

Pascan denies boarding to a father and his infant for being a few minutes late

There were 40 minutes left before takeoff from Gaspé

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – A father from Chambly, Olivier Paquette, experienced quite an inconvenience on June 29 when a five-minute difference in the scheduled boarding time and his arrival at the Gaspé airport prompted Pascan Aviation to refuse him access on the flight that was to take him to Quebec City with Noah, his 10-month-old baby.

Mr. Paquette arrived 40 minutes before the scheduled take-off time. Boarding was done, but the plane's engines were not running. The rule appearing on Pascan tickets stipulates that passengers should arrive at least 45 minutes before take-off.

"The access ramp to the aircraft was still in place. The baggage compartment was also open, an attendant was still put-

ting suitcases in and the pilot saw me. From the building, I could wave to him through the aircraft window. I was trying to get his attention. I wouldn't have delayed anything; the flight would have left as if nothing had happened," explains Mr. Paquette.

Entering the terminal in the company of a friend with whom he and his son had stayed, he had no idea that they would not be taking the plane.

"But the agent, perhaps an employee of Pascan or the airport, confirmed it to me. At 1:25 p.m., she spoke to the pilot. She had asked if she was waiting for us and the pilot had said no. It is a 'no show,' an absence on the record. Our names were on the boarding list. I just wanted to talk to the pilot. The employee repeated to me 'He told me no! The pilot said no.'



Olivier Paquette was hoping for a little understanding from Pascan Aviation staff, considering that he and Noah arrived at Gaspé airport only five minutes late in relation to the scheduled boarding time and 40 minutes before the scheduled departure time.

But I showed up, with a baby! I have never begged someone so much in my life," says Mr. Paquette.

He tried to verify his board-

ing by using other arguments with the employee. "We asked him to board without luggage, simply with a small bag for the baby's milk. I absolutely had to be back in Chambly the next day (June 30). I had to take care of our second child because my girlfriend was working on July 1, a statutory holiday. I could not make the woman change her mind," he explained.

"She told me at one point that the fuel on the plane was loaded according to the people on board. I think it depends on the people on the boarding list and we were on this list," notes Olivier Paquette.

He immediately acknowledged his responsibility to arrive in time for boarding.

"But a lot of things can happen with a baby, a diaper change, putting the stroller in the car, among other things. We arrived just five minutes later than suggested. We had hit red traffic lights. I am convinced that this lady does not have any children," suggests Mr. Paquette.

"If the lady had contacted the pilot again, and he had said no, I would have left without insisting. What shocks me is that she ignored my request. She went into her office to take a personal call; I was insulted. (...) I never yelled at her," he

Photo: Photo provided by Olivier Paquette says.

He left the airport while reflecting, "When I abdicated, I saw the driver of the small baggage cart return. I almost thought I could board the plane running, like in the movies. The plane left for the takeoff runway well ahead of time, too," he points out, in a lighter tone.

His alternative was not easy, especially since Noah particularly dislikes travelling by car. His friends from Gaspé lent him a car to go to Quebec City, where he had left his vehicle with a friend. The Gaspé to Quebec City trip was longer than usual, including the breaks for Noah. From Quebec City, he went to his home in Chambly.

"I was lucky that Stéphanie (Smith, his friend from Gaspé) had a courtesy car at work and lent it to me. Stéphanie's brother was able to bring the car back to Gaspé. My process to obtain a refund for the return flight was unsuccessful, mainly because of the refund policy from the government program providing \$500 tickets," he explains, referring to the Air access program to the regions.

Stéphanie Smith corroborates the words of Olivier Paquette. "We got out of the car at

Needed: Strawberry pickers

Nelson Sergerie

SAINT-SIMÉON - Locally grown strawberries may not be picked this summer due to a lack of manpower. This is the fear of the co-owner of the Ferme Bourdages Tradition in Saint-Siméon, Pierre Bourdages.

Mr. Bourdages says the company was expecting 40 foreign workers this summer, but barely 30 will be able to come to the farm. The slow and complicated treatment of the workers' files by the federal authorities forced the farm to reduce its expectations.

The business has adapted its conditions to try to attract local labourers. "Pay is by the day. We have rectified our ways of doing things to try to accommodate people. We ask people to come at any time of the day," says Mr. Bourdages, who points out that picking takes place from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The fields are red and the fruit is ready to be picked while the demand is high.

"Leaving fruit unpicked is heartbreaking with all the energy you put into getting to the (stage of) picking. We hope to have workers," says Mr. Bourdages.

