

Lobster price comparable to 2021

Gilles Gagné

NEWPORT – Gaspesian lobster fishermen started their season on April 25 receiving \$8 per pound, the same price as in 2021 during the first week of landings.

The volume of catches for the first week, however, did not compare to that of last year, due to difficult weather conditions.

Several of the 120 lobster boats operating between Gaspé and New Carlisle were forced to remain docked for two or three days. In addition, the strong winds preceding this launch hampered the fishermen's first day of catches.

"The fishermen went out for five or six days (out of nine), and seven (days) in the Bay of Chaleur, where the conditions were milder because there wasn't any snow. Between Grande-Rivière and Gaspé, it snowed, up to 30 centimetres in Percé. We lost days, or we shortened them. The water is cold and the catch rate is lower in these con-



George Skene, who fishes out of Shigawake was among the lobster fishermen who set their traps on April 25

ditions. The turbidity of the water caused by the wind is another factor that lowers catches," says O'Neil Cloutier, director of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group and a lobster fisherman himself.

On April 26, Brilliant Cove-

based lobster fisherman, Travis Henry, reported catches that were half of that of last year's first of the season. "The strong winds of the weekend didn't help. The water was not clear and lobsters don't get to the traps as much in that kind of conditions," he told SPEC.

Based in Newport, Guillaume Duguay corroborates Travis Henry and O'Neil Cloutier's explanations of the numbers.

"Last year, at my first catch weigh-in, I landed around 1,100 pounds. This year, it varied between 400 and 500

pounds per day. You could say that it is less than half of last year's catch after a week," says Guillaume Duguay, who remembers that the weather conditions were much better in 2021.

Lobster buyer Roch Lelièvre, of Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, reports that "catches fell by 70% in the first week," compared to 2021, for the 14 Gaspesian lobster boats delivering their catch to his company.

If it equals the 2021 price, the \$8 paid to the Gaspé Peninsula lobster fishermen during the first week of capture is slightly lower than their expectations, specified O'Neil Cloutier.

"It's a price a little lower than \$8.35, the average price for the 2021 season. Prices were supposed to be higher, according to views expressed before the season because there

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After spotting the rare polar bear, Sophie Bonneville thought "I'll go get myself a 649 ticket"

Johanne Fournier

RIVIÈRE-MADELEINE - The story of Sophie Bonneville, the woman who saw a polar bear about 100 feet from her home in Rivière-Madeleine on April 30, could certainly be the subject of a lottery advertisement.

"I'm going to get myself a 649 (ticket) because the probability of seeing a polar bear in the Gaspé Peninsula was almost nil," declared the woman the day after the unusual event, "What a story! It is fortunate that we took a picture because otherwise, no one would have believed us."

As "about a foot of snow" had fallen, Sophie's spouse, Jean Bergeron, decided to shovel the yard. One of the couple's two dogs, a Bernese mountain dog, followed his master outside.

"Our dog, Boris, is a



The polar bear was about 30 metres from the residence of Sophie Bonneville and Jean Bergeron.

Photo: Sophie Bonneville

barker," says Ms. Bonneville, "He likes to hunt crows and squirrels. When there is something in the backyard, he runs after it. He always has a special yelp when he goes on a hunting

mission. My boyfriend looked up, thinking he had gone after some crows but he saw the white bear!"

From the house, Sophie heard Boris yelp and Jean

scream. "I was wondering what was going on! I came out on the porch and he (the bear) was 100 feet from the house! He was quite large. I have seen a mother bear with her cubs be-

fore and he was much larger. He really wasn't scared like a black bear. The polar bear faced the dog and he was looking at my boyfriend as if he was wondering what this 'bugger' was! My boyfriend froze for 2 to 3 seconds, the time to know by which door he would enter the house. Then, the bear turned around and left very quietly. He didn't run away. We didn't see him again," adds Ms. Bonneville.

She and her husband, who share their time between their residences in Sorel and Rivière-Madeleine, Haute-Gaspésie, had arrived the day before with their four hens. "The bear tracks were going towards the henhouse," says Sophie.

One thing is certain, Sophie Bonneville is pleased to have

Cont'd on page 12

LOBSTER:

► *Cont'd from cover*

was little abundance of lobster meat on the market, and no live lobster at all. The fishing community finds it hard to understand that this price is not high," notes Mr. Cloutier.

Traditionally, Gaspé Peninsula lobsters enter the major markets of Montreal and Quebec City one to two weeks before lobster from the Magdalen Islands, the main catch area in Quebec. This gives Gaspesian catches a slightly higher price at the start of the season because of the strong demand.

The price can drop when Magdalen Islands and New Brunswick lobster arrive on the same markets. On the Island, the season started on May 8 and in New Brunswick, on May 4.

"We will see what will happen with the price when the other fishing areas come on the scene and get a price as well,"

concludes O'Neil Cloutier.

Buyer Roch Lelièvre is confident that the price will remain in a range that will satisfy fishermen and consumers in 2022. "This week, the price should still be \$8 for fishermen. The market is good, but many people are hesitant because of what is happening on the crab market," says Mr. Lelièvre.

The snow crab season began at the end of March in the St. Lawrence Estuary and on April 14 on the south side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the sector supplying larger quantities to the fishermen of the Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands.

The high price, however, prompted American wholesalers, the main crab buyers, to order it sparingly at the start of the season. They were confident of causing a price drop, which happened during the last week of April, when the crabbers suffered a drop of one dollar per pound on landing, a rare



Guillaume Duguay, from Newport, landed between 400 and 500 pounds of lobster per day in the first week of fishing, less than half of the 2021 catches for the corresponding period. He shows here preserved lobsters for his personal consumption and that of his partner.

Photo: G. Gagné

occurrence since the price at the start of the season is generally a conservative price, expected to be adjusted upwards later.

Bill Sheehan, vice-president of E. Gagnon et Fils, both the largest buyer of snow crab in Quebec and the largest buyer of lobster in the Gaspé Peninsula, sees the reality of the two species up close. He does not hesitate to say that the hype around the high price of snow crab has influenced the price of lobster downwards.

"Absolutely; all the bad press surrounding the price of crab, and an article published two weeks ago mentioning the 'lobster with golden claws' influenced the markets. It scared consumers. We had experienced it in the crab. The crab was not cheap either, I admit," says Mr. Sheehan.

In 2021, the total revenues

of Quebec lobster fishermen totaled \$206 million. The Magdalen Islands came in first place, as tradition dictates, with catches totalling \$104.8 million, compared to \$86.7 million for the Gaspesians, and \$14.5 million for the North Shore fishermen.

Added to these amounts are the revenues of lobster buyers and processors. These revenues are unknown precisely but they certainly amount to several tens of millions of additional dollars per year. For the past few years to give it added value, process-

ing plants on the peninsula have also been buying lobster from fishermen outside Quebec.

While 120 Gaspesian lobster fishermen started their season on April 25, 36 other license holders from the same region have since started it. They are located along the Forillon Peninsula, on the north side of the Gaspé Peninsula or along the west part of the Bay of Chaleurs. A 157th permit holder, the First Nation fishermen of Listuguj, uses it in the fall.



On April 26, Brilliant Cove's Travis Henry landed half of his 2021 first day total.

