

Permanent closure of the head section of the New Richmond wharf for safety reasons

Gilles Gagné

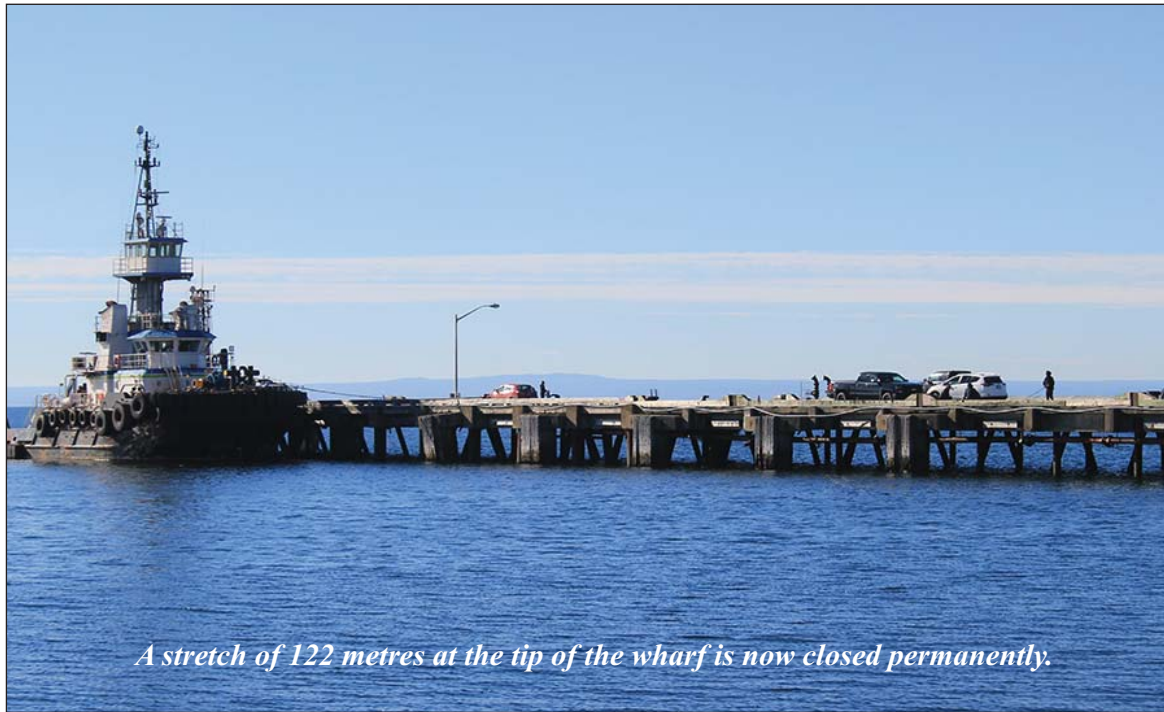
NEW RICHMOND — Following an underwater inspection carried out by a specialized firm from Lévis, the Town of New Richmond is forced to prohibit access to the head section of the local wharf by vehicles and pedestrians in order to ensure the safety of its users.

The wharf is consequently closed over a stretch of 122 metres. It doesn't cover the whole part on piles. The head section is the widest portion of the wharf that is on piles, with a beam of 15 metres. The section that remains open is either on piles, where the width is narrower than 9 metres, or on the rock dyke. It measures 205 metres in length.

The Town of New Richmond was notified of the obligation to close the head section of the wharf following a rigorous inspection carried out on June 1, during which numerous anomalies were noted. The official report will be received in the next weeks and will then be communicated publicly. The name of the consultant is BLM, which offers services in engineering and scuba diving. The study's cost reached \$30,000.

"We are very disappointed with the turn of events. We knew this infrastructure was fragile, but not to this extent. The population has enjoyed this infrastructure for the past 60 years. The wharf is part of our recent history, and it is with sadness that we must resign ourselves to closing a section of it," says Mayor Éric Dubé. "We cannot ignore the advice of professionals and, at no time, can we afford to play with public safety," he adds.

The New Richmond wharf was built in 1964 by Bathurst Paper for its then brand new linerboard mill. The New Richmond wharf has been municipal property for nearly 10 years following the sale of the infrastructure by the now defunct Smurfit-Stone eight years after the mill closed in August 2005. The head section of the wharf



A stretch of 122 metres at the tip of the wharf is now closed permanently.

Photo: G. Gagné

has never been upgraded, unlike the original section, which was rebuilt in the early 2000s. Two studies were carried out since its acquisition in 2013 and a repair project was submitted to the Quebec government, unfortunately without success.

"I met Jean D'Amours in 2014 when he was the minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula but also the minister responsible for the maritime strategy. At that time, we were talking about a project exceeding slightly over \$20 million. He came back to us saying that there was no program for us, since we had no accurate project, with a sure-shot user. He told us that 'the day you have a project and a user, come back to see us.' We still don't have a valid user," explains Mayor Dubé.

A few years ago, the Town of New Richmond also entertained talks with the Mi'gmaq of Gesgapegiag in order to see if the two entities could work together and look for other utilizations for the wharf.

"We explored plenty of things with Gesgapegiag. Those things didn't materialize into something that could have rejuvenated the wharf. In 2004, in the documents of Smurfit-Stone, we saw that repairing it through replacing the piles and the concrete base would have

cost \$8 million. The wharf was repairable then. It is no longer the case for the head section. It could cost \$50 million to do an overall refurbishment now. Whether it is \$40 million or \$50 million, the Town would have to invest 10%. I don't see how I could justify an investment of 4\$ million at the municipal council," explains Éric Dubé.

The municipal administration will get the complete report of BLM's June 1 inspection within the next couple of weeks.

"I will know more about a possible follow-up on that file. Do we have to remove it (the closed part). We are not there yet, as I don't see a rule that would force us to do that. We haven't reached the step where we must decide what to do. We could see it fall in the water and become a habitat for crabs and other underwater forms of life. We have to see the complete report before making decisions," analyzes Mr. Dubé.

Access, already impossible for vehicles, will also be phys-

ically restricted for pedestrians. The Town of New Richmond asks for the collaboration of these citizens in order to respect this new instruction for the safety of all.

The Town of New Richmond presented a condensed conclusion of the BLM report at its June 6 monthly public meeting. Mayor Dubé knew on June 3 that the fate of the wharf's head part looked gloomy because the lady that assessed the structure for BLM warned him that the inspection was revealing many serious flaws.

"I was expecting a stronger reaction during the municipal meeting. People seemed resigned. It is true that the life of that section could not be eternal. People were aware that it was a matter of time. The wharf also carries a sentimental value. I am thinking of Raymond Parent, a sports fisherman, who spent his life on the wharf. He told us that he will change spots. How many people had their first kiss there, caught their first fish, smoked their first joint, burned tires or got there to talk seriously about various subjects? A lot," concludes Mayor Dubé.

RéGÎM's VIA Rail shuttle to return

Nelson Sergerie

CARLETON-SUR-MER - After being disrupted by the pandemic, the VIA Rail shuttle organized by the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine will be back on June 22.

This is the third summer for the service that was introduced in 2019, but suffered the impacts of the pandemic in 2020 and a late launch in 2021.

As early as April, riders were already inquiring with the transit agency about a possible return of the shuttle. Reservations have already been made.

"This is a service that is requested by citizens and tourists. We are very happy to announce the return of the service this summer," says Director Marie-Andrée Pichette.

In 2019, 447 passengers used the service. In 2021, in a season shortened from August 11 to September 30, 47 people used the shuttle.

"I expect a boom. I think the cost of gas is going to affect how tourists travel this summer. I think there will be more use of trains and long-distance public transportation. We will have to see how this will affect the shuttle service," says Director Pichette.

VIA Rail will offer three trains this summer between Montreal and Halifax. The same type of shuttle is offered during the holiday season.



The VIA Rail shuttle is back full time this summer

Photo: N. Sergerie

Improving the work climate and integrity are the priorities of the new CEO of the CISSS

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre, Martin Pelletier, wants to improve the work environment and the integrity of the regional health network.

The new head of the organization gave his first press briefing on June 6 in Gaspé since taking office on May 30.

Mr. Pelletier wants to practice a policy of "outstretched hands" in order to get rid of the toxic work climate that has been criticized by the unions, but also by the Auditor General who investigated this aspect of things over the past year.

"My management style is a style focused on human resources. It will help create an attractive and encouraging work environment for everyone," believes the new presi-



Photo: N. Sergerie

The new CEO met the press for the first time on June 6

dent and CEO.

Mr. Pelletier who is from Haute-Gaspésie and still has a foothold in Cap-Chat acknowledges that he's read the Audi-

tor General's report extensively.

He wants to put in place the action plan that was developed following the observation.

"What interests me is the

action plan and seeing how we are going to move forward with the actions we are proposing. What you also need to know is that we will be under supervision for three years. It's three-quarters of my mandate where I will have to report to the auditor's office to confirm that corrective measures have been taken," explains Mr. Pelletier.

Contract management was also targeted by the report. "The question of integrity and honesty, it is something that we will continue. It really is integrity and transparency. These are values that I have," launches the new CEO when questioned on what point he wishes to correct as a priority.

Martin Pelletier is no stranger to the CISSS, having been its first director of technical services when the organization was created between 2015 and 2017.

He makes this observation between his departure and his return. "I see a lot of progress. There are many files on which I was working in planning, in preparation, which are now carried out. This is good news," says Mr. Pelletier.

He notes that the organization has had a balanced budget since its inception seven years ago. "There is enthusiasm following my nomination. I'm coming. But at least it shows that I left a good impression. Now, I am ready to move the organization forward," replied the CEO following his arrival at the head of the CISSS.

The former CEO, Chantal Duguay, who assumed the transition between the end of her mandate on March 31 and the arrival of Mr. Pelletier, is no longer employed by the CISSS.

She announced last January her intention to retire.

More humanity demanded at the CISSS

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The union of nurses, auxiliary nurses and respiratory therapists of Eastern Quebec is demanding more humanity from the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS).

"Following the very damning report of the Auditor General, there are many things to do, but it takes a foundation. It's really to tell the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS what we want and what we no longer want, to have the basis for discussions about the future of re-humanizing healthcare and the working conditions in the Gaspé Peninsula. The report speaks for itself," says President Pier-Luc Bujold, who held a press conference on June 2 in Gaspé.

