

Rail: a date again requested for Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – Solidarité Gaspésie and the Gaspé Citizens Committee for Development have joined forces to demand from Quebec a date for the complete repair of the railway line between Matapédia and Gaspé.

With a 60-page document from Gaétan Lelièvre, former Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, which provides an enlightened assessment of what has been done and the impacts of the absence of rail in the region, the groups want action.

Currently, freight trains can only run between Matapédia and Caplan. The impact is considerable as McInnis Cement in Port-Daniel-Gascons has to transport its product by truck to a terminal in New Richmond to then transport it by rail from there.

Until recently, the LM Wind Power plant in Gaspé was sending 50-metre long blades over more than 200 kilometres of road before they were loaded on a train to the United States.

In addition, VIA Rail passenger trains have not been running for almost a decade. Transport Québec, the owner of the railway since 2015, announced in February new deadlines for the repair: from 2022 to 2024 for the Caplan to Port-Daniel-Gascons section. The ministry can no longer provide a deadline for Gaspé when the target previously was 2025, due to several technical issues.

"We managed to invest \$7 billion in the REM project in Montreal in three years and we did not manage to spend \$200 million in seven years on the Gaspé train," says Mr. Lelièvre, who questions the real political willingness of Quebec to act promptly in this file.

The stakeholders aren't forgetting the fact that it will take longer to renovate the rail than its construction at the turn of the 1900s when there wasn't the technological means that are available today.

"We demand a precise and firm timetable from the gov-



About forty people attended the release of Gaétan Lelièvre's study.

Photos: N. Sergerie

ernment," says Solidarité Gaspésie spokesperson Carol Saucier, applauded by the forty people who attended the public presentation of the report at the Gaspé intermodal station on June 15.

"The absence of satisfactory results in the Gaspé railway file raises the important question of the place of the regions versus that of the major centres in terms of government vision and priorities," suggests Mr. Lelièvre, who remembers in particular a declaration of the Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands to CHNC on May 30. Ms. Lebouthillier said that she was going to be-



Gaétan Lelièvre has prepared a 60-page document reporting on the Gaspé rail file.



A portion of the dormant railway east of Port Daniel.

lieve it when she saw the train arrive at the station in Gaspé.

The document addresses development and environmental issues.

We can read in the report that a train of 50 railcars with a crew of two people would re-

place 100 trucks "while the train generates on average six times less of a carbon footprint than trucking," says Solidarité Gaspésie.

On May 5, 2017, the (Quebec) Liberals released the first \$100 million for its repairs.

In August 2019, Premier François Legault had targeted 2025 for Gaspé and the envelope was increased to \$235 million in 2020.

In order to speed up the pace, the group is asking that the management of the project

be brought back from the *Société québécoise des infrastructures* to the regional branch of Transports Québec and the *Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie*, which managed certain aspects of the repairs between Matapédia and Caplan.

Pending a completely renewed rail, the coalition is at the very least asking for a repair of the track between Gaspé and Percé in order to allow the Amiral tourist train to circulate, especially for international cruise customers.

The Table of Prefects had adopted a resolution in February to have a specific date for the end of the work to Gaspé.

Reactions

This release from this new coalition has sparked several comments, including those of the Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, Méganne Perry Mélançon, who mentions that the region has been in nothingness since February when Quebec erased Gaspé from the work schedule.

She is making demands: "To have more transparency, to create sub-committees which will follow up on the completion of the work and to have a fixed deadline for Gaspé," says the outgoing MNA.

Entrepreneur Claudine Roy often commutes between Gaspé and major centres.

Her conclusion is without appeal. "I have always promoted the Gaspésie, developed our tourism. I have never seen our transport system so weakened as it is currently in 2022," she says, adding the situation of air transport, the bus and the poor condition of the road network between Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Gaspé.

The train is the best solution for the environment according to the group, Together for the Sustainable Future of Greater Gaspé.

"In all greenhouse gas emissions, we are talking about emissions of 3 to 4% for rail, while for other modes of transport, it is between 45 and 47%," underlines its president, Lisa Chartrand.

Quick facts about the Gaspé Peninsula Railway

Gilles Gagné

The line between Matapedia and Gaspé was opened to traffic over its full length in 1911. Its construction started on June 8, 1888. It took 23 years to build, after 27 years of talks.

In 1911, New Carlisle was the head office of the companies operating their half of the network, the Quebec Oriental Railway and the Quebec Atlantic and Occidental Railway.

In 1929, the government owned Canadian National Railways, now CN Rail, and acquired the whole line between Matapedia and Gaspé, following public requests for service improvements regarding passenger and freight traffic.

In 1977, VIA Rail was founded to take over CN's and Canadian Pacific's passenger services.

In 1986 and again in 1990, CN Rail applied for the abandonment of the Chandler to Gaspé section of the railway. The 1990 attempt was granted but overturned in 1991 by a decision of the Minister of Transport, Jean Corbeil.

On January 15, 1990, VIA Rail reduced its train frequency between Montreal and Gaspé to three weekly trains instead of a daily one.

In July, 1996, CN Rail, privatized the previous year, formally expressed its decision to sell the Matapedia to Chandler portion of the network. It mate-

rialized over the fall of the same year and the Quebec Railway Society took over the operation of the line on December 1, 1996.

In March, 1997, the federal government handed out \$3.6 million to the newly-formed Gaspésie Railway Corporation (Corporation du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie), later renamed Gaspésie Railway Society (the current Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie). It is now owned by the four MRCs located along the line. The amount of \$3.6 million was divided, \$3 million for the acquisition of the Chandler to Gaspé stretch from CN Rail, and \$600,000 for its commercialization.

On July 5, 1998, freight traffic resumed between Chandler and Gaspé as Noranda Mines signed an agreement with the Gaspésie Railway Corporation to haul 400 cars loaded with copper anodes yearly. The deal ended with the closure of the Murdochville smelter at the end of April, 2002.

On October 28, 1999, Abitibi-Consolidated announced the closure of the Gaspesia newsprint mill in Chandler. On August 4, 2005, Smurfit-Stone announced the closure of the New Richmond linerboard plant. The Baie-des-Chaleurs Railway Society, the regional subsidiary of the Quebec Railway Society, therefore, lost its two main customers and

put the line up for sale. On June 28, 2007, the Quebec and Canadian governments announced in New Carlisle a grant of \$35 million to allow the Gaspésie Railway Society to acquire the line between Matapedia and Chandler and repair some bridges. In November, 2009, woodchip traffic generated by the Temrex sawmill in Nouvelle was added to the Gaspésie Railway Society business. The plant is now owned by Groupe Lebel.

In December, 2011, VIA Rail ceased its train service east of New Carlisle because of bridge repairs needed in Chandler. In September 2013, the public transporter also suspended the service between Matapedia and New Carlisle due to problems with some bridges. In November, 2014, the Gaspésie Railway Society filed for the protection of the court, notably because of the burden created by the line maintenance.

In March, 2015, Transports Québec announced its decision to acquire the whole line between Matapedia and Gaspé for the value of Gaspésie Railway Society's debt, about \$3.5 million. The section between Caplan and Percé was immediately put in a dormant state despite the construction of the Port Daniel cement plant, started in May, 2014. In Sep-

tember, 2015, the ministry also put the Percé to Gaspé section in a dormant state, thus forcing a halt in the operations of the Amiral tourist train, whose service had started in 2013.

On December 3, 2016, the Gaspésie Railway Society sent its first windmill blade train from New Richmond to Matapedia. From there it was delivered to its final destination, Texas, by CN Rail and other transporters. Loading in New Richmond instead of Gaspé, where the blades are made, was imposed by the 2015 decision to stop the maintenance and repairs east of Caplan.

In July 2017, the cement cars were loaded in New Richmond, a situation again attributable to the dormant state of the line east of Caplan. It is now estimated that 5,000 truckloads are necessary yearly to haul cement between Port Daniel and New Richmond. That is not counting the traffic lost because customers located relatively, like in New Brunswick or Matane, are affected by the cost of transshipment in New Richmond and keep being served by trucks.

The last windmill blade train for a while was loaded at the beginning of May 2022, because the manufacturer, LM Wind Power, will soon switch to giant 107-metre-long blades that will be installed in offshore wind farms. Those blades must be exported by ship. Between

December, 2016, and May, 2022, 118 windmill blade trains were loaded in New Richmond. Loading them in Gaspé would have generated tens of millions of dollars in additional revenues for the Gaspésie Railway Society.

The Gaspésie Railway Society is now counting on a variety of possibilities to replace the windmill blade traffic until its possible resumption, a few years down the road. Traffic will surely increase at the Votorantim cement plant in Port Daniel once rail service is available there.

New ventures are also expected to materialize east of Caplan, in the Bonaventure or New Carlisle area, with the eventual return of the Saint-Elzéar sawmill among the railway customers. The Gaspésie Railway Society is even considering the construction of a spur to Saint-Elzéar and another spur to Gaspé, to LM Wind Power's plant, once the line is reopened there. Bringing LM Wind Power's input by rail would generate close to 1,000 carloads annually.

In 2007, the Gaspésie Railway Society hauled 426 carloads of freight and, in 2021, it hauled 4636 carloads, eleven times as much. The municipal entity declared revenues of close to \$10 million, including an operational grant of \$2.5 million coming from Transports Québec.

New Carlisle Detention Centre in need of improvements

Nelson Sergerie

NEW CARLISLE - The union, representing correctional officers at the New Carlisle Detention Centre, is once again denouncing the dilapidated state of the prison, which has been in service since 1964.

In a letter obtained by SPEC sent to the Ministry of Public Security, the union writes that apart from certain work carried out in 2009 following a fire, "it is clear that today's infrastructures are practically the same as in the 1960s."

Still in 2022, the facility operates with barred doors and dormitories that house 10 people with only access to one toilet and a shower, porcelain sinks and toilets, There are blind spots without cameras and an inadequate ventilation system, argues the union in its missive.

"We have been saying for years that it needs major work

to be up to 2022 standards, to be up to security standards," proclaims the national president of the Quebec Union of Correctional Workers, Mathieu Lavoie.

He points out that a security sector has been closed for three years following its demolition by a man who was in crisis and caused heavy damage.

"We hear the ministry tell us we are going to invest, we are going to repair, but nothing has changed for three years," says Mr. Lavoie.

In the letter the union mentions that "even the Associate Deputy Minister, Ms. Line Fortin, during her visit in August 2020, admitted that we were probably the most outdated detention facility in the province. She had also congratulated the staff for keeping this establishment despite limited means."

The union calls on the CAQ government and the Minister of Public Security, Geneviève



The New Carlisle prison backed by the courthouse and the Sûreté du Québec station.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Guilbault, to hear its message. "It just takes the political willingness to do it," suggests the president.

Questioned during her visit to Maria on June 12, Minister Guilbault maintains that the needs are being taken into account.

"We have 17 establishments in Quebec. It is part of the identified needs. At the moment, we are at 66% occupancy,

which means that we are not overcrowded, but these are needs that are taken into account," says the Minister.

"There is a prioritization and there are discussions with the Treasury Board Secretariat. It is a priority, among others," when asked about where the New Carlisle Jail is priority-wise in ministry planning.

The union says that New Carlisle is one of the few es-

tablishments to be attached to a courthouse. The Minister is not commenting regarding a new building.

"I have no announcement to make. For the moment, we are settled there. There is a way to optimize within what we currently have. I have no plans to build a new prison that we would own," says Ms. Guilbault, who notes that the ministry is a tenant in the building.