Photo: G. Gagné



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SADC

Société
d'aide au développement
de la collectivité
ROCHER-PERCÉ

PLACE:	By video conference
DATE:	Friday, June 10, 2022
SCHEDULE:	8:45 a.m.: Welcome
	9:00 a.m.: Annual General Meeting
	11:00 a.m.: End of the meeting

Invitation to the population of the MRC du Rocher-Percé. In anticipation of this annual general meeting, at which directors of the corporation will be elected, a nomination period will be open from April 29, 2022 to be closed on May 29, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., in accordance with by-law 5.03 of the general regulations.

The positions to be filled are in the following areas:

- **Primary:** One director representing all commodity-producing economic activities, including: - agriculture - forestry - fishing - mining - associations, representatives or others of the sector
- **Secondary:** Two directors representing all economic activities corresponding to the transformation of raw materials into productive goods or consumer goods, namely: wood processing - fish processing - bio-food processing - non-metallic mineral products - associations, representatives or others in the sector.
- **Tertiary:** Two directors representing all socio-economic activities corresponding to the distribution or sale of goods, products and services, including: Tourism and others.

All nominees must complete the appropriate form within the above-mentioned time frame and send it to the head office of the Corporation at: 129 René-Lévesque Boulevard West, Suite S-101, Chandler, Quebec, G0C 1K0.

The nomination form as well as the General Regulations are available at the SADC office and on the website in the "Annual Reports and Publications" section.

To participate in the meeting by videoconference, you must register by clicking on the following link: <https://sadcrcp.ca/?event=assemblee-generale-annuelle-2> A zoom link will then be sent to you by e-mail.

For the Board of Directors,
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Tourist fee disputed in Percé

 Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCÉ - Merchants against the creation of a tourist fee in Percé are maintaining the pressure and on May 3 took the debate to the municipal council.

About sixty people, the majority of whom were merchants, spoke for more than an hour during the question period. Without being totally opposed to the fee, its application instills discontent.

Visibly exasperated at times, the mayor, Cathy Poirier, believes that the group does not represent the position of the majority. However, if ever the merchants decide to boycott the fee, she will take note of the situation.

“We will not send 140 penalties. At some point, a solution will have to be found. Will it be to cut services? Will it be to look at the level of commercial taxes? I don't think that’s desirable,” said Ms. Poirier after the meeting, which was stormy at times.

More taxes

During the session, a merchant suggested going through the commercial tax rather than imposing the fee.

The mayor pointed out that this tax brought in \$800,000 per year to the Town and that municipal expenditures to maintain tourism infrastructure were \$800,000.

She asked him if he wanted his tax bill to double rather than collect the fee.

Others questioned the audit authority, arguing that the Town wanted to see their sales figures, which the mayor denied.

“I want to say that it is not the entire opinion of merchants to position themselves as they have positioned themselves tonight. We are reluctant. We are offered solutions which, after all, are not necessarily applicable,” says the mayor who wishes to regain harmony, stressing during the meeting that around sixty merchants had registered.

“It’s a shame this outcry is at the very end. You know, this regulation was adopted last September,” says Ms. Poirier adding that assistance was offered to support them (the merchants) in the implementation (of the fee).

“Everyone would like the winter to be developed in the

Town of Percé. It's not a municipal issue. This fund will allow us to create more infrastructure, to make investments in tourist projects other than the summer ones,” justifies the mayor.

“We're still going to back off on our thoughts about enforcement. If something can be adapted, that's something we'll think about, but we've already done it at length,” she stresses. Does this make sense?

The mayor has closed the door on a moratorium demanded by the opponents, but she is open to adjustments. “It's possible. We may have to make a change to try to obtain unanimity. We would like everyone to find their own way, but still think of the common interest,” she says.

Moratorium still requested

After the meeting, the group of merchants maintained its request for a moratorium while one of the spokespersons, Jonathan Massé, affirmed that the mayor will no longer be able to deny that it is only a few people who are contesting.

“I believe that the majority of people in the request for a moratorium are really for the regulations to be suspended, until this is clarified,” notes Olivier Lafontaine.

After obtaining legal advice, Mr. Massé suggests that if no corrective action is taken, the group could be even larger at the next municipal council meeting.

“We have a legal opinion. We have already started talking about a monetary fund in case there’s a need. Tonight, we were polite, we were nice and we hope we were heard,” says Mr. Massé, who does not exclude recourse in court if necessary.

The mayor affirms that the Town is ready to defend the principle in court, being able to count on the support of the Union of Quebec municipalities, but there is no question of putting her position at stake because of this file. “We tabled the regulations before the elections,” replies Ms. Poirier.

The prefect supports the idea

Present at the municipal council meeting, the prefect of the MRC du Rocher-Percé

supports the principle, acknowledging that he is disappointed with the turn of events.

Being himself a restaurateur in Percé, he took care to mention that he signed in the registry.

Samuel Parisé maintains that the Percé taxpayers do not have to bear the weight of the 500,000 visitors.

A lack of communication between the parties creates this storm. “I think there are things that have been misunderstood on one side or the other. There may be perceptions that could be explained on either side. I think the best thing is for everyone to sit down together and put their cards on the table to find common ground,” explains Mr. Parisé.

On the principle of the moratorium, the prefect prefers to do his homework on the issue.

The fee, which took effect Sunday, requires merchants to charge \$1 for a purchase over \$20 and \$1 for each night spent in Percé. Exceptions apply to alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and non-taxable goods and services. Merchants have until May 31 to register.

Of the \$7 million annual municipal budget, \$800,000 is used for the maintenance of tourist sites and the Town wants to relieve taxpayers, with a dedicated fund that should bring in nearly \$1.5 million per year.

Police report

Convicted of sexual assault and sexual touching on a minor under the age of 16 on December 8, Magella Huard, 58, from Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac, originally from the Bay of Chaleur area, could receive a federal penitentiary term. Quebec Court Judge Janick Poirier will decide on June 10 if she approves the defence suggestion of a sentence of three years or if she will go with the recommendation of criminal prosecutor Florence Charlebois-Villeneuve, of six years. The sentencing representations took place on April 28 at the New Carlisle Courthouse.

The acts for which Magella Huard was found guilty took place between 2003 to 2010 in the Bay of-Chaleur area. The victim was only five years old at the start of the assaults, which began with sexual touching before culminating to a full sexual relation in 2010. “The acts took place in the summer and during the Christmas break, when Magella Huard was visiting in the area,” points out Florence Charlebois-Villeneuve, who is based in Rimouski and who specializes in cases involving minors. Magella Huard has said in court that he wants to appeal the verdict of guilty. The trial took place on September 14 and 15, 2021.

Two men aged 49 and 60 were arrested on April 29 by Sûreté du Québec officers from the Avignon MRC detachment in Mata-pedia when the police, assisted by the canine squad conducted an early morning drug bust. At a Du Ruisseau Street residence in Pointe-à-la-Croix officers seized a certain quantity of cocaine, methamphetamine pills, cannabis, about 100 tablets of prescription medication, a certain amount of cash and various objects used for drug trafficking.

The occupants of the property were arrested on the spot by the police and questioned at the Sûreté du Québec station. They were later released on a promise to appear pending the continuation of the procedures scheduled for August. They face various charges of drug possession and trafficking. Information received from the public a few months ago made it possible to initiate this investigation and operation.