Called upon to specify what he did not want anymore at the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS, Mr. Bujold had several requests. "The lack of listening, the flexibility of mobility, the use of mandatory overtime and many other things in terms of the work environment noted in the report," explains Mr. Bujold.

According to him, Gaspésians need accessible healthcare with time allotted. "Often, care cannot last more than five minutes. It's not 2 x 4's that are treated at the Gaspé



Photo: N. Sergerie

President Pier-Luc Bujold surrounded by delegates from his union.

Peninsula CISSS. These are patients. It can't be managed like a factory," criticizes the union president.

While meeting in Gaspé on

June 1, union authorities adopted a Declaration of Principles for more humanity in healthcare, which was presented to the press on June 2.

Mr. Bujold notes that Quebec has made promises to improve care and working conditions, but he does not see the results on the ground.

"It looks like we are in a pre-election announcement with legislative drafts, but it is certain that we will keep a watchful eye. We have a statement. We're going to stomp our feet. We will be present to make ourselves heard and to work in collaboration with the new CEO of the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS to apply these principles," says Bujold.

"We will highlight the AG's (Auditor General's) report and our expectations for the future of the CISSS. We hope for great listening and willingness. But as we said in recent weeks, the CEO will not be able to do this alone. We are part of the solution, but also managers will have to share the Auditor General's recommendations," concluded Mr. Bujold.

Maria Hospital replacement on the agenda of Martin Pelletier

Gilles **Gagné**

MARIA - Martin Pelletier, the new president and chief executive officer of the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre of the Gaspé Peninsula, points out that the replacement of Maria Hospital is one of the projects he will have to assess during his term which started on May 30.

The new building is slated for the same property, a little to the north, mentions Mr. Pelletier. When asked if coastal

erosion is considered in the location scenarios, he replies that it is the case.

"Yes, the idea is to build behind the current hospital so the services would still be offered during the new construction. It goes up and we move away from the shore. This (erosion) is a concern we had in 2017. I worked on it but I cannot go into details," explains Martin Pelletier, who was in charge of buildings for the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre five years ago.

The current imagery section

of the hospital, where X-rays and scanning services are notably offered, will be part of the new hospital, as the section was built just a few years ago.

During the huge December 6, 2010, storm that hit the Gaspé Peninsula, the lawn located in front of the hospital was partially flooded. The level of the seas is supposed to rise over the next decades.

As for a ballpark figure regarding the cost of an eventual new hospital, Martin Pelletier stresses that the numbers mentioned over the last few years,

a range of \$300 million to \$500 million, makes some sense.

"However, we see incredible things on the (construction) market at the present time. It's hard to make a prediction about the delivery schedule and the manufacturing of the materials since everything is so unstable. Production costs are exploding but we will need another hospital at one point," he remarks.

The oldest section of the Maria hospital was erected in 1954 but several sections and modifications were added over the last six decades.

Finally action on the Gaspé rail file

Nelson **Sergerie**

NEW RICHMOND - Activities are accelerating in the repair of the railway line between Caplan and Port-Daniel-Gascons.

While Quebec worked on the engineering aspect behind the scenes, along with 20 months of silence, a cascade of calls for tenders has been launched since February.

In total, nine calls for tender will be launched by the summer if the pace continues with the objective of joining Port-Daniel-Gascons to the network in 2024.

Five calls for bids have already been completed: the contract for the reconstruction of the Ruisseau Leblanc bridge in Caplan and those for the rehabilitation of the Bonaventure and Shigawake River bridges and the replacement of the Castilloux Stream culvert in Port-Daniel-Gascons. Quebec has just launched the call for tenders for the rehabilitation of the bridge over the small Port-Daniel River.

In the case of the Caplan structure, the contract has already been awarded in the amount of \$7.9 million to Construction Polaris CMM.

For the Bonaventure River, only one bidder submitted an offer of \$6.6 million; the same scenario for the Shigawake River with a single proposal at \$9.2 million. For Castilloux Creek, the lowest bid is \$3.1 million. These contracts have not yet been awarded. T h i s

represents the fifth such call since the beginning of the year.

In the coming weeks, other calls for tenders are planned for the replacement of two bridges on Arsenault Stream and a culvert on Church Stream in Caplan and the relocation of the railway line near the cement plant in Port-Daniel-Gascons. In the latter case, a public information session will be held before the start of the work.

"Since the beginning of the year, I have had to say that I am very happy to see the turn it is taking and that it respects the schedule that has been submitted. I am confident that in 2024, we will be in Port-Daniel," rejoices the president of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie, Éric Dubé.

On the Port-Daniel-Gascons-Gaspé section, a reassessment of costs and schedule is underway, without once again giving a precise date for reaching the Gaspé terminus.

"I expect that by the end of the year, the ministry will be able to give a date for Gaspé, with a timetable for the work to be done that will be reliable and concrete," hopes Mr. Dubé.

Lebouthillier still wants VIA Rail

At the same time, the return of the VIA Rail train to the Gaspé Peninsula remains a priority for the Member of Parliament for the Gaspé

Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

In 2016, Diane Lebouthillier had obtained assurances from the former management that the passenger train would go to New Carlisle as soon as the rail is repaired, which is expected in 2024 for the Caplan-Port-Daniel section.

"Especially when you see all the problems we have with air transport. I do not promise the return of the train in 2024, but I can tell you that by 2024, it is certain that I will have had discussions with VIA Rail," confirms Ms. Lebouthillier.

Ottawa has pledged \$46 million to deal with coastal erosion regarding the repairs on the third stretch, the Port-Daniel-Gascons-Gaspé section.

With construction costs soaring, Ms. Lebouthillier is skeptical about increasing the federal government envelope if necessary.

"I will believe it when I see it. We still have 24 kilometres in the erosion zone. I don't know if you saw Pabos sand bank area. I'm not sure I would board a train. We will have to arm ourselves with a lot of patience," says the MP.

So far, Quebec has spent more than \$100 million on rail repairs between Matapédia and Gaspé.

The envelope available, including Ottawa's participation, is \$280 million. Stakeholders all agree that more money will be needed to reach Gaspé.

Police report

The Sûreté du Québec major crimes squad is investigating the suspicious death of an infant in Maria, on the afternoon of June 8. "We were called a little after 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, to intervene at a residence in Maria where a baby was unconscious. The death was confirmed at the hospital," states SQ spokesperson Hélène Saint-Pierre. "An autopsy will be performed on the baby. In accordance with the law, all deaths of children under the age of six are investigated," she adds. As of June 9, the police had not yet revealed the age or sex of the infant. Ms. Saint-Pierre also notes that she does not have an exact timeline of events, including whether the baby was deceased before arrival at the hospital. Police officers are also not speculating on the infant's alleged cause of death. The autopsy should clarify the cause of death.

On June 9, Freddy Boudreau, 42, from New Carlisle, entered a plea of guilty on three of the five counts that were laid against him at the beginning of 2022. He pleaded guilty of distribution of juvenile pornography between August 2017 and September 2018, of having access to juvenile pornography during the same period and of having made written material that advocates or promotes sexual activity with a person under the age of 18 years. He was charged on January 12, 2022. Two additional counts of having access to juvenile pornography and distribution of that material were dropped. Judge Janick Poirier, of the Quebec Court, postponed sentencing until September 16. "In the meantime, we asked for the preparation of a pre-sentence report and a sexologist assessment," points out criminal prosecutor Maxime Rocheville-Paradis. The investigation was initiated in January 2021. An operation was conducted in the home of the accused that same month. He was freed following his January 2022 court appearance.

Superior Court Judge Richard Grenier granted the request of Bonaventure district criminal prosecutor Maxime Rocheville-Paradis for a change of venue regarding the trial of Isaac Moffat-Swanson, 32, from Listuguj charged with numerous violent crimes. Judge Grenier opted for a trial in Quebec City. Rocheville-Paradis had requested the Gouin Courthouse in Montreal, which is connected to a high security prison. The change of venue request was heard on June 8.

"The trial date is not decided yet since it must go through a scheduling session. For the time being, the accused will appear again at the New Carlisle Courthouse on September 8, but the trial date will likely be chosen before that date," said Prosecutor Rocheville-Paradis following the decision by Judge Grenier. The change of venue request was based on the assumption that the New Carlisle prison and courthouse could not provide a safe trial, considering the gravity of the charges laid against Isaac Moffat-Swanson. The New Carlisle prison is not made to house him, remarked the prosecutor.

The accused faces charges in two different cases that warrant two judge and jury trials likely to last a total of one month. On April 30, 2019, while waiting for a first trial pertaining to charges of a February 2019 robbery, assault, aggravated assault, and uttering death threats to a Listuguj man, Isaac Moffat-Swanson allegedly caused damage worth more than \$5,000 in a section of the New Carlisle jail. That section still has not been repaired and has not housed inmates in three years. Concretely, the damage caused in that prison section is worth tens of thousands of dollars. In that case, the accused is also charged with assault with a weapon on prison guards and intimidation. The witnesses based in the Gaspé Peninsula will likely have to testify in Quebec City.

On June 6, police officers from the MRCs of Avignon and Bonaventure arrested a man in his fifties in connection with the possession and trafficking of illegal cannabis. The investigation began following the interception of two packages by Canada Post, which were intended for the suspect. The latter was arrested at his home in Caplan. He was released pending a commitment to appear on a date that is not yet determined. His residence was subsequently searched. During the search, police officers seized nearly \$500 in Canadian money, close to 2,500 grams of cannabis in bulk, about 300 grams of hashish and two firearms. The investigation team of the MRC of Bonaventure based in New Richmond, as well as an investigator from the smuggling team were provided support during this operation.

No new day care spots for the Bay of Chaleur area

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Quebec is not granting any day care spots to the MRCs of Avignon and Bonaventure in the new call for tenders launched on June 3 to continue the development of childcare services in the Gaspé Peninsula.

The Minister of Families, Mathieu Lacombe, announced the allocation of 2,500 places in educational childcare services to complete the development of the network. Of these places, Quebec is reserving between 21 and 39 places in Grande-Vallée and 11 to 15 in Haute-Gaspésie.

