

MAGDALEN ISLANDS:

Avian flu confirmed in case of gannets

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The carcasses of five gannets submitted for avian flu testing revealed that the birds died of avian flu. The five birds picked up along the beaches of the Magdalen Islands during the third week of May were part of hundreds of similar specimens found dead in the area since the beginning of May.

Biologist Ariane Massé, of the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food indicated that an exact count of dead gannets found along the shores of the Magdalen Islands has not been carried out yet.

“We can confirm that the five birds (tested) died of avian flu. There is no accurate count made regarding the number of birds found in the Magdalen Islands. It’s difficult to do. Some birds are still reaching the shore on top of that,” explains Ms. Massé.



Photo: Véronique Saint-Onge

The exact number of gannets that died of avian flu along the shores of the Magdalen Islands remains unknown.

Most gannets around the Magdalen Islands are on an isolated island called Bird Rock. They are not known to interact much with the colony of gannets based on Bonaven-

ture Island in the Gaspé Peninsula. The Bonaventure Island colony is one of the largest in the world and the biggest in North America.

“The virus is transmitted

through respiratory secretions and feces. The infection risk is very low for human beings because our direct contacts with infected birds are rare. The only two documented human

cases of avian flu infection since the current outbreak affect farm workers: one in Europe and one in the United States this year. The two workers were asymptomatic. They were not sick despite being infected. The current outbreak’s dates back to 2020 in Europe. The same virus has been circulating since. Human beings must avoid touching and handling infected birds with bare hands,” explains Ms. Massé.

The virus, if not too dangerous for human beings, can ravage poultry farms or any other farm raising birds.

“The virus presence in North America has been documented since the end of December 2021, the first cases being seen on wild birds and in farms. Wild birds represent the natural reservoir of the virus. Some birds carry it without symptoms, without developing the flu. Some will heal, some

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CHANTIER NAVAL FORILLON:

New fishing boat for Listuguj is delivered

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ – To add to its commercial fisheries fleet, a new crab boat was delivered to the Listuguj Mi’gmaq Government on May 13. Over the past year, the four million dollar vessel was built in partnership with Gaspé-based Chantier Naval Forillon and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The 65-foot-long boat is equipped with advanced deep cold freezing systems that guarantees catch freshness and a Tier 3 marine diesel engine to reduce gas emissions and environmental impacts.

The boat is named Ugit Mijua’ji’jg, which means “for the children.” It was the winning entry in a vessel



Photo: Chantier naval Forillon

The Ugit Mijua’ji’jg was tested over the spring in the bay of Gaspé.

naming contest among Listugujewa’q youth. The name refers to the community’s vision and the importance of its

ongoing presence on the ocean, working for the Listuguj future generations.

Its colours, orange and

black, represent the “Every Child Matters” movement which honours the more than 150,000 First Nations chil-

dren that were forcibly removed from their families to attend residential schools in Canada. To date, more than 6000 children have been found in unmarked graves across Canada from coast-to-coast.

“We are coming from a time when our rights were denied, and we were not allowed to fish or hunt to sustain our families. We don’t forget the past, but we are optimistic in designing the future for our children. In that spirit of reconciliation, we are moving forward, creating and maintaining good relationships with our neighbours. In our nearly 21 years in commercial fishery, we have proven to be a strong contributor to the regional economy while exercising

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GASPÉ PENINSULA: Lobster prices have remained high for weeks 3 and 4

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI – The price of lobster remained high during weeks 3 and 4 in the Gaspé Peninsula, as the fishermen received \$8.91 per pound for the week spanning between May 9 and 15, and \$8.56 for the week of May 16 to 23. Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé-based lobster buyer, Roch Lelièvre, points out that the price was influenced by the situation prevailing in the Maritimes.

“The Quebec market has not received a lot of lobster from the Maritimes, but from the (Magdalen) Islands, it has been very good so far. So, there is not a lot of lobster on the Quebec market yet. It is picking up slowly in the Maritimes but they have had to deal with a lot of bad weather there. They lost a lot of fishing days,” says Mr. Lelièvre, who is president of the Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan processing plant.

“In the Gaspé Peninsula, things have improved. When the weather is nice, the catches are better or so it seems,” says



Photo: Gilles Gagné

Catches have been picking up in the Gaspé Peninsula since week 3.

Roch Lelièvre. Week 3 and 4 prices followed a price of \$8 per pound for each of the first two weeks. Since week 3, the price paid to Gaspesian lobster fishermen is aligned with that of the Magdalen Islands, which is obtained through an equation taking into account the price paid by wholesalers and consumers.

The 2022 season began on April 25 in the Gaspé Peninsula

and almost two weeks later in the Magdalen Islands.

On May 24, Roch Lelièvre was expecting a drop in the price for week 5. The price is usually lower between mid-May and a few days before Father's Day in June. Demand generally picks up during the last two weeks of June and the beginning of July because of all the Quebec, Canadian and American holidays.

Another busy summer

Nelson Sergerie

MONT-JOLI - Another great tourist season is shaping up in the Gaspé Peninsula as reservations and inquiries remain strong with just a few weeks to go before the start of the season.

Tourisme Gaspésie notes that the pace of requests is holding up. For the moment, travel plans do not appear to be affected too much by high inflation rates and increases in gas prices. “Will the cost of gasoline have a significant impact? These are things that we are looking at but, so far, it's still quite positive,” says Stéphanie Thibaud, Marketing Director at Tourisme Gaspésie.

High booking rates in Percé

Even if there is still some controversy in Percé regarding the tourist tax, Mayor Cathy Poirier notes that the indicators are positive. “Once again, reservations are abundant. Most tourist accommodations have been reserved since the fall or even last summer. There are no cancellations,” says the mayor.

Even though Percé is always very busy during the high season, the capacity remains adequate and Ms. Poirier says this isn't an issue. Development projects are being discussed in terms of camping and hotels, while a promoter is considering developing the site of the former Gargantua. The mayor notes that when Percé has no vacancies, it is the surrounding municipalities that benefit.

Record summer 2021

Last year, according to Tourisme Gaspésie, at least 523,000 people visited the region between June and September inclusively. This was a record for the past 20 years, the date from which the organization started collecting this type of data.

Another record figure: economic impact crossed the \$300 million mark for the first time. By 2019, 495,000 visitors had traveled to the region for \$254 million in tourism revenue.

In 2020, the year the pandemic began, 462,000 tourists visited the Gaspé Peninsula.



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Canadian Navigable Waters Act: Notice of Planned Works at Paspébiac Harbour

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

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the said Act, Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Small Craft Harbours – has deposited with the Minister of Transport on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (<https://common-project-search.canada.ca/>) and under registry number **5546**, or under the NPP File Number **1992-301007**, a description of the following works, its site and plans:

- Paspébiac Harbour including the following structures: boat launch, cofferdam, dredging, gangway, embankment and riprap protection, located around 48° 1' 17.54"N - 65° 15' 22.35"W, on lot 5 234 778, cadastre of Quebec, municipality of Paspébiac, Gaspé, province of Quebec.

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

Transport Canada, Navigation Protection Program
1550 d'Estimauville Avenue
Québec, QC, G1J 0C8

Transport Canada (TC) will not make comments on a project in the online registry available to the public. However, any information related to a work is considered as unclassified, in the public domain, and may be accessible upon legal request. As such, the information and records provided should not contain confidential or sensitive data. If you wish to provide confidential or sensitive information that you believe should not be made public, please contact TC before submitting it.

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

Posted at Paspébiac, Quebec, this 1st day of June, 2022.

Loi sur les eaux navigables canadiennes: Avis de travaux planifiés au havre de Paspébiac

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

Aux termes du paragraphe 7(2) de ladite loi, Pêches et Océans Canada – Ports pour petits bateaux – a déposé auprès du Ministre des Transports, sur le registre en ligne Recherche de projet en commun (<https://recherche-projet-commun.canada.ca/>) et sous le numéro de registre **5546**, ou sous le numéro de dossier du PPN **1992-301007**, une description de l'ouvrage suivant, son site et ses plans :

- Havre de Paspébiac incluant les ouvrages suivants : rampe de mise à l'eau, batardeau, dragage, passerelle, remblai et enrochement de protection situés à environ 48° 1' 17.54"N - 65° 15' 22.35"O, sur le lot 5 234 778, cadastre du Québec, municipalité de Paspébiac, Gaspésie, province de Québec.

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

Transports Canada, Programme de protection de la navigation
1550, avenue d'Estimauville
Québec (QC), G1J 0C8

Transports Canada (TC) ne rendra pas publics les commentaires sur un projet dans le registre en ligne. Toutefois, l'information relative à un ouvrage est considérée non-classifiée, relevant du domaine public, et pourrait être accessible sur demande légale. Les informations et les enregistrements fournis ne doivent donc pas contenir de données confidentielles ou sensibles. Si vous souhaitez fournir des informations confidentielles ou sensibles qui, à votre avis, ne devraient pas être rendues publiques, veuillez contacter TC avant de les transmettre.

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

Affiché à Paspébiac, Québec en ce 1^{er} jour de juin 2022.

Canada

Québec solidaire wants to nationalize bus services

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – A Québec solidaire government would nationalize the inter-city bus services in Quebec, according to its co-leader, Manon Massé, who was in the Gaspé Peninsula between May 16 and 20 to meet people and help the party's candidates.

Ms. Massé used the privatization of Canadian National Railway as a sign of service deterioration when public interests are at stake.

“Look at the bus service during the pandemic. A lot of Quebec regions came close to losing it. Quebec is really doing poorly in inter-city transport. The Quebec government is handing out millions of dollars to private transporters, and municipalities are handing out hundreds of thousands of dollars to the same transporters. As soon as profits decrease, the service deteriorates,” complained Manon Massé.

In the Québec solidaire model, the government would create a public agency and give it the mandate to take care of intercity and interregional bus services.