The death of a woman and a man on the evening of May 5, in a house on Chemin Saint-Louis, in the Saint-Omer part of Carleton involves suspicious circumstances. The Sûreté du Québec was called around 9:30 p.m. by either a neighbour or a passerby. When the police arrived, one of the two people was unresponsive while the other was in critical condition. The surviving person was quickly taken to Maria hospital but died shortly thereafter. As of May 6, the police refused to reveal any details. The investigators on site are those of crimes against a person and the forensic identification service, which suggests one or more violent deaths. Sgt. Béatrice d'Orsainville, of the Sûreté du Québec, hasn’t yet made any confirmations, in particular on the gender of the person who briefly survived the incident.

Gaspé ranks highest in Quebec for most snow in April

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Town of Gaspé had the most snowfall in Quebec in April. This is the second month in a row that the Town has led in the province.

In its monthly report, Environment Canada reports 58 centimetres at the Gaspé airport. This is almost twice as much as Kuujuaq which only received 30 centimetres. This is 157% higher than the normal 37 centimetres, but still far from the record of 96.5 centimetres set in 1982.

Two snow records were set at the end of the month. On April 28, 18.2 centimetres of snow fell at the Gaspé airport, surpassing the 12.7 centimetres set in 1917.

During that storm, snow complicated travel in the regions of Percé, Gaspé, Murdochville and Haute-Gaspésie. The road was snow and slush covered, making driving difficult at times. Route 132 was closed to heavy vehicle traffic between Anse-Pleureuse and Rivière-au-Renard. The following day, 14 centimetres of snow fell, shattering the mark of 11.8 centimetres recorded in 1987.

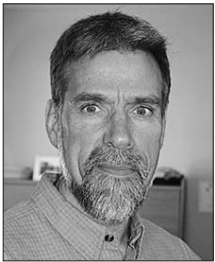
Between April 28 and 30, in total, 34 centimetres of snow was measured with this depression, which then moved up the American east coast and hovered over the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Grande-Vallée even received 50 centimetres during this period. Travel was made difficult on the north shore of Gaspé Peninsula while the Bay of Chaleur area was spared.

On May 1, citizens could still see the extent of the snowfall along the northern coastline of the peninsula. Avalanches were visible due to the accumulation of this heavy snow, particularly on Route 198 at Lac de l'Anse-Pleureuse where heavy equipment had to be used to clear the road. Traces of snowslides were also visible on the rock walls in the Mont-Saint-Pierre area.

In total, 126 millimetres of precipitation fell, while the normal amount is 90 millimetres. Despite that hefty amount, it's a far cry from the 314-millimetre mark set in 1980.

April's average temperature was 2.1 degrees celsius, slightly above the normal average of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Environment Canada is forecasting a month of May slightly above normal seasonal temperatures. The first half of the month is anticipated to be dry while the rest of the month should see more rainfall.



Gilles Gagné
Commentary

Access to information is getting
harder for journalists and the public

A recent report carried out by Radio-Canada-CBC reveals that access to information from the Quebec government is getting increasingly harder, especially when the Ministry of Health and Social Services is involved. In fact, the access to the information process is sometimes limited by the very people who are in charge of managing it.

This access to information ordeal is particularly worrisome given the impact the pandemic had on the Quebec population and the importance for government officials to communicate valid information in order to protect people and the credibility of our authorities.

That information is denied to journalists and the public. Considering that government officials often use journalists and their media to communicate the latest developments on a certain number of important issues, the censorship that comes from various people who should normally put the emphasis on transparency is a major cause of concern.

For example, at the end of September 2020, the Radio-Canada-CBC reporters tried without success to obtain access to recommendations on the subject of the pandemic, provided by the former National Director of Public Health, Horacio Arruda, to the Executive Council, which is the office of Premier François Legault. The Ministry of Health and Social Services did not find any document, as if it didn't exist.

To be sure, the reporters also asked for a copy of the exchanges about this request between the Executive Council and the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Surprise! An email shows that the document does indeed exist, as the Executive Council writes to the Ministry of Health, saying that it does not intend to give Horacio Arruda's documents to journalists. The following day, the premier's office sent a decision to refuse access to the document.

The public broadcaster's report also shows that there is a secret mechanism to give journalists as little information as possible. The purpose of a consultation mechanism allows the government to suggest responses to requests received by those responsible for the law on access to documents from public bodies in the health network.

It proves that people responsible for giving access to documents are part of the problem. They collaborate with censors while their role is to give maximum access to public documents. According to the law, when arbitration is needed, it must come from the Access to Information Commission, not from the civil servants in charge of giving access to documents.

The Radio-Canada-CBC report shows that a woman in charge of access to information in a Quebec region has put in place a way to make sure that documents are transmitted to journalists or the public. When she receives a request for access to a document, she makes sure never to inform the persons concerned of who is making the request. Why? Because she's afraid that the document will disappear. Yes, there is political influence, she says.

Truth be told, the access to information from governmental authorities has deteriorated to a large extent over the years. While the 1990s and the early 2000s were relatively okay for journalists, the arrival of Stephen Harper at the helm of the Canadian government in January 2006 complicated attempts to obtain documents.

Since citizens pay taxes, a wide range of documents are supposed to be accessible to them. By extension, journalists represent the public, since they are supposed to report on topics of interest. Some subjects of

strategic importance are subtracted from the access to information process, and they might be available after a few years, sometimes a few decades.

In Quebec, the access to information situation was relatively good until Philippe Couillard was elected as premier in April 2014. The tone hardened and the power became concentrated in a very reduced number of hands, including communicating information to journalists and citizens.

Premier Couillard saw that Stephen Harper's model was working, from the perspective of government officials, and he adopted a communication pattern that submitted most information requests to the approval of the Executive Council, just like Mr. Harper had done with the Privy Council, the ministry of the prime minister.

Under Philippe Couillard and Stephen Harper, simple requests necessitated days if not weeks of waiting time for journalists.

At the federal level, when Justin Trudeau was elected in October 2015, he promised to give access to information back to journalists and to the public, notably in science, after the dark years of the Conservative Party government. In reality, the situation has not changed immensely. Although there seems to be more openness to sharing information and documents, the time factor often discourages journalists from requesting them.

Moreover, when the information comes, it is so watered down that the content seems irrelevant.

Over the winter, SPEC reported on the thousands of cases of identity thefts and employment insurance fraud. From the perspective of the Canadian government, departments involved in the affair, including Service Canada, everything was under control, or so it seemed, and the number of problematic cases did not surpass the 10,000-mark.

Three months later, the number of identity thefts and frauds continue to increase. The "system" put in place by Service Canada obviously doesn't work. The documents requested by the SPEC remain ignored. A limited number of Opposition Members of Parliament have been able to learn from contacts at Service Canada that the number of frauds has surpassed 94,000 cases.

At the beginning of 2017, a few months prior to the start up of McInnis Cement, SPEC asked Quebec's Department of the Environment if data would be compiled about the air quality around Port Daniel and Gascons before the production start, so that people would eventually be in a position to compare that situation to the poststart-up one.

As weeks passed, the newspaper reiterated its request, always receiving reassuring answers to the effect that "somebody is taking care of your questions." By June 2017, the plant was producing, in a trial but uninterrupted mode and, finally, air quality tests before production time were never conducted. The Department of the Environment had sabotaged its own mandate. It is permitted to think that it was done with the complicity of its access to information officers, although we might never know for sure.

Although some journalists embark on an ego trip after a few years in the field, their information requests remain geared to clarify issues of public interest.