The Centre de la petite enfance la Marinière in Paspébiac still has a project for 21 places in New Carlisle and 21 others in Paspébiac.

"Honestly, I am very disappointed. The MRC of Bonaventure has no places. The territories are not even targeted," says the director, Julie Denis.

It is the same disappointment felt by the CPE des Joyeux Marmots in Pointe-à-la-Croix which is working on a project of 34 places including 10 for infants in Nouvelle.

"We have a project in our hands, but we will not be able to submit it this time," explains the director, Karine Pelland.

Calls continue to come in asking for spots. The region is waging a long fight to have the lack of places in day care services recognized, enough to make it a regional priority.

The president of the Regroupement des MRC de la Gaspésie is very disappointed, saying that it is an aberration because he is challenged every day about the lack of space.

"In the ministry's estimates of places during the winter, we saw that according to their needs analysis in the MRCs of Avignon and Bonaventure, they no longer saw any needs for childcare services," says the president, Mathieu Lapointe, who adds that the model used to make the estimate does not fit the needs.

All is not bleak. Quebec has accepted the principle of a pilot project for childcare in a community family setting in Saint-François-d'Assise. The upcoming announcement will allow two officials to accommodate 12 children in a space owned by the municipality. Six pilot projects will see the light of day in Quebec. Pilot projects allow leaders to come together in premises provided by the community. A similar project is being developed in Matapédia.

Gilles Gagné
Commentary



An overall reflection on our drinkable water is needed

After neglecting, in February 2022, an occasion to increase the royalties coming from the massive use of drinkable water by commercial users, the Quebec government tabled a bill during the second week of June that would increase the amount charged for the use of water sources located on public land.

It seems a purely electoral move, since the bill was not approved before the June 10 end of the parliamentary session for the summer, less than four months from October 3, which will be voting day. The bill was tabled too late for a debate on the matter.

Environment Minister Benoit Charette now justifies the move by saying that in February, the timing was off when the opposition, namely former Liberal Party Environment Minister Isabelle Melançon, proposed an increase in the drinkable water royalties. The Coalition avenir Québec government had to deal with more important issues, Mr. Charette says.

The coming legislation will now be an important part of a government program that has not offered a stellar performance in environmental matters, which is an understatement.

Since the inception of the water rates in 2010 by the Liberal Party government of Jean Charest, Quebec has and is still charging \$70 per million litres of water consumed by one class of industrial users, including bottled water firms. Another category of industrial consumers, which mainly consists of aluminum smelters, mines and pulp and paper mills, only pays \$2.50 per million litres!

In 2021, the Quebec government received a paltry \$2.8 million for the 811 billion litres of water used for industrial purposes, including both categories of users.

The amounts come from budget reports.

Comparisons show that Quebec practically gives its water to industrial users. Ontario has been charging \$500 per million litres since 2017. The cost is much more in Europe. Denmark, for example, charges \$10,000 per million litres.

Canada is rich in water and Quebec is probably the richest part of the country in that respect, if we exclude Nunavut. Strangely, as it often happens when we deal with abundance, we don't acknowledge the importance of protecting that common wealth properly. We should though.

A study released in 2015 based on Environment Canada statistics for 2009 revealed that Quebec households used 386 litres of water daily, compared to 225 litres for Ontario households. The Quebec consumption has decreased to about 300 to 330 litres per day since then. It remains unbelievably high.

An average household could diminish its daily consumption to between 50 and 100 litres, showers included, with a touch of thoughtfulness and the use of up-to-date shower heads, for example.

The same study showed that drinkable water costs more than \$5 billion annually to Quebec municipalities. About 45% of that amount is used to operate drinkable water systems, while the rest goes to pay the debt contracted to build those systems.

A tab of \$5 billion translates into close to \$600 per person, children included. It is a lot of money when we see that dozens of villages and Aboriginal communities in Quebec have been running mandatory water boiling notices for years, sometimes decades.

It is also of public knowledge that the proportion of water wasted through leaking aqueduct pipes amounts to 28 to 30% of the water originally pumped from sources. It represents a lot of money, a lot of wasted energy used by pumping systems, so more money there as well, for a resource we practically give to industrial users.

It makes a lot of numbers for an issue that is vital human lives. There is no life without water and we waste a lot of it.

We might have collectively reached a time in Quebec where we must reflect on what we do with our

water. Being rich in that regard doesn't mean that we can waste it, that we can give it to industrial users, and that we don't have to find ways to reuse or recycle some of that water, as it is the case in Sweden, for instance. Does it make sense that we use drinkable water to wash cars and house exteriors, to clean driveways or for our lawns?

Is it time to reflect on the relevance of installing water counters in our dwellings, so that we would have a good indication of our consumption? It could certainly be part of the collective reflection we must undertake.

We could then raise other interesting questions. Why haven't the industrial users' rates been increased since their creation in 2010?

The Coalition avenir Québec not only delayed the idea of tabling a bill on water rate increases in February, government has been resisting holding a debate on the matter or raising those rates since the 2018 election. Why? Because it didn't want to penalize the private sector?

Why are we practically giving away our water to companies and users that often pollute our sources?

With under one-thousandth of the world's population, Quebec consumes 3% of humanity's drinkable water. That is 300 times our demographic weight. Despite that wealth, some areas of Quebec experience drinkable water shortages. Wouldn't that issue be worth a round of public hearings or, ideally, a province-wide consultation, to raise people's awareness about the whole picture?

As remarks Philippe Duhamel, one of the spokespersons of Eau Secours, an environmental group, "we need a new law that will take into account not just the current situation but what's coming."

Eau Secours has for a long time been trying to convince the Quebec government to force bottled water companies to make available to the public the amount of water they take from underground sources.

The debate over drinkable water is urgent, especially considering the time and cost needed to implement solutions. It should have been dealt with by the current government prior to the electoral campaign and it sure represents a liability on that government's balance sheet.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Take Care

"Take care" are such lovely words, so warming to the heart. We say them upon leaving another, a wish for well-being, or a wish that, when we're absent and unable to help, the other will be alright.

Could simply saying these words to someone be a way of taking care of him/her? Human beings are social creatures, need to belong, and need to be heard and seen. We literally need the gaze of others. In Zimbabwe people say, I see you, and are answered by, I am seen.

In this world, so many are made to feel invisible by being overlooked; ordinary people—the aged and poor, the ill and homeless, sometimes those whose obvious suffering makes others feel bad and more. People who perform vitally important work in the service industry, people without whom our society would cease to function, are part of this society of the overlooked and taken for granted.

But people can only be invisible if everyone agrees to it. Otherwise, we can acknowledge one another in any version of, "I see you," that we can

think of. Something so small and seemingly insignificant as validating the other's presence with a nod, a smile, or wave—the quick, almost meaningless, clichéd words, "How are you?" tell the other that he's been seen, seen and appreciated.

Goodwill travels. Every small connection has the potential to nurture all.

When the focus changes from self to other, it changes the vibe, and reassures the one seen - maybe he passes it on.

In many parts of the African continent is a practice called "ubuntu." It's a way of life and an acknowledgment of our connection with others and our interdependence with them. One way of translating it is, "I am because we are," - community makes each one of us. The question,

"How are you?" is answered by, "I am well if you are well."

Take care.

Constance Brochet,
 New Richmond

Correction

Please note the guest commentary in the issue of May 25 *No more masks, no more COVID?* was written by Cynthia Dow.



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Racines-Roots music festival planned for Canada Day weekend

Cynthia Dow

Lovers of local music will be happy to hear that the former Country Fest put on by the New Richmond Bluegrass Association will be back this year after a pandemic break. The festival will have a different name and a different format. Racines-Roots Gaspésie will be offering up not only country music, but also folk, rock, blues and in future years even a little bluegrass to kick off the summer. Organizer Mike Geraghty told SPEC, “We won’t go too far out of our comfort zone. We want to showcase Gaspesian talent with a few special guests.” The festival will run from June 30 to July 3 at the Duthie Point site with the campground opening on Saturday, June 25.

Activities start with a campfire jam on June 29. On June 30 there will be a campfire and performances by Roger Lee Martin and Les Cropdusteuses. On Canada Day, Sylvie & Marco will perform, there will be a barbeque and birthday cake, a campfire, entertainment by Robertson & Dion and fireworks. At 10 p.m. special guests Hillbilly Deluxe, from Petit Rocher, will perform a tribute to Dwight Yoakam and entrance to the site will be free. July 2, will be an action-packed day with performances by Catherine Maldemay & Dominik Briand, M’Lou, Les Tricruteurs, Irish Narrows, and Nash and the Narrows and a Gaspesian jam. The event ends Sunday, July 3 with a steak lunch put on by the Rotary Club, an open mic with Sylvie & Marco, and a campfire.

Weekend tickets, which include rough camping, cost \$50 and can be purchased at the entrance. Music lovers can also purchase daily tickets. “We usually have 80 to 100 trailers, and a few hundred in the audience every day,” says Mr. Geraghty. He imagines that “it will take a few years to build back up (to previous numbers) especially with the price of gas.” He noted that for those still concerned about COVID, there is plenty of room in the outdoor space to keep a safe distance from others.

Mr. Geraghty admits it will be difficult to run the festival without one of the association’s best-loved volunteers, Mia Smith, who died last fall. “It’s been hard to get volunteers and employees. We have an opening for a summer student, but still no phone calls.” The Canada summer job position will run from July 11 through to Labour Day so as to help the association through the Bluegrass Festival, scheduled from August 30 to September 3. People 15 to 30 are eligible to apply. For more information about the summer job and the festival, go to www.racines-roots.com

Avian flu hits Bonaventure Island

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - Four gannets from the Bonaventure Island colony were sent to the Quebec Centre for Wild Animal Health of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Montreal for an autopsy.

“We have formal confirmation of cases of avian flu among gannets at the National Park of Bonaventure Island and Percé Rock,” specifies the director of the park, Rémi Plourde, who received the information on June 7.

This is not really a surprise considering a situation where between 250 and 300 carcasses have been found by park authorities since the arrival of the great seabird this spring.

“We are on the lookout to see how the situation evolves,” adds the director.

Other gannet carcasses have been noticed all over the peninsula, but it is difficult to establish an exact number.