“People would have access to a better service and it would be affordable,” adds Ms. Massé, pointing out that she was surprised by the high price of a Gaspé-Montreal return trip bus ticket. “A sustainable mo-



Québec solidaire co-leader, Manon Massé, spent four days in the Gaspé Peninsula in mid-May to support the party's candidates, including Catherine Cyr-Wright in Bonaventure.

Photo: Québec Solidaire Massé Cyr-Wright

bility strategy cannot depend on profits.”

The Québec solidaire candidate in Bonaventure, Catherine Cyr-Wright, added that a quality service and affordable bus tickets would help citizens having to travel in order to get specialized health care.

“Look at what the CAQ (Coalition avenir Québec) government proposes, with its \$500 plane tickets. If I want to travel with my family, the cost is prohibitive,” adds Ms. Cyr-Wright, who is a young mother.

“A Québec solidaire government would also enhance a local bus service like that offered by the RêGIM in the Gaspé Peninsula, and favour options like car sharing for families without the means to possess two cars or who don't

want to depend on cars,” points out the Bonaventure candidate.

Québec solidaire includes train services in its platform but, for now, puts emphasis on the bus, because the line between Caplan and Gaspé is under repair.

“The train currently manages to pull trucks off of our roads. We saw it with windmill blades and other types of freight. (...) It will be useful in the transition period (to lower greenhouse gas emissions). With the resumption of service to New Carlisle, we could see the return of the passenger train, however, we have to consider that there is no railway on the north side of the region,” analyzes Catherine Cyr-Wright.

The Québec solidaire platform in 2018 was also rooting for the nationalization of bus services, recalled Manon Massé.

Police report

Sûreté du Québec police officers arrested a man in his thirties on May 27 in a Pointe-à-la-Garde house about 14 hours after the beginning of their intervention. The man was arrested and driven to the hospital shortly before noon. The police had initiated the intervention shortly before 10 p.m. the previous night after neighbours reported the sound of a detonation. The man in crisis was in his house located along Highway 132 in the heart of the village, between Saint-Antoine Range and De l'Église Street. Some houses located closeby were evacuated for safety reasons. At 4:30 a.m. on May 27, the police closed Highway 132 as further precaution.

“The intervention took place without any shots being fired. The man did not surrender, however, but no one was injured during the operation,” says Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron. He refuses to provide details about the nature of the May 25 detonations, or confirm that they were gunshots. Negotiations with the man were conducted in English.

After being closed for seven hours, Highway 132 was reopened to traffic within an hour of the arrest of the man, whose identity and age are not disclosed for now. He might stay in the hospital to receive appropriate treatment for his condition. As of May 27, the criminal and penal prosecutions department was to assess this file a little later to see if charges will be laid against the man.

The closure of Highway 132 in both directions between Saint-Antoine Range and De l'Église Street posed quite a problem for nearly eight hours as hundreds of motorists waited to reach their destination. (There is no bypass in Pointe-à-la-Garde.) The Père-Pacifique School in Pointe-à-la-Croix was closed because some of its students come from the Pointe-à-la-Garde and Escuminac sector. For motorists, the detour could represent an additional distance of several hundred kilometres for people deciding to go by the north side of the Gaspé Peninsula. For strategic reasons, the police did not give any details on the means deployed during the negotiations and during the arrest.

A mid-day fire heavily damaged a three-unit building on Sarto Street in Pointe-à-la-Croix on May 25. The alert was given around 1:30 p.m. for a fire that had started in an apartment. “The fire quickly spread to the other two dwellings. All occupants were evacuated and nobody was injured,” explains Sgt. Claude Doiron. Still standing, the building is a total loss due to the damage cause by the flames, the smoke and the water. The cause of the blaze is unknown and is still under investigation. It likely started in a bedroom of one of the apartments. The occupants of the three households were taken care of by the Red Cross, The fire departments of Listuguj and Matapédia assisted the Pointe-à-la-Croix firefighters.



Photo: Joan Imhoff

Legion's shuffleboard tournament is a great draw

Joan Imhoff, Community Correspondent

NEW CARLISLE: - The Royal Canadian Legion in New Carlisle was once again a buzz of activity after a two-year closure due to Covid.

On Saturday, April 23, a shuffleboard tournament was held. Sixteen teams battled for top place, but in the end the Class A was won by Courtney Jerome and Alisha Caplin beating Alfred Buttle and Alain Poirier in the finals. Class B was taken by Dave Douesnard and Hugh Wood over Benoit Leblanc-Gonthier and Laura Lynn Blais. Nicolas Blais and Lloyd Cassidy won the Class C over Stephen Leberre and Alain Poirier.

The management has many planned activities for the following months which you can check out on SPEC's Coast Round-up page or the Legion's Facebook page.

AVIAN FLU

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will die. Several species are not affected by the virus but they are spreading it. The avian flu situation has been monitored since 2005 in Quebec, and the objective is to detect sources with an impact on farms, where they are a cause of enormous mortality. Avian flu is found especially in aquatic birds, ducks and different types of geese but the death rate varies a lot for wild birds. It depends on their condition prior to being infected. It is not possible to determine a rate of mortality,” says Ariane Massé.

Wild birds can develop immunity, she also points out. The occurrence of avian flu in Quebec was expected, she adds.

“It is normal that we see several cases emerge in Quebec; it is the arrival of the first

spring migrations. The situation stabilizes in the summer. You can still see them (infected cases) in the fall. For example, in the case of snow geese, they will return here in the fall after a stay in the north. It (the current situation) was predictable, and expected,” stresses Ariane Massé.

As the Magdalen Islands gannets are making headlines, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announced on May 18 and 19 that two dead birds, a crow in one case, died of avian flu in the Gaspé Peninsula, one in New Richmond and the second one also in the Bonaventure MRC. The exact location was not revealed by the ministry.

“Scavengers are more likely to become infected because they feed on carcasses and those carcasses are sometimes the result of an avian flu infection,” says the Ms. Massé.

In the Gaspé Peninsula, there is not a significant number of infected cases so far, she adds. “The virus is present though. Those who have a farm must pay attention to the directions. They must stay away from feces of wild birds, among other things,” she concludes.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will not be involved in the cleaning operation that must be carried out in the Magdalen Islands in order to avoid the spreading of avian flu. As SPEC was reaching its deadline, very few details were available regarding that operation.

Magdalen Islands Mayor Jonathan Lapierre announced that the Quebec Department of Forests, Wildlife and Parks could be the body in charge of the cleanup but the adequate procedure to adopt and the time frame were not available as of May 26.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Mass shootings in the United States: a situation that is unlikely to change soon

Close to ten years ago, when a massive shooting took place eleven days before Christmas 2012 at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, politicians, teachers, parents and police officers, to name a few, committed to stopping this kind of massacre. The Sandy Hook tragedy was supposed to change everything.

Following massacres proved all those commitments wrong. It unfortunately appears that the context in the United States is clearly not favourable to a reduction in the use and sales of firearms.

At Sandy Hook, a 20-year-old man shot and killed 26 people, 20 of them pupils, six or seven years old. The man had previously killed his mother. He committed suicide after the school killings.

It was not the first such massacre, when we think of the Columbine High School killings in April 1999, in Littleton, Colorado, where 12 students and a teacher were murdered by two teenagers. It was also not the last. The May 24 mass killing in an elementary school located in Uvalde, Texas, proves it once more. Nineteen students and two teachers were killed by an 18-year-old individual.

There are people deploring the fact that there was no security guard at the Uvalde School. However, when we think of it, is it normal that a security guard presence is required constantly in elementary schools of a supposedly civilized country?

The pictures of the pupils killed on May 24 are appearing everywhere now, on news broadcasts, in the papers, and on social media. They were beautiful, innocent, mostly happy and carefree, with their lives ahead of them.

It is also easy and painful to think of how they reacted upon the presence of the gunman, as they tried to hide under their desks, as they were trained to do, in an attempt to elude the bullets fired by the gunman. When we think of it, is it normal to train pupils so they can protect themselves if a shooter storms in their classroom, in a supposedly civilized country?

The Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre prompted the resumption of debates about gun control in the United States. The debates included proposals for making the background check system universal for gun buyers. It also proposed new federal and state legislation banning the sale and manufacture of certain types of semiautomatic firearms and magazines with more than ten rounds of ammunition. Two bills were proposed to the Senate, and they were both defeated in 2013. Similar attempts have also failed since, most of the time at an earlier stage.

How many massacred children will it take for the United States citizens to decide to attack the culture of firearms, a deadly culture that is corrupting their society? In India, possessing a firearm at home warrants a five-year prison term to the owner. There are four times more people in that country than in the United States and the number of murders is much lower. The culture of India is different, although far from perfect.

Instead of taking action, the American people and the politicians they elect apparently prefer to shake with anger, pray and promise that things will change from now on. It looks as if nothing will change. The culture of firearms is worsening. Each mass killing results in an increase in gun sales.

Since the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012, the United States has been the scene of 3,500 mass shootings, which is the equivalent of one every day! Elementary schools are unfortunately in good company and horror strikes everywhere, in an African-American church, in

supermarkets, in a gay nightclub, in a synagogue, in a massage parlour, for example. Schools are popular, with 45 school shootings per year, on average. It looks as if learning is a threat to gunmen and certain types of politicians, who prefer to recommend prayers.

Praying is not taking actions. Although prayers might represent a way to heal for a cross section of the population, the rising number of mass shootings have led an increasing number of politicians to ask people to pray for the victims, pray for their entourage and hope that such events will miraculously be avoided. The results are not convincing.

Mass killings don't stop and they don't decrease. Like never before Americans are buying weapons to protect their families. The great paradox is that the more they fear violence, the more they try to protect themselves from it, and the more they create the conditions to worsen the number of tragedies through buying firearms.

The rising number of guns also triggers incidents that have nothing to do with mass killings, like a father killing his son who had decided to have a glass of milk in the middle of the night. The father fired at him, thinking he was a criminal trying to steal something in the house.

That culture of firearms is gradually changing the statistical reality of the country. In 2020, firearms overtook car accidents to become the leading cause of child death in the United States!