The disconcerting findings of the Radio-Canada-CBC report pertaining to access to information will undoubtedly come back during the upcoming electoral campaign in Quebec.

For now, Premier François Legault, who committed to run a transparent government when he was elected in October 2018, is trying to put the blame strictly on health authorities for the secrecy found by the public broadcaster, but as in most similar situations, additional cases will likely be unveiled over the next weeks. It will surely be interesting to watch the push the opposition parties will make on the subject.

Correction

Please note the article about the Ukraine Vigil on page 5 of the May 4 issue was written by Cynthia Dow.

COVID UPDATE:
COVID-related
fatalities reaches 80

Gilles Gagné
MARIA – An 80th coronavirus fatality has been reported in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands. That 80th fatality was reported on May 5 by Quebec's National Institute of Public Health. Of the 80 deaths recorded in the region since the beginning of the pandemic, 29 occurred since the beginning of 2022. It represents a rather high occurrence in a little over four months, considering that 26 months have passed since the start of the pandemic.

As of May 6, 29 patients affected by COVID-19 were hospitalized in the region's hospitals. The number of active cases that day was down to 242, from 265 the previous day and 468 on April 22. Full PCR tests are only supplied to a reduced cross section of the population and the region's total number of active cases is obtained through multiplying that sample by 10. As of May 6, the Bay of Chaleur area was reporting 96 actives cases, compared to 51 for the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, 42 for the Haute-Gaspésie MRC, 31 in the Rocher-Percé MRC and 21 in the Magdalen Islands. One case was not geographically attributed at the time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations and thank you to SPEC and Cynthia Dow for the splendid article on Philip Doddridge's 100th birthday! Not forgetting the man himself, of course: Mr. Doddridge certainly qualifies as an Eminent Gaspesian.

All good wishes to the team at SPEC.
Sincerely, Betty Le Mastre,
Montreal, Quebec



The Gaspé **SPEC**

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AUDITE

Major construction sites noticeable along the Gaspé Coast

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – Springtime often symbolizes a period of change and this often leads to numerous construction projects. The Gaspé Peninsula makes no exception and travelling between the town of Gaspé and Port Daniel at the end of April provided SPEC with an occasion to witness the progression of many construction sites.

Here are three of them: the LM Wind Power expansion project in Gaspé's Augustine's Industrial Park, Transports Québec's new facility just across the street of the same industrial park and the new residence for seniors in Port Daniel.

LM Wind Power in Gaspé

Started at the end of the summer in 2021, the \$175 million expansion project of the LM Wind Power blade manufacturing plant in Gaspé is progressing as expected. The contract of erecting a new building needed to produce the longest windmill blades in the world was awarded to Construction Pomerleau, one of the largest contractors in Canada.

Construction work is expected to be completed at the end of the summer or the beginning of the fall, since the huge mould needed to make the giant blades has to be installed before the fabrication process. "The first blades are expected to be delivered before



From the outside, the new Transports Québec building in Gaspé looks close to being operational.

the end of the year," points out the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté.

A road will also have to be built to haul the blades between Augustine's Industrial Park and the Sandy Beach wharf since they are much too large to be transported on a standard road.

"The road itself will cost \$15.4 million and some costs are not included in that tab, like the supervision of the construction site and the acquisition of some properties, which is not completed yet. We expect the road to cost between \$20 million and \$22 million," adds Mayor Côté. The Quebec government is handing out \$19 million for the road.

The giant blades will be sent to the northeast coast of the United States. Offshore wind farms will be erected there from the end of 2022 and for many years. The first contract awarded to LM Wind Power in that regard guarantees work at the Gaspé plant for three years.

The management of the

plant is working at landing other offshore wind farm contracts. LM Wind Power is also expected to come back eventually to the fabrication of windmill blades that will be installed on conventional wind farms, which means inland. The Quebec needs in that regard will materialize over the next months.

Currently and until the end of the summer, the Gaspé plant will be making 47-metre blades. Annually, the facility produces 1,200 of those blades. The output of giant blades is expected to be 300 units per year. At 60 tons each, a 107-metre blade clearly outweighs a 47-metre unit, which weighs around 8 tons.

LM Wind Power is currently making strides in hiring the 200 additional people that will be needed to produce the huge blades. They will be added to the present staff of 450 people.

"The enlarged plant will have the capacity to employ 1,000 workers. I am not saying that the facility will get there, but the capacity will," says Mayor Daniel Côté.

Transports Québec's new facility in Gaspé

Just across the street from LM Wind Power in Gaspé, a number of contractors are adding the final touch to Transports Québec's new service centre, an initiative of \$22.9 million, including plans and specifications. The main contractor, Marcel Charest et Fils

of Saint-Pascal, near Kamouraska, won the call for tenders at the end of 2020 and started work in the spring of 2021. The rest of the amount invested in the facility goes to the equipment needed to operate it. The building should be ready for operations at the end of the summer or the beginning of the fall.

The centre will have three garage doors on its southwest side for the rolling equipment and a similar number of doors on the opposite side for other uses by the Ministry of Transport. The facility will also include an unheated warehouse for the ministry. An office section on three floors will be shared between the centre and the ministry's other needs. There will also be an area for storing salt, sand and other bulk material.

Transports Québec's current service centre for the Gaspé town area will eventually leave some downtown space for

other uses. The new calling for that space is not determined yet. Public consultations must be held to decide what will be done on the land, which must first be decontaminated. Some residents think that Gaspé's new arena could be built there or a multisport complex if that venture is accepted by local and national authorities.

Habitations Port-Daniel-Gascons to open in August

In Port Daniel-Gascons, an \$8 million seniors' residence project will be up and running in August, giving the area 24 units for people aged 75 or more. The residents will either be autonomous or live with a slight loss of autonomy.

"We are in the process of selecting the residents that will take the 24 units. We are offering one-bedroom apartments. It is for one or two people. We are

Cont'd on page 6



The expansion of the LM Wind Power plant in Gaspé is progressing well.

Photos: G. Gagné

Saint Godefroi holds municipal election to replace Genade Grenier

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI – Two men, Gérard L'Italien and Sylvain Tardif, are vying for mayor in Saint-Godefroi's May 15 mayoral election called to replace Genade Grenier, who resigned in February because he received intimidating mail and social media messages representing a threat for his family members. (Mr. Grenier had first been elected in 2017 and won a second term last fall. Following his resignation, Councillor Laurette Grenier replaced him as head of the municipal council.) Advance voting was held on Sunday, May 8. Four candidates are also running for seat number 3. They are Sylvie Chenard, France Grenier, Ghislaine Huard and Marc-André Longpré.



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Return of the giants of the seas to Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The first cruise ship in two and a half years anchored in Gaspé on May 3.

The Seven Seas Navigator with its 482 passengers and 378 crew members inaugurated the season.

This cruise ship was originally designed to perform research. Since 2012, her home port has been Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas.

May 3 is one of the earliest dates to greet a cruise ship since the beginning of their visits to Gaspé a little over a decade ago.

In total, if no changes occur along the way, 28 stopovers are scheduled, three of which will anchor in Percé.

Sixteen different ships from 15 cruise lines will arrive in Gaspé Bay, representing 14,113 passengers and 7,322 crew members.

Out of the 16 ships, four of them will be making their first visit to Gaspé. In addition, there will be a day of call that will host two cruise ships on the same day.