Preventive measures have been implemented since the opening of the park on May 30.

“We notify customers. They are asked to disinfect their boots if they have pets at home, including chickens. In addition, in the colony, certain sectors have been restricted for the closest birds. We are within reasonable distance. There is ample space. It’s quite ventilated,” notes Mr. Plourde, who says that customers can continue to observe the most accessible colony of gannets in the world.

“I rely on the advice of Canadian Public Health, which says that the risk is very low. Under these conditions, we can operate in an organized way,” suggests the director.

Despite everything, the clientele is there to observe the approximately 110,000 gannets present on the island.

The strain of the avian flu virus that is currently circulating appeared in the fall of 2020 in Europe and at the end of December 2021 in North America. Cases were noted in Quebec in April.

The risk of contamination to humans is very low. Only two cases in humans have been documented in England and the United States. They both worked with contaminated domestic poultry.

Caplan mayor rejects report of Quebec’s Municipal Commission

Gilles Gagné

CAPLAN – Caplan mayor, Lise Castilloux, is rejecting the Quebec’s Municipal Commission (CMQ) report, blaming her and the council for events surrounding her nomination as interim director general while she was already the mayor. The blame was expressed in a report that was issued on June 1.

In a June 9 press conference attended by 30 citizens, Lise Castilloux used two words to describe the report, “incomplete” because the version of the municipal council members was not presented, she says, and “surprise,” the feeling she had upon reading the document’s content.

She wants to better understand what it is based on and wishes for a meeting with the Commission people that prepared the report.

The report concludes that, with the support of the municipal council, the mayor exceeded her responsibilities by taking on the duties of director general while the position was vacant. Pamela Dow was the municipality’s director general until her September 2021 resignation.

Lise Castilloux had so far refused interview requests on the subject. She explained that she wanted to read the report before exposing her version of the facts.

She deplores that the CMQ approach is based on allegations to which the municipal council did not have access.



Caplan mayor, Lise Castilloux, calls the Quebec Municipal Commission report “incomplete.”

Photo: G. Gagné

“Why does the Commission not come to Caplan to hear all the people involved in the report of its investigator and allow everyone to explain and defend themselves?” questions Ms. Castilloux.

“There are elements of the report that seem incomplete to me. The report was (drafted) on testimonies, not facts. (...) What we are asking is to have evidence. We don’t have it,” she added.

The mayor indicated on several occasions that Caplan’s elected officials acted in good faith. That good faith is acknowledged in the Commission’s report.

“We adjusted to an exceptional situation,” she stresses, specifying that she would like to obtain a detailed procedure from the Commission in order to take the right steps in the right way for the follow up expected by the public body.

Ms. Castilloux says municipal elections followed the resignation of the previous

director general. Then the holiday season imposed certain delays. She points out that the position was posted three times over a period of seven months and that the municipality hired a consultant to manage the recruiting process.

“Is it the fault of the city council? I wonder a bit, because we worked hard on it, on posting and how to make the position (attractive),” she added.

Two candidates out of eight applicants were called for an interview but only one showed up. The interview took place in May and the decision to hire the candidate or not remains to be made.

The CMQ also criticizes the municipal council for having adopted a by-law to approve an increase of \$3,557 per month to compensate for the increase in the administrative tasks of the mayor. That is an increase of \$42,684 on a yearly basis.

Mayor Castilloux says that the bylaw was adopted after the municipality sought legal advice from an expert. The bylaw is still in force despite the fact that she has not been carrying out director general duties since June 1.

The law stipulates that a director general position must be filled within 30 days of a departure.

The municipal administration has until Monday, August 1 to follow up with the Commission on the corrective measures taken since the release of the report.

Shrimp boats remain docked in the face of the low price decreed by arbitration

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Shrimp fishermen and processors avoid arbitration by agreeing on June 9 on a global price for the 2022 season. The shrimp fishermen will set sail earning \$1.60 a pound for large shrimp, \$1.38 for medium ones and 1.22 for small shrimp, for an average price of \$1.33. This is a compromise between the average price request of \$1.54 from harvesters and the supply of \$1.12 from processors.

“It is an acceptable compromise which is not necessarily ideal for either the fishermen or the processors but, at the very least, it will allow us to get through the season,” says the director of the Quebec Shrimp Fishermen’s Office, Patrice Element.

On June 6, Quebec’s Régie des marchés agricole et agroalimentaires adopted the proposal of the Association québécoise de l’industrie de la pêche (AQIP), which proposed \$1.48 per pound for large shrimp, \$1.15 per pound for the medium ones and \$0.96 for small shrimp, an average price of \$1.12 per pound – the same price as in 2021 – for the period between April 1 and June 30. As a result fishermen refused to go to sea because they felt that their losses would have been too high.

Contacts quickly resumed between the parties to find common ground and to avoid arbitration once again because June 9 was the deadline for filing a request with the management for the second part of the season between July 1 and the end of fishing.

In its decision, the administrators had written that “the inability of several fishermen and processors to make their operations profitable in 2021 and 2022 is the symptom of a deeper evil than the simple crisis created by the increase in the price of fuel or COVID-19.”

“There is a desire for us to work together in order to give value to the product on the markets and that includes the Quebec markets,” notes Patrice Element.

He is aware that there are several challenges with the drop in quotas - the fact that shrimp has not followed the same trend as crab or lobster or the increase in operating costs.

On the conquest of the Quebec market, the office notes that the hot water shrimp is more popular than the northern shrimp.

“Part of the solution comes from the Quebec market. There would be room in Quebec for the shrimp that we produce. In practice, it is utopian to go that far, but there is significant potential for improving the presence of our product. But there is possibly work to be done elsewhere,” says the director.

Wind power development: Innergex will still be on the starting line with Mi'gmaq communities

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG – When Hydro-Québec receives new renewable energy projects for evaluation on July 21, the firm Innergex and the Mi'gmaq of the Gaspé Peninsula will be on the starting line, with the intention of adding 300 megawatts and invest \$660 million in the existing Escuminac wind farm.

This wind farm, called Mesgi's Ugju's'n, which means “the strong winds,” proved to be innovative in many respects during its construction, between 2013 and 2016, and in its mode of ownership.

Mi'gmaq construction workers made up a large part of the site's workforce, with nearly 110 people, and the communities of Listuguj, Gesgapegiag and Gespeg own 50% of the complex erected at a cost of \$330 million and with a capacity of 150 megawatts (MW).

Hydro-Québec will receive proposals to add 300 MW of wind power to its network on July 21 and 480 MW of renewable energy, whatever the source, which includes wind power. The energy must be delivered to this network in December 2026.

Innergex and the Aboriginal communities are counting on these two calls for tenders, or subsequent ones, to expand the Escuminac wind farm, an expansion designated as Mesgi's Ugju's'n 2. These partners are also counting on other elements to win the favour of Hydro-Québec.

“The fact that we already operate a wind farm next to the location targeted for the second farm is an advantage compared to a location that would be developed from scratch. The extension of the existing wind farm is therefore an element to be considered. There's still a lot to do if we're chosen, but there's a lot done, when you think about roads, connecting lines. These are the elements that sometimes make it possible to get a fraction of a cent of the cost of electricity proposed in a tender and that counts,” explains Luc Leblanc, spokesperson for Innergex.

Wind assessment is another element on which Innergex and its Mi'gmaq partners rely. “We have a good knowledge of the winds in the area. We have site data since 2008,” adds Mr. Leblanc, referring to the assessments that began prior to the development of the first Mesgi's



Photo: Courtesy of Innergex

The Mesgi's Ugju's'n wind farm was commissioned in December 2016. At the time, the wind turbines installed at the top of the towers were the most powerful in Quebec. The 55.8-metre blades were supplied by LM Windpower in Gaspé. The Escuminac wind farm is located about twenty kilometres from the coast.

Ugju's'n wind farm.

In this wind farm, Innergex has installed 47 wind towers, including 46 equipped with 3.2 MW turbines. In 2016, these were the most powerful turbines installed in Quebec. If the second Escuminac park is chosen by Hydro-Québec, the power of each turbine installed will be even higher.

“We would choose 4.5 to 6.5 MW turbines. (...) We expect the winners of the two calls for tenders to be known around December or at the beginning of 2023,” points out Luc Leblanc, who does not identify suppliers of turbines, steel towers and blades at this time.

Without certainty of being chosen, Innergex, through its subcontractors, has initiated the mandatory environmental procedures prior to any wind project located on public land. “We have already started environmental studies with the wildlife inventory, especially birds and bats. If our project is accepted, logging will begin in the fall of 2024, because we cannot cut trees during the bird nesting period, and construction will follow, so that the wind farm will be ready in December 2026,” notes Mr. Leblanc.

The construction of Mesgi's Ugju's'n 2 would create 300 jobs during the peak period, in the summer of 2026. The subsequent operation of the wind farm will create seven or eight permanent jobs, the same number as at the existing wind farm.

“During the maintenance period, after the winter and in the fall, the number of employees doubles. We generally do business with regional

firms,” says Luc Leblanc. Innergex also hires its experts, who work in rotation on the seven wind farms the firm owns in the Gaspé Peninsula and in the eastern part of Lower Saint Lawrence.

Innergex or the other promoters whose projects will not be retained by the beginning of 2023 for the 300 and 480 MW calls for tenders will be able to resume in the event of disappointment. The Quebec government announced on April 20 that two other energy calls for tenders will eventually be put out to bid upon, namely 1,000 MW of wind energy and 1,300 MW of renewable energy.

Hydro-Québec will buy this energy in blocks of 300 or 400 MW, probably between December 2027 and December 2029. A block of 300 MW

can supply 60,000 homes with electricity. Some tenders will coincide with the renewal of existing wind farm contracts.

The public utility will also have to increase the capacity of its network if it wants to give an equal chance to promoters planning to produce electricity east of Rivière-du-Loup.

“In the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence, the need to improve interconnection is significant. We are developing projects, but Hydro-Québec needs major investments in its network. When we look at the development plan for the next few years, 5,000 to 6,000 MW will be added to its network, which distributes 40,000 MW, and the network is not configured for that. Building a line takes eight years. It takes us to

2030. It's time to deal with it,” analyzes Luc Leblanc.

Regional and Quebec content will play an important role in the evaluation of projects in the 300 MW wind power call for tenders submitted to Hydro-Québec. The share of regional content must constitute 35% of each project and this proportion must be increased to 50% by including Quebec content.