Photo: G. Gagné

The deputy premier, minister of Public Security and minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region, Geneviève Guilbault (centre), made the announcement on June 12. She is surrounded by the mayor of Maria, Jean-Claude Landry, and the owner of the Lady Maria Manor, Christine Dubé, who is explaining the damage caused by erosion in that part of the municipality.

Quebec’s Public Security spends \$9.3 million to counter erosion in Maria

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – Quebec’s Minister of Public Security, Geneviève Guilbault, announced a grant of \$9.315 million for the implementation of a measure to protect the banks against coastal erosion and flooding in Maria. The project will also be increased through a contribution of \$685,000 from the Town of Maria, to bring the total cost of the project to \$10 million.

The initiative will essentially target the stretch of one kilometre located between the post office and the mouth of Rivière Verte, from west to east. The Quebec government money comes from an envelope called Loss Prevention Framework and will extend until 2025.

“The phenomena of coastal erosion and submersion encourage us to act in prevention since they directly affect the population of the coast. It is very important for our government to invest in securing the banks because in this way we avoid major damage and, above all, we protect our citizens and our essential infrastructures,” stresses Minister Guilbault.

The area covered by the project includes the IGA supermarket and a residential area located along Des Tournepierres and Des Mouettes Streets. The asset value of the area amounts to \$21.7 million. It was submerged a few times over the last 17

years, including during the major storms of December 2, 2005, and December 6, 2010. A house located west of the supermarket was moved by its owners a few months after the 2010 storm.

Maria Mayor Jean-Claude Landry gives the example of the IGA supermarket as a place that has been heavily affected by coastal erosion over the last years.

“There is now only enough space for one parked car in the back of the building. Fifteen years ago, there was a lot of room at the same place,” he remarks.

The nature of the work that will be carried out remains undecided, admits Minister Guilbault and Mayor Landry. Shore reloading, as it was done in Percé, is certainly considered. Experts will be consulted before deciding upon the strategy to adopt, they both say.

“I will not venture into scenarios. I am talking quite often to my director of public works,” says Mr. Landry.

Could some houses be moved? “It happened to a citizen whose house was very close to the beach. In December 2010, the waves were reaching the second floor of the house. It (moving houses) is not excluded but it is not what we envision as a solution,” adds Mr. Landry.

Considering the low degree of advancement of the project, announcing it now is a sign that the Coalition avenir Québec government

Police report

The Direction de la protection de la jeunesse (DPJ) of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, the regional body in charge of youth protection cases, is not commenting on the case of a suspicious death of a four-month-old baby which occurred in Maria in the early afternoon of June 8. Michèle Frenette, director general of the regional DPJ, is not confirming if her organization received a complaint concerning the death. What she does provide is a general comment.

“It is certain that the death of a baby is always a tragic situation (...) a tragedy in a community. It’s clear but we cannot comment on a particular situation,” notes Ms. Frenette. According to information obtained by SPEC, a complaint was sent to the Department of Youth Protection on the very day of the baby’s death. The DPJ refused to comment on this specific case for the first time on June 10.

On June 14, the SPEC asked Michèle Frenette, during the presentation of the regional annual results of the DPJ, how the processing of a complaint or a report by the organization generally takes place.

She notes that there are three types of codes when a report is brought to the attention of the Youth Protection Department. “Code 1 requires immediate intervention from our teams. There is no time limit,” she says.

Code 2, a little less urgent, requires a response within 24 hours of reporting, while code 3 is characterized by a response within four days, not necessarily in person, but at least over the phone. In general, the in-person intervention for a code 3 is done between two and three weeks after the report if the case has been retained and the children are waiting.

The intervention of the emergency services on June 8 occurred around 2:30 p.m. The baby was pronounced dead at Maria hospital shortly after. The mother was also hospitalized a few hours later, due to shock. She remained hospitalized for several days.

“The Sûreté du Québec is continuing its investigation,” says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the SQ, on June 13. An investigation is systematically launched by the police into any death of a child under the age of six. The Sûreté du Québec indicated on June 9 that an autopsy would be performed on the body of the baby on June 13.

Michael Hackett-Loisel, 29, from Hope Town, was found guilty of assaults causing bodily harm, assault with a weapon, driving while impaired and breach of probation by Quebec Court Judge Janick Poirier. The man hit his grandparents several times. The next day, he attacked his uncle and threatened him with a knife. After being disarmed, he attacked his uncle again. Incarcerated since the September 29-30 events, Michael Hackett-Loisel already had a history of violent crimes, for which he was previously sentenced to 15 months in prison.

Before his April trial at the New Carlisle Courthouse, he already faced charges of mischief, breach of probation and a second charge of breach of probation regarding another previous event that took place in July 2021. He also faced an accusation of driving while impaired. He was represented by Attorney Richard Lavigne. The verdict and the sentence were rendered in New Carlisle on June 10.

Brandon Metallic, 29, from Listuguj charged May 16, 2021, with two murders, will return to court on June 30 as the results of the last psychiatric assessment pertaining to his condition will be released to the court in New Carlisle. Criminal prosecutor Anne Joncas-Côté stresses that the last psychiatric report about Brendan Metallic was submitted to the court on June 13, after a second 60-day evaluation of the accused, who was not considered fit for trial two months ago. “We now have to consult the report between now and June 30. The results of the assessment are not public yet. They will be released on June 30,” she says.

After successful treatments to assist in getting him fit to stand trial over the fall of 2021, Brandon Metallic was again considered unfit to stand legal procedures at the beginning of the spring, which prompted the court to send him back for another evaluation. It was carried out by the Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute in Montreal. If he is still considered unfit to stand trial on June 30, the court could transfer the case to Quebec’s Administrative Tribunal, since it happened over the fall of 2021. That tribunal is sometimes asked to make decisions about cases that seem to have reached a standstill.

On the morning of June 15, police officers from the major crimes investigation squad of the Sûreté du Québec, accompanied by investigators and patrol officers from the Percé Rock MRC detachment, discovered 250 illegal cannabis plants in addition to various equipment used for growing cannabis at a residence in the Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie sector of Percé. The plants and the equipment were seized by the police. The resident of the property, a 55-year-old man, was arrested at the time of the procedure and then released a little later pending a promise to appear in court for further proceedings. He could face various charges related to trafficking narcotics. The investigation is continuing in this case.

has started its electoral campaign?

“No. I had expected to come to the Baie-des-Chaleurs area. We have been working on that project for two years,” replies Minister Guilbault.

She adds that “the 10-million-dollar project will make it possible to protect residential buildings, businesses, a residence for the elderly and municipal infrastructures.”

Jonatan Julien, the Natural Resources Minister who is also responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and the

Magdalen Islands, adds through a press release that “whether we think of buildings or roads and aqueducts, the consequences of coastal erosion and submersion could amount to millions of dollars, just in Maria. We are committed to protecting not only all these assets, but also to enable citizens to preserve their leisure and business activities.”

Mayor Landry reminds the public that “as seen in past storms, Maria’s coastlines are vulnerable to erosion and submersion. We are

already living with serious repercussions from climate change. Fortunately, teams of specialists and our government partners are helping us to implement the most advantageous solutions to protect our coastal zone and our quality of life.”

Over the next months, an analysis of possible solutions to protect the sectors most exposed to coastal hazards will be carried out in order to target the protective measures to be recommended to preserve the property and the safety of people.

Gilles Gagné
Commentary



Predetermined
voting day makes
long electoral campaign

With the start of the summer, we realize that the electoral campaign leading to the October 3 election in Quebec is already underway. The so-called pre-electoral context started in April, maybe a little before, for the Coalition avenir Québec government. The opposition parties have practically no choice but to adopt the same strategy.

Before the adoption of a predetermined election day in 2013, Quebec Premiers and their brass could always look at surveys, at the overall context, weigh the effects of an opposition party's bad move and call the start of the electoral campaign when judged relevant. A pre-electoral period was relatively vague in people's minds.

The April 14, 2014, the election was not predetermined, as the minority government of then Parti québécois leader Pauline Marois called it because she was under the impression that the party's secular charter would provide a victory. It led the party to a demise that might kill it over the long term.

Since the Liberal Party victory in 2014 was concluded by a majority government, predetermined election dates have since been applied, initially on October 1, 2018, and this year.

Currently, the main unknown about the coming election is the duration of the campaign. It can last between 33 and 39 days. Premier Legault will call it between August 25 and 31.

All Quebec political parties have therefore held province-wide conventions over the last couple of months in order to determine what the Members of the National Assembly and their campaign organizers will talk about during the summer's meetings with the electors.

The Liberal Party sort of "jumped the gun" during the second week of June unveiling its electoral platform. Leader Dominique Anglade promises tax reductions if her party wins the election.

In a context of sky-rocketing inflation, it was probably a calculated risk. Ms. Anglade is counting on the possibility that the electorate will remember that her party was the first one to propose an income tax reduction, a measure that has a longer impact than a second \$500 cheque promised by the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ).

However, we can bet on the high probability that the CAQ brass will propose tax reduction as well. The party's program is under preparation and its think tank has never been afraid of stealing the other parties' good ideas and making them look original.

Former Liberal Party of Canada leader Paul Martin had adopted that strategy of an early program launch in 2004, and so did Jean Charest for Quebec's Liberal Party in 2007. In both cases, though, they were leading the reigning party and

they won a minority government. Dominique Anglade is just leading the first opposition party and her chances of winning the October election are slim at best.

Quebec's Liberal Party has a very low degree of support in the francophone electorate at less than 10% and nearly lost an important part of the anglophone vote because of her vague position regarding Bill 96, the CAQ legislation that is replacing Bill 101 on the use of French.

Speaking of vague, the ecological plan of the Liberal Party leaves many questions unanswered, notably on the controversial emphasis put on the production of so-called "green hydrogen," which will unlikely live up to its promises. Despite a recent visit of Ms. Anglade to the Gaspé Peninsula and other regions, the Liberal Party has not been able in four years to make people forget about the decisions that affected to a large extent Québec's rural regions between 2014 and 2018. The toll remains high in that regard.

The CAQ is in control of the pre-electoral campaign and will likely remain in that leading position on October 3. Its position is reinforced by two factors: the huge visibility received during the pandemic and the opposition's weaknesses.

Bill 96, which became a law at the beginning of June, received large support overall despite its understandable unpopularity in the anglophone and ethnic communities. The CAQ hesitated for a while between whether to adopt it in late spring or after the election. Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette opted for putting it in the track record of the government instead of using it as an electoral tool.

The CAQ's strategy will therefore be centered around immigration quotas, health and the economy, not necessarily in that order. The immigration file is far from the party's forte. The degree of reflection on the matter is low among cabinet members. The party's strategy has been lame at best but the complexity of the immigration topic saves the CAQ from getting heavily criticized by the electorate.

Minister Christian Dubé and Quebecers want improvements in the health sector. The pandemic unveiled tremendous weaknesses in Quebec's health system.

Minister Dubé remains popular because his appointment came after the worst part of the COVID-19 crisis and his communication skills seem to work well with the population. The health caseload is a huge one though. The number of Quebecers left without a family doctor has increased during the CAQ term, and so has the waiting time in emergency units. The pandemic was a good scapegoat until recently but if the coronavirus fails to come back strongly over the fall, the government will have to find other excuses for the disappointing performance of the Health and Social Service ministry since 2018.