“It has not been easy in the last few months to confirm the schedule. We are very proud to have 28 stopovers on our program to get back to work. It’s



Photo: Destination Gaspé website

The Seven Seas Navigator is the first cruise ship to dock in Gaspé in 30 months.

a calendar that makes our business,” explains the executive director of Destination Gaspé, Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

The challenge of receiving a ship so early in the season is to be able to offer activities when several sites are still closed.

“We work with the organizations that are open to the public. We are much more into a small volume and pedestrian dynamic too. We adapt,” says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

A second ship, the Ocean

Explorer visited Gaspé on May 5. The next one will arrive on May 21. The last ship of the season is expected on October 29 with the visit of Hamburg carrying 408 passengers and 170 crew members.

The last ship to anchor in Gaspé dates back to October 2019, a season that saw 25 ships and 17,000 people. Twenty-five stopovers were cancelled in 2021 and 47 in 2020. The economic benefits were estimated at \$7.5 million in 2018.



Habitations Port-Daniel-Gascons will be up and running at the beginning of August.

CONSTRUCTION

▶ *Cont'd from page 5*

offering lunch and supper in a common space and residents are taking care of breakfast,” explains Yolande Chouinard, chairman of the board for Habitations Port-Daniel-Gascons, a non-profit organization.

The organization received support from the Groupe-ressources en logement collectif of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, a group supporting collective housing projects in the region.

Ms. Chouinard is confident to fill the 24 units on time for the August opening of the building erected by Constructions scandinaves of Carleton.


“There are several needs in the Port Daniel-Gascons area but some people find it hard to leave their house. We have a solid list of candidates wanting to live in the building,” she

adds.


“The project was identified in public consultations conducted a few years ago to pinpoint some community needs,” says Mayor Henri Grenier.

Yolande Chouinard explains that the range of rents the residents will have to pay to live in the new building will be determined soon, as some financial aspects of the projects are currently fine-tuned with the Groupe-ressources en logement collectif.

As for filling the positions of the people that will work at Habitations Port-Daniel-Gascons, Ms. Chouinard says that “we have already filled the main positions, such as manager, janitor and cook. In fact, the kitchen will be managed by a catering firm. As for the surveillance duties, we will hire a resident, which is a standard practice in that field,” she concludes.



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WHY THIS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER MATTERS:

Small but mighty papers deliver impact journalism

Every day, Trevor Greenway sees the impact of his work.

Greenway is the editor of The Low Down to Hull and Back News, an independent weekly English-language newspaper in Wakefield which covers parts of the Outaouais region.

“If you’re new to the area, the first three things you learn about are the Black Sheep Inn, Wakefield Spring water and the Low Down,” says Greenway. “People won’t read about the town council in Low or Denholm in the Ottawa Citizen or on the CBC website, but they’ll read it here.”

The 29 English-language and bilingual member publications of the Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA) distribute weekly, biweekly, monthly, and daily to some 384,000 readers, focusing on high-impact local news. According to the QCNA, three out of five English-speaking residents of areas served by the association read their local paper. >>

BY RUBY IRENE PRATKA



Quebec Community Newspaper Association special feature is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors.

» **HOLDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

Quebec's English-language community newspapers are part of the glue that holds their respective communities together, keeping long-departed former residents abreast of happenings in their hometown and often covering great distances.

“*Publisher Penny MacWhirter explains that the Spec plays a vital role in the lives of English-speaking seniors, many of whom are unilingual and lack internet access.*”

Lily Ryan is the publisher of *The West Quebec Post* (established in 1896), *The Pontiac Journal*, *The Aylmer Bulletin* and *The Gatineau Bulletin*. Ryan notes that until her father, Fred Ryan, founded the bilingual *Pontiac Journal*, no English- or French-language newspaper covered the entirety of the vast, mostly rural Pontiac region, an area that takes two hours to drive. The *Journal's* slogan is “Uniting the Pontiac.”

The Gaspé Spec, an English-language weekly in the Gaspé, plays a similar role, uniting far-flung English-speaking communities in Eastern Quebec. Before the *Spec* published its first edition in 1975, Gaspesians “knew more about New Brunswick affairs than they did about Quebec,” the paper's website explains. The *Spec* is the only regional newspaper covering the nearly 350-kilometre area from Rivière-au-Renard to Matapédia.

Publisher Penny MacWhirter explains that the *Spec* plays a vital role in the lives of English-speaking seniors, many of whom are unilingual and lack internet access. In the first

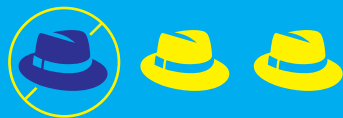
FACTS



Local community newspapers remain **the favourite source** for local news. Local information is the top reason people read their community newspaper.

SOURCE: 2018 TOTUM RESEARCH STUDY OF MORE THAN 2,000 CANADIANS

More than 450 Canadian news outlets have closed since 2008.



At least **one-third** of Canadian journalism jobs have disappeared since 2010.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

Community media contributes to better informed citizens:



respondents in communities with local papers are **15 percentage points** more informed about local news and information than those without one.

SOURCE: BENEFITS AND IMPACT OF COMMUNITY MEDIA IN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES ACROSS QUEBEC, 2019

VISIT QCNA.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES.

year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the paper produced daily online public health digests, which were then shared around the community. The extra work stretched the paper's staff of four to the limit but reinforced its public service role.

FILLING A VOID

During the COVID-19 pandemic, as large regional newspapers have shrunk further due to advertising constraints, community newspapers have filled a void and helped readers understand a rapidly changing world.

In May 2020, veteran *Montreal Gazette* reporter Brenda O'Farrell founded *The 1019 Report*, covering all 1,019 square kilometres of Vaudreuil-Soulanges. Existing local publications had closed, and the *Gazette* had stopped running a weekly segment that focused on the area.

“This area, which has one of the fastest-growing English-speaking populations in the province, had no local English media,” O'Farrell says. Her goal was to launch a “hyperlocal publication worthy of people's time,” and the weekly quickly stepped into the gap left by its vanished predecessors.

Thanks to a risk-taking town councillor, O'Farrell exposed a real estate cover-up, and her reporting led to major changes in local urban planning policy. “We were able to give voice to one person who said, ‘This is wrong,’ tease out what was and wasn't true and give people the proper information,” she says. “This is the role newspapers play in a democracy.”

STORIES MAKING NATIONAL HEADLINES

Community newspapers are staffed by dedicated journalists who leverage the trust they have gained from years of community involvement to cover stories that make national headlines.

Last fall, a Chelsea teacher called Greenway at the *Low Down* newsroom to say her colleague, Fatemeh Anvari, had been reassigned after wearing a hijab in class during the

height of the provincewide debate about Bill 21. Greenway met Anvari, who was initially reluctant to be interviewed, and spoke to her about the story's potential impact.

“She was worried the story would put a target on her back, but she got so much support,” Greenway recalls. A Léger poll suggested that support for the secularism law dropped from 64 per cent to 55 per cent after the *Low Down* published Anvari's story; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed his support for Anvari, and the story was picked up by *The Washington Post* and *The Globe and Mail*.

“All political stories start at the local level, and (Anvari's) story is a great example of that,” comments *Low Down* publisher Nikki Mantell. Like Ryan, Mantell has devoted her entire professional life to community journalism.