However, these content elements will not apply to the 480 MW block of renewable energy because it is difficult to find regional content in the solar and hydroelectricity sectors.

On the other hand, unlike the 300 MW block representing an installed capacity, these 480 MW will have to be characterized by delivered energy. The promoters of this second chunk of energy will, therefore, have to install a production capacity greater than 480 MW, to compensate for the days during which there is no wind or no sunshine.

The Energy Board rules state that a wind farm produces 40% of its installed capacity. This 40% is also called the utilization factor. It means that if wind farms are retained to fill that need of 480 MW, up to 1,200 MW will have to be installed.

The Mesgi's Ugju's'n project is a model often cited as an example to duplicate in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada because of the integration of First Nations in the venture. Other Native communities have come to visit the wind farm and other First Nations will come over the coming months.

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Indigenous people approve a second wind farm in Escuminac

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG – Innergex is currently holding consultations regarding its project to expand the Mesgi'g Ugu's'n wind farm. Two of these consultations were held on June 6 and 7 in Listuguj and Gesgapegiag. From the two meetings, it looks as if the communities' citizens support this expansion.

Frederic Vicaire, chief executive officer of the Mi'g-mawei Mawiomi Business Corporation, an organization responsible for the economic and social development of the Mi'gmaqs, explains why Escuminac's project is well received.

"Mi'gmaq communities have long wanted to be involved in the responsible exploitation of natural resources in the Gaspé Peninsula. With the successful commissioning of Mesgi'g Ugu's'n, our first



Photo: Courtesy of Innergex

Gesgapegiag citizens Tyler Larocque and Jaime Condo asked questions to Luc Leblanc, spokesperson of Innergex, during the June 7 public meeting. Similar meetings were also held in Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Garde, as for the immediate area of the second wind farm.

wind farm, it was clear that we wanted to be part of the contin-

ued development of the wind power sector and contribute to Quebec's energy transition. This allows us to raise ourselves collectively in the eyes of future generations and to

participate in our economic independence," he says.

"The time when our nation was only an observer of the development of our territory is over. Before, industries came to

settle on our territory and only consulted us. Today, we feel that times are starting to change and we see developers like Innergex establishing a dialogue of equals with us. This creates strong partnerships that grow both parties. The development of this new wind project is being done in conjunction with Innergex and this greatly facilitates acceptance within our communities. This is as much their project as that of Innergex," also underlines Mr. Vicaire.

"This partnership is a fine example of what we want to continue building. We have the firm intention of continuing to forge ties with the Government of Quebec, with Hydro-Quebec, local communities and industry players so that the exploitation of the resources of the Mi'gmaq territory is done in collaboration with us," concludes Mr. Vicaire.

If it is built, the Mesgi'g Ugu's'n 2 wind farm alone will supply energy to the equivalent of 54,000 households.

Files raise questions in l'Anse-au-Griffon

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Two long-standing issues could see developments in the coming months in the Anse-au-Griffon district of Gaspé.

The silting up of the wharf is the subject of debate as the town hopes that the bill will be absorbed by Ottawa. The problem was known before the property transfer to the town in 2016.

The mayor, Daniel Côté, questions the fact that the stakeholders waited so long before raising the issue.

Gaspé had received money for its upgrading, but nothing was planned for dredging.

"It is certain that we will look at Fisheries and Oceans if they can help us as they did in Percé when the wharf was transferred to the Quebec government. Would this be possible at Anse-au-Griffon? We have not made an official request in this sense. We know that it costs tens of thousands of dollars, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars, and there is no financial assistance program for dredging," says the mayor.

If Ottawa does not support the operation or if the town does not succeed in finding a program, Gaspé taxpayers could be left with the bill.

Federal Member of Parliament, Diane Lebouthillier, prefers to wait for a request before committing herself.

"Usually, it is the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) that manages the dredging files. I have not been told about it, so it would be very bad form for me to give an opinion on a subject that I have no information on," said the MP for Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

Drinking water... finally?

A solution finally seems to be on the horizon for the drinking water in the local aqueduct.

This file has been problematic for several years: a lot of money has been invested in the search for underground water, which turned out to be inconclusive because the quantities were not sufficient, which forced the Town of Gaspé to turn to a plan B.

Quebec accepted, after many steps, a public-private partnership that had been on the table for several years.

The file dates back to 2008, according to the mayor.

"I cannot ... say a specific date, but what our experts tell us, it should be the end of 2023 or early 2024. It's a file we've been (working) on for a long time. This is before I was even elected to the town council. After years of unsuccessful water research, because of program criteria that do not fit with the reality on the ground, finally, there is a pathway that is emerging," says the elected official.

Surface water with a filtration plant will be needed to serve the 50 or so residences.

New activities at the Birthplace of Canada site

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - New activities will be offered at the Birthplace of Canada site, while those that had been put on hold due to the pandemic will resume this summer.

After launching a call for tenders, York Expedition will offer certain activities to the general public this summer: kayak, pedal boat and paddle board rentals, as well as guided night outings with historical themes. Departures will be from the site. As this is the first year, details will follow soon. The company obtained a concession for three years.

To offer these activities, six floating docks that were in place in Penouille and owned by Destination Gaspé will be installed and can also be used by boaters who can dock there for a few hours to stroll downtown.

"We know that there is a building that will be added. We really want to keep room to adapt and adjust this summer based on customer feedback. It will be a break-in year," indicates the general manager, Laurie Denis.

Delay due to pandemic

The project was launched a year ago, but due to the pandemic, the challenge was to obtain the environmental

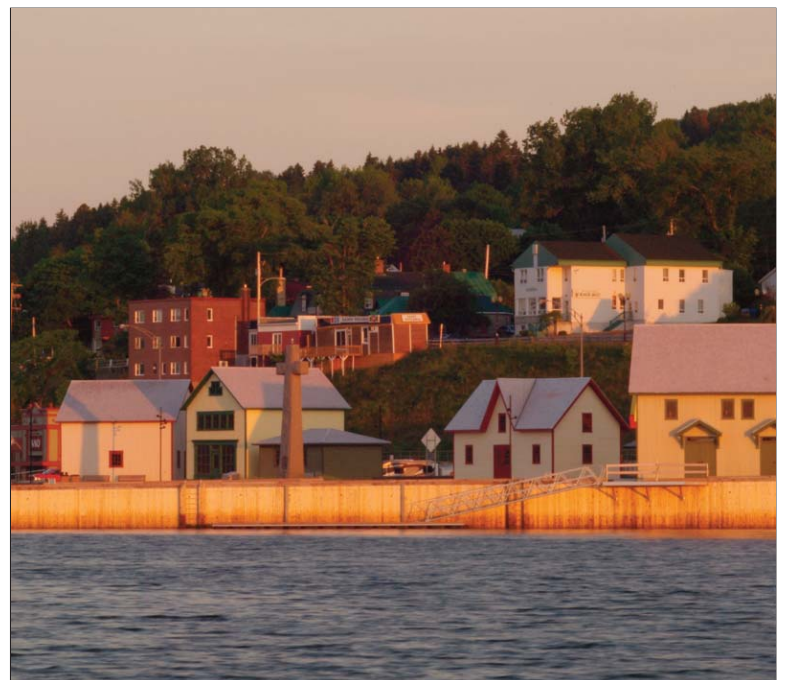


Photo: Mathieu L'Heureux Roy

New nautical activities will be offered at the Birthplace of Canada.

authorizations which finally came in. The calls for tenders for recreational tourism activities ended on April 22. The overall project is valued at \$309,000.

In addition to these new items, the Birthplace of Canada has launched its summer program which includes animation, interpretation, events and shows.

Heritage interpretation will begin on June 15 and public input is once again requested as the site is accessible free of charge. "In each of the buildings, there is a costumed character who explains the town's heritage. In each building, there

is a (donation) box. These contributions are essential to maintain our interpretation service," said Ms. Denis.

The multimedia show, Tale of Winds and Tides, will also be back and tells the story of Gaspé, from the Native's era to the present day.

Outdoor cinema, shows and public markets are also on the program.





WHY THIS COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER MATTERS:

Local businesses get post-pandemic **lift** from community papers

BY RUBY IRENE PRATKA



For small businesses around the country, the first abrupt lockdown of the COVID-19 pandemic came as an existential shock. Restaurants had to shutter their dining rooms, and thousands – nearly 3,700 across Quebec at last count – closed for good. The hasty closures had a crippling effect on advertising, forcing many publications to cut costs – and, in turn, content. [➔](#)



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

➔ Offering free advertising at such a difficult time may seem counter-intuitive, especially for a new publication. However, that's exactly what *The 1019 Report*, a biweekly newspaper launched in May 2020 in Vaudreuil-Soulanges, decided to do.

"When local restaurants had to do take-out, we offered them three months of free advertising to get their phone numbers out there," said Brenda O'Farrell, editor-in-chief of *The 1019 Report* and a former *Montreal Gazette* news editor. "Normally, the local pizza place doesn't need to make an extra effort to put their phone number out there, but at this time, they did."

O'Farrell says the promotion didn't necessarily give rise to long-term paid advertising. That was not the point. It did, however, help establish the paper as a publication that had the community's interests at heart. "In a crisis, if your house is on fire, I want to be the neighbour who runs over and says, 'I can aim my garden hose at your roof,'" O'Farrell said.

“*The situation shook everyone up, but it made us think about the importance of local media. People understand it now and realize we'd be lesser without it.*

~ NIKKI MANTELL, THE LOW DOWN

The feature, dubbed *Take Care, Take Action and Take Out*, won a Quebec Community Newspapers Association Award for best community newspaper promotion.

The Low Down to Hull and Back News, in Wakefield, also turned its attention to supporting small businesses during the pandemic, even as it faced its own challenges due to lost advertising.

"We thought we were going to go under," recalled *Low Down* publisher Nikki Mantell.

In spring 2020, Mantell and her colleagues launched the *Low Down* business directory, titled *Shop Local, Folks!* They offered free 100-word advertising slots to dozens of local businesses in the *Low Down's* print edition and created a "distilled version" on the paper's website.