Texas senator Ted Cruz was quick to write after the May 24 tragedy in his state that he and his wife are praying for the children of the families of the horrific shooting in Uvalde. However, his apparently good words are overshadowed by years of pro-gun lobbying.

Speaking of hypocrisy, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said the killer had "horrifically, incomprehensibly" shot children. It was horrific indeed but the second expletive is ill-used. It is not incomprehensible. Texas is a paradise for gun owners. Politicians like Ted Cruz and Greg Abbott keep relaxing gun control rules, even promising to do more in that regard soon. In Texas, people can carry a gun openly, in public, without training or a permit, as in the good old times of the Wild West.

In Texas, gun culture is encouraged. Governor Greg Abbott is a striking example of that reality. In 2015, he deplored the fact that Texas came second in the country, behind California, for new weapon purchases. He was "embarrassed" and asked his constituents to "pick up the pace," encouraging Texans to join the National Rifle Association.

How can Governor Abbott find the Uvalde tragedy "incomprehensible" after promoting the massive acquisition of firearms in his own state? When we think of it, is it normal to see a high ranked politician making such gun buying statements in a supposedly civilized country?

Abdicating on the relevance of limiting firearms in the United States is certainly not a way to change today's reality in that country. However, it is hard to imagine for now how the emphasis on guns will change there in the foreseeable future.

It is hard to affirm that the reality of a country will never change. It takes a shift in mentality before changing the laws, and that mentality shift rarely occurs without a revolution in education, which seems unlikely in the United States right now. Americans opt for prayers and that strategy has proven its inefficiency in that field so far.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We have all experienced an encounter with someone who denigrated us for our religion, skin colour, language, residential town, education, height, size or...

These people all felt the same that somehow they were superior to you and you were less than them. The group they belonged to was superior, because they were part of the group. Maybe their superiority is based on: we were here first or we conquered you. Congratulations! You admit to being an interloper (the first boat people). In short you, like us, are an invasive species (like giant hogweed). This confers no perks or special

considerations.

Their beliefs/feelings are based on nothing more than hubris and vanity. If you ask them when did they choose, they couldn't answer. Even in such matters as religion, they are the religion of their parents, they speak the language of the home they grew up in, and any physical or mental abilities are inherited. Few made changes from their youth. None chose their parents. They are too busy looking in the mirror. Few are able to see the fallacy of their thinking.

Bill 96 is racist. I know language is not a race, or is it? It is a law to empower the majority at the expense of the minority. To become law the charter of rights and freedoms had to be set aside (notwithstanding clause). It claims to protect the French language. It doesn't. What it does, is say learn French or leave. How is French protected if I am denied my equal citizenship? It tells new immigrants in six months: be French or goodbye. If an immigrant can learn a language and become a Quebecois in six months, he or she, should be premier of the province. Francois Legault refuses to understand racism in over sixty years of living.

So, how do we fight institutional racism? We can let the racists win. We can try to learn French and cater to the racists. Or perhaps we could simply forget to speak or understand French. Let's speak English and if you are unable to accommodate me because of some character deficit, find me someone who is more capable than you.

I am either a citizen of this land or I am the best treated minority (like the pampered family pet). By the way, I want my share of the 11.4 billion dollars, equalization payment with which the rest of Canada bribes Quebec and which the terrible English speakers in the rest of Canada pay to have a united country.

Renaud Cyr, New Richmond

COVID-19 UPDATE

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – The last two full weeks of May confirmed a steady decline in the number of active COVID-19 cases in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. No fatalities were reported by the Quebec Institute of Public Health and the number of active cases went from 167 on May 13 to 133 on May 27. Only nine people were hospitalized in the region due to the pandemic that day, compared to 21 two weeks before.

The situation was much worse on April 22 with 468 active cases. An outbreak at Saint Joseph Residence in Maria led to the May 25 closure of a unit to visitors and staff members that are not based in that part of the building.

Geographically, the Bay of Chaleur area is no longer leading the region in active cases. As of May 27, the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC had 48 cases, compared to 39 for the Bay of Chaleur health area. The Haute-Gaspésie MRC came in third with 20 cases, compared to 11 in the Percé Rock MRC and 12 in the Magdalen Islands. Three cases were not attributed to an area yet.



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AUDITE

Solidarité Gaspésie offers multiple solutions for safeguarding Gaspesian caribou

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ AND BONAVENTURE: – Solidarité Gaspésie recently filed a brief entitled *Caribou Emissaries* to the Caribou Independent Commission, formed by the Quebec government for consultations about the fate of the woodland and mountain caribou. Following Solidarité Gaspésie's analysis of this case, its leaders find that at the heart of the ongoing debate is a conflict of territorial use that goes beyond the necessary preservation measures for the region's caribou.

Solidarité Gaspésie therefore proposes two main solutions, with the objective of preserving the region's natural environment for future generations, and ensure better economic, social and environmental benefits for the population of the region's territory. The organization includes the protection of the Gaspé Peninsula irreplaceable ancient forests in its measures.

The brief highlights the exaggerated influence of the forestry industry on the management of public land in the Gaspé Peninsula. Although this industry does provide only about 2% of the jobs and 2% of the regional gross domestic product, the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks controls approximately 70% of the Gaspé Peninsula territory, primarily for the benefit of this industry.

The imbalance between the power conferred on this industry and its effective con-

tribution to the socio-economic development of the Gaspé Peninsula is flagrant, points out Solidarité Gaspésie, an independent group advocating environmental and fair social measures.

By conferring such power to a single industry, the ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks hinders the development of other sectors, for example, maple syrup production and recreational tourism. Solidarité Gaspésie leaders believe that the ministry does not adequately exercise its fiduciary duty in the management of public lands in the region.

In this sense, caribou serve as a scapegoat, sacrificed to the shortcomings of the ministry and the Government of Quebec.

If the government maintains the same conditions for the management of public lands, the Gaspé Peninsula and Quebec populations will be deprived of an essential element of their natural heritage: the caribou, an emblematic animal of the great outdoors and of nature that Quebecers love so much, stresses Solidarité Gaspésie leaders. They foresee that, if the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks does not quickly undertake an important shift, people will soon be deprived, not only of this species, but also of vast natural spaces.

"Saving the Gaspé Peninsula caribou could serve as a spark plug for a shift towards a more resilient, more partici-



Photo: Louis Fradette

There are only 35 caribou or so still alive in the Gaspé Peninsula.

patory, more sustainable and more prosperous society. By putting forward a Gaspé Peninsula solution to save the caribou, all citizens of Quebec will benefit from it in the long term," argues Solidarité Gaspésie, in a press release.

"We call on the Government of Quebec to support the various socio-economic actors concerned as well as the citizens in order to rebuild the caribou herd and our forests, based on a long-term vision of the development of our territory. The Gaspé Peninsula, through its geography and its culture, offers us the opportunity to develop a prototype of eco-responsible development

and land management," also specifies the document's spokespersons, Newport's Eileen Jessop and Gaspé's Carol Saucier.

Also in the short term, the group's leaders are asking the government of Quebec to take two concrete and immediate measures: a moratorium on all silviculture and forestry work in the caribou habitat located in the Gaspé Peninsula and the implementation of the caribou breeding and reintroduction pilot project proposed by Bonaventure's Bioparc de la Gaspésie in September 2021.

In the medium and long term, Solidarité Gaspésie is asking the government of

Quebec to set up a new management model for the Gaspé territory that can serve as a prototype for participation, citizenship and eco-responsible development.

The model suggests that the forestry industry should no longer have a right of veto over the guidelines and practices for the use of forests.

The Solidarité Gaspésie members are asking for long-term changes in the use of the Gaspé territory, in particular a reduction in the overall area allocated to the forest industry and, consequently, restoration of forest surfaces in a connected and integrated network across the region, and the formalization of the protected areas already proposed, with a vision of the territory encompassing the next 50 years and more.

In the event that this reduction in the area allocated to industry would lead to job losses, we ask the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks and the government of Quebec to provide compensation to affected workers, as well as professional requalification programs for those who wish.

Solidarité Gaspésie is a citizen group concerned with the development of the region's territory. Anxious to promote better dialogue between elected municipal, provincial, federal government and citizens, the group members are interested in social, economic, cultural and environmental issues raised by the development of our region, using a non-partisan approach.

Quebec spends millions supporting over 80 projects

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - As part of the Regional Initiatives Assistance Fund (FAIR), the government of Quebec made financial contributions of \$4.57 million during the 2021-2022 period to support 79 development projects in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. Carrying out these initiatives will generate local investments of more than \$24.5 million, in addition to creating or consolidating 184 jobs.

FAIR has a budget envelope of \$30 million over five years, which will end on March 31, 2023. The envelope for the 2022-2023 fiscal year was, however, increased by \$2 million in the last budget in order to accelerate the completion of projects. This bonus

brings it to \$8 million for the current year.

While in the Gaspé Peninsula on May 17, on a regional tour promoting the Accès entreprise Québec network, Lucie Lecours, the Economy Minister, wanted to reassure the region about the future.

"We know that entrepreneurs need our help. It is clear. How will it happen on the ground? For myself, I'm not a fan of adding a bunch of stuff, but I am a fan of looking at what works well and reworking it according to the evolution of the economic situation in each region," explains the minister.

FAIR targets economic and tourism development in six areas: business settings, implementation of economic projects, financing professional

salaries in businesses, local recreational and tourism infrastructures, project coordination, and the implementation of innovative projects.

With Quebec's investment, 184 jobs will be created or consolidated in the region.

Further announcements will be made throughout the year.

Help for the Percé Geoparc

While in the region, the minister visited Percé to announce the allocation of \$320,000 to the Geoparc to support the construction of five rental cottages and a year-round sanitary infrastructure on the campground operating in the heart of the town.

The project is worth \$1.2 million and aims to develop a

year-round tourism service on this UNESCO-recognized territory. The assistance comes from the Programme d'immobilisation en entrepreneuriat collectif.