Greenway launched his journalism career at the *Low Down* before working for a daily paper in Ottawa. In 2021, he returned to the paper as its editor.

“*Community newspapers are staffed by dedicated journalists who leverage the trust they have gained from years of community involvement to cover stories that make national headlines.*”

“I did break some big stories in Ottawa, but I don't feel that they had the same impact on the readership.” Community journalists, however, can explore major stories that have an impact on people directly at home, Greenway says.

Why do community newspapers matter?

Penny MacWhirter,
Publisher, The Gaspé Spec

It's year 2022 and most households have easy access to news and information by simply opening their browser or going on social media, yet, even today, community newspapers continue to be a valuable resource and can still be found on dining room tables throughout the region. Why is this? The simple answer is news matters.

Community newspapers are:

Reliable: The information in your community newspaper has been fact-checked. It is unbiased and fair. Did you know that 74% of Canadians are avid community newspaper readers?

Representative: Community newspapers represent the

areas they serve. They know their readers, their concerns, and interests and, as a result, are able to provide pertinent information to those readers. Nine out of ten community newspaper readers primarily want access to local information. The Gaspé Spec readers trust that they will be kept up-to-date on issues of concern such as transportation, health-care and the environment and although this is one of the primary reasons they read the SPEC, they also want to see their community represented.

To a community newspaper, such as SPEC, there is not an event or happening that is too small or lacking in importance. Whether it's a jam session, casserole supper or a winter carnival at a local school, your community newspaper is happy to provide the "spotlight" and spread the word about your community's achievements or

concerns.

Adaptable: As publisher of The Gaspé Spec, I am constantly looking at ways we can adapt while maintaining a traditional hard copy newspaper. By offering an online version of the newspaper we can provide readers concerned about the environment: a paperless version. It is also a great option for readers who don't want to deal with possible mail delays. Using social media as an accessory to traditional print can be a great tool for timely information. This proved to be vital during the peak of covid when information changed rapidly and wasn't easily available in English. Daily online updates on social media and gaspespec.com complemented the weekly paper edition and provided readers with relevant, timely news.

Community newspapers

Connect communities: Community newspapers let readers know what's happening in surrounding communities, thus strengthening the region as a whole. Readers are invited to participate and are encouraged to write letters to the editor. Community newspapers play a vital role in democracy, ensuring citizens have the information and facts to be active members of society. This role is even more significant for minority language newspapers, as the readers of those newspapers have limited access to resources in their language to help them make informative decisions, provoke debate or become involved in their community.

Promote businesses: You will often find news articles about new and growing busi-

nesses and organizations in your community newspaper. It is a great way to let you know what's out there, so you can support businesses within your community. In addition, community newspapers offer affordable advertising providing businesses with the opportunity to connect with clients in the region. Almost two-thirds of readers (63%) want to see advertising in their community newspaper.

So, as you **Shop Local** and prioritize the businesses in your community, I ask you to also continue to **Read Local**. If you don't already have your own subscription, now's the time to buy one. If you do have a subscription, spread the word on the importance of your community newspaper.

An informed community is a strong community!

Drum-making activity brings communities together

Chelsea Flowers, Community Correspondent
GASPÉ: - On Saturday, April 30, Gaspésie Literacy Council and Wakeham Adult Vocational and Educational Centre partnered to offer a dynamic, hands-on learning activity for families of the Gaspé area. With the guidance of Melanie Jean and Johanne Jean, ten families had the opportunity to learn about the First Nations culture and to create their own drums.
Parents and children worked together to construct a drum, or a Pepqwejemaqn. Priscilla Chicoine attended with her two children and enjoyed the experience, "The drum making activity was a great choice of activity for both kids and parents. They explained why the drums are made and their usage for health purposes. It was both educational and hands on."
Melanie Jean, who is a member of the MicMac Nation of Gespeg, feels that it is important to bring awareness about her culture to the community and to non-members, "I think it's important because the coming together of two cultures assures knowledge, strength and continuity."



Priscilla Chicoine helps Mason Rooney make a drum.



Olivia Smith and Patti Anne Patterson

Photos: Courtesy of Chelsea Flowers



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Photo: D. Skinner

Spring is the perfect time to give your car some much needed attention and care after the long, hard winter.

Spring car care

Diane Skinner

The weather is trying its best to be more springlike and temperatures are slowly creeping higher. The weather did not get the memo that spring officially began on March 20! However, spring will arrive one of these days and it will have been worth the wait.

Change your tires. Your tires are the only point of contact between you and the road so be sure your tires are in good shape when you change from winter to summer (all-season) tires. Be sure to check the pressure of all tires, including the spare. You don't have a spare? Look into that. You may never need it, but if you do...

Check the filters. Check all filters because the well-being of your car is important.

Check belts and hoses. During the winter months, the cold can harden or damage

rubber. Check for any damage. If damaged, replace.

Check that all your lights are operating, interior and exterior.

Check the battery. Have it tested because the demands of winter may have weakened its charge.

Replace wiper blades if needed.

Check all fluids. When changing oil and the filter, check other important fluids: windshield washer fluid and coolant. Flush and replace coolant if needed.

Change your oil and oil filter. Changing your oil and filter is one of the very best ways to be good to your engine. Follow the recommendations about how many kilometres there should be between oil changes.

Do a deep clean of your car: carpet, upholstery, clean out compartments, windows, trunk, and wax the exterior.

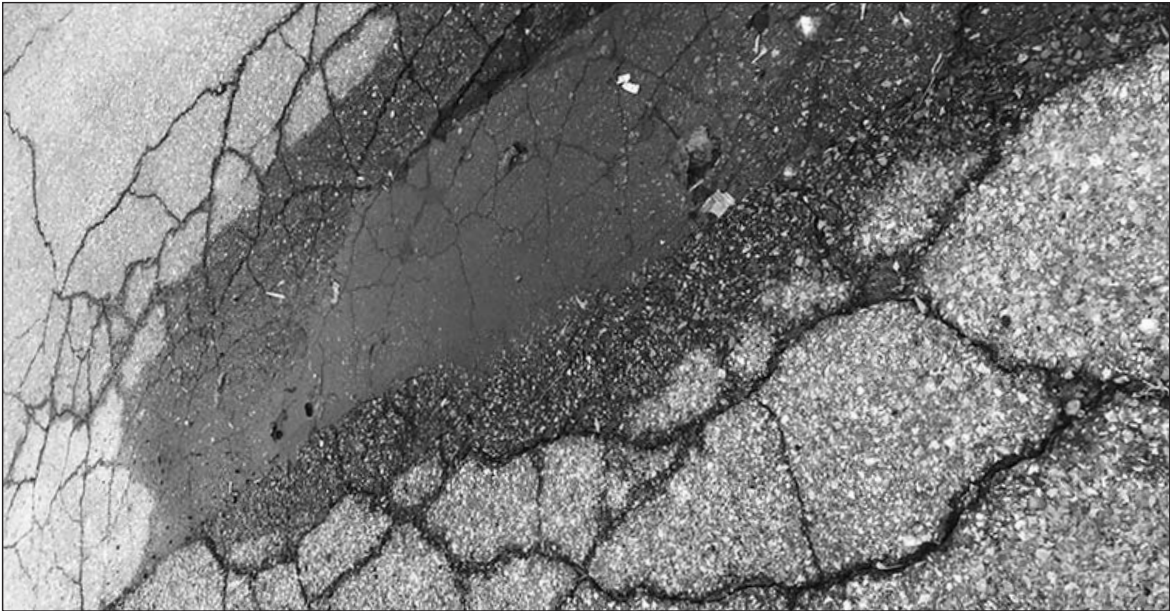


Photo: D. Skinner

Potholes can damage your vehicle. Slow down, if possible to do safely!