For Mantell, like O'Farrell, the goal of the campaign was not to pick up new paid advertisers, although the paper did add a few.

"We're a small semi-rural paper; the restaurants and boutiques are part of what makes our community great. People want to know about them and they need to get the word out," said Mantell, who calls the relationship between community newspapers and advertisers "symbiotic." She cites a recent reader survey indicating that 84 per cent of *Low Down* readers had patronized a local business after seeing an ad in the paper. "When you advertise in a local paper, you invest in the community, and the eyes that see your ad are people who pay to read about their community," Mantell said.

Steve Bonspiel is the editor and publisher of the *Eastern Door*, a community newspaper serving the Mohawk community of Kahnawake, south of Montreal. Like Mantell, he empathizes with local entrepreneurs who nearly lost their businesses early in the pandemic, because he also had to steer the paper through a rough patch. Throughout December 2020, he allowed local businesses and entrepreneurs to place free full-colour ads in the print edition. "We're

a community of 8,000 people and everyone wants to start a business," Bonspiel said. "It can start with someone selling baked goods out of their house ... the businesses we supported were a little more established than that, but not much. They don't have a marketing or pro-



“*It can start with someone selling baked goods out of their house... the businesses we supported were a little more established than that, but not much. They don't have a marketing or promotional budget, and we wanted to give them a boost.*”

~ STEVE BONSPIEL, THE EASTERN DOOR

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motional budget, and we wanted to give them a boost." One of his goals is to find sponsors that would enable the *Eastern Door* to run the special section year round.

He hopes the next generation of Mohawk entrepreneurs are inspired by seeing their neighbours' beadwork or home cooking enterprises mentioned in the paper, even in a small ad. "It shows that if you're starting out with an idea, on your kitchen table, you can be whatever you set your mind to. If you have a little bit of help from community media, who knows what else could happen."

He believes that on Mohawk territory, community media plays a key role in fostering the local economy. "We can't just rely on tobacco and big business. We have to kindle that entrepreneurial spark at the beginning," he said.

The *Eastern Door* and the *Low Down* were also recognized by the Quebec Community Newspapers Association for their promotional campaigns.

Mantell tips her hat to local businesses that, early in the pandemic, proactively bought hundreds of dollars of advertising, or donated T-shirts for the paper to sell as a spontaneous fundraiser. "The pandemic was terrifying for all of us at first ... but we were really touched by the support," she said. "The situation shook everyone up, but it made us think about the importance of local media. People understand it now and realize we'd be lesser without it."



Funded by the Government of Canada



Community newspapers support local businesses and economies

Diane Skinner

Local newspapers play an important and unique role in a community. For a newspaper, such as The Gaspé Spec, we provide news to a linguistic minority culture. Without this community newspaper, the anglophone population would be living in a news desert for local matters.

A community newspaper has a primary mission to write about issues that affect a group of readers who share a common bond. This can be geographical, economical, historical and cultural. The Gaspé Spec touches on all of these.

In the present age of technology, the way people access news has changed immensely. Electronic news is available around the clock and from a wide variety of viewpoints and political philosophies. But where are readers getting their local and regional news from? Community newspapers, whether in paper or digital format, are the primary source and sometimes the only source.

The decline of printed newspapers is continuing, and it is difficult to entice younger readers to pick up a local newspaper. Yet, a local paper can offer readers a sense of connection with their communities. Knowledge leads to understanding and that can lead to further community involvement. One way to connect with your community is to support local businesses, including the newspaper itself.

The paper exists because of advertising. It provides the foundation for our existence. The ads in the newspaper are primarily for local businesses and this becomes a symbiotic relationship. Papers need advertisers. Businesses need customers. Data shows that advertising in a local paper pays off. The advertising rates are reasonable, and a local paper will work with businesses to help create the ads, often at no additional cost.

Community newspapers promote local businesses and the economy by featuring arti-

cles about a wide variety of businesses and services offered in the community. This includes articles of interest about new businesses, unique shops, young entrepreneurs, home-based businesses, authors, crafters and local markets.

A strong locally based small business economy strengthens the whole community. Local businesses provide jobs. Local businesses contribute to tax revenues. In turn, the taxes paid by small businesses help to build community resources and infrastructure. For every dollar spent at a local business about \$.80 stays in the community. Everybody wins. The community newspaper continues to have a key role to play.

Small businesses may be reluctant to advertise in their community newspaper. They see it as an additional cost and are skeptical of the benefits. I propose that businesses place an ad in their local paper and observe the results. Ask customers where they heard about your business. Word of mouth

pays off too, but customers need to be aware of your business. If you are searching for someone to dig a new well, you might mention that to a friend or neighbour. That friend or neighbour might have noticed in the community newspaper that there is a local company that does just that and they inform you about it! The power of advertising reaches customers.

COVID-19 has put a great deal of stress on small, local businesses and many have barely survived, if at all. The economy of the whole community needs to be strengthened in the aftermath of this pandemic. This can be achieved by increasing profitability and this is done by having more customers. Now, more than ever, advertising in a community newspaper will benefit the economy.

Almost three out of every four newspaper readers support businesses that advertise in their community newspaper. Advertising is an important as-

pect of any business plan. "If you build it, they will come," does not always work for local businesses. Your customers need to know you exist.

Community newspapers still have a vital role to play in our lives. Advertising placed in the local paper pays off to help to strengthen local businesses. Successful businesses add to the overall well-being of the economy. They provide jobs. They contribute to the taxes necessary to improve local infrastructure. One of those businesses is the community newspaper itself which needs advertising to exist. We need your support too.

All facets of a community: people, businesses, local government, and your community newspaper work best when in harmony and mutual support. Dear readers, support businesses that advertise in your local paper and everyone benefits.

#TheGaspéSpec #AdvertiseLocal #ShopLocal #Strongcommunities

Pit Caribou now has some canned products

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - Cans from the Pit Caribou microbrewery have gradually appeared over the past few weeks, particularly on supermarket shelves.

The Anse-à-Beaufils company is putting the finishing touches to the canning line, an investment announced a year ago. The installation of this production line began last February and is now operating at approximately 90% of its capacity.

"There are several people who have been asking us for some time. The classics will remain in the bottle as much as in the can. You will be spoiled for choice," says the co-owner, Jean-François Nellis, while the enthu-

siasm for this new version of the production is there.

The company thought it would be able to offer its products last fall, but delivery times and learning about the new equipment took longer than expected. Initially, the budget was \$1.3 million, but these factors added \$200,000 to the bill, which reached \$1.5 million.

The microbrewery was able to count on repayable assistance of \$260,000 from Ottawa.

One of the goals of producing canned beer was to conquer the international market.

The expansion towards France is still in the cards with the participation in festivals, including in Bordeaux in June.

"We are investing more and more in France. We feel that the market is really interested in our products," notes Mr. Nellis.

The bottling capacity will increase from 3,000 litres to 7,000 litres per day once the canning line is at 100% of its operating capacity.

Last year, the micro-brewery was only shy of 240 litres to reach the threshold of one million litres of beer brewed. Certainly, 2022 will allow this quantity to be exceeded. The can reduces transport costs.

The microbrewery has distinguished itself over the years with numerous awards won for its products internationally.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Bottles and cans are side by side on grocery store shelves

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#NEWSMATTERS

Opponents challenge Percé tourist fee

Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCÉ - The tourist tax will reach the courts. The opponents served the Town of Percé with a motion for nullity on June 3.

Previously, the Percé citizens-merchants committee had sent a formal notice which had remained unanswered.

Once again, the opponents made themselves heard during the municipal council on June 7. A little over twenty people were present.

“From the beginning, legal opinions have encountered many illegal aspects. It's not for nothing that people come together. Both in terms of its application and its very foundation, there are flaws. We call it a tourist fee, but according to all legal opinions, it is a disguised tax,” supports the spokesperson for the opponents, Jonathan Massé.

The Town of Percé announced on June 6 that it wanted to modify certain aspects of its tourist fee: merchants are subject to the principle of the fee, a burden for them, rather than the tourist; workers working in Percé will be exempt; compensation to merchants has increased and verifications will be preceded by a 10-day notice.

Sépaq, which operates a

restaurant and a boutique, is exempt, being a government corporation.

“It's surface make-up. This in no way takes away the powers of intrusion among merchants. There is no change on what was disputed. The user-pays principle, there is no change. The new aspects they bring create new problems, but if we had been able to discuss with them, we could have found solutions, but there is no communication channel,” adds Mr. Massé.

In the original application for nullity, counsel for the committee alleges that the settlement is unconstitutional, illegal and is abusive, unreasonable and intrusive.

Mr. Massé estimates that the group contributing to a protest fund is made up of about 50 people.

“This regulation is adopted. We're going to go all the way. Our idea is to help the citizens and we will keep the same basic principle that we had from the start. We have been thinking about it for years,” replied the mayor, Cathy Poirier, who is confident that her regulation will pass in court.

Maintaining tourism infrastructure costs the town \$800,000. The tax aims to lighten the tax burden of citi-



The spokesperson for the Percé Citizens-Merchants Committee, Jonathan Massé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

zens.

The Town can count on the Union des municipalités du Québec, which intends to follow the file closely and will provide support if necessary.

The organization points out that some municipalities have used some of the new provisions of Bill 122 on the diversification of municipal revenues.

“If the Town of Percé, which is one of our members, needs legal services, of course, the UMQ will be there to analyze their request for support,” says the president and mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté.

The challenge to certain provisions of the law is a first. If a judgment is rendered, it will establish case law. “In this case, it is very important for the municipal sector to follow the file closely and perhaps participate in it,” says the president.

COVID-19: caution remains in order

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - COVID-19 cases continue to decrease slowly but surely in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, but caution remains in order.

The average number of cases per day for the past few weeks has been 10 among those eligible for screening tests.

The regional director of public health, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, says that around 10% of the population is screened, which suggests that there are 100 cases.

In addition, the INSPQ (Quebec's National Institute of Public Health) no longer measures active cases in the territory. That said, with the experience gained since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the virus seems to calm down in the summer, but regains strength when cooler weather arrives.