Assistance for business acquisitions

While in the region the minister also promoted business acquisition announcing loans totalling \$3.6 million.

Construction LFG of Carleton-sur-Mer will receive a \$1 million loan to support the succession of family members and employees. The assistance will allow for continued growth while preserving expertise.

Groupe Bertrand-Rioux of Matane will receive a \$2.6 million loan for the announced acquisition of Habitations

Mont-Carleton. The merger between the two entities will allow the sharing of expertise and the expansion of construction activities into new markets.

"We need to help contractors transition their businesses and leave with peace of mind. In a few weeks, we will announce how we will work with the entrepreneurial ecosystem to ensure that entrepreneurship is in the picture," says Minister Lecours.



Two levels of government provide support for food self-sufficiency in the Gaspé Peninsula

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-SIMÉON - The Quebec Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, André Lamontagne, recently announced \$282,800 dollars in order to support Gaspé Peninsula based food self-sufficiency initiatives. The money comes from the federal and provincial governments.

Two Gaspésie gourmande projects will benefit from \$99,000 to support phase 2 of *Gourmand de la Gaspésie*, a promotional campaign to convince Gaspésians to eat local food, and for the *Espace Gaspésie gourmand* grocery store project, which aims to facilitate the purchase of local products through well identified locations.

The other announcements, totalling \$183,800, aim to support the operating costs of Gaspésie gourmande, as well as for the publication of the annual and bilingual magazine, *Gaspésie gourmande*.

The director of Gaspésie



Gaspésie gourmande Director General Johanne Michaud is glad to make regional food available in a higher number of grocery stores.

Photo: Courtesy of Johanne Michaud

gourmande, Johanne Michaud, is delighted with these announcements. The *Espace Gaspésie gourmand* project will assure the presence of regional products in 14 specific spaces in grocery

stores in the Gaspé Peninsula by the end of May.

“Gourmand de la Gaspésie supports a wide array of promotional initiatives, including a campaign called *Je mange Gaspésien* (I eat Gaspesian

food). As for *Espace Gaspésie*, it was a pilot project we conceived in the spring of 2021 and that was tested over the winter. We are present in more than 14 grocery stores of the region but 14 have agreed to create a specific space for Gaspésie gourmande products,” she points out.

“We received money for several years regarding our commercialization and local shopping projects. There is also operational money for Gaspésie gourmande, the organization, for the next three years. As for the Gaspésie gourmande magazine, the support is for one year,” explains Johanne Michaud.

She adds that her organization has been working on the accessibility of local products for a very long time, but there is currently a really good momentum for regional food.

“We see that there is increased interest in local shopping since the beginning of the pandemic. As for food specifically, we have been working

on regional products for 30 years. It is our daily task. We now feel that we have reached another level. We had projects to keep going, like being present in a higher number of grocery stores and that’s what is happening now. We will use the new funding to feed people, to develop other markets,” stresses Ms. Michaud.

While in Saint-Siméon for the funding announcement, Minister André Lamontagne made a point of highlighting the work of Gaspésie Gourmande. He said that what qualifies the group for increased grants is the fact that they are “people who have a vision, who are mobilized and who have an action plan. More than ever, we want to boost the agri-food sector in Quebec, especially because of our food self-sufficiency strategy.”

Over the years, Gaspésie gourmande has recruited a total of 180 members, including a hundred producers involved in processing.

PORT OF CHANDLER:

Municipal administration holds first exploratory meeting with Port Daniel’s Votorantim Cimentos

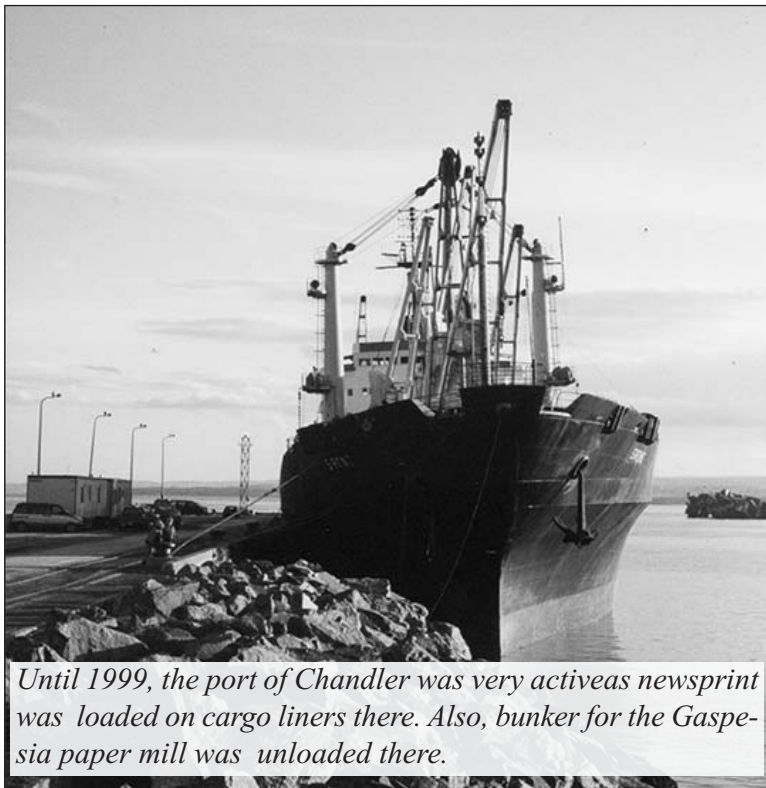
Gilles Gagné

CHANDLER – Staff members of the Town of Chandler recently met representatives from Port Daniel’s Votorantim Cimentos, the owners of the local cement plant, to discuss the possibility of eventually using a refurbished Chandler wharf.

Votorantim Cimentos’ storage space in Port Daniel is not sufficiently large to hold all the input used by the company to produce cement. Votorantim therefore uses some storage space in Belledune, New Brunswick, but the cost is reportedly high, as the input is unloaded there temporarily and has to be trucked or shipped by barge to Port Daniel.

Using Chandler as a replacement port for Belledune would cost less in transshipments, as the Gaspesian town is much closer. Trains could also haul that input between Chandler and Port Daniel, which would save repairs and heavy traffic on the road network.

The mid-May exploratory



Until 1999, the port of Chandler was very active as newsprint was loaded on cargo liners there. Also, bunker for the Gaspesia paper mill was unloaded there.

Photo: Gilles Gagné

meeting with Votorantim representatives was not conclusive in terms of reaching a tentative agreement, points out the mayor of Chandler, Gilles Daraïche.

“We are expecting a second meeting. It was only an exploratory meeting. We will submit our possibilities. In

order to have the wharf rebuilt, we want to have a promoter. We need a customer. The cement plant could be that customer. Transport Canada people want us to have a partner. The ministry will not invest \$50 million for mackerel fishermen,” sums up Mayor Daraïche.

The Chandler wharf was closed by Transport Canada on September 30, 2016, because that ministry had failed to maintain it. At the time, the CTMA Vacancier cruise ship was making 30 stops annually at the port on its way between Montreal and the Magdalen Islands, and during the return trip as well. De-icing salt for the roads was also unloaded in Chandler.

In 2019, a preliminary study was unveiled to present the future of the Chandler port and identified that location as a pinch-hit solution for the Port Daniel cement plant’s lack of storage space.

The anticipated cost of rebuilding the Chandler wharf at the time was \$37.6 million, according to a study carried out by CPCS, a consulting firm. The potential was ranging between 140,000 and 275,000 metric tonnes per year and it would consist of bauxite, iron oxide and petroleum coke.

The study was paid for by Transport Canada. The tentative bill would surpass the \$40 million mark now, says Gilles

Daraïche.

“If it doesn’t work with the cement plant, we have other ideas,” he adds. He is not ready, for now, to talk about another potential user for the wharf. CTMA, the Magdalen Islands cooperative that was stopping for more than a decade 30 times per summer prior to the September 2016 closure, is another potential customer for the Chandler wharf.

“The ramp used by CTMA was inspected and it is still in good condition,” underlines Mayor Daraïche.

The representative of Votorantim Cimentos, Maryse Tremblay, refuses to comment on the content of the recent meeting and the other aspects of the current situation. “It is the Town of Chandler’s project,” she says.

When the wharf was very active for a Gaspé Peninsula port’s standards, prior to the June 1999 closure of the Gaspesia newsprint mill, about 100,000 tonnes were annually transiting through the port of Chandler.

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New CEO at the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Québec appoints Martin Pelletier as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre.

The appointment, approved on May 18 by the Council of Ministers, has been effective since May 30. His term of office is four years.

One of his first tasks will be to restore the image of the organization damaged on May 11 by a damning report from the Auditor General on the management and governance of the CISSS.

The new CEO is not unknown in the Gaspé health network. He worked from 2004 to 2013 at the Bay of Chaleur Health and Social Services Centre (CSSS) as Director of Technical Services.

He then became, from 2013 to 2015, Director General of the CSSS de la Haute-Gaspésie before becoming the first Director of Technical Services at the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS from 2015 to 2017.

He left the CISSS to take up the position of senior director of support services for the Vitalité Health Network in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Originally from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Mr. Pelletier holds a bachelor's degree in ar-



Photo: Taken from LinkedIn

Martin Pelletier previously worked at the CISSS de la Gaspésie

chitecture and a master's degree in organizational development from Université Laval.

"Mr. Pelletier is an action-oriented and versatile manager, and I am convinced that he will be able to demonstrate the leadership necessary to successfully meet the challenges that await him, in particular by continuing the work begun to improve the quality of care and services offered in the Gaspé Peninsula region. His appointment as CEO represents an asset for the CISSS, since he knows very well the issues of the establishment," said the Minister of Health and Social Services, Christian Dubé, in a press release.

The minister mentioned when the Auditor General's report was tabled that an appointment of a new CEO would come quickly. Only a

week passed between the two events.