Strawberries are selling well, according to a grocer we met in recent days. The fruit is juicy and sweet, just perfect.



Strawberries may not end up on supermarket shelves if workers are not found for the fields.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Pelagic fishermen disappointed following their meeting with Minister Diane Lebouthillier

Gilles Gagné

SAINTE-THÉRÈSE-DE-GASPÉ – The pelagic fishermen of the region met with their Member of Parliament for the riding of Gaspé Peninsula-Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouthillier, on July 12 and they came out of the meeting disappointed, as she had nothing concrete to offer them.

The meeting came three-and-a-half months after the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans announced a ban of mackerel fishing for all of 2022 and the suspension of spring herring fishing, just days before the season's usual kickoff.

Since that March 30 announcement, the 15 fishermen relying almost solely on mackerel and herring have tried to get either compensation or convince Fisheries and Oceans Canada to come up with quotas of mackerel or other species to catch.

They have written a letter asking Minister Joyce Murray to change her mind regarding mackerel fishing, since other countries relying on the same biomass, like the United States, have announced a 4,000 tonnes quota for 2022. Some pelagic fishermen have been without revenues since the end of June.

"The meeting didn't start very well. She asked me why our president (Ghislain Collin)



Minister Diane Lebouthillier had nothing concrete for the pelagic fishermen, three-and-a-half months after a 2022 ban on mackerel fishing and the suspension of the spring herring season.

was not there. He operates a restaurant in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and the notice was too short. She then said that she never refused to meet us. We had tried to meet her for a long time. I am under the impression that she met us to tell the media that she had done that," says Lauréat Lelièvre, one of the 15 fishermen that are members of the Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels pélagiques du sud de la Gaspésie.

"I asked four or five times if she had anything for us. She did not commit to a compensation announcement in a month. She told us that "there is work everywhere" but she doesn't seem to understand that we have responsibilities and boats to sustain. She added that "you are not organized" to which I

replied that we have no money in the account. She told us to get organized with the other group (the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, representing mainly the lobster fishermen), only to tell us towards the end of the meeting that we should try and get the snow crab of the lobster fishermen. It looks as if she was trying to divide the fishermen," stresses Mr. Lelièvre.

"I didn't loosen my teeth during the whole meeting, which lasted 45 minutes. She offered to write our letters. As I remarked to another member of our group afterwards, she's going to send herself letters? I was not happy with the meeting. She talked about a committee formed to look after our problem. I asked her to tell me

who sits on that committee and she replied that it is governmental. If we were in the committee, we could say what is happening with us," deploras Lauréat Lelièvre.

He is convinced that there is currently enough resource in the sea to save the 15 fishermen relying mainly on mackerel and herring.

"I asked Fisheries and Oceans Canada to allow a quota of 800 tonnes of mackerel for vulnerable fishermen and we'll manage to get by with that volume. I sold a small crab quota in Zone 12a over the spring and I wouldn't have done that had I known that mackerel fishing would be stopped. I don't want unemployment insurance. I want to work to finish my career," concludes Mr. Lelièvre.

Minister Lebouthillier remains discreet

Reached by the SPEC after the meeting with the fishermen but before the newspaper talked to Lauréat Lelièvre, Minister Lebouthillier assured that "I was outraged at the way it happened (the short notice given to the fishermen on March 30). The fishermen made investments. They had prepared for the season," referring to the short notice given to the fishermen.

She adds that she has met

regularly with Fisheries and Oceans Canada Minister Joyce Murray since the end of March.

"I have had discussions and my office has regular discussions. We are seeing global warming. Herring and mackerel. There are other species that are not doing well like shrimp and plaice. There are seals that are growing like never before. For Minister Murray, this is a complex issue. There are also problems in the Pacific, in the Arctic," affirms Minister Lebouthillier.

She didn't comment much about her meeting with the fishermen.

"We are working with the office of the Minister of Fisheries to see what is possible, to do things well and to look at the overall situation to make sure that we do not lose what we have achieved. For the moment, absolutely nothing is announced. We continue to work with them (the fishermen). We are trying to see other species that are not exploited. All of this work is done around the table. We have this concern about climate change," she points out.

Pelagic species generated relatively limited revenues to the Quebec fishermen in 2021, at \$2.8M but their use as bait allowed snow crab and lobster fishermen to declare overall revenues of \$385M.