The economy used to be the Liberal Party's strong point, or so it was perceived. The CAQ has eroded the Liberals' hold in that field essentially through winning the support of the private sector. Inflation currently affects the economy and it remains to be seen that the Quebec government can have a major impact on a worldwide problem. It must also be said that the government's revenues increase with inflation!

Meanwhile, the environment represents a major

flaw in the CAQ actions and it will likely remain like that for the next term.

Until 2018, Québec solidaire increased its support base in the electorate and at the National Assembly. It is far from sure that the 2022 election will lead to rising results once more. By getting better organized, strengthening its staff and adopting more conventional positions, notably on language matters, the party has paradoxically lost the support of some of its members.

The challenge for the party's brass will be to keep its members in line with its Members of the National Assembly and leaders. Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois and Manon Massé are appreciated by the public, which could save some Québec solidaire seats. The support rate of the party seems to have platooned at 14% over the last couple of years.

The Parti québécois is in a survival mode. Four of its seven caucus members are not coming back. The party had lost three caucus members during the term. The last surveys were giving a popular support rate of 8% to 9%. Its leader, Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon, is conducting a pre-electoral campaign under the theme of independence, which still receives 30% support in the electorate. Strangely, that strategy could improve its overall number of votes of the PQ, come October 3 and at the same time lower its number of seats to two or three, all in Eastern Quebec.

Quebec's Conservative Party shows flashes of strong support, which hovers around 15% according to recent surveys. Leader Éric Duhaime will have to prove that he can maintain that support without the COVID sanitary measures occupying the forefront of debates. It is far from a done deal. The party has attracted rebels during the COVID crisis, rebels that have sent a lot of money to Éric Duhaime. However, rebels usually don't vote much during elections. The leader must find topics other than the abolition of sanitary measures and show that he is able to defend them.

As it happened in Ontario, we could unfortunately witness a very low participation rate on October 3. The major challenge of all parties will consist of mobilizing their supporters.

The Gaspé Spec

ESTABLISHED • MAY 1975

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

Publisher:
Penny MacWhirter

News Editor:
Gilles Gagné

Office Manager
Joan Imhoff

JOURNALISTS:
Nelson Sergerie
Diane Skinner

CONTRIBUTORS:
Cynthia Dow,
Jeanie LeLacheur

208-B Gérard D. Levesque
New Carlisle, Que.
G0C 1Z0
Tel: **418-752-5400**
specs@globetrotter.net
thegaspec.com

Published every Wednesday by:
Les Publications de la Côte Inc.
(Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)

(Taxes included)
1-year (paper or digital): \$46
6-months (paper or digital): \$25
Outside Canada:
1-year paper \$165 digital: \$46

SPEC welcomes letters to the editor on subjects relevant to topics covered by the paper. Letters must be kept within 300 words or less and may be edited for clarity or to remove any slanderous, sexist, racist or homophobic statements. We reserve the right to reject any letters. Opinions or letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies or beliefs of this newspaper. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include the address and number(s) for verification purposes. (Address & phone number will not be printed.). The Publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.

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

Canada Québec

Member of:
QCNA, CARD

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

CMC
AUDITE



418-752-5400 (VOICEMAIL)
SPECS@GLOBETROTTER.NET
THEGASPESEC.COM

Quebec’s independence is still an exciting project, according to PQ candidate

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Despite disappointing support numbers in Quebec-wide surveys, the Parti québécois candidate in Bonaventure, Alexis Deschênes, shows enthusiasm towards Quebec’s independence project and his potential victory in the October 3 election.

Although his candidacy nomination was official in January, Mr. Deschênes and some members of the Parti québécois caucus held a confirmation of nomination on June 11 in Carleton. The candidate greeted party leader Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon, Joliette riding Member of the National Assembly Véronique Hivon, and Magdalen Islands Member of the National Assembly and the parliamentary leader of the PQ, Joël Arseneau.

The four of them vigorously attacked the current government’s overall lack of ambition for Quebec. Alexis Deschênes, a Legal Aid lawyer since his return to the Bay of Chaleur area seven years ago, deplored the political change of orientation of former Parti québécois ministers François Legault and Bernard Drainville, both former sovereigntists.

“Do you think these people are reliable, because it only took a changing wind to have them deny their principles?” asked Mr Deschênes.

He was, among other things, referring to Coalition avenir Québec leader and current premier François Legault’s recent statement to the effect that Quebecers, because only 30 to 32% of them are sovereigntists, don’t want to hear about that, thus making the option obsolete.

“How would François Legault and his new friends have reacted in 1930, when the idea of implementing the vote for women only received the support of a minority of people?” he also asked.

In a speech made in front of 60 supporters, Mr. Deschênes expressed his deep attachment for his constituency.

“I admit it: I am crazy about its forest, its rivers, the sea, the mountains, about running in its trails and the mountains’ summit. I like harvesting my firewood. (...) I like my village, taking 45 minutes to fetch a quart of milk because I am talking to people,” he said.

Mr. Deschênes added that the Parti québécois and Que-



Alexis Deschênes attacked what he called “the very poor CAQ government track record in the region over the last term.”

Photo: G. Gagné

bec’s sovereignty are the best ways to solve the Gaspé Peninsula problems such as the delays in the railway repairs, the lack of daycare places, the housing shortage, the exaggerated price of gas, the poor or absent cellular phone coverage in some communities, caribou protection, “and the flailing support of the Quebec government for the municipalities wanting to protect their blue gold, the water going down our rivers.”

A Member of the National Assembly over the last 14 years, Véronique Hivon, one of the four PQ caucus members who is retiring from politics before the election, praised the qualities of Alexis Deschênes.

“He is the antidote to cynicism. He is exactly what you need in Bonaventure, a man who opted for making his career in the region where he was born,” she said, before switching to the independence, and the Coalition avenir Québec’s lack of tonus in that matter.

“Who is thinking that aspiring to have our own country, that being faithful to our convictions, could be an outdated project?” she asked, targeting the CAQ government.

Joël Arseneau talked about regional stakes. “The CAQ’s track record is deplorable in fisheries, in forestry, and in housing. How about the train? The government pushed ahead the delivery schedule of repairs and now we don’t even have a delivery schedule anymore! That’s a shame! In aerial transport, people want a bit of competition to improve services. The CAQ put the (aerial service) file aside for a year-and-a-half and came back saying that everything is worth \$500. People will receive \$500 be-

cause there is inflation, they will pay \$500 for a plane ticket and if they vote for the CAQ, they will receive another \$500!”

The Magdalen Islands Member of the National Assembly reminded the supporters that the CAQ government has formulated 21 requests while trying to negotiate arrangements and repatriate powers from the federal government and “the answer was always ‘no’.”

Recuperating some of Mr. Arseneau’s speech elements, PQ leader Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon urged voters to beware of the CAQ’s promises. The party of François Legault will ask to elect more CAQ Members of the National Assembly to be more solid in front of Ottawa, he says.

“He (Premier Legault) wants to elect 125 CAQ MNAs because it allegedly takes that to convince Ottawa to surrender some powers. However, in all the regions where CAQ Members of the National Assembly were elected, we don’t hear them. In fact, there was a report about that Abitibi MNA who said that she is not entitled to talk, which is not in the interest of that region. (...) We want to bring back the powers detained by Ottawa and give them to the regions. We don’t want to concentrate them in Quebec City,” he concluded.

On October 1, 2018, current Member of the National Assembly in Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, won the election under the Parti québécois banner but he left the party a year ago because of conflicts with Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon. Mr. Roy, who now sits as an independent, has not indicated yet if he will run again, either as an independent or under another banner.

Amended tourist fee is adopted

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - Presented on June 6, Percé adopted on June 14 the amended regulations for the application of the tourist tax in a special meeting of the council which was peaceful.

Merchants are subject to the principle rather than the tourists; people working in Percé will be exempt; compensation to merchants is improved and the power of verification will be preceded by a 10-day notice. Despite everything, a certain division persists and was noticeable during the question period.

A citizen, Hélène Réhel, congratulated the work of the mayor, deploring what happened during the previous meetings. Those sessions were particularly confrontational.

“I saw the mayor being yelled at that she had to resign last week. It sickened me,” says Ms. Réhel.

“I saw everything that happened and I ask for your resignation again my dear madam. It would make me happy and would make a lot of people happy. It would be a good thing and we should perhaps hold a referendum,” says Jean-Claude Méthot in opposition. Faced with this request, the mayor was taken aback.

The tourist fee of \$1 on purchases of goods and services over \$20, with some exceptions, and of \$1 per night has been in effect since May 1.

The fee will have to pass the test at the court level, as opponents served the Town of Percé with a motion for nullity on June 3.

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

The opposition group has set up a protest fund.

The mayor has promised that an investment plan for the sums collected by the fee should be tabled in July. Maintaining tourism infrastructure costs the town \$800,000. Ms. Poirier has already mentioned a potential income of \$1.5 million with the fee.

Collective agreement signed at Votorantim cement plant in Port Daniel

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL - On June 16, workers at the Votorantim cement plant in Port Daniel accepted the tentative agreement previously negotiated by their union. The 96 employees of the McInnis plant ratified an agreement in principle reached between their negotiating committee and the employer. The quarry workers approved it unanimously while their cement plant colleagues approved it in a proportion of 75%. The 96 employees, all members of the United Steelworkers, affiliated to the Quebec Federation of Labour, therefore have a new three-year collective contract replacing the previous one, which had expired on November 30, 2021. They get a retroactive salary increase of 6% for the first year and 3.25% for the following two years. They also introduce the principle of seniority, so far non-existent in the company. This will now apply everywhere, whether in the allocation of positions, schedules or training. In addition, the pension plan is increased to reach 3% at the end of this contract, according to an even rise of 1% annually. The weekend bonus is also increasing, and goes from \$2 to \$6 per hour. Finally, several mechanisms will be put in place to avoid abusive use of subcontracting.

Youth Summer Employment Offer

Position: Tourist interpretation agent for 6 churches in the Bay of Chaleur region.

If you enjoy history and ancestry and welcoming visitors while working in tranquil surroundings, we have the summer job for you!

Must be between the ages of 15 and 30 to apply, with access to personal transportation between the towns of New Richmond and Port-Daniel West.

- \$14.50 per hour for 35 hours per week
- Confident to converse in both French and English
- Starting July 4 for 6 weeks
- Travel allowance to be negotiated

Interested applicants should hand deliver or email their CV to: Attn.: Joshua Paetkau 178 Boul. Gérard D. Levesque, New Carlisle G0C 1Z0

jpaetkau@quebec.anglican.ca

Application deadline date: June 24, 2022, 11:30 a.m.