"I can't wait to take up my position, to come back home and to work with the teams in place to maintain and even improve the accessibility, proximity and quality of care and services for Gaspésians," says Mr. Pelletier via a press release from the CISSS on May 19.

Mr. Pelletier will answer questions from the media in the days following his arrival in office.

The outgoing CEO, Chantal Duguay, announced her retirement last January. She was due to leave on March 31, but the delay in the appointment had led her to extend her term until the new leader arrived.

Reactions from everywhere

The Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure welcomes the appointment of Mr. Pelletier. Sylvain Roy considers this a sigh of relief and a glimmer of hope for the employees.

"All of the reactions I've had are positive. People are very happy. People with whom I have discussed the governance of the CISSS for years are satisfied. At first glance, this is very good news," mentions Mr. Roy.

Mr. Roy says that the new CEO will have to change governance practices and more transparency and respect.

Health care services in the western part of Avignon will be an issue, especially since Mr. Pelletier comes from the New Brunswick Vitality Network.

The Union of nurses, auxiliaries and respiratory therapists of Eastern Quebec is satisfied.

The president, Pier-Luc Bujold, says that in reaction to the filing of the report of the Auditor General, Christian Dubé had indicated that a change would be announced quickly.

Upon the arrival of Mr. Pelletier, Mr. Bujold noted that his workload would be very heavy and offered his cooperation.

"The changing of the guard

is very well seen and appreciated by the members. We think that Mr. Pelletier will be able to have values that correspond to those of the staff we represent," says Mr. Bujold.

CSN welcomes this appointment

The president of the union of support employees, Pierre-Luc Boulay, is very satisfied, believing there will be positive change, especially since the Mr. Pelletier already is familiar with the network.

The working climate should improve. "Honestly, I would think so. He is a man known in the region for having worked at the CISSS. A man of integrity. If the gentleman sees problems within the senior management, I think he will be able to act quickly," says Mr. Boulay who will give Mr. Pelletier the chance in the first weeks.

According to him, the new CEO will want to quickly erase the image of nepotism associated with the CISSS.

CISSS will need many nurses in coming years

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - If recruitment activities are not carried out by the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre, there could be a shortage of up to 400 nurses to meet the needs within five years.

Currently, 120 caregivers are missing to be at a comfortable level. Despite this, the CISSS reassures that it is able to offer all services with quality and accessible care.

The network has hired a senior consultant in human and organizational resources plan-

ning, in particular to establish a succession plan.

The CISSS has attempted to attract workers by visiting educational institutions, creating summer internships and hiring foreign workers. It is also actively working with the Vivre en Gaspésie strategy to attract staff.

Optilab on ice

The CISSS has put its steps to repatriate the autonomy of laboratory services on hold.

In February 2021, the network wanted to recover 100% of the laboratory tests as well as

the management of human and financial resources transferred to Rimouski five years ago.

The president, Richard Loiselle, claimed that Optilab had caused delays during the pandemic, which did not make it possible to manage the health crisis in an optimal way.

The Board adopted a resolution in December 2019 to repatriate the service.

The CISSS indicates that it has no work in this direction and is working with the CISSS of the Lower Saint Lawrence to ensure optimal operation for the region.

Ottawa supports development in Gespeg

Nelson **Sergerie**

GESPEG - Ottawa gives a non-repayable contribution of \$750,000 for the Micmac Nation of Gespeg.

This support will enable the community to establish and improve outdoor spaces such as a greenhouse, garden, workshop, cold storage space for community harvests, gardening containers, library, storage space for sports equipment, an enclosed play area, a shelter and a pedestrian trail.

"Projects such as this one by the Micmac Nation of Gespeg affirm the value of being together once again. Our government is pleased to give our communities the means to offer safe spaces where everyone will enjoy gathering with one another," says Pascale St. Onge, Member of Parliament for Brome-Missisquoi, Minister of Sport and Minister responsible for CED (Canada Economic Development).

"The project will see the creation of a true centre for the Mi'gmaq culture, representing an ideal opportunity for our members to continue to reclaim the rich culture that is ours. These facilities will be spaces to transmit the Mi'gmaq culture and traditions, through which we hope to nourish a sense of community among members from here and elsewhere and establish close ties between our Elders with the wisdom they carry and new generations. This project brings a breath of positivity to the community and will undoubtedly create a momentum that, I hope, will bring a sense of optimism and future opportunities for development," adds Terry Shaw, Chief of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg.

Ottawa brought the total contributions to \$1.6 million through another federal program.

The site is launched and the infrastructure will be located on the grounds of the Gespeg administrative Centre, in Saint-Majorique.

Additional projects are on the table, some in partnership with the community, says Chief Shaw.

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Legal Aid lawyers on strike

Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCÉ: – Legal Aid attorneys in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands walked out on the morning of May 24 to demand from Quebec the same treatment offered to their colleagues who work for the Department of Justice.

The seven CSN (Confederation of National Unions) unionized lawyers were on strike from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on May 24.

The demonstration took place in front of the Legal Aid offices in New Richmond, Chandler, Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m..

Afterwards they protested in front of the Percé, New Carlisle and Matane Courthouses to continue their means of pressure as discussions with Quebec have been ongoing for two years.

“We are asking for the same increase as what the prosecutors had in their last negotiation, 10% over four years. The Treasury Board offered us 6% over three years. We would like ‘pay parity’ with Crown prosecutors because we consider that we have an extremely similar job,” says Laurence Côté-Lebrun, a Legal Aid Lawyer in Chandler and regional



New Richmond prosecutors protest outside the New Carlisle Courthouse.

spokesperson for prosecutors.

The normative aspect of their collective agreement is settled.

Cases that were to be heard have been postponed.

Work overload

The workers say they are overloaded with work. They are calling for more hiring, but this issue cannot be settled at the bargaining table. “We want to keep our jobs attractive to have competent people to work at Legal Aid. If we are not attractive with the shortage of manpower, it is certain that we will have difficulty keeping lawyers,” says Attorney Côté-Lebrun.

In the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, two lawyers are based in New Richmond, two in Chandler,

one in Gaspé, one in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and another in the Magdalen Islands. An executive lawyer is also located in New Richmond.

Prosecutors in the regions of Montreal, Laval, Lanaudière, Laurentides and Lower Saint Lawrence also walked off the job that same day.

The union has already planned other walkout days on June 6 and 7 if nothing changes before then.



The prefect of the Rocher-Percé MRC, Samuel Parisé.

Photo: Nelson Sergerie

New development for the Rocher-Percé airport

Nelson Sergerie

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - The MRC of Rocher-Percé is continuing the work of modernizing its Grande-Rivière airport by working on the expansion of the terminal. On the table for a year, the project is estimated at \$2.7 million.

“The facilities no longer meet current needs. Whether in terms of security or development, there are additional needs. It is for this purpose that we indicate that there is a need to expand,” specifies the prefect Samuel Parisé.

In 2020, \$10.4 million was invested to extend and modernize the airstrip, weather station and runway lighting.

This work had made it possible, in particular, to facilitate the arrival of the ambulance plane for medical transfers.

Studies are continuing to develop tourist charter flights and the cargo component is continuing. The expansion of the terminal has this in mind.



Colleagues from Chandler and Gaspé marched in front of the Percé Courthouse.

Photos: Courtesy

NEW BOAT:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

our rights and upholding our responsibilities for our members,” says Listuguj Mi’gmaq Government Chief Darcy Gray.

The boat, with a full Mi’gmaq crew, will land its catches in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé along with Listuguj’s six other boats. The E. Gagnon et Fils plant processes the catches of the Mi’gmaq community.

“We are grateful to the ocean that sustains our people. The profits generated by

our fisheries’ operations helps fund underfunded school programs, youth programs, language revitalization programs, and various economic projects and initiatives in our community. Our plan is to continue operating our fisheries in the Gaspésie and to benefit from our contribution to the Gaspésie economy with the partners we’ve established over the years,” points out Dr. Fred Metallic, director of the Listuguj Natural Resources Directorate. (With a press release from the Listuguj Mi’gmaq Government)

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Another rare catch

Penny MacWhirter

SAINT-GODEFROI: It may be hard to believe, considering the odds of catching a blue lobster are one in two million, but only a few days after reporting a blue lobster was caught by Nicholas Renouf, another Gaspesian fisherman also caught a blue lobster. Captain of the *Le Copain*, Régis Grenier, along with his father Robert, were surprised to find a bright blue crustacean in their traps. The lobster was male and a legal catch size weighing 1.75 pounds. Régis handed the lobster over to the processing plant, along with his daily catch.



Photos: Courtesy of Régis Grenier

Patient Navigator James Robson

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: James Robson, Patient Navigator, CASA, offers an important support that is available for the English-speaking community from Matapedia to Gaspé. Mr. Robson will assist with any and all needs within the healthcare system. He can accompany clients and guide them at the hospital and/or make certain that they are comfortable with information they receive from healthcare professionals. He will assist with making appointments and will make home visits to make sure that their “after-care” is going smoothly. All of these services are completely free of charge with no strings attached.

Mr. Robson states, “Language barriers should never inhibit proper health care.” He continues, “There can often be a language barrier when it comes to our healthcare system. This can cause frustration for the patient and for the healthcare professional as well. Proper healthcare is vital to our English-speaking population and language barriers must not hinder that care. Everyone deserves to feel confident and validated in their time of need.”

So far this year, Mr. Robson and his service dog, Stitch, who accompanies him 24/7, have assisted more than



Photo courtesy of James Robson

James Robson and his service dog, Stitch, offer assistance to the English-speaking community in dealing with the healthcare system.

a dozen clients. The requests have been for small things such as making phone calls to the hospital to inquire about a lost medical card or for help providing or arranging transportation to appointments. He has been working closely with Rimouski Hospital to improve English services at their facilities. The Centre d’Action Benevole has requested his services to do home visits for certain senior clients who only speak English. He adds, “I am always

happy to help.”