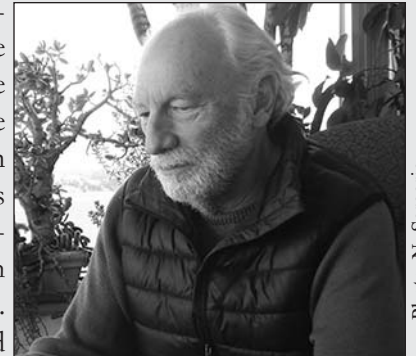
“We see that in the world that a few other variants have appeared, so they could very well join us in the fall. We wish for everyone to

enjoy the summer and to expect that we will still have to be careful during the autumn,” says Dr. Bonnier Viger.

The virus continues to circulate, and according to the specialist this is not the time to lower our guard. “The probability that we will have another wave in the fall is quite strong,” predicts the director who could implement possible measures if necessary.

“We have to learn to live with this virus. It will settle permanently, a bit like the flu. It will depend on the variant, whether it is a variant that makes you sicker or not? You can be infected and have a mild case. We will live with that. But if it ever brings people to the hospital or creates mortality, it is clear that we will have to stick together and put in place measures to reduce the circulation of the virus,” he states.

Public Health is preparing for a vaccination campaign in the fall and hopes that it will be only one operation per year.



The Director of Gaspé Peninsula Magdalen Islands Public Health, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger

Photo: N. Sergerie

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22 SENTRA

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WEEKLY

24 MOS.
LEASE
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22 MURANO

SAWD

\$100
WEEKLY

60 MOS.
LEASE
\$1,995 DOWN



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Rate	4.99%	5.79%
Payment	\$ 551	\$ 565

22 KICKS

S

\$55
WEEKLY

24 MOS.
LEASE
\$1,295 DOWN



84m Finance	NCF	Banks
Rate	4.99%	5.79%
Payment	\$ 317	\$ 325

22 FRONTIER

CCSV4WD

\$557
MONTHLY

60 MOS.
LEASE
\$995 DOWN



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Payment	\$ 897	\$ 904

22 QASHQAI

S FWD

\$70
WEEKLY

24 MOS.
LEASE
\$1,995 DOWN



84m Finance	NCF	Banks
Rate	4.99%	5.79%
Payment	\$ 383	\$ 393

22 ARMADA

SL

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BI-WEEKLY

64 MOS.
LEASE
\$0 DOWN



60m Finance	NCF	Banks
Rate	5.49%	5.79%
Payment	\$ 1,384	\$ 1,394

Bank rates based on market data as of May 31, 2022



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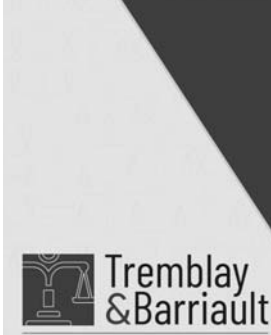
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Announcements



Obituaries



MACWHIRTER: Dennis

It is with profound sadness that the family of Dennis MacWhirter announces his passing on May 29, 2022.

Dennis will always be fondly remembered by his lifelong partner Lynn Ibey; his "baby"- daughter Dawn Marie (Bob Milne) and stepson Brad Wing. He also leaves behind his grandchildren who were his pride and joy: Jonathan (Kirsten), Riley, Allison and Blake; and great-grandson Mason.

Survived by many brothers and sisters: Clyde MacWhirter (Lynda), Nelson MacWhirter, Bessy Craig (late Tom), Donald MacWhirter (Carol), Dolly Hottot (Lester), Lorraine Campbell (late Ken), Janet Stack (late Leo), Arliss MacWhirter, Carol MacWhirter, Mark MacWhirter (late Melanie); many nieces; nephews; and cousins. Dennis was predeceased by his parents Wilson and Marion (née Anez).

I hope heaven gets the Nascar channel, so Dad can continue his favourite pastime. The day Jonathan raced his first race it made Dennis' life complete. Please support your local D.I.R.T tracks.



YOUNG: Clark James

Passed away peacefully on April 27, 2022, at the age of 78 years, Clark Young, of New Carlisle, Quebec.

He leaves to mourn his wife: Barbara Ann Dawson; son: Dr. David Young (Lori); granddaughter: Emma; sister: Elaine (Daniel Huntington); and other family and friends. Predeceased by his parents as well as two brothers.

The remains rested at the New Carlisle Funeral Home under the direction of Henri Thibodeau. A memorial service led by Reverend Pierre Momberg was held at Zion United Church on May 4, 2022, with burial in the United Church Cemetery.

Although you are gone, we will always carry your memory in our hearts.



In Memory



BILLINGSLEY: Albert William

November 8, 1923 - May 4, 1982

BILLINGSLEY: Constance Lola

December 20, 1930 - June 11, 2021

*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen, Unheard,
but always near.
Still loved, still missed,
And always dear...*

Forever in our hearts you'll stay

We will love you and remember you every single day. The Billingsley family.

STARNES: Ivan

In loving memory of a dear brother who passed away three years ago on June 14, 2019.

*A page in the book of memory,
Silently turns today,
You may not be with us Ivan,
But you are never far away.
You had smiles for everyone
A heart as good as gold.
No treasure can ever replace you,
And your memory never grows old.
You did so many things for us,
Your heart was kind and true.
And when we needed someone,
We could always count on you.
Of all that life has given us,
And all that is left to do.
We will never know a greater gift,
Than the years we shared with you.*

Sadly missed, lovingly remembered by your sister: Shena; nephews: Jimmy (Bianca), Kenny; and grand nieces: Milly and Mya.

WYLIE: Viola

In loving memory of Viola Wylie. Until we meet again.

*Those special memories of you,
Will always bring a smile.
If only we could have you back,
For just a little while.
Then we could sit and talk again,
Just like we used to do.
You always meant so very much,
And always will do too.
The fact that you're no longer here,
Will always cause us pain
But you're forever in our hearts
Until we meet again.*

Mommy you are the most beautiful memory we keep locked inside our hearts. Sadly missed and never forgotten. With all our love. your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A prayer to St. Jude to be said in cases despaired of

St. Jude, glorious apostle, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor has caused you to be forgotten by many but the true church evokes you universally as the patron of the things despaired of. Pray for me who is so miserable, pray for me that finally I may receive the consolations and the succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, sufferings, particularly (here make your request) and that I may bless God with the elect throughout eternity. Amen. St. Jude, apostle, martyr and relative of our Lord Jesus Christ of Mary and of Joseph intercede for us.
M.C.G

Card of Thanks

The family of the late Clark Young wishes to express sincere gratitude for the many displays of kindness, including flowers, messages of sympathy, food delivered to the home, and visitation at the funeral home from those near and far.

Thanks to the staff of the Maria Hospital as well as Sherry Major of the CHSLD. Appreciation is also extended to Reverend Pierre Momberg, soloist Mona Hayes, organist Lois Hayes, Josée MacWhirter, Cathy Buttle, Dan and Elaine Huntington, and Earl and Shirley Gallon. The countless acts of generosity and thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

Announcements

Deadline: Wednesday at 4 p.m. to appear in following week's issue.

Obituary/ Wedding: \$40 (picture +\$5) for up to 300 words. If it is more, we will give you a quote.

All other announcements: \$30 (picture +\$5) for up to 20 lines. If it is more, we will give you a quote.

Items must be typed and can be submitted by mail or online.



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COAST ROUND-UP

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:

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.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64

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

June 18: The Browns 9 p.m. \$15 contact Tammy Chatterton 752-8514.

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

June 25: Triathlon - shuffleboard, darts and washers, \$20 per person.

July 2: Free Bingo for children ages 4-12 beginning at 1 p.m.

July 2: Music with Gery Harrison beginning at 8:30 p.m. \$10 entry.

September 6: General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount

Sorrel, New Carlisle.

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.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50 Plus Club

Tuesdays: Grocery Bingo every Tuesday night beginning at 7 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.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:

The winners for the week of May 29 are: Lise Poirier, Georges Sullivan, Christiane McNeil, Valérie LeGurun, Dre Catherine Landry, Céline Legouffe and Carole Grenier.

The winners for the week of June 5 are: Jean Babin, Jean-Marie Boudreau, Pauline Ferlatte, Pierrette Cyr, Paul L. Ferland, Raynald Paulin and Gaspésie Diesel.

**UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, June 19**
10 a.m. Service

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, June 19**
2 p.m. Service
Followed by
Annual Meeting

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Sunday, June 19
NEW CARLISLE**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
PORT DANIEL
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ Sunday, June 19

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



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

If a difficult problem arises in the days ahead, seek the council of someone older or with more experience, Aries. He or she can guide you accordingly and assuage doubts.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Realize that you may have to tone down your reactions and behaviors this week, Taurus. This will earn the respect of those around you. Others are seeking calm and stability.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Some of your to-do items may need to be postponed this week, Gemini. You simply

have too much going on and no wiggle room if projects or meetings run late.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

It could be time to focus on self-improvement, Cancer. Spend a few days figuring out where you can do better. Maybe that's focusing on spirituality or relationships.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

This is an ideal time to spend with your family, Leo. Plan a grand meal with extended family members and host a reunion of sorts. Catch up and share memories.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, change may be a tad scary at first. But before you know it, you will be an old hand at what you are delving

into. Just stick with it until reach your comfort level.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

There may be misunderstandings with others unless you are very clear with your words and intentions, Libra. Watch your tone so things are not misconstrued.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Don't get too caught up on your cash flow right now, Scorpio. You have certain projects on the horizon that may bring in more money that will tide you over for some time.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you may discover you have been spending a lot of time focused on the job or another task that pulling you

away from loved ones. Reconsider your priorities.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Inspiration and imagination are soaring for you this week, Capricorn. Now is the time to put any creative ideas in play and see how they turn out.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you may be hoping to improve communication with a loved one, whether a child or even a sibling. Engage in conversation when you are distraction-free.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Someone who visits you could bring interesting news that ends up being the focus of the conversation. You'll get your say with time.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS JUNE 12

Artem Chigvintsev,
Dancer (40)

JUNE 13

Chris Evans, Actor (41)

JUNE 14

Boy George, Singer (61)

JUNE 15

Courteney Cox,
Actress (58)

JUNE 16

Laurie Metcalf,
Actress (67)

JUNE 17

Venus Williams,
Athlete (42)

JUNE 18

Paul McCartney,
Singer (80)

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QCGN reacts to Bill 96

Diane Skinner

In defense of the language rights of English-speaking Quebecers and other minority communities, QCGN (Quebec Community Groups Network) has published a list of expectations they are anticipating from the Quebec and federal governments in response to Bill 96.