\$800,000 needed to restore René-Lévesque’s former home

Nelson **Sergerie**

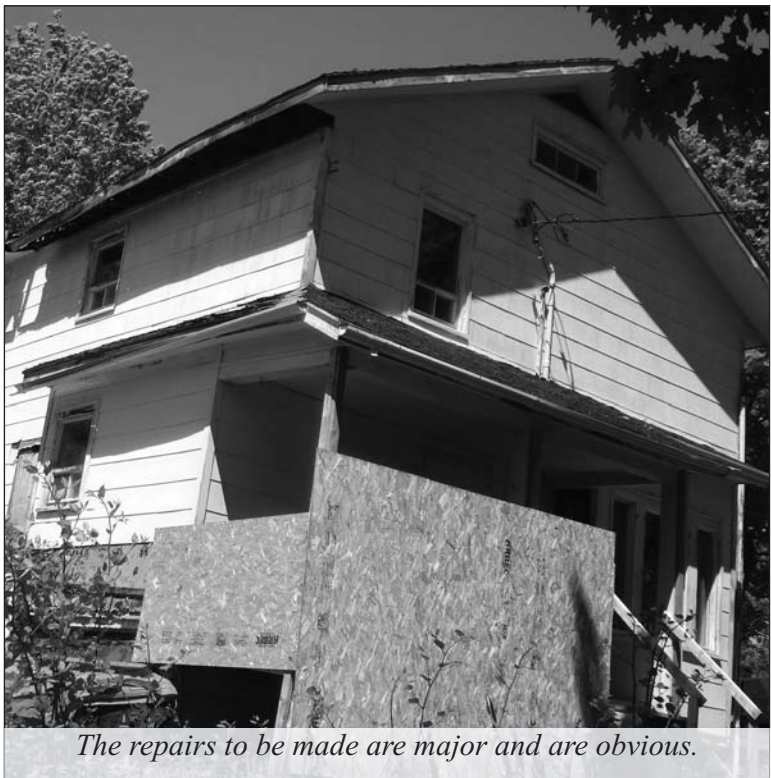
NEW CARLISLE - Restoring the former premier René-Lévesque’s childhood home in New Carlisle to its original state will cost about \$800,000, according to the report assessing the condition of the building.

The detailed 83-page document obtained through the Access to Information Act shows that the house built in 1905 needs an immediate investment of \$131,000 for major work and renovations.

The docuemnt produced by architect Marie-Josée Deschênes of Rimouski, reports significant mold, heavy interior deterioration by water infiltration and degraded exterior cladding and roofing. The building may also contain asbestos and lead. The photos in the document speak for themselves.

The exterior alone requires \$105,000, while a sum of \$15,000 is needed for interior, electrical and security work.

Over a five-year timeframe, \$601,000 has been estimated for the foundation, the floor and the roof, the re-



The repairs to be made are major and are obvious.

Photo: N. Sergerie

pair of the walls and ceilings, and the plumbing and the heating.

Moreover, the lack of heating could explain the state of deterioration of the building, recognized as a heritage site.

The architect specifies that the decontamination work must be done before launching its restoration. The restoration will be based on the

period from 1922 to 1939, when René Lévesque spent his childhood there.

The president of the Board of the Espace René-Lévesque, Gaétan Lelièvre, is not surprised by the extent of the work to be done.

Mr. Lelièvre had estimated the work at about \$500,000, based in particular on the cost of restoration of the Manoir

Lebouthillier in Anse-au-Griffon when he was director general of the Town of Gaspé.

“We are talking about \$800,000. It is not a big surprise. When you arrive in a heritage building where there is an obligation to restore while preserving as much as possible the materials and structures in place, it can cost three to four times more,” says the president.

He had the opportunity to discuss the situation with the office of the Minister of Culture on June 10.

“We offered our collaboration to be an ally for the restoration and operation of the building since it is adjacent to Espace René-Lévesque,” adds Mr. Lelièvre, who feels that Quebec retains a desire to proceed with the restoration.

“I did not feel that on the side of the cabinet team there was any big surprise and I did not feel that the file was questioned,” notes Mr. Lelièvre.

The Espace René-Lévesque continues to monitor what will happen next, especially its future vocation.

“Yes, it is important to restore it. What we want is for there to be an interesting and complementary product to what we offer to the population and to visitors,” stated Mr. Lelièvre.

The René-Lévesque’s childhood home was classified as a heritage building on October 19, 2012 and had obtained recognition status on June 24, 1995.

This year marks the 100th birthday of René-Lévesque, who was premier of Quebec from 1976 to 1985.

Accueil Blanche-Goulet must close its housing component

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - A shortage of workers and exhaustion among the current staff at the Accueil Blanche-Goulet in Gaspé has resulted in the temporary closure of their housing service until mid-September.

The decision affects six beneficiaries who were relocated in collaboration with the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre.

“For us, it is difficult. It is difficult for the residents but these are really exceptional reasons for employee burnout. They’ve been working overtime for weeks. We are starting to be exhausted,” says the director, Pauline Curadeau.

However, job postings have been made in recent weeks in an attempt to recruit new blood.

“We hardly receive any applications. We could not renew our employees. We are having to close,” she says.

Two and a half positions are affected by this temporary closure.

Residents who are homeless will be monitored by CISSS social workers during



The accommodation section of Accueil Blanche-Goulet is closed until September.

Photo: N. Sergerie

the temporary closure.

During this period, Accueil Blanche-Goulet will look at the problem in a broader sense that goes beyond the establishment, in particular how difficult it is to recruit new workers.

“It is also the difficulty of working in a context where there is no housing. For clientele like ours who often experience mental health or substance abuse problems, we understand that they will not be the ones who will have housing that becomes available at first. It is this problem

that we want to look at in order to align ourselves for the future,” adds Ms. Curadeau.

The clinical reception manager will remain in place.

The other reception services, such as food assistance, collective kitchens, fruit and vegetable snacks for certain schools and the preparation of frozen meals for the population of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC remain functional.

The service that supported people experiencing homelessness had been offered for 31 years.

Sharp rise in per capita income in 2020

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - For the first time, disposable income per capita has crossed the symbolic bar of \$30,000 in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

According to the Quebec Institute for Statistics, it stood at \$30,977 in 2020, an increase of 8% compared to 2019 when the amount had been established at \$28,684.

However, the region is not performing as well as the provincial average, which grew by 8.2% to settle at \$33,093, the strongest growth in current dollars since 1984.

This record growth is essentially explained by the various support measures put in place by the federal government to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, which have more than offset the drop in work income.

In Quebec, transfers went from \$6,955 in 2019 to \$9,604 in 2020, an increase of 38.1%.

In the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, growth was less. It was established at 21.3%, the smallest gain across the province.

The region's residents are, however, those who receive, on average, the most in current transfers from the various levels of government. It was set at \$12,863.

The benefits paid by the Old Age Security, the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Quebec Pension Plan are particularly significant in the region, given that the population there is relatively old.

The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands rank 13th out of 17 in Quebec for its per capita disposable income.

Haute-Gaspésie continues to be among the five MRCs in Quebec with the lowest disposable income per capita with barely \$28,104, but is experiencing the best regional growth with 8.4%. It ranks fourth from last in the province.

In the region, the Communauté maritime des Îles-de-la-Madeleine ranks first with \$34,870, an increase of 8.1%.

On the peninsula, the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC experienced growth of 8.3% to \$31,375.

Then followed the Avignon MRC (\$30,922, +7.6%), Rocher-Percé (\$30,386, +7.8%), Bonaventure (\$30,266, +7.7%).



Quebec announces improved ambulance coverage

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - At a time when the ambulance service is most fragile in the Gaspé Peninsula with major areas temporarily deprived of service, Quebec is injecting \$3.5 million to convert shift schedules to hourly schedules by March 31.

Asked for by the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre in March 2018, it was by press release on the evening of June 15 that Quebec made the announcement.

The province is injecting \$938,710 for 8,760 hours per year in hourly wages for Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, \$753,651 for 8,760 hours per year in hourly wages and withdrawal of 700 seasonal hours in Percé, \$912,801 for 17,520 hours per year in hourly wages in Gaspé, and \$912,801 for 12,410 hours per year in hourly wages in Pointe-à-la-Croix.

Concretely, this announcement results in the conversion of schedules for the teams based in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Rivière-au-Renard and Percé.

One of the two Pointe-à-la-Croix teams will go from shift to hourly schedules and another to 10 hours a day. Gaspé also sees a team moving to 10 hours a day.

On the other hand, those of Grande-Vallée and the remaining Sainte-Anne-des-Monts ones should be converted after March 2023.

Faced with labour shortages, the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS stresses that the responsibility for hiring is with the ambulance companies.

“Our responsibility is the organization of services. We're here to set the plan. The transformations must be done by March 2023. The conversions from faction (shift) teams to hourly teams will probably facilitate recruitment and retention, but it remains the responsibility of companies,” explains the assistant director of professional services of the CISSS, Jean-François Sénéchal.

The shift schedule requires a paramedic to remain available 24 hours a day, 7 days in a row over a 14-day period and to be able to reach ambulance garage in five minutes when answering a call.

These conversions are made almost at the same time as vehicles had to remain in the

garage between June 8 and 12 in the Pointe-à-la-Croix, Paspébiac, Gascons and Grande-Vallée sectors.

At Pointe-à-la-Croix, the paramedics had worked 16 hours and had to take a mandatory eight-hour break.

The employer was unable to find staff to maintain the service, according to a union source.

The Cooperative of Ambulance Technicians of Quebec (CTAQ) was mandated by the CISSS to provide ambulance coverage in the region and personnel from Quebec were sent as reinforcements.

“We are experiencing a serious shortage of personnel throughout Quebec,” notes the vice-president of the Fraternité des ambulanciers du Québec, David Gagnon.

He points out that while CTAQ paramedics are in the Gaspé, other paramedics must do mandatory overtime in Quebec City. “This is not a solution that will work in the long term,” warns Mr. Gagnon.

“It is clear that the paramedics are sorry about this. Our job is to help people as quickly as possible when they need it. To see that, it saddens us as much as the population,” says the vice-president.

What is happening now has nothing to do with the fact that paramedics affiliated with the fraternity have been without a contract for two and a half years.

He even fears that an agreement reached with another union will result in problems for services in the regions. The idea of a bonus on clinical use time takes into account the time spent with a patient.

“Unfortunately, this is very bad news for the regions. For example, an ambulance leaving Amqui for a transfer to Quebec would have this time calculated, but the return would not. It would be unfair to the regions. It is clear that this will create an exodus to major centres,” says Mr. Gagnon.

The current situation is not a surprise as ambulance companies already indicated a few years ago the risk of lacking workers when Quebec announced several conversions from shift schedules to hourly schedules.

Mr. Gagnon regrets that the government has not planned anything to attract new trainees.

Herring and mackerel fishermen receive support of Parti québécois caucus

Gilles **Gagné**

CARLETON – The 12 Gaspeian fishermen who earn their living mainly with herring and mackerel received some support from Parti québécois caucus members on June 12, in their attempt to get fair compensation from the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The fishermen were caught completely off guard on March 30 when Fisheries and Oceans Canada cancelled the 2022 mackerel fishery for the whole year and the spring herring season, as well. Uncertainty prevails regarding the end of the summer herring season.

Almost three months after the federal government decision, no compensation has been awarded to the 12 fishermen. Diane Lebouthillier, although she has expressed concern for the group, has failed to commit to any form of measures. She is supposed to react officially to their situation at the end of June.

“I fully understand the more than annoying situation

experienced by fishermen at this moment. We are supporting the group of fishermen because it is necessary to correct the inhuman error in which the federal government plunged pelagic fishermen by depriving them of any compensation. At the Parti québécois, we have said it and we insist: what we want is more power to decide in the regions of Quebec the policies that will apply to us. It does not make sense for the fisheries policy to be dictated and enforced from Ottawa. In the regions, we are in the best position to react to the challenges of our time. Count on us to seek full powers in Ottawa to redistribute them in our regions,” says Alexis Deschênes, the party’s candidate in Bonaventure.

He and party leader Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon met with some fishermen during the latter’s June 11-12 visit in the Bonaventure riding.