Mr. Robson graduated in 2011 from the pre-hospital emergency care program at John Abbott College. He worked as a paramedic from 2011 to 2019. He was diagnosed with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) in June 2019 and is no longer able to work as a paramedic due to this. He was off work for the two years following and CASA hired him as part of their team in November of 2021.

Pointe-a-la-Croix, Matapedia and St-Alexis de Matapedia.

He proudly states, “I have a magnificent wife and three amazing children (13,10,7). I also have my service dog, Stitch, who is always with me. He was given to me by an organization, who trains and provides service dogs to first responders and military who have PTSD called “Academie Stella Chiens D’assistance”.

Mr. Robson hopes that in the future more people are aware of and use his services. He wants people to feel comfortable contacting him and his goal is to reduce their stress levels. He adds, “Requiring medical care is more often than not stressful enough as it is, and the stress of feeling misunderstood or confused because of the language you speak doesn’t need to be added on.”

The Patient Navigator role is offered through CASA and is funded by CHSSN and the Quebec government.

Do not hesitate to contact the very personable Mr. Robson at 418-752-1030 or email at James@casa-gaspe.com. A reminder that all services are free of charge.

Until 2018, he lived in Huntington, Quebec, where he was born and raised on a dairy farm. He then moved to Pointe-a-la-Croix after accepting the position of Adjoint Chief of Operations for the ambulance service in

Senior was grateful for the help

Diane Skinner

Local senior, Jackie Roussy-MacKinnon, was feeling very stressed about finding a way to an appointment at the hospital in Maria. She mentioned that taxis are very expensive and she could not find another arrangement. She happened to mention this in a post on her Facebook account and a friend who read it told her about Mr. Robson and his role as Patient Navigator. Mrs. Roussy-MacKinnon called CASA and was amazed at how easily and quickly she was able to speak to Mr. Robson and in English! In fact, she commented, “It was so easy that it seemed perfect!”

Mrs. Roussy-MacKinnon tells SPEC that right away her mind was at ease that she could speak in English and she adds that she loves Stitch! This valuable service solved one of her concerns. She adds that “If I had a trophy to give to Mr. Robson, I would!”

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Bill 96: Pay close attention

Diane Skinner

Bill 96 is making waves, no more like a tsunami. The Bill, which was passed into law on May 24, is titled An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Quebec. This is a bill which has an amazing amount of power to change and enforce Quebec's language laws. It makes Bill 101 look weak in comparison. Simon Jolin-Barrette, the minister responsible for the French language in Quebec comments, "If we want citizens to use more French, the one who is supposed to give that example is the state of Quebec."

Anglophones should be paying close attention to what this will mean for the future of the English language in Quebec. Indigenous communities have expressed their displeasure with the contents of Bill 96 and have applied for an exemption, which has currently been denied.

Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General of QCGN (Quebec Community Groups Network), states that a collective response from the English-speaking community may be required to face the changes and challenges that Bill 96 will bring. Her suggestion is that anglophones speak with a united voice. She adds that the "Notwithstanding Clause" that has been invoked, means that the Quebec government cannot be taken into court regarding Bill 96. However, lawyers are preparing to contest the Bill but Sylvia Martin-Laforge states that this process will take years.

This bill is not just "business as usual" both literally and figuratively. The impact on individuals, education, health, rights of immigrants and businesses in Quebec will be mammoth. The bill can demand that the use of the French language in most areas be non-negotiable.

For additional detailed information, go to QCGN's website under Language News if you want to read more information about the potential impact of the Bill.

Specific Changes

Doctors: Minister Jolin-Barrette stresses that anyone who wants to receive health services in English will be permitted to do so. This is in contradiction to earlier announcements stating that doc-



Photo: courtesy QCGN

Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General of QCGN, believes that English-speaking Quebecers need to speak with a united voice on their concerns about the impact of Bill 96.

tors would be required to communicate with patients in French.

Customer service: Under Bill 96, any business that offers services or sells goods in Quebec must be able to serve customers in French.

Job postings: Bill 96 will reduce the number of job postings that require the knowledge of a language other than French. If the posting includes the need for a working knowledge of English, the employer will be required to prove that the job requires a language other than French.

Commercial Publications: Under Quebec's current charter, commercial publications are to be available in French first and may then be offered in English. Bill 96 would expand this requirement to online publications and, in fact, to all publications in whatever format is used. Does this affect English-language newspapers?

Businesses: In any business that has more than twenty-five employees, French must be spoken exclusively in the workplace. The government will have the right to seize an employee's personal phone to verify that they are communicating in French at work. Fines (up to \$30,000) may be given to businesses if there are repeated incidents of employees speaking in a language other than French.

CEGEP: Anglophone students will be required to take three courses in French. In addition, the number of students who can enter English CEGEP programs will be limited. Bill

96 will not permit a student who does not have speaking and writing fluency in French to be granted a diploma.

Minister: A new role will be created for a minister who will oversee making sure that Quebecers are compliant with Bill 96.

Documents, permits, grants: They must all be written exclusively in French.

The justice system: Quebecers will have the right to access the legal arena in English or French. The potential difficulty is that judges will not be required to speak English.

New immigrants/refugees: Those entering the province will be allowed to access services in English, but only for the first six months of arriving in Quebec. After six months all government services shall be conducted in French. The exceptions will be in health and when dealing with the courts.

Bill 96's intent is to strengthen the status of the French language in Quebec, and this will leave anglophones to deal with the impact of the bill. How will this affect English-speaking Quebecers? We will know more in the days and months ahead. It is time for English-speaking individuals in Quebec to pay close attention.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



We didn't start the fire

*We didn't start the fire
It was always burning, since the world's been turning.
We didn't start the fire
No, we didn't light it, but we tried to fight it.
Billy Joel*

Wouldn't it be wonderful to wake up one morning to a newscast that is nothing but good news? Watching the news has become a challenging experience. War. Climate catastrophe. COVID. Nuclear war threats. Economic downturn. Price of gas and thereby rising costs of food. Political happenings. Gun violence and mass shootings. Racism. And now, Bill 96 in Quebec. There is no shortage of bad news. It's all doom and gloom. According to comedian Tracy Morgan, "Bad news travels at the speed of light. Good news travels at the speed of molasses."

The news is everywhere: on tv, our phones, computers, and in conversations with nearly everybody we encounter. Can we see some light at the end of this depressing tunnel? Can we deal with the news in a different way? The news is so difficult and even painful to process that some people are experiencing mental health issues. It has been and continues to be exhausting. There is even a new word to describe this – doomscrolling.

Some people have consciously made the decision to ignore the news, as much as possible in a world where we are saturated with news. But the news is how we are informed about the world. Despite the constant bombardment of negative and disheartening news, it is important to know about the world because it does affect our lives as well. War in Ukraine has contributed to high gas prices. Climate change means that the weather in your area is changing. COVID is still a constant in our world, and North Korea is on the brink of disaster because of high infection rates – very few vaccines available. You need to know about these issues because they will, eventually, touch your life too.

Perhaps one way of handling the negative news is to manage our intake. After seeing the highlights (lowlights?) turn off the tv and limit the amount of news you consume online. In a sense, amend your relationship with the news. "Dear News, it's not you. It's me. Our relationship is not great lately, so we will have to see less of each other."

Check your sources. This is critical because there really is a lot of fake news out there. When you actively watch, listen to or read the news, make it worthwhile! Search for the sources that are from trusted news outlets. Avoid Facebook as a source of news. Search for unbiased and experienced reporters. Look for the facts and the opinions will follow. Facts first.

It is important to stay informed, but let's not put our mental health at risk. Some professionals believe that the current news we are experiencing also affects our physical and emotional well-being.

Information is good, so that we can know the reason why things are happening. Even bad news helps us to adjust our expectations. We didn't "start the fire" but this is the world we are all in. We can manage the impact of all the "doom" news by limiting our intake and using trusted sources.

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Douglastown Community Centre: Two exciting events in one evening

Diane Skinner

On Friday, May 13, two events were presented at the Douglastown Community Centre. One was the launch of a documentary about traditional music and square dancing of the Gaspé, Grande Chaîne, and the other the unveiling of a newly published book by local artist Linda Drody, *Sean's Search for Treasure*. Isabelle Martin, Director of the Centre states, "Community events are crucial to the well-being of our community. Despite some great online events, we still think meeting in person is the best way to solidify our ties to one another and lift our spirits."

By all accounts the 'double' event was a huge success. There was a good turnout for both the book launch and Guy Bouchard's Grande Chaîne, presented that evening in English. (It is also available in French.) The community had the opportunity to get together, enjoy the events and to have a chat and a laugh. Isabelle adds, "After those nights, everyone seems to leave walking a little lighter, including the Community Centre's staff."

Grande Chaîne: Documentary on traditional music and dances

Diane Skinner

DOUGLASTOWN: "It was so popular here in the 1950s and then poof! It was gone in one generation," states Guy Bouchard, the creator of a new documentary, *Grande Chaîne*. This film features the story of the revival of music (fiddle music) and traditional dance (square dancing) of the Gaspé, specifically in the Land's End area of the peninsula. It includes interviews, traditional music and, of course, square dancing.

Music and dance are such a big part of the lives of people from the area in and around Douglastown. At one time there were many fiddlers, and weekly square dances with a caller which provided an opportunity to socialize and have fun. In 1990, there were 26 fiddlers in the Douglastown area! Those days are experiencing a revival in the area as well as in Bonaventure where square dancing is enjoyed today.

Guy Bouchard, himself a fiddler, is the creator of the new

documentary. The title is a reference to a square dance formation and to the Appalachian Mountain Range which extends from Alabama and Georgia in the United States then to the Gaspé where it drops into the sea.

Guy states, "I knew about the richness of the music here and we were able to dig through the archives to hear the music that has been preserved."

He mentions the work of Glenn Patterson, a Montreal-based old-time fiddler who has documented the older fiddle traditions of the Gaspé Coast, featuring fiddlers such as Erskine Morris. As part of this project, older people in the area were interviewed. Also, the "Bible" of square dancing in Quebec, published in the 1980's by Simone Voyer, was consulted.

