you will find out that the culmination of something challenging is near.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Think about making some plans for a getaway or a short vacation this week, Gemini. You likely can use the break

and change of scenery. Use this as an opportunity to rest and refocus.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, try not to be too judgemental of others, especially as it pertains to a project at work. Be open-minded to other ideas and value another's perspective.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, friends will come to you seeking advice or simply looking for a patient person to lend an ear. Give them all the time they need to share their thoughts.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Getting through the week shouldn't be too much of a problem for you, Libra. A sec-

ond wind of energy may come your way and you will have the determination to get the job done.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

When a project presents itself you don't want to pass on it, Libra. Do your due diligence. Now is not the time for shortcuts or to rush through anything.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

There's a good chance you will feel positive and upbeat for most of the week, Scorpio. Make the most of this good mood and catch up with friends and loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, don't underesti-

mate your ability to be resourceful when a problem lands in your lap. You will find the answers to get through it.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Try not to let one obstacle get you down, Capricorn. You will have plenty of other opportunities to redeem yourself and find success in the task at hand.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, it can be easy to fall into a rut, but by daring to be different you may gain a new perspective on things you never imagined. Try a new style and embrace the change.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Resist feeling self-conscious about some of your choices, Pisces. If you believe in your-

self, others will start to flock to your side.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 3

Paris Jackson,  
Model/Singer (24)

APRIL 4

Robert Downey Jr.,  
Actor (57)

APRIL 5

Lily James, Actress (33)

APRIL 6

Peyton List, Actress (24)

APRIL 7

Jackie Chan, Actor (68)

APRIL 8

CeeDee Lamb, Athlete (23)

APRIL 9

Jesse McCartney,  
Singer (35)

LA GASPÉSIE CHANTE  
POUR  
L'UKRAINE



## Benefit show for Ukraine

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

PASPÉBIAC - The Gaspé population is being called upon to show their solidarity with Ukraine. A benefit show will take place on April 23 at the Centre Culturel in Paspébiac.

The organizers say, "There is no question of standing idly by in the face of the human tragedy that is taking place in Ukraine."

Dubbed *Gaspésie sings for Ukraine*, the event brings together a dozen artists including MLou, Dominick Briand, Stéphanie Gauthier, Nathan Hayes, Dave Felker, Catherine Maldemay, Mike Robertson, Thierry Haroun, the duo Fauvel, and St.Mars. Several others including Patrice Michaud and Quimorucu would have liked to be active but will be absent due to scheduling conflicts.

The artists will offer their performance in front of the guests of honour, Volodymyr and Julia Zmazhenko, a couple of Ukrainian origin who reside in New Richmond.

"I have organized a lot of things in life. Personally, it happens to me a lot. The people who are participating as well," says one of the co-organizers,

Dominick Briand.

"The show is made possible by the great generosity of the Town of Paspébiac and the Centre Culturel. They didn't hesitate to offer their support for this event. I would like to thank Mr. Marc Loisel, mayor of Paspébiac, all the councilors, as well as Ms. Chantal Robitaille, for their invaluable contribution to this project," adds Mr. Briand.

"If we launch the idea, maybe other shows like this could be done in the Gaspé region, in the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts-Matane region," hopes the co-organizer.

In addition, a visual art component is also part of the event. Artists will offer works that people can bid on.

Tickets at a cost of \$25 are available by phone and at the Centre Culturel ticket counter.

Donations are also accepted at the time of payment and the money raised will be donated to the Canada Ukraine Foundation, on the recommendation of Mr. and Mrs. Zmazhenko.

In addition, the rally in support of the Ukrainian people on March 17 raised \$1,675, which was used to transport medical equipment and medicines to Ukraine through Mr. Zmazhenko's network.

# Energy Board welcomes the 3,000 megawatts reserved for wind power

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS - Hydro-Québec's desire to source wind energy in its 2022-2026 strategic plan has delighted the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Energy Board.

The government-owned utility company will need an additional 100-terawatt hours of electricity by 2050 to meet its climate goals.

In the plan, Hydro-Québec provides for 3,000 megawatts of wind energy and the needs will be claimed as early as 2026. "We have been repeating this for several months. There has been a 180-degree turn in the last year regarding the wind power sector. It's a major turnaround. It's important for the industry," says the president of the board, Simon Deschênes.

"Finally, the industry will have predictability over time to organize things. We are talking about 3000 megawatts by 2026. It is still tomorrow. This is excellent news," rejoices Mr. Deschênes.

Hydro-Québec will take production under its wing in partnership. "It will be a three-way partnership between Hydro (Quebec), the private sector and the community. What form will it take? I do not know. We are already in talks

with business development at Hydro-Québec," says the president.

Last December, calls for proposals for 480 megawatts of energy from renewable sources and another 300 megawatts reserved for wind power were launched by Hydro-Québec.

A decree on July 14 mentioned that the community must be a 50% shareholder of future projects; with Quebec content targeting 60% of overall spending; a maximization of regional content up to 35%, either from the MRC where the project will be located or from the MRC of La Matanie or the Gaspé Peninsula Magdalen Islands region, and contracts will be for a period of 30 years.

At that time, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Jonatan Julien, specified that the additional needs by 2029 were estimated at 1,400 megawatts, even mentioning that a significant part will be reserved for wind power.

Quebec goes further by quantifying the share reserved for wind energy.

The government is due to open the proposals in July, which will allow it to establish the market price for the future.

According to Mr. Deschênes, faced with rapid needs and with a benchmark price in hand,

Hydro-Québec could go to

direct contracts. "It may be a communication channel that could be faster to have direct contracts to meet the demand they need. This is what makes the Gaspé Peninsula Magdalen Islands Energy Board position itself strongly," says the president.

The Alliance de l'Est, which groups the Gaspé Peninsula Magdalen Islands and the Lower Saint Lawrence Energy Board, filed in July 2020 with the MRCs of L'Islet and Montmagny projects totalling 1,200 megawatts to the Quebec government, including six 200-megawatt wind farms that could inject \$6.4 billion into the economy.

"There may even be other megawatts that we can add. I think we will have a productive few weeks with the Energy Board, the partners and Hydro-Québec," says Mr. Deschênes.

A wind farm takes 18 to 24 months to build. Hydro-Québec wants some as early as 2026.

"It is clear that we are talking about tomorrow. There has to be work done now," concludes the president who has already spoken to those involved.

The Régie pays an average profit of \$4 million per year to its members. Mr. Deschênes indicates that it is much too early to assess the additional profit that the board could derive from any new development.

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