Potholes can cost you money

Diane Skinner

Clunk! You know the sound and can feel the thud when you hit a pothole but hitting potholes is more than an annoyance. It can cost you money. Spring, which is also known as pothole season until crews come by to fill them, is here.

What causes potholes? They form when the asphalt expands and then contracts when the weather freezes and then thaws. In late winter and early spring, we see them more frequently because the temperature varies so much. The cycle of freeze and then thaw of melting ice and snow and then the addition of spring rain weakens the pavement and leads to cracks and potholes. As the weight of cars and trucks pass over the weak spots the asphalt breaks down.

How are potholes fixed? The hole is cleaned out of debris because leaving broken asphalt weakens the repair.

A bonding agent is first applied and left to dry 10-15 minutes until tacky and then a hot mix asphalt is used and tamped down to fill the hole.

Until those repairs are done, the best advice is to avoid potholes when possible. If you hit a pothole, and that is very likely to occur at some point, what damage can be done? Lots. This includes engine damage, exhaust system damage, putting tires out of alignment, suspension damage, bent rims and tire damage.

Can you prevent some of this potential damage? Yes, it is possible by:

- Reducing your speed
- Keep a lookout for water pooled on the road. Underneath that water may be a large pothole.
- Avoid swerving because that can lead to more damage by hitting the hole at a weird angle. Better to reduce your speed and drive over the pothole.
- Watch the road to see what is coming.
- Follow the car ahead by a safe distance. If they brake suddenly, you will avoid a collision in pothole season. By not following closely, you can watch the road more effectively.

The CAA (Canadian Automobile Association) estimates that potholes cost Canadians a lot of money. In fact, they estimate that amount to be \$3 billion dollars per year which equals out to be about \$125 per vehicle each and every year!

Until those holes are filled, do your best to minimize the damage to your car by driving more slowly, watching the road ahead and following other cars from a safe distance.

Charge! Knowing about your vehicle's battery

Diane Skinner

You stride to your vehicle, insert the key and... nothing. You try again and get the same outcome. You sigh because your battery is "dead" but you ask yourself why, how can this be?

Knowing what the problem is and how to avoid it in the future can be quite helpful because a dead battery is a nuisance. You may have to call a friend and locate some booster cables or a Power Pack.

The most common cause of a dead battery is leaving on your headlights. The lights in older cars must be switched off. If you have a newer car, the lights may switch off automatically after a few minutes.



Photo: D. Skinner

There are several causes of a dead vehicle battery.

Not just the headlights can deplete your battery. If you leave on an interior light, particularly in cold weather, you may come back to a dead battery.

- Bad connection. If the positive and negative terminals become loose or are corroded, your battery may not charge properly. Solution? Clean your terminals from time to time with baking soda and hot water or even a drop of oil. You may have to start down this path by finding out where the terminals are.

The alternator may not be working effectively. If it is not, your battery will not recharge. Your battery may be too old to work well. On the average, a battery lasts five years. You may find that after getting it charged, it dies again. This may mean it is time to buy a new battery.

Do you take mostly short drives? Starting a car frequently and taking it for short runs can drain the battery. Also, the alternator does not have time to adequately recharge the battery when you make frequent short stops. Give your car a good long run from time to time.

Next time your battery is dead and you phone for help knowing what the cause might be can be helpful. Replacing the battery is not always the first solution. It is a more expensive solution, so if you can avoid it, certainly try. Replacing the alternator is significantly more expensive so knowing a bit about your car and battery may help you to avoid these more expensive answers. A mechanic can verify what exactly the problem may be.

Happy driving!

maintenant

Quebec Alert Ready - A polar bear was seen in the Madeleine-Centre area, near the old airport. We ask residents to stay sheltered and not venture outside. If you see the animal, do not attempt to approach it and dial 911. www.twitter.com/sureteduquebec

Photo: Sophie Bonneville

▶ Cont'd from cover

Shocked

When the news started to spread, many people thought it was a joke, points out Sophie Bonnevillie. Once officers from the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) and the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks confirmed that the footprints in the snow were indeed those of a polar bear, the police went door-to-door in the village in order to recommend to the inhabitants of the sector not to leave their homes.

An emergency alert message from the SQ sounded on cell phones and televisions of people in the area to notify them of the presence of an animal deemed dangerous. "It was the same signal as an AMBER alert," reports Sophie Bonneville, "I didn't even know it existed, an AMBER alert for an animal. It seems

“He had very good fat reserves, which means that he was not an animal that suffered from malnutrition,” specifies Dr. Stéphane Lair, who led the necropsy, “We can think that he was able to eat properly in the last weeks and months. There is no evidence of pathological conditions that could explain abnormal behavior. We took tissue samples that will be analyzed by microscopy. But, given the good body condition of the animal, I do not expect to find any problems. It remains to be followed.”

Johanne Fournier

A polar bear is always hungry

"Usually wild animals, especially carnivores, are always going to be a little hungry because they don't know when their next meal will be. They eat as much as they can. From April or a little before and until the end of summer, polar bears will try to fatten up as much as possible because, during the winter, they will have access to less food. So it's not a question of whether they're hungry or not, they will eat as much as they can to accumulate as much caloric reserve as possible because, in winter, they may not eat for several days or weeks. In May, it corresponds to the beginning of the period when he must accumulate as much fat as possible to survive the winter," adds Mr. Lair.



Photo: Sophie Bonneville

The necropsy results don't reveal where the strange visitor came from. Although muscle samples were taken for genetics, the specialist in wildlife health as well as aquatic and exotic animals in captivity does not know if it will be possible to know where it came from.

Faced with the strong social media reactions aroused

According to Environment Canada, the polar bear likely covered a good part of the distance between the Lower North Shore and the Gaspé Peninsula on a deriving ice floe. The Gulf of Saint Lawrence had been essentially free of ice for about a month when the bear was observed in Rivière-Madeleine on April 30. Rivière-Madeleine is located about halfway between Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Gaspé.



ERRATUM

In the public notice that appeared in the May 4 issue of The Gaspé Spec, the June 22 meetings should have read Executive at 9:30 a.m. and Council at 9:45 a.m.

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Announcements



Obituary



MAUGER: Gary

October 1944 to March 2022

During his life he worked many jobs but settled in Thunder Bay/Terrace Bay area for 30 years as an owner/operator of his trucking company.

In his spare time, he enjoyed outdoor recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, camping and boating. He was an avid fisherman and loved pickerel fishing with his family the most.

Gary and Mags made friends everywhere they lived and cherished those friendships over the years.

They moved home to Port Daniel on the Gaspé to enjoy their well-deserved retirement. Many happy friendships were rekindled but illness soon overcame him. After a courageous battle, he left us too quickly on March 2, 2022.

Funeral service was held on March 7 at St-James Anglican Church in Port-Daniel. He was our rock and a solid foundation for his family.

Left mourning him are his wife Margaret-Ann Sweetman, and his sons Kevin, Scott (Dawn Freeman), Geoff (Virginia Robinson) and Gerry (Carmen Irwin), 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, as well as numerous cousins and friends.