Guy had filmed, (with the help of a camera person and a sound person, locals from the Town of Gaspé), a large part of the documentary by early 2020 when COVID stopped the process that would see the

completion of the documentary according to its projected date. Finally, the documentary was completed and premiered on Friday, April 13, at the Douglastown Community Centre. There is also a CD of traditional fiddle music and a shorter film featuring four dances which accompany the documentary.

Why does square dancing give the dancers so much joy? Guy says, "It is a social activity and just about anyone can participate." When asked if special shoes are required, he laughingly replies, "You can dance barefoot, but you have to look out for the feet of the other dancers."

It took a community to create the film, Guy adds. He mentions Hélène Gaulin, a talented caller. He proudly states that almost everyone featured in the film are volunteers, except the camera and sound persons. The film was financed by Desjardins, Ville de Gaspé, MRC de La Côte-de-Gaspé, TELUS, SADC de Gaspé, LM Wind Power - Canada, Conseil



Photo: Douglastown Community Centre

A group of dancers enjoying the traditional music and square dances of the Gaspé.

québécois du patrimoine vivant, Le fournil de l'hermine and Roy Nissan Gaspé. Supporting partners include Festival Musique du Bout du Monde, Festival Vues sur mer, Vision Gaspé-Percé Now, Festival en chanson de Petite-Val-lee et La Fabrique Culturelle. The Douglastown Community Centre and Isabelle Martin as-

sisted, facilitated and encouraged this whole process.

The film is now the property of the Douglastown Community Centre and will be shown at local festivals and will be available on a platform where you can view the documentary and listen to the CD soon. Watch the Douglastown Facebook page for this information.

Linda Drody launches new book

Diane Skinner

GASPE: Linda Drody, a self-taught artist who specializes in painting iconic scenes of the Gaspé, historical buildings, life on the Coast, Christian paintings, Christmas and greeting cards and comical scenes, has added the title of author to her resumé. She launched her book at the Douglastown Community Centre on Friday, May 13, to an appreciative group. Colleen Briand from Nova Scotia states, "Loved the story and the illustrations! Can't wait to read your next one. May the luck of the Irish be with you!" Ellen Cooley said, "It's a gem of a book."

Her newly published book, *Sean's Search for Treasure* is about a "little Irish guy who started searching for gold at a very young age. Sean is a leprechaun. Why would I write about a leprechaun? Well, there are so many Irish descendants on this Coast and, as time goes by, we celebrate our Irish heritage less and less. My parents are both from Irish descent and we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day every year. It



Photo: Courtesy Linda Drody

Gaspesian visual artist Linda Drody has added author and illustrator to her resumé with the publication of her new book Sean's Search for Treasure, available in both English and French.

was a big celebration for the whole town. I have always found that leprechauns seemed charming in their own mischievous and mysterious way." Linda continues, "Sean, my main character, leaves Ireland and eventually ends up in Percé in search of treasure. You will have to read the story to see whether he finds gold. What I can say is he finally finds something far better than gold."

Linda created all the illus-

trations for her book and worked countless hours painting 16 original images. She spent most evenings painting until she went to bed and every day that she was not working she would paint. She tells SPEC that she worked on her book for a full year! She reflects that searching for a printer and all that entails was a challenge. There were so many aspects of publishing to be researched, such as thick-

ness of cover, to laminate or not and even the thickness of the pages. She made the decision to publish the book in two formats: English and French. Her decision to translate the book into French was made because there are so many French-speaking people in Quebec that have Irish roots.

Linda is grateful for friends who have supported her and cheered her on since the inception of the book. She says that two friends, Mary Robertson and Jennifer Willett, fellow writers, encouraged her and checked in regularly to see how the book was progressing. Linda's husband was also a great support, and she would ask him to pose for her when she was creating the paintings. She said this would give them both a great laugh.

Linda gives credit to her own mother who was a gifted storyteller who often told Linda stories in her childhood. Linda tells us, "I heard stories of her uncle, Barney Donahue, and some were very wild tales. I thought he would make a good character in my book and since my story is fiction, I named him

Blarney instead of Barney. Even though my mother passed away many years ago, her fun stories remain with me. She grew up in Irishtown in the second range of Percé, was half Irish and half French, and celebrated St. Patrick's Day every year. She was my inspiration for this book and that's the reason why I dedicated it to her."

Any child (or adult) would enjoy this story (a book for the young and the young at heart) and it has been created as a book well-suited for storytelling. It is a perfect gift for any Gaspesian child and a keepsake for tourists and residents.

The book *Sean's Search for Treasure* will be for sale at Musée de la Gaspésie; the Community Centre in Douglastown; Lisa Bond's Gift Shop, Gaspé; Kempffer Museum, New Carlisle and additional locations to be announced. The cost of the book is approximately \$20.

What is Linda's next project? More books! She has several ideas, and her goal is to publish another book by next year, summer 2023.

It's spring: Looking out at the world

Diane Skinner

It is spring and the time for renewal and maybe a home project not just the usual springtime cleaning but something you may have been putting off for a while.

Windows

Windows should last for about 20 to 25 years. If you see that some issues are developing, it may be time to take action. If you see condensation or fogging, drafts or noises (rattling of windows in windy weather), rot or mold, it may be time to replace your windows.

If there is condensation around the windows, try waterproof caulking but if you can feel drafts, water between

the double panes or trouble when opening or closing the windows, start to look seriously at your options.

To replace the windows on a typical three-bedroom home will cost between \$8,000 to \$10,000 (for 10 windows) or even more. That estimate would be for basic, weather efficient sliders and picture windows. If you choose custom or other unique features, the price will rise.

When replacing windows there are two choices: inserting new windows into the casing OR removing windows and frames and then replacing the windows.

The first choice is less expensive but the second option will give a better more energy-efficient result.

Types of windows

Picture – Picture windows are large and in varying sizes and may have two casements or double-hung windows on either one or both sides. Due to their large size, they let in a lot of light and offer great views. They do not open and are pricey.

Casement (hinged) – This type of window swings in and out, like a door. They are opened and closed with a crank, offer ventilation and when closed should provide a tight seal.

Single hung – This type is often installed in smaller rooms such as bedrooms or bathrooms. It is called single hung because only the bottom sash opens.

Double hung – This type of

window is made up of one (or more) movable panels that are called sashes. The sashes may open at an angle (tilted) or by sliding.

Bay – This type has one large window in the middle which does not open and a casement window on each side which does open. The large window “sticks out.” You will likely need help to install this type of window if you are a “do-it-yourselfer” because they are quite heavy.

Awning – This type is basically a casement window that swings open from the bottom.

Horizontal sliding – These are the most common styles because they are relatively inexpensive. They can be single sliders or double sliders.

What windows are best for your home?

This depends on the style you like, where you live and your budget.

Which type of window offers soundproofing?

Laminated windows provide soundproofing. The plastic between the glass cuts down on noise and vibrations.

Note: Most municipalities require a building permit if you are installing a window where one did not exist before or enlarging an existing window.

Should I replace windows over time or all at the same time? Professionals recommend replacing all windows at one time, if possible.

GOOD HAIR DAYS AHEAD: Transition your hair from winter to spring

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: The season for renewal is upon us and even hair will appreciate some love. Your hair has suffered through the dry indoor air and being stuffed into toques, hoods and hats. SPEC spoke with hair stylist Tracy-Lee Pelletier who has 17 years experience.

What damage can hair get over the winter months? Caused by?

During the winter months, your hair can sometimes get damaged by the cold weather and indoor heating. According to Tracy-Lee this can result in “dry hair, making it more fragile and prone to breakage. It is the same idea as having dryer skin in the winter due to a lack of moisture in the air.”

Tracy-Lee recommends moisturizing hair masks and oil scalp treatments for those who develop dandruff in the winter. As a preventative measure “a humidifier will rehydrate the air in your house and improve the health of your hair.”

Spring is a time for renewal and that includes your hair. “Nothing says renewal more than a trim at the end of winter and getting ready for the warmer weather ahead. Hair trims are essential to prevent breakage,” advises Tracy-Lee.

As spring arrives many people seek a change in their hairstyle. Tracy-Lee notes that the “most popular request for spring is highlights. Even brunettes like to get a sun kissed look before summer.



Photo: Tracy-Lee Pelletier

Hairstylist Tracy-Lee Pelletier's most popular request in springtime is for highlights. Even brunettes like to get a sun kissed look before summer.

when winter starts to calm down a bit and the snow is starting to melt.”

For those who suffer from hair issues in the winter, Tracy-Lee has some good advice: “In winter, never go outside with wet hair. Though it will not cause a cold like our mothers always warned, it will cause harm to our hair. It can be harmful to the scalp and could

cause frostbite on the coldest days. Our hair is much more vulnerable when it is wet and therefore more prone to breakage and is definitely harder on already split ends. This is due to the water in the strands becoming stiff which then expands the hair molecules and causes the hair to break. This all leads to extra dry and damaged hair.”

THEGASPEPEC.COM
specs@globetrotter.net

One key to a longer life may be spirituality

Diane Skinner

According to a recent study (2012) from Harvard University, people who attend church may experience longer lives. Supported by data gathered over more than 15 years, it may be one of the factors that contribute to longevity.

It begs the question, which came first, the chicken or the egg? In other words, do people who are more healthy attend church more often? Or does going to church lead to a longer and healthier life?

Researchers concluded that those who attend church on a regular basis are less likely to be smokers, which can contribute to living a longer, healthier life. In addition, those who attend church may have a stronger social group which can be a boost for older adults. Another aspect is that attending church may bring peace of mind and reduce stress, both factors that boost immunity and therefore longevity.

Old Farmers' Almanac predictions for summer and fall 2022

Diane Skinner

The Old Farmers' Almanac (Canadian edition) predicts that May will have near normal temperatures and be drier than usual. Summer will be warmer and rainier than normal. The hottest periods will occur in late July and from the middle to the end of August. September and October will have near normal temperatures, but we will experience more rain during those two months. Let us watch to see how accurate the predictions are!