“Once again we have a clear demonstration of the insensitivity and the federal government’s misunderstanding of Quebec and its regions. It is not

normal that Quebec does not have the power to control its fisheries. In this situation as in others, the federal government is demonstrating that it is not capable of choosing what is good for us. At the Parti Québécois, we observe that independence is a necessary permanent and sustainable solution since Quebecers are best placed to decide about their present and their future. The federal government does not have to impose the policy that applies to Quebec fisheries. We deserve better than contempt and lack of consideration that Canada has in store for us,” adds Paul St-Pierre Plamondon.

On the Quebec side, they note that Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Minister André Lamontagne learned of the news at the same time as everyone else. He recently committed to contact his federal counterpart, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Minister Joyce Murray. As the SPEC was reaching its deadline, Minister Lamontagne was expected to come to the Gaspé Peninsula before the end of June.

Marked increase in DPJ signaling

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ – The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands recorded a 24.5% increase in reports to the Department of Youth Protection in 2021-2022 for a total of 2068. This figure was 1661 the previous year.

Of these reports, 692 (33.5%) were retained, up 10% compared to the corresponding period last year.

“The increase in reports means that we are a caring population. It means that we listen to the children, that we have the impression that there are children who are sometimes in distress whom we will be informed of,” says the acting director of the DPJ in the region, Michelle Frenette.

The pandemic has been stressful for young people. “The school closures have had an impact. The children had difficulty resuming their favorite sports, resuming what they loved in the presence of friends. It is difficult to explain this significant increase,” says the director.

The increase is double the provincial increase. Province-wide there was 12.5% growth in reports. Neglect, abuse and psychological mistreatment account for two-thirds of the cases handled.

“For several years in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, we often find the same



The interim director of the Gaspé Peninsula Magdalen Islands Youth Protection Department, Michelle Frenette.

Photo: N. Sergerie

problems. Abuse has taken on a lot of importance in recent years, with much regard to conjugal violence, family violence, couple conflicts, separation conflicts. Abuse is precisely these issues,” explains Ms. Frenette.

On the negligence side, it is in terms of health and education that the problems are observed. “Parents sometimes need support to help their children to be better supervised to participate in school,” underlines the acting director.

According to her, 15% of reports concern physical abuse.

“Once the assessment is done, we are much more at risk of neglect or psychological

mistreatment than physical abuse itself,” says Ms. Frenette. Urgent and semi-urgent cases are dealt with without delay. Less urgent cases are often dealt with within four days.

“If we have some (light) worries about children, a check is made by workers on the phone to find out if we should act more quickly while waiting for us to intervene. In general, we will intervene between two and three weeks after the retention in the report,” she explains.

The MRCs of Côte-de-Gaspé and Rocher-Percé had a little more reporting last year. On the other hand, the number of reports retained is similar in all the MRCs.

“It's hard to explain why. It's multifactorial,” she notes.

The DPJ managed to have a full team last year. Ms. Frenette points out that this still remains a challenge. It is especially difficult to replace women out on maternity leave. “We are opening new positions to fill our teams. It varies, depending on the time of year. But it's a daily challenge,” she says.

Number of cases retained by MRC

Avignon:	89
Bonaventure:	108
Rocher-Percé:	122
Côte-de-Gaspé:	160
Haute-Gaspésie:	102
Magdalen Islands:	38
Listuguj:	23
Gesgapegiag:	50

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 64

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: The Royal Canadian Legion, New Carlisle, is fully operational and is offering many activities now that COVID restrictions have been lifted. The new president, Tammy Chatterton, states that she wants to continue the determination, devotion and passion of the past presidents.

She believes that it is an honour to have been elected and to be able to work with individuals who have the same passion.

In 1935, New Carlisle obtained its own charter to become Branch 64 of the Quebec Command of the Legion. From 1935 until 1946, the meetings were held in the old courthouse, with Armistice banquets and parties at the hotel, La Maison Blanche. With the end of World War II and the return of the new veterans, the Legion saw a huge increase in membership and soon realized that a building of its own was essential. A drive for funds was organized, land was purchased, and the building of the new Legion was completed in 1953. Although the building was destroyed by fire in early 1970, a new Legion hall was planned, built and officially opened by October of the same year.

Currently there are 81



Photo: Courtesy Tammy Chatterton

Legion Executive Committee 2022: L-R Laura Flowers, Past President; Ross Smith, Poppy Chairman; Fay Gallon, Membership Chairman; Kathy Gallon, Secretary; Howard Chedore, Vice President; Mary Woods, 2nd Vice; Clyde Flowers, Treasurer; Tammy Chatterton, President; Darlene Flowers, Dart Chairman; and Dean Flowers, Sergeant-at-Arms. (Not in photo: John Kaye Walker, Service Officer.)

members of the Legion. Tammy feels that “we are so blessed to have an abundance of volunteers. Anyone can volunteer but to encourage membership, we do ask that volunteers, if possible, become members.”

There is a lot going on at the Legion including: bingo, musical entertainment, ladies’ night, sports night, Darts Club and tournaments, Thursday happy hour, Family Day (May), Prince and Princess contest (July), November 11 ceremonies, Santa, July 1 pa-

rade of flags, breakfast and supper fundraisers, and a new permit for the outdoor terrace. In addition, the space is available for some rentals.

The goal is that the Legion be open for the community at least four days a week. There are ongoing discussions about the possibility of creating a War Memorial Museum in the lower level. Tammy reflects, “The walls are filled with memories of the past and present. We need to continue to remember who we are and include our rich his-

tory.” Currently you can see photos of some of the veterans posted on the Legion’s Facebook page.

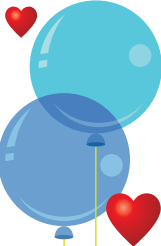
Other plans include afternoon events for seniors. Developing a strong partnership with Kempffer House, CASA, New Carlisle High School, Family Ties and the Municipality of New Carlisle is a priority with the goal of partnering for community events. The Legion will be applying for various project funding that will be used to renovate and upgrade the

building to make it more accessible.

Tammy wants to spread the message that everyone is welcome, and you are not required to have a membership. If you wish to become a member, all are welcome to do so, and you do not need to be a veteran. The cost is \$45 per year. Tammy states, “We value every member, and we appreciate the support. Becoming a member makes our community stronger and allows individuals to realize our freedom comes at a cost. The Legion hosts General Meetings every first Tuesday of the month. Members have a chance to voice their opinions and make suggestions. The members, as a unified group, decide the future of the Legion.”

President’s Message

“I would like everyone to know that we would love to have you visit the Legion, to come in and have a look around, appreciate and reminisce about all the memorabilia on display. For community members near and far, come to enjoy the terrace and music and if it’s in the evening, they can relax in front of the firepit. The Legion is and continues to be a place of growth and we need the support of our community to continue that growth. We are proud of our Legion.”



Students in grade two at Shigawake-Port Daniel School have been thinking about what makes their fathers special. Here are a few favourite memories.

- Anna Murtaugh

Hi, Dad! Happy Father’s Day! I love you. Baking cookies with you is so much fun. You’re the best dad in the world. One of my favourite memories is when we made a real big cookie and it was chewy inside but the good kind of chewy.

- Alexandra Evans

My dad loves to go fishing with us. Daddy takes us to the store to buy toys. One day Daddy bought us a scuba mask. I loved to see the fish!

- Sheldon Huntington

My dad and I like to go outside together. We bike together. It is fun.

- Conner Ross Small

My dad is funny. My dad is cute. Sometimes I put makeup on him and take a picture. I can see Dad on the crab boat when I’m on the bus.

- Kayliey Whalen

My dad plays with me when we have campfires. We run around and he tries to catch us. Dad also takes me in the tractor, and we play in the house.

- Tori Hellen Skene.

My dad’s name is Matt. On some weekends my father will cook breakfast. He makes a special breakfast with eggs, bacon, and sausages altogether. It is yummy!

- Aubree Ross.

My daddy plays baseball with me. It is fun because I hit a homerun. Daddy hits the ball and my brother Gage and I run after it.

- Liam Hottot.

My dad lets me go on the tractor. Daddy works at FIPEC and welds lobster traps. He tucks me in every night and he kisses me too. I love it. We always talk about funny stuff and always act funny together. He gives me treats sometimes and it is fun.

- Lily Major

Dad is the best! We hatch chicks together. We put the eggs in the incubator. Then we wait 21 days. They are so cute.

- Taylor White.

Cascapedia Bridge remains safe

Nelson Sergerie

NEW RICHMOND - The Cascapedia River Bridge spanning over Highway 132 between New Richmond and Cascapedia-Saint-Jules remains safe.

This is according to the Ministry of Transport, which closed the structure from June 13 to 15 in order to remove wood jammed at the level of the pillars.

The results of the last inspection of the bridge carried out in September 2021 show that it does not require any intervention, according to the ministry. The operations carried out were a preventive measure. The department maintains by email that it has no concerns about the amount of accumulations, considered to be low.

“In the long term, this type of buildup can create problems with the stability of the piles, hence the need to remove them (logs) as a preventive measure. The current situation is therefore not harmful to the structure,” writes the ministry.

In May 2017, a pillar of the 328-metre-long bridge was destabilized by the historic floods recorded on the Cascapedia River. The current had washed away the underside of the pile, causing it to lean dangerously. The bridge reopened on June 8, 2018 after replacing the pier and two spans.



Photo: Cynthia Dow



Contributions to anglophone community recognized

Kim Harrison,
Community Correspondent, CASA

Christopher Skeete, Deputy of Sainte-Rose and Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, awarded the Regional Development Network executive director, Cathy Brown, and the executive director of the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), Jennifer Jones, the *Médaille de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec* for having contributed to the development of the community vitality of English-speaking Quebecers.

MAILLE ATELIER COLLABORATIF: DESIGN AND FURNITURE MAKING

SADC
Société
d'aide au développement
de la collectivité
DE BAIE-DES-CHALEURS

LAURA-ANNE LAMARCHE and **GHISLAIN DEA** co-founded the Maille atelier collaboratif in 2019 at New Richmond. Their business combines professional design and furniture-making for interior design solutions according to the specific needs of each client. Interview with Laura-Anne.

IN WHAT WAY IS YOUR BUSINESS UNIQUE?
“The originality of the projects we develop is outstanding in addition to the broad scope of products we offer with all of the sub-contractors who support us” says Laura-Anne. “We try not to have limits in our designs or use of materials. We work with metal, wood and glass. (. .) This is architectural furniture making. Most of the time it is functional, but we are sometimes on the fringe of art.”

HOW DID SUPPORT FROM THE SADC HELP YOU?
First, Maille obtained a personal loan. “It was one of the most advantageous offers in the region” mentioned Laura-Anne. It’s really interesting as seed capital to start up a business.” Maille also had support during the crisis and financing for a structuring project. This assistance “allowed us to conduct strategic planning, to have support to review the structure of the business and to become more efficient.”

TELL US ABOUT A RECENT NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENT OF WHICH YOU ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD AS AN ENTREPRENEUR (EX.: IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT).
“We always try to select the most durable materials” specified Laura-Anne. As this is being written, students in nature science who partner with CIRADD staff (a research centre linked to the Gaspésie-les Îles Cegep) are making proposals to Maille on how to recycle the cuttings from our materials.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ANYONE WHO IS CONSIDERING STARTING UP A BUSINESS IN THE BAIE-DES-CHALEURS REGION?
“Don’t ask yourself too many questions. Try it, go!” suggests Laura-Anne. “I think that our success is due to the fact that we’re passionate about it. But you have to realize that you won’t always be doing what is a passion for you at all times and every day. It’s important not to be afraid of asking for help when dealing with something you know less about and to seek good support from the right people.”