Predeceased by his brother Arthur (Jocelyn Berthelot), his son Lauder, his parents Philip and Isabel Mauger and Lauder and Eva Sweetman.

Rest in peace. You are no longer suffering. You will be sadly missed and always loved by all your family.



In Memory

WILLETT: Ralph James

July 1, 1949 - May 12, 2017

In loving memory of Ralph James Willett of New Richmond, Quebec who passed away on May 12, 2017

We cannot bring the old days back

When we were all together

But secret tears and loving thoughts

Will live with us forever.

Your presence we miss

Your memories we treasure

Loving you always

Forgetting you never.

Lovingly remembered, Marilyn and her family



Celebration of Life



CAHILL: Mona Willett

Leave your sadness at the door and join us as we celebrate the life of Mona Cahill (Willett) on May 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Cascapedia 50+ Hall, 319 Route 299, Cascapedia-St Jules.

Bring your memories and stories to share with family and friends. Coffee, tea and sweets will be served.



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COAST ROUND-UP

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

COAST ROUND-UP

GASPE:

Gaspé Cancer Foundation AGM

May 22: The AGM for the Gaspé Cancer Foundation will be held at the York River Community Centre at 1 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served.

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:

Heritage New Carlisle

May 14: Telethon for Heritage New Carlisle from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall. Life time memberships available for \$25. Payments can be made by cheque, cash or electronic transfers to heritagenc@globetrotter.net. Drop in for coffee or tea.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian

Legion Branch #64

Thursdays: Crib from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. \$5 per person.

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.

May 15: 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

June 7: General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

NEW CARLISLE:

Golden Age Club AGM

May 18: You are invited to the Annual General Meeting at 2 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall. Due to Covid-19, we need a reply before May 16 if you will be attending. Please call Suzanne Jones at 418-752-2613.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room

The book room is once again open on **Wednesday af-**

ternoons 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:

50 Plus Club

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

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.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:

The winners for the week of May 1 are: Paul L. Ferland, Amélie Sylvestre, Suzanne Willett, Adam Leblanc, André Bujold, Valérie Doré and Bernard Doiron.

UNITED CHURCH

NEW RICHMOND

Sunday, May 15

10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH

HOPE TOWN

Sunday, May 15

10 a.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, May 15

NEW CARLISLE

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

HOPE TOWN

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

SHIGAWAKE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, May 15

St. Andrew's - York
9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
with Rev. Douglas Johnson



Seagulls by Shirley Chicoyne

Oh seagull, silver, white seagull
Why do you cry?
The world has some problems here!
The sun shines and there's blue in the sky
So seagull, why do you cry?

Seagull - soaring seagull,
Why do you weep?
The ocean is calling.
There's fish in the deep.
So seagull - why do you weep?

Oh seagull, soaring so high.
We watch as you fly -
You brighten the sky
So seagull, why do you cry?

Oh, seagull, silvery seagull,
Why do you pine?
Your heart is heavy
Just like mine

Your nest is empty.
Your small ones have flown.
That is what happens
Where feelings have grown

They spread their wings
And go on their own.
So seagull, I know why you cry.
I too have a tear in my eye.



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Watermelon and Basil Iced-Tea Punch

Prep time: 10 minutes / Chill time: 6 hours / Serves: 8

Ingredients:

- ½ cup (125 mL) iced-tea drink powder
- 5 cups (1.25 L) cold water
- 2 cups (500 mL) cubed watermelon
- 1 cup (250 mL) sliced strawberries
- 12 fresh basil leaves, torn
- Ice cubes

Instructions:

1. Stir water with iced tea powder until dissolved.
2. Stir together iced tea, watermelon, strawberries and basil. Transfer to punch bowl; top with ice for serving.
3. Serve the punch in a hollowed-out watermelon.
4. Freeze small basil leaves and sliced strawberries in ice cubes and add to punch for a pretty presentation.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Avoid going down the rabbit hole that can be social media, Aries. Put your phone or tablet to the side for a little bit and focus your attention elsewhere.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Try to stay calm and grounded right now, Taurus. Others can learn from your example at work, as you likely will be the voice of reason among your colleagues.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, if you are having trouble figuring out a path this week, try

to meditate on a solution. Find a quiet spot and visualize your goals and how you can achieve them.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Be mindful of whom you confide in this week, Cancer. Not everyone has your best interests at heart and may use the information you share to his or her advantage instead of yours.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
A partner or close friend may seem to pull away from you this week, Leo. Don't take it personally as it won't be a permanent break. Soon things will be back to normal.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Sticking to your normal routine this week simply will not be possible, Virgo. Start brainstorming

ways you can get things done more quickly.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, your ego may take a temporary hit as someone in your sphere gets a promotion or a recognition before you. Don't take this to heart as it is only time before you get to shine.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Try not to trigger any people in your home who seem to be more tense than usual, Scorpio. It may be tricky, but keep the calm and maintain the status quo for now.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Well-meaning advice can backfire if it is offered unsolicited, Sagittarius. Unless someone

comes to you seeking help, it's best to stay silent for now.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Try to avoid any impulsive spending for the next several days, Capricorn. The temptation will be high, so this will be a bit of a challenge for you. Stick to the essentials.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, stay calm and keep your nose to the grindstone during a potentially hectic week. This may mean taking a day off or at least a step back.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Some truths are difficult to hear and swallow, Pisces. Only through learning all sides of the story can you grow as a person.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 8

Melissa Gilbert,
Actress (58)

MAY 9

Billy Joel, Singer (73)

MAY 10

Kenan Thompson,
Comic (44)

MAY 11

Sabrina Carpenter,
Singer (23)

MAY 12

Tony Hawk,
Skateboarder (54)

MAY 13

Robert Pattinson,
Actor (36)

MAY 14

Cate Blanchett, Actress (53)

Egg-citing April at SPDS

Amber Curtis,
SPDS Preschool Teacher
SPEC Ambassador Program

PORT DANIEL: The preschool class at Shigawake-Port Daniel School was fortunate to have the opportunity to hatch chicks right in its classroom.

The children watched the whole process and learned all about the life cycle of a chicken. With the help of Margaret Ann Mauger, who loaned the class her incubator, and fellow teacher John Prince who supplied the fertilized eggs from his farm, the children were able to set up and learn how to care for their very own classroom pets. Caring for pets is a very important part of childhood development.

The month of April quickly became very exciting in the preschool classroom as each day the special helper duties included turning the eggs and making sure there was enough water in the incubator for moisture. The children patiently waited during the 21-day cycle that it takes for eggs to hatch and watched closely for any movement.

On Day 21 a few little cracks appeared in one of the eggs and the next day two fluffy, yellow chicks were waiting for the class upon arrival.

The excitement from the children was unmatched and, after 24 hours in the incubator to dry off, the chicks were moved to the cozy new home the children made for them which included straw, water and food.

After a few days in the classroom running around and being loved by 13 students, the chicks were relocated to their new home at McGuire Farms.



SPDS Preschool Students at McGuire Farms.
(Back) Aiden, Lucilla, Benjamin, Nate, Elizabeth, Autumn.
(Middle) Leony, (Amber's daughter Mia) , Tenley, Paisley, Grayson, Thyrin
(Front) Gage, and (Amber's son Thomas).

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