From the provincial government:

1. Acknowledgement of Quebec's English-speaking community as a dynamic and vibrant contributor to Quebec

society.

2. Recognition that in an open, modern and progressive society, Quebec has a responsibility to respect an official language minority community (English) and other minorities.

3. Ensure that measures protecting and promoting the French language do not suppress the rights – or diminish the vitality – of Quebec's English-speaking community.

From the federal government:

1. Recognize that official Language Minority Communities, including the English-

speaking community of Quebec, continue to be vulnerable.

2. Unequivocally support linguistic duality as a pillar of our country.

3. Ensure the equality of language rights and obligations in all areas of federal jurisdiction across Canada.

4. Exercise strong leadership in protecting and promoting Official Language Minority Communities across Canada.

These are expectations. Over the next weeks and months, let's watch closely to see who remains silent and who steps up.

Bill 96 is now law - what's next?

Diane Skinner

English Montreal School Board files suit... Bill 96 is now law in Quebec. Reactions have been swift.

The English Montreal School Board has filed a lawsuit challenging Bill 96 which was adopted on May 24. This 47-page lawsuit was filed to contest the legislation that has changed the charter of the French language. The English Montreal School Board (EMSB) argues that Bill 96 "violates the constitution in a number of ways." Bill 96 "infringes on the right to management and control of minority language education exercised by the EMSB under section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms." Section 23 covers minority language educational rights in Canada and cannot be overturned by

Quebec's use of the notwithstanding clause.

Some of the changes that Bill 96 demands will come into effect in three months and others in one year.

What are the recommendations that have been put forth by QCGN?

- Withdraw the Bill.
- Carry out wide public consultations.
- If not withdrawn, the Bill could be amended.
- Remove the "notwithstanding" clause.
- Court of appeal of Quebec challenge the constitutionality of the Bill.

Canadian Charter of Rights and freedoms:

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms sets out

those rights and freedoms that Canadians believe are necessary in a free and democratic society.

Notwithstanding Clause

Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms includes the notwithstanding clause. This clause allows federal, provincial or territorial governments to override or bypass Charter rights. It is used when a government wishes to pass laws that limit charter rights – namely fundamental freedoms, legal and equality rights. These overrides must be renewed after five years. It is rarely used and since 1982 has only been used a handful of times. It was used in Quebec to pass Bill 96 and thereby bypass the rights and freedoms of Quebecers.

Internet safety month

Diane Skinner

June is Internet Safety Month and if you have ever been hacked or scammed or frauded this will resonate with you. Online scams can come in a variety of forms. A common one is phishing emails that ask you to give personal information. These emails can look very legitimate, often copying the format and logo of bona fide sites. These may include Netflix, Facebook and your bank. Other scammers prey on people through dating sites and a common target for scammers is elderly people.

These people who are trying to obtain your personal information, including banking

information are very good at what they do. As time goes on the scams are getting more slick and more difficult to spot.

Do not trust all messages and texts that you receive. Be skeptical.

Do not send money to anyone you have not met. This refers to romance scams which over the years have been incredibly successful.

Do not click on text messages (a growing source of scams) or emails if you do not recognize the sender. If an email or text is asking for your financial or credit card information, be wary. Just opening a fake message could download malware onto your com-

puter or smartphone.

If an email or text seems fishy (or phishy) – it probably is.

Purchase security programs which can detect malware, such as Malwarebytes, Avast and Norton. Run security updates.

Do not use the same password for different accounts. Repeat passwords leave you vulnerable. Make passwords random and unique – if someone knows your birthdate for example they can easily hack into your account. Longer passwords are best.

Avoid posting on Facebook, your birthdate and personal data of any kind. Hackers search for this infor-



Three small words

When we hear the expression "three small words," it often refers to "I love you." Language is so versatile and powerful and the words we use can inspire, inform and heal, including those phrases that are short and sweet. Nike's slogan is an example of that, "Just do it." On the negative side, words can destroy as well but today we will ignore those words and focus on positivity. On a recent podcast, the interviewer asked a guest, "What three words do you live by?" Her reply was "Leap then look." She explained that at this point in her life she has found that taking chances and seizing the day has paid off.

We asked several SPEC readers what three words inspire them, and their replies are as unique and varied as you might imagine. For some, the three words became four or even five, but the intent is the same. Words have power. These are their bon mots.

"Love, not fear."

"Don't stop believing."

"Love in the present." - Adam Normand

"Live, Love, Laugh." - Patricia Annett

"One day at a time." - Roxanne Major Denis

My mom always told me this,

"Frown upside down".

A smile goes a long way inside and outside!

- Cheryl Henry-Leggero

"Don't sweat the small stuff." - Elaine Sexton

"Life goes on..." - Anne MacWhirter

"Try something new." Learn a new skill, meet a new person, etc. This helps to gain new perspectives and keep an open mind. Seems to work for me so far. - Isabelle Martin

"Truth reveals the soul." - Roger Wise

"Let's go explore." I absolutely love going for adventures, exploring new places that I have never been before, whether local or further afield, and trying new things. - Beth Briggs

I would have to say either "Keep moving forward" or "Never look back" just because you can't change the past, but you have time to change and make the future better. - Pamela McLellan

My three-word approach to life is: "Embrace the Journey."

For a long time, I was always so anxious and focused on reaching the next step of my life: finishing high school, getting married, having a baby, getting a job promotion, and so on. I now try to focus more on the journey and see the joy and happiness in the little moments of everyday life.

- Chelsea Flowers

"Live in harmony with yourself." Sandra Beebe

Gratitude. From time to time I ask SPEC readers to give their opinion, grant an interview, provide photos or talk about their memories for an article. I so appreciate all of you who so kindly contribute to make this a true community newspaper. My opportunity to "Be obsessively grateful." D. S.

mation.

Use two-factor authentication (2FA) and this way if your password and username are leaked your account will automatically trigger a notification to your phone if a website notices that you (or someone else) are logging in from a different device.

Beware of using public Wi-Fi. It is not secure.

Protection and awareness

can help to keep your personal information and your money, safe and secure. If you should notice unusual activity on your bank account, contact customer service immediately. Despite following these safety protocols, you can still be hacked. Change your bank password often. And do not use your birthdate or your grandchildren's names. Too obvious.

Father's Day 2022: A son's first hero, a daughter's first love

Diane Skinner

On the third Sunday of June, this year June 19, it is a day for people to show their appreciation for fathers: birth fathers, adoptive fathers, fathers-in-law, grandfathers or father figures.

There are countless ways to show your love and appreciation on Father's Day including buying ties, chocolate, books, sports or hobby equipment. Giving handmade items and cards is always a special way to remember dear old dad. Making him brunch or supper or even his favourite dessert is always appreciated. Take him out for supper to a restaurant. It is the thought that counts.

There is some evidence to show that Father's Day may have originated in times of Pagan worship of the 11th to the 13th centuries. Followers of ancient Paganism believed that the father was like the Sun and because Father's Day is celebrated in June close to the Summer Solstice, the link between the two was recognized.

In modern times in the western world, the United States has claimed to have officially first marked this special

day. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd was inspired by Mother's Day to plan a day to similarly honour fathers. The first official day on which Father's Day was held in the United States was June 19, 1910.

In Catholic countries of Europe, Father's Day has been celebrated on March 19 since the Middle Ages. In Lithuania, Estonia and Samoa, Father's Day is a recognized public holiday. In South Korea it is celebrated as Parents' Day. In Russia they continue to follow the Soviet Union's tradition of celebrating "Defender of the Fatherhood" Day, where it is sometimes referred to as "Man's Day." In Ukraine, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of September.

The narrow definition of father is simply the male parent

of a child. In more ideal and grand terms, a father may be a Prince Charming to his daughter. To his children he may be a hero or even a superhero. He supports and guides his children and loves them equally. A father has your back and picks you up if you fall. But most of all a great father loves his children.

"My father gave me the greatest gift anyone can give another person. He believed in me."

Thanks For Believing In Me

I needed to have someone on my side,
Someone who was loving and true,
I had to know that I mattered to someone,
One of those someones is you.

Because you always believed in me,
I came to believe in me too,
You built my strength and confidence,
To see the tough times through.

Thank you, Dad, for believing in me,
Thank you for taking my side
Through all the ups and downs of life,
And every bumpy ride.

I'm truly very grateful, Dad,
And I simply want to say,
I hope you have a well-earned
Happy Father's Day!

Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee

Diane Skinner

Queen Elizabeth recently celebrated her Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years on the throne. She is the longest reigning British monarch, passing the 63-year reign of Queen Victoria, and she is the third-longest reigning monarch of any sovereign state. The Queen is the head of state of 16 independent countries, including Canada. Her popularity remains high in Britain. She became Queen in 1952 upon the death of her father, King George VI. The Queen was not able to attend some of the Platinum Jubilee events due to "mobility issues" and Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, referring to her love of horses said about her endurance all these 70 years, "Your Majesty, we are sorry that you're not here with us this morning, but we are so glad that you are still in the saddle. And we are glad that there is still more to come. So, thank you for staying the course." Queen Elizabeth II is 96 years old.

Cascapedia-St-Jules Fall Festival

Kelly Cochran

Bring out your dancing shoes after two long years, The Municipality of Cascapedia-St-Jules will be hosting Fall Festival, once again October 7 to 9.

There will be bands during the weekend and many activities to be held in the tent and around the Fall Festival site.

On Saturday morning there will be an arts and crafts sale with an abundance of local items. Contact the municipality to reserve a table as there are limited spaces available. Saturday and Sunday there will be music in the tent during the afternoon and the evening. The presentation of trophies and prizes will take place on Sunday afternoon. Numerous activities are planned for the weekend including the Soapbox Derby, Classic Car Show, Washer Competition, Open Dart Tournament, Open Mic, Guide Competition and many other activities.

If you would like to suggest an idea or introduce a new activity to the festival, please come to the municipality or come to one of the public Fall Festival meetings.

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