**WITH YOU
FOR YOUR
SUCCESS!**

Do you have a project? Contact us!
sadcbc.ca



© Lumiphot

Ghislain Dea, technical designer and mechanical engineer and Laura-Anne Lamarche, project head and architect, co-founded the Maille atelier collaboratif in 2019.

History 101

Quebec Act of 1774

The first people who lived in what we today call Quebec were First Nations and Inuit. The truth is that both the English and the French were colonialists. In 1534 French explorer Jacques Cartier sailed across the Atlantic and claimed the lands he found for his country, France. This area was then called New France. Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec City in 1608 and Montreal in 1642. Britain was victorious in the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War) when they defeated the French on the Plains of Abraham in 1759, after which the French turned control of New France over to the British. The British renamed this region Quebec. The Quebec Act of 1774 was passed in the hopes of placating and gaining the allegiance of the French living in Quebec.

The Quebec Act allowed the French to practice the French Civil Code system of law which still exists in the province today. The Act of 1774 gave more power to the Catholic Church and the church was permitted to collect tithes (money) again. The Quebec Act allowed the French to re-establish the seigneurial system. This semi-feudal method of dividing land was headed by a seigneur who owned the land and the people who worked that land were habitants. The Act gave freedoms of culture, language and religion. These provisions recognized Quebec's distinct realities. Quebec was officially French and English.

We study history for a reason. Learning history, and more specifically learning the lessons that history teaches us, helps us to understand the past and who we are now and why. History helps us to be decent citizens who have respect for others and the institutions which govern us.

The recent passing of Bill 96 ignores the lessons that history offers us to understand and appreciate the unique linguistic and cultural blend of contemporary Quebec society. In the 18th century the British defeated the French, but a deal was made that allowed the French to maintain their language, religion, the seigneurial system and the French legal system which still exists here in the province of Quebec today. Quebec became both English and French though the rights of First Nations were ignored. Today francophones make up 84% of the province. Anglophones make up 12% and the number of Indigenous peoples living in Quebec is about 2% of the population. The anglophone and First Nations minority are not a threat to the French linguistic majority. Much of the English language influence in Quebec comes from outside the province. It comes from music, the internet, social media and the world of travel. To access these, a working knowledge of English is required. Francophones who do not speak any English will become isolated. Included in the cultural mosaic are countless other linguistic and cultural groups such as Italians, Haitians, Moroccans, Algerians, Chinese and Romanians. Quebecers are not a monolithic group.

My anglophone ancestors, both sides, have been

living in Quebec, more specifically, on the Gaspé Peninsula, since the mid 1800s. As time has marched on, we have built homes, attended schools, worked, entered the political arena, and many have life partners who are anglophone, francophone or Indigenous. We have contributed and are just all living the best life we can. The "War of Words" or Bill 96 is not only profoundly disappointing, but the isolation and resentment it will bring will likely change the fabric of Quebec, possibly forever. How sad!

We often hear now that the world has become more polarized which makes collaboration between all levels of government difficult. It has become "Us" versus "Them." There is no middle ground where we can discuss, make decisions and move forward. Aren't we all on the same side? Don't we want social and medical services, economic growth, a fair legal system, clean air and water, education and training for all our children and young adults? Jobs! All people of Quebec need access to good jobs so they can put food on the table and a roof over their heads. Would Bill 96 deny access to all of these in the matter of Quebec's Indigenous and anglophone people, and the multitude of other linguistic and cultural groups living in the province? The likely answer is, "Yes." Quebec history is the story of all of us. Many voices! Many cultural and linguistic backgrounds! Bill 96 is a giant step backwards, all the way to 1774 – we are fighting about language rights while ignoring the Indigenous people of Quebec. It was 248 years ago, and we have not yet learned the lessons of fairness, acceptance and collaboration.

Blame it on COVID, the war in Ukraine and taxes! The high price of fuel

Diane Skinner

Question: What has fuel tanks the size of a bathtub and costs over \$800 to fill? The answer is a heavy, massive, but still wildly popular RV!

The roads and highways of the Gaspé Peninsula, where, by all predictions, there will be a record year for tourism, are extremely busy already.

The current prices for gas and diesel fuel are close to \$2.30 a litre for gasoline and \$2.36 for diesel.

These are prices that seemed impossible just a year ago but the world is tired of COVID restrictions and people want to get out and see the world. These plans involve the increased desire for fossil fuels – planes, boats of all sizes, trucks, RV's and cars all require the costly fuel.

You can blame the rise in price of gas on COVID, but it is not the only factor.

The war in Ukraine and the sanctions on Russian oil continue to be a huge factor on world gas prices. These sanctions against Russia mean that one of the planet's biggest oil producers is not contributing to the world's available oil supply.

On top of these two factors are the taxes that are added to our fuel cost. The estimate is that about 30 cents of every litre of fuel goes to taxes: sales tax, provincial tax, carbon tax, excise tax and transit tax!

Gas and diesel fuel prices are at record highs, but that will not deter the droves of tourists, some driving gas guzzling RV's, searching for a gorgeous, scenic vacation on the Gaspé.

Government of Canada issuing debt notifications re: CERB

Diane Skinner

Canadians who received CERB benefits that were quickly available to Canadians as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic will be receiving notices shortly about those benefits if they have been determined, not eligible.

The payments assisted more than eight million Canadians. The government has stated that there will not be penalties for those who applied mistakenly or fraudulently, but they will have to repay those emergency benefits.

Both the CRA (Canada Revenue Agency) and SDC (Social Development Canada) are working together to ensure that those who received CERB were legally entitled to do so. Beginning in mid-May, "Notices of Redetermination" have been sent to Canadians informing them about their debt if they were not lawful recipients.

Call agents are available to help those who owe funds and will assist in making flexible payment arrangements. If you receive a letter, the contact numbers are listed on the notice.

Shrinkflation is real: You are not imagining it!

Diane Skinner

Many shoppers have noticed that products are getting smaller, with no reduction in prices. There are fewer chips in the bag, a smaller number of chicken pieces in the box, doughnuts are smaller, and the cat litter contains less litter – but there is no reduction in price. In fact, the prices are still rising on most items.

This is called "shrinkflation," a new term that describes products that have a lower quantity or volume but are priced the same or higher. The manufacturer does not inform the customer that this is occurring. It is a 'buyer beware situation'. The items most impacted are processed meat products, bakery items and cleaning products.

Consumers are advised to be aware that this is happening and why. The availability of items can be less reliable due to supply challenges, worker shortages, delivery costs and the impact of COVID. These factors cause the prices to rise. For suppliers to maintain profits, shrinking the size of the product can help them to maintain their profits. Most shoppers look at the price, but not the packaging size and suppliers know this. We are dealing with inflation and now shrinkflation!

THEGASPESPEC.COM
specs@globetrotter.net

Eat a rainbow and more ideas to strengthen your immune system

Diane Skinner

Fighting viral infection is best done by having a strong and healthy immune system. We want our immune systems to be at their best and there are ways that most people can strengthen it. These practices benefit us in other ways also – you get a lot of “bang for your buck” by being mindful of the path to being stronger and healthier.

Get enough sleep on a regular basis. Getting adequate sleep helps to reduce inflammation and stress levels. Have a regular bedtime and try to stick to it. Be active during the day. Relax before bed. Avoid alcohol and caffeine for two hours before bedtime. Get off your phone, tablet and computer in order to give your eyes a break from blue light.

Move. Exercise on a regu-

lar basis and walking is the easiest activity to incorporate into your day. The suggested minimum is 30 minutes daily. If you sit a lot, even getting up and walking around periodically (at least once per hour) will benefit you.

Eat a rainbow. Eat vegetables and fruit because they are full of antioxidants and vitamins which build up the immune system, including vitamins A, C and E. Suggested foods include: grapes, oranges, bananas, berries of all kinds, kiwi, carrots, tomatoes, cucumber, lettuce, onions, kale, spinach and sweet potato.

Reduce stress. If you are under stress for a long time with no break, it can have a big impact on your immune system. Reduce the stress. Manage the stress. Think of reducing stress as your “armour” to fight off viruses.



Nutritionists tell us that a way to boost our immune system is by “eating a rainbow” of fruit and vegetables.

Photo: D. Skinner

How can we reduce stress? In any way that you can incorporate it into your life on a regular basis – yoga, meditation, reading, music and dancing, socializing, walking (good for suggestion 2 also!), hobbies and pastimes such as knitting, drawing, and crafting.

Take supplements and vitamins. Some health professionals may suggest taking vitamins like C and D if you do not get enough through your diet. Others may recommend zinc and probiotics. If you are concerned check with your doctor.

What is the immune system?

The immune system is your body’s defense against infections. It attacks germs, thereby, keeping us healthy.

Our many cells and organs work together to protect us from bacteria and viruses. White blood cells are very important in this fight – they destroy “invaders” in your body when they are functioning properly.

This is how a vaccine works and can prevent many diseases or make its effects less severe. The vaccine introduces a small amount of the virus to your body, small enough that it almost always does not make you ill but the body senses the virus or antigen (a foreign substance which triggers an immune response in your body and then produces antibodies). This should protect you from future exposure to the antigens.

Not just COVID: Viruses are all around us

Diane Skinner

When we hear someone say “the virus,” we can be quite certain that they are referring to COVID in one of its many variants but viruses are all around us and some are just as worrisome as COVID. The effects of these other viruses can range from mild to serious and even life-threatening. Preventing illness from some of these viruses can be minimized by following the same protocols we follow to prevent transmission of COVID. Sanitizing (always a good habit), using masks when in close proximity to others and maintaining social distance will help to minimize being infected with some viruses.

OTHER VIRUSES

Skin viruses:

- herpes simplex 1 (cold sores)
- varicella zoster virus (chicken pox)

Food poisoning (viral type):

- hepatitis A (food poisoning)
- rotavirus (diarrhea and dehydration)

Respiratory:

- respiratory syncytial virus - RSV (colds, pneumonia and bronchitis)
- Rhinovirus (common cold)
- SARS – COV – 2 (COVID)
- Influenza viruses (flu)

Sexually transmitted:

- human immunodeficiency (HIV)
- Herpes simplex 1 and 2 – (genital herpes)

- Hepatitis B (liver)
- HPV (human papilloma virus) (skin growths)
- Other:**
- West Nile virus (from mosquitoes and causes headaches, fever and possible brain inflammation)
- Epstein-Barr virus – a type of herpes that leads to mono
- Enteroviruses – (meningitis)

Monkeypox is transmitted person-to-person through close contact. It is transmitted through respiratory droplets, which requires prolonged face-to-face or close contact with another individual. The symptoms of monkeypox are like those of smallpox, but usually milder. These include

fever, headache, muscle aches and exhaustion. Monkeypox also causes lymph nodes to swell, which smallpox does not.

To minimize your exposure and infection from

viruses, following the protocols we used during COVID could be extremely effective. In addition, having a strong and healthy immune system helps in the fight against viruses.

Three kinds of immunity

Adaptive – This develops throughout our lives. When we are exposed to a disease or condition, we develop or increase our immunity. We also build up our immunity when we are immunized. (vaccines)

Passive – This is a short-term protection mainly provided by a mother who has antibodies and is breastfeeding her baby. The antibodies are passed through the milk.