June's Full Strawberry Moon

Diane Skinner

The next Full Moon will occur on June 14. (Last Full Moon was May 16, 2022.) The Full Moon in June is referred to by a variety of names, mostly originating from Indigenous communities. The term Strawberry Moon is commonly used for the June Full Moon, originating most likely from the Algonquin and Ojibwe people because ripe strawberries were ready to be picked during the month of June. Other names that have been used for the June Full Moon include Blooming Moon, Green Corn Moon, Hot Moon and Birth Moon. All of these come from occurrences in the natural world.

For those who like to look ahead, the dates of the Full Moons for the rest of 2022 will be July 13, August 11, September 10, October 9, November 8 and December 7.

Announcements

Obituary



KEAYS: Sybil Miller

December 11, 1916 - May 20, 2022

Sybil Miller Keays died peacefully at Riverpath Retirement Residence on May 20, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her husband, J. Russell Keays and her son-in-law Barry M. Rowles. She is survived by her daughter Barbara Keays Rowles; her son James M. Keays (Elizabeth Campbell-Keays; three granddaughters, Kimberly (Tom Awram),

Alexandra (Daniel Lackner) and Mika Keays; and four great-grandchildren, Mika and Lola Awram and Kaia and Liam Lackner.

She loved to regale many generations of friends with stories of early Gaspé. She was the omnipresent Matriarch to many who would share their teenage heartthrobs, heartbreaks and dreams; always with optimism and wisdom. She also taught us to be loyal, forgiving, just and last but not least, to dance. She loved her family, her friends, Gaspé but, above all, her beloved Haldimand Beach.

She leaves an emptiness in our hearts. There will be a service at St. Andrew's, York in August.

Celebration of Life

Celebration Of Life

The celebration of life service for Shawn Suddard will take place on Saturday, June 11, at 2 p.m. in Saint John's - St. Philips Church in Sandy Beach.

The family will receive condolences at the church before the service from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

PHOTO

When submitting a photo for this page, please send in a digital photo (.jpg) to specs@globetrotter.net. You can also send your photo by mail.

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



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YORK:

York River Seniors AGM

June 16: The York River Senior Citizens Club will be holding its annual general meeting at 7 p.m. at the York River Community Hall. Ten draws for \$25 gift certificates will be held and light refreshments will be offered. Please call: 418-355-4732 or email: ronaldmundle@gmail.com to confirm your presence.

YORK:

York River Community Centre AGM

June 6: The AGM for the York River Community Centre will be held at 7 p.m. at the Community Centre, 702 York Blvd W, Gaspé. There will also be the election for the two directors from the public. The financial statement will also be presented. For more information

call Tony at 581-887-9351 or 418-368-3276.

PORT DANIEL:

Three Star Golden Age Club

Tuesdays: Pétanque is starting once again. Come out from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday evening to have fun and learn a new game. Cost is \$3.

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.

June 11: Music with Vern Huntington beginning at 8:30 p.m.

June 14: General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

June 19: Fathers Day breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Breaking of Bread for believers. Drive-In Gospel Meetings at the Fair Haven Bible Camp grounds at 2 p.m. Covid-19 considerations /social distancing. Rain or shine. Sponsored by the New Carlisle Bible Chapel.

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:

Funeral Association

Saturday, July 30: Gift Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, New Carlisle. \$10 a series or 3 for \$20. Anyone wishing to donate a gift or a cash donation please contact Betty Ann Crozier.

September 3: Pot Luck Supper beginning at 5 p.m. at the

Town Hall. \$15 per adult and \$7 for children under 10. Anyone wishing to donate a casserole or other food items, please contact Mary Woods or Betty Ann Crozier.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50 Plus Club

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

June 3: Jam session, open to all musicians and spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 7:30 p.m.

June 19: Father's Day Brunch from 9 a.m. to 12 (noon), \$15 per adult and \$10 for children under 12. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room

The book room will be closed until **September**. Anyone who needs assistance this summer can contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

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Tired of being sick, busted and disgusted? Check out "The Stand" at Revival.com every night on YouTube, smarttv, phone internet, satellite. Get some joy and good news.

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Sunday, June 5

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Why do they say.... by Gary Briand

"Don't tell me you bought that white elephant" voiced a man to his acquaintance who had recently purchased an older home in the Gaspésie area on a road no longer kept open in winter.

Where does the term white elephant come from? The King of Siam was called the Lord of all albino elephants and owned and was given all the white elephants in the country. The animals were sacred to the king but utterly useless for his purposes. He would ride or work one of them but the rest were kept in a corral. When someone offended the king, his majesty gave the offender a white elephant. The result was clear: the offender was eaten out of house and home. He could not kill the beast as the unjustified death of an albino meant certain beheading for the reluctant owner.

Any possession, then, that eats up money and can't be gotten rid of, especially a huge big house in poor condition merits the appellation "white elephant" I have heard the phrase applied to older, larger cars in Gaspé.



Herbed Popcorn Cornbread

Prep time: 15 minutes Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) cornmeal
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) sugar
- 2 tsp (10 mL) baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) each salt, pepper and garlic powder
- 2 eggs, at room temperature
- 1 cup (250 mL) milk, at room temperature
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) unsalted butter, melted
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) shredded cheddar cheese
- 4 slices bacon, cooked and chopped
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) finely chopped fresh parsley
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) finely chopped fresh chives
- 1/2 bag (220 g bag) ready-to-eat sweet and salty kettlecorn popcorn with no artificial colours or flavours

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). In large bowl, whisk together flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, oregano, salt, pepper and garlic powder until well combined.
2. In separate bowl, whisk together eggs, milk and butter until blended; stir into flour mixture just until moistened. Fold in cheese, bacon, green onions, parsley and chives; fold in popcorn.
3. Scrape into greased 9-inch (23 cm) square baking pan; smooth top.
4. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown and cornbread springs back when touched lightly in centre. Transfer to rack; let cool completely or serve warm.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Owning real estate has been a wise investment lately, Aries. Your home may have increased in value. Now could be an opportunity to sell and reap the profits.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

You want to advance your relationship, Taurus. The best way to do that is to have some serious conversations with your romantic partner. Discuss everything.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Rework your budget, Gemini.

You likely have some home renovations that you want to tackle over the next few weeks, and now is as good a time as any to get started.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Your mystique has others interested in emulating your style, Cancer. They can try, but they won't be able to completely replicate your special nature.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may be thinking about starting a new long-term project. Put your vision on paper first so you can map out your plans and see if it is feasible with your current budget.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you will be surrounded by plenty of people interested in so-

cial engagement in the days ahead. That is fine news for you, as you enjoy being out on the town.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Efforts at work have not gone unnoticed, Libra. What you have worked toward has impressed those who are in position to move you further along in the company.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, they may not be on the top of your mind, but legal matters must be worked out soon. This is a good week to revisit your long-term plans if it's been awhile.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Projects worked on this week will have a significant impact on your future, Sagittarius. You have a

magic touch of sorts, so put it to good use in the days to come.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, relationships in your life are strengthened over the course of this week. It is because you communicate effectively and with honesty and affection.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
You are interested in health and nutrition, including certain nutrients, exercise programs or other forms of alternative therapy. Study up on the subject.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, artistic pursuits are piquing your interest, so focus your efforts on practical creative pursuits, like cooking or interior design.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 29

Daniel Tosh,
Comedian (47)

MAY 30

Clint Bowyer, Race Car
Driver (43)

MAY 31

Colin Farrell, Actor (46)

JUNE 1

Tom Holland, Actor (26)

JUNE 2

Jo Koy, Comic (51)

JUNE 3

Jill Biden, First Lady (71)

JUNE 4

Mackenzie Ziegler,
Dancer (18)

A production tells the story of Gaspé during the Second World War

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Gaspé was the North American town that saw World War II up close, but few people know about this element of the town's history.

That's why a series of video vignettes and podcasts entitled *Gaspé at the time of the Second World War* was created by historian Fabien Sinnett and producer Tom Eden.

"There were a lot of programs and a lot of interviews about the Battle of the St. Lawrence. It was generalized. What we wanted was to talk about life in Gaspé at that time, in the village. It was a village at the time. It was mainly to highlight that. Getting into the details," explains Mr. Sinnett.

The project took a few months to complete.

"When he mentioned he was interested in telling his story, it didn't fall on deaf ears," adds Mr. Eden.

People forget that Gaspé was the nerve centre of North America during the war.



Photo: Courtesy of

Video vignettes and podcasts tell an important and little-known part of Gaspé's history.

"It's true. Even today, there are people who say it didn't happen. I find that appalling. It was a historic event. No one would have thought that the war could have reached a place like Gaspé," says Mr. Sinnett.

"Germany wanted to have enough submarines to inter-

cept the supply ships to England. The war was taking a new turn. That's one of the reasons Gaspé was involved in that war. All the services to supply that period were in Gaspé," says the historian.

Twenty-three ships were sunk by the Germans.

Finding the images to show

the Gaspé of that time was quite a challenge.

"Mr. Sinnett himself has an impressive collection of images and documents but it's definitely a big challenge to find images from that time. The means were not the same. Not everyone had cameras," says the producer.

The launch took place on May 17 in front of a full house in Gaspé.

"It shows that people are interested and curious about that era, but also to see Mr. Sinnett," says Mr. Eden.

The historian hopes that one day a concrete site will be erected in Gaspé to explain and show this period of history.

"It is our dream to have a small museum. We do have our naval base (at Canada's Birthplace) that we have reconstructed, but we would like to have something bigger. We would have all the necessary material to tell this story which is important for Canada. We hope one day to find the funding and the energy to do it," concludes Mr. Sinnett with hope.

The clips are available on the Birthplace of Canada YouTube channel and the podcasts on Podbean.

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Town of Gaspé joined Berceau du Canada in the realization of this project.

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