Innate – We are all born with immunity which protects us from some diseases and conditions. Your skin blocks out germs to some extent. Also, your natural immune system will fight against some “invaders.”

Get ready for sandals - Put your best foot forward

Diane Skinner

“Good foot health is essential for an active life. With 26 bones, 33 joints and over 100 muscles, ligaments and tendons, your feet are incredibly complex. And they serve as the foundation for your entire body in terms of support, balance, posture, and overall well-being.”

It has been a long, cold winter and your feet have been stuck in boots. It is time to give them some love in preparation for warmer weather. You don’t want to feel shy about revealing your tootsies so a bit of extra care now will pay off later on. Foot health is also important because feet are your

foundation as you go through life. Healthy feet help you to be a healthier being.

Maybe you have dry, cracked heels, a callous or two or even “off colour” toenails that you do not want to show off to the world. Time for TLC for your feet. Grab a few extra tools or lotions that will help you improve the appearance of your feet.

After soaking your feet in warm water and Epsom salts, use a cuticle brush and scrub your toenails well. Try to buy a natural bristle brush which is gentler on your skin.

If your nails are discoloured, apply tea tree oil which is so good for them.

Apply twice a day. By the end of 30 days, this small effort will produce great results. Your nails will be healthier and stronger.

Use peppermint foot lotion which is soothing and smells wonderful. Using your thumbs rub the lotion well into your foot. Don’t forget the ball of your foot, arches and between your toes.

Use a base coat polish, before you use a coloured polish. This base will prevent the nails from becoming stained with darker toenail polish. Base coats may contain nourishing ingredients which help to revive dry and damaged nails. You don’t have to add coloured pol-

ish (more about that later) because a good base coat has a hint of colour and a slight shine.

At night apply a generous amount of a richer cream containing shea butter or Eucerin. You can use traditional Vaseline. Then put on some soft, thick socks and leave them on all night. After five days or so you will see and feel the difference. Cocoa butter is a good choice if your heels are dry and cracked.

Use a grater or pumice stone on the bits that are still dry and hard. It is slightly gross but a grater is basically a cheese grater. Made of metal with small holes, you file away the dead skin onto a towel placed

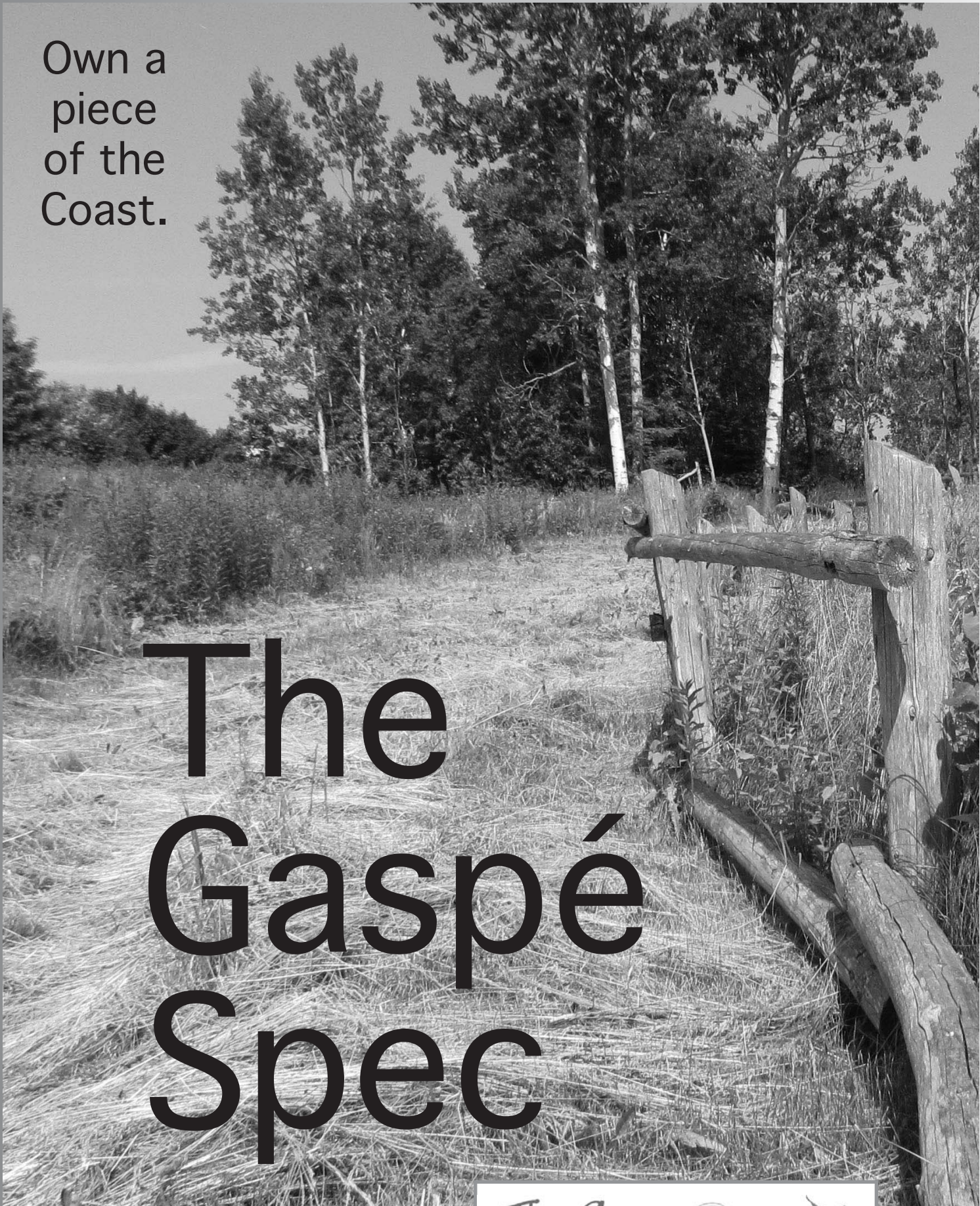
on the floor.

Apply a coloured polish and this is your chance to indulge your colour fantasies – red, burgundy, hot pink – the colour choices are many.

Your tools for cutting and filing nails and trimming cuticles should be stainless steel. It might be time to invest in some new tools. Your feet will thank you. Cut the nails – not too short! File so there are no jagged bits. Push back the cuticles after softening them in warm, soapy water.

Buy a battery-operated pumice foot file. It has a roller head that is gentle and buffs away hard dead skin. These can be used on wet or dry feet.

Own a
piece
of the
Coast.



The Gaspé Spec



Take a few
moments to
order a
subscription
for yourself,
a friend
or relative.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Canada (Taxes are included in prices)
1 year \$46, 6 mths \$25

Enclose cheque or money order or
call us at 418-752-5400 with your credit card
or purchase online at: thegaspespec.com

The Gaspé Spec
208B Gérard D. Levesque Blvd
New Carlisle, Québec
G0C 1Z0

Announcements



Obituaries

MUNRO-WALKER: Ila Marguerite

April 16, 1943 - June 14, 2022

Ila passed away peacefully with her husband by her side at the St. Catharines General Hospital on June 14, 2022, after a lengthy illness

She was predeceased by her parents Raymond and Mary Munro and brother Thomas (Tommy). She is survived by her loving husband of 41 years Ray and her siblings: Diane, Don (Joyce), Doug, Miriam (Michael) and Elaine, and several nieces and nephews.

A loving and caring wife who received joy by giving to others. Cremation has taken place and the interment of ashes will be held at the Pleasantview Cemetery in Fonthill, Ontario. Rest in peace, until we meet again.



PATTERSON: Macartney Arden

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we announce the passing of Macartney "Mac" Arden Patterson of Edmonton on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 93 years.

He will be forever loved and remembered by his daughters: Michele, Patrice and Kathryn (Greg); grandchildren: Trevor Dallyn, Dale and Meredith Albert; sister Martina; niece Gina; nephew Dan; as well as numerous extended family and friends.

Mac was predeceased by his loving wife, Bernice Alette Patterson (nee Oftebro) who passed in 2020; parents, Jeremiah "Jerry" and Drusa Patterson, as well as nephew, Rick Frost.

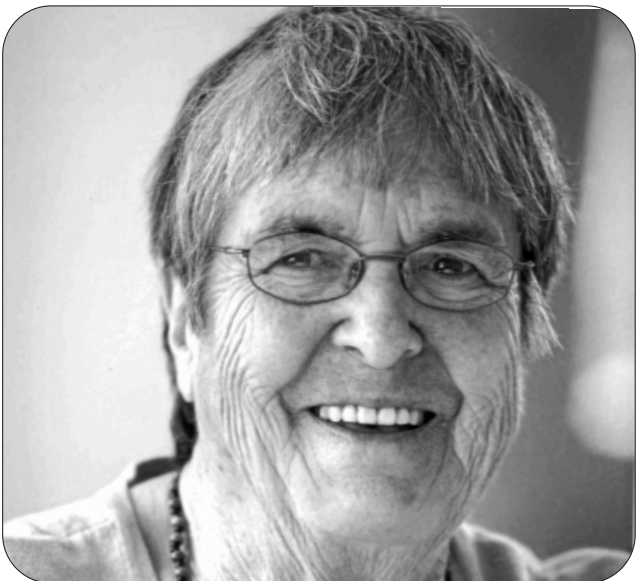
Mac was born in Sunny Bank, Gaspé, Quebec in 1928. Mac had a very rewarding career with the Toronto Dominion Bank ending in 1985 with his last appointment as Manager Commercial Credit and Credit Training. Upon retirement, Mac enjoyed golf, curling, reading, time with family and friends, and extensive world travel with Bernice, including many trips to Hawaii; catching up on what he missed during nearly forty years of banking.

A funeral service was held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 16, at St. Timothy's Anglican Church, 8420 145 St NW, Edmonton Alberta. A visitation was held prior to the funeral service at 10:45 a.m. in the chapel at St. Timothy's.

Donations may be made in memory of Mac to St. Timothy's Anglican Church. To send condolences, please visit www.connelly-mckinley.com



Funeral and Burial



HARRISON: Isobel

The family of the late Isobel Harrison wishes to inform family and friends of the upcoming services. Visitation will take place on July 1, 2022, from 2 to 4

p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the New Richmond funeral home.

The funeral will be held on July 2, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the United Church in New Richmond followed by burial at Black Cape cemetery. Any donations in her memory can be made to the United Church in New Richmond.

PATTERSON: Melrose

The funeral service and visitation for Melrose will be held at St. James Church in Wakeham.

Visitation will be on July 5 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and July 6 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The funeral will take place on July 6 beginning at 2 p.m. Burial will take place at the cemetery after the service.

The New Carlisle
Funeral Association
extends sympathy to the family of
Ila (Munro) Walker



Pay online at
THEGASPESPEC.COM



Four Generations
of Monument Craftsmen

HIGHEST QUALITY - BEST PRICES

MONUMENTS, MARKERS, CEMETERY LETTERING,
LASER DESIGNS AND PORTRAITS

SALES REP:

Steven Imhoff

418-752-6041

Covering Port Daniel to New Richmond

COAST ROUND-UP

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

COAST ROUND-UP

CORNER OF THE BEACH: Historical Society

July 1: The public is invited to a wine and cheese open house for the Corner of the Beach Cultural Museum from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

July 8 - 10: Art exhibition and sale under the direction of Kathryn Chicoine. Vernissage will take place on July 8 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please come and support these emerging local artists.

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.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Meetings

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Breaking of Bread for believers. Drive-In Gospel Meetings at 2 p.m. at the park in New Carlisle (parking at the arena) from June 26 to July 31. In case of rain, meetings will be held at the Bible Chapel. All are welcome. Invite a friend. Sponsored by the New Carlisle Bible Chapel.
Thursdays: 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study In person and on Zoom. For more

information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian

Legion Branch #64

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

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 Gerry Harrison beginning at 8:30 p.m. \$10 entry.

September 6: General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

NEW RICHMOND:

Agriculture Society

June 22: The Agriculture Society will be holding a meeting at 7 p.m. at the Agriculture Society, 133 Rue Cochrane. All

members are urged to attend. Anyone wishing to volunteer their services are to contact James at 418-392-5655.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50 Plus Club

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

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 June 12 are: Solange Cormier, Marc Leblanc, Serge Pinette, Pierre-Luc Poirier, Claude Goulet, Lise Chagnon and Marius Landry.

**UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, June 26
10 a.m. Service**

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, June 26
10 a.m. Service**

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Sunday, June 26
NEW CARLISLE
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
HOPE TOWN
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
SHIGAWAKE
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

**PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, June 26
St. Matthew's - Peninsula
9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
with Rev. Douglas Johnson**

Business & Professional DIRECTORY

Grenier, Grenier & Grenier LAWYERS



Réal Grenier, b.a.ll.l.
Jules Grenier, b.a.ll.l.

96 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd, P.O. Box 519
New Carlisle (Quebec) G0C 1Z0
Tel.: (418) 752-3308 • Fax (418) 752-6935



Gagnon Claveau Law Firm

Isabelle Gagnon
Attorney and family law mediator

Ann-Chloé Boudreau
Attorney

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

*Fully
bilingual
services in
the whole
Gaspé
peninsula*

GAËL TREMBLAY
Notary and legal counsel

TREMBLAY & BARRIAULT, NOTAIRES INC.
119B Perron Blvd West
New Richmond, (Québec) G0C 2B0
Tel.: (418) 392-5282
Fax: (418) 392-6155
E-mail: gaeltremblay@notarius.net



Notaries and legal counsel

**FULLY
BILINGUAL
SERVICE**

Our services :
Support | Training | Tools

**TECHNOCENTRE
TIC**

Leading the region's digital transformation

ITC Technocentre Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands
163, Commerciale Street West, office 101
Chandler (Qc) G0C 1K0

technocentre-tic.com

Local Advertising *That Makes the Cut*



VILLAGE
Real Estate Agency

Suzanne Landry

CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE BROKER AEO
418-752-0792
suzannelandry@royallepage.ca
www.suzannelandry.ca

**Friendly bilingual service
from Matapédia to Port Daniel**
19 years experience



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



foragemoreaumercier@gmail.com

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



By Appointment

Richard Ste Croix

Denturologist

Construction and repair of dentures.
We also make dentures on implants.

9 Adams Street, Gaspé
Quebec G4X 1E5

Tel.: (418) 368-1525
Fax: (418) 368-1542



Going beyond and reliable sir



**Electricity - Plumbing
Automation
Industrial computing
Counter sales**

3 Rue Cerisiers
Gaspé, Québec G4X 2M1
Tel. (418) 368-5425
Fax (418) 368-7290
www.groupeohmega.com

**To reach the anglophone
population, advertise in
The Gaspé Spec!**

Contact our
Advertising Representative
Heather Imhoff
581-233-2062

gaspespec.revitalization@gmail.com



Pro Pieds de la Baie

*Roxanne Major N.D.
Foot Care Technician*

Service in the comfort of your own home.

418-752-3670

NEWPORT TO NEW RICHMOND

Free advice with every visit!



AVAILABLE TREATMENTS

Health Checkup / Thick nails
Nail maintenance / Corns / Calluses
Nails with fungus or mushrooms
Ingrown toenails / Plantar warts
Preventive care for diabetics
Massage on certain reflexology points
Insurance receipts available
Appointment only / Bilingual service
Gift certificates are available



Dr. Pascal Cyr
Optometrist



Dr. Stacey Starrak
Optometrist

**CLINIQUE D'OPTOMÉTRIE
L'ÉMERILLON**

LENSES CRAFTED ON THE PREMISES

PASPÉBIAC: 104 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd West • 418-752-5553
CHANDLER: 260 René Lévesque Blvd East • 418-689-5553
MARIA: 435 Perron Blvd West • 418-759-5553



Canada's Largest Network of Optometrists

Harnois
Énergies

H&O Mobil™

YOUR MULTI-ENERGY SUPPLIER

*Diesel | Gas | DEF
Heating oil | Lubricant*

Available everywhere in Gaspésie.

125, Route 132, Bonaventure (QC) G0C 1E0 / 418 534-2777 harnoisenergies.com



Great Ideas for old
WINDOWS & DOORS



Why do we say ...
by Gary Briand

“Tom is going on a wild goose chase” commented a young man’s uncle when telling me about his young relative’s recent departure for Calgary.

“On a wild goose chase” comes from England of the sixteenth century. People had invented a horse centered game. The first horse was sent off in any direction and the horses next released were expected to follow the leader just like wild geese that follow their leader in orderly formation. The game was called “The wild goose chase.” The horse that did not follow the leader fell in value and did not bring a high price when sold.

At first, “wild goose chase” meant an irregular course of action taken by a person. Later, about 1830, the common reference seems to have been diluted and came to mean a chase after anything unlikely to be caught as a wild goose that does not follow its leader. In other words, chasing after a foolish or hopeless pursuit.

100th Anniversary
County Bonaventure W.I.

The seed was planted And we watched it grow, And how helpful it is, Of that we all know.	Children’s gardens, Lunches at school, Helping our children an important rule.
We were taught to knit and sew, And how to make our gardens grow.	Parties and dances, And sales galore, Allowing us all To do and share more.
We met with ladies, From near and far, As to equals, There is no par.	Books for the library, White lines on the road, Building Maria Health Unit, An ultimate goal.

What they had done And skills they shared, Were widely appreciated, And be forever endeared.	The list is quite short, Of course, there is more God bless all these ladies, My friends, I adore
In our Bonaventure County, they did it all, They were strength and inspiration to us all, Here are some of the things I recall.	Written and recited by Gloria Hayes - May 1, 2022 at the W.I. Centennial Celebration at New Carlisle’s Town Hall

Did You Know?

THERE ARE MORE MICROORGANISMS IN ONE TEASPOON OF SOIL THAN THERE ARE PEOPLE ON EARTH.

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to cats. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 5 = C)

A.	23 10 9 18 24 10
B.	5 9 6 20 25
C.	21 2 8 8
D.	25 5 8 6 26 5 13

Answers: A. feline B. claws C. purr D. scratch

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Friendships are worth their weight in gold, Aries. That is good news considering you could make an important friend this week — but only if you put yourself out there.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
You just may be at your best this week, Taurus. Others will take notice of this immediately. Work finally begins to pay off, and it’s a good time to begin a project.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
There is something waiting for you in the great outdoors, Gemini.

You have to gather the gumption to go out there and find it. You will have plenty of opportunities this week.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, something impressive takes hold of your attention, and then you can’t get it out of your mind. This could be the inspiration you need to start something new.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
A particular person may play a key role in your life today, particularly as he or she interacts with forces at work. There is a chance for this relationship to grow, Leo.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
You have made a decision to get your life in order, Virgo. This week marks the first steps toward that

goal. Accept help when it is given for an additional leg up.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Let your artistic side out to play, Libra. It’s not something others play witness to that often, but you can be quite imaginative when you set your mind to it.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, family matters may not be cut and dried, but that doesn’t mean they have to be challenging. Enjoy things that are not run-of-the-mill, especially with the family.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
An exchange that takes place this week could have long-lasting after effects, Sagittarius. You won’t know the particular event in ad-

vance, so enjoy the anticipation.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Sometimes change only requires transforming the way you look at things, Capricorn. Try to see your daily life in a new light and maybe you’ll be more satisfied with it.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Get in touch with your desires and goals this week, Aquarius. Your plan and focus may have changed and you might need to realign your approach in this new direction.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Let go of some of the patterns in your life that simply aren’t working, Pisces. You’ll free up plenty of time for new pursuits.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 19
Jacob deGrom, Athlete (34)

JUNE 20
Nicole Kidman, Actress (55)

JUNE 21
Chris Pratt, Actor (43)

JUNE 22
Cyndi Lauper, Singer (69)

JUNE 23
Jason Mraz, Singer (45)

JUNE 24
Lionel Messi, Athlete (35)

JUNE 25
Angela Kinsey, Actress (51)

ESSB Mountain Math Camp

Ray Venables

Community Correspondent

CHANDLER – After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, twenty-five grade 10 math students from five schools participated in the fifth edition of the Eastern Shores School Board’s (ESSB) popular Mountain Math camp near Mont Albert in the Parc de la Gaspésie.

The three-day intensive math-focused study sessions were held from June 6 to 8 with the aim to help students who will be faced with a challenging provincial math exam, the first provincial exam since 2018.

During the math camp, students practiced their math during five ninety-minute sessions. In total, students studied for 7.5 hours. In this way, students practiced the discipline and perseverance needed to complete the required five hours of examinations.

Besides study sessions, there were many opportunities for play. Students participated in a variety of hikes along the beautiful trails, roasted marshmallows and smores around a campfire, and played card games. Despite having neither



cell phone reception, nor Wi-Fi, one student from Evergreen High School remarked, “It’s kinda nice.”

Another student from Gaspé joked that the best part of math camp was eating Maltesers. When pressed, how-

ever, he confided that it was the personal exchanges between students that made the event such a success.

“It’s nice to be back,” commented Mr. Zak Likely, ESSB Math Consultant and camp co-organizer, “Math camp is cer-

tainly a great opportunity for students. It’s a big confidence booster, for sure.”

When asked what he would change about the event, Likely mused: “I’d like to see a larger participation from ESSB schools. This event is a lot of

work, but it is so worth it in the end. I hope to see more schools next year.”

This year’s math camp participants hailed from five ESSB schools: Gaspé, Chandler, New Carlisle, Escuminac and Grosse Ile.

Business & Professional Directory

DIANE LEBOUTHILLIER
MP • Gaspésie–Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine
Serving the English-speaking community of our beautiful region!

Grande-Rivière office 418 385-4264	Magdalen Islands office 418 986-1489
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts office 418 764-2890	New Richmond office 581 355-0060

Email: diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca

AXIO
ARPEUTEURS – GÉOMÈTRES

AXIO
arpenteurs-géomètres inc.
land surveyors
151B, Avenue de Grand-Pré, Bonaventure (Québec) G0C 1E0

Alexandre Babin, Arpenteur-géomètre
C abag@axioag.com

Guillaume Lapierre, Arpenteur-géomètre
C glag@axioag.com

Membre de l'Ordre
des Arpenteurs-Géomètres du Québec

418 534-3113 / info@axioag.com
axioag.com

LFG
CONSTRUCTION

PROUD PARTNER IN
YOUR CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS FOR
MORE THAN
45 YEARS!

constructionlfg.com

REG. 2534-4813-98

Gaspésie–Les Îles | Côte-Nord | Bas-Saint-Laurent

BUILDINGS ENERGY AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC

ENERGY
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Are you
**Driven to be
Different?**

Discover our career opportunities!

www.shipENERGY.com



Register now!
cegepgim.ca/english-section