Million dollar donation for the Permaculture and Innovative Agriculture School in Percé

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - Pharmacist Daniel Leboeuf is donating \$1 million to an endowment fund for the Lower Saint Lawrence Gaspé Peninsula Community Foundation for the Permaculture and Innovative Agriculture School of Percé.

For the recent retiree, it is a way to give back to the community, as he has always been involved in his community.

"My retirement project will be to support this permaculture school that is developing in Val-d'Espoir. To do so, I have liquidated my pharmacy company fund. It's a great project to invest in," says Mr. Leboeuf.

The objective is to provide recurrent funding.

"In the Gaspé Peninsula, as we saw during the pandemic, we have issues of food autonomy and economic diversifica-

tion. Percé must diversify, other than tourism or fishing. This school of permaculture and innovative agriculture has various concepts to produce an agriculture that will serve Gaspésians. It is not normal to bring our garlic from the Eastern Townships. We are capable of growing it," he says.

Mr. Leboeuf invites other people to come forward and increase the endowment fund so that the school has a solid base.

"We are going to see a transfer of heritage unparalleled in the history of the Western World. We must be concerned about the generations to come who will have major challenges to face in terms of climate justice and ecological transition. The school is an ideal project for this. The heritage that the baby-boomers have accumulated must be used for future gener-



Pharmacist Daniel Leboeuf wants to give back to the community, which is why he chose the Val-d'Espoir project.

ations," he notes.

"We're very happy. It's an extremely generous donation," says the school's project manager, Emmanuel Estévez.

The gesture will allow for the sustainability of the activities and ensure annual revenues from the interest generated by the investment in the fund.

An amount of \$129,000 will

be used for start-up.

As of September, the first training course will be offered by the school: a certificate in permaculture.

"This 100-hour certificate will allow us to work on the design of the school site and everything that will be there as facilities. We will take these proposals and we will start in

the fall the first stage of the realization of the project that ends in March 2023," says the project manager.

The final steps of financing are underway to complete the financial package.

"We have already received positive responses and announcements will be made in due course," adds Mr. Estévez. The start-up of the school requires \$900,000 and a good part of it has already been raised.

Activities will increase at the school during 2023.

"This is an incredible project that will bring vitality to Val-d'Espoir. There is still some unused land. The project is to work on the resilience, autonomy and food security of the region by teaching different methods of agriculture and permaculture," says the project manager.

Pascan says it was a 15-minute delay

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – The president and chief financial officer of Pascan, Yani Gagnon, specifies, contrary to Olivier Paquette and Stéphanie Smith, that “the incident report shows that the passengers arrived 15 minutes late. The flight is closed at this time.”

He adds that Pascan can show some flexibility “if the passenger calls to let us know that he will be five minutes late, and asks us if it is possible to wait. Fifteen minutes late is not possible. It is necessary to redo all the manifests, all the flight plans, it is not possible. It’s a question of procedure and it’s a question of security. (...) We have to decide and we decide at 45 minutes. The manifest is completed, the flight plan is submitted. The flight will surely be late (if the company shows too much flexibility). I have subcontractors and every minute of delay is invoiced. The backlash is that we should perhaps ask, like Air Canada, for boarding an hour and a half before departure, but that creates a lot more inconvenience than anything else.”

Yani Gagnon specifies that

“the security guard was a witness. The passenger banged on the windows.”

Olivier Paquette does not hide having “tried to attract the attention of the baggage handler and the pilot” by knocking moderately on the window of the terminal. “I remember that my ring made more noise when it touched the glass”.

He and Stéphanie Smith are adamant that they didn’t arrive at the airport at 1:45 p.m. “By then, we were back in downtown Gaspé and I was making sure that the courtesy car would be available for Oliver,” she explains.

“I kept the text message indicating at 1:46 p.m. that I will need the courtesy car to go to Quebec City. We were reaching Gaspé’s downtown area. It is not possible that the whole incident at the airport started at 1:45,” stresses Mr. Paquette.

Regular users of Pascan Aviation have indicated to the SPEC that they have sometimes arrived quite late at the airport and were, nevertheless, able to board the aircraft. They don’t want to identify themselves though. In some cases, they called the office of Pascan but in other situations, they didn’t.

PASCAN:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

1:25 p.m. Time to unload the stroller, the luggage and we are at the Pascan counter at half past (1:30 p.m.). Security was locked. The boarding was really done in advance. It was up to us to arrive in time but we agree that this was in Gaspé, that there wasn’t any luggage to embark (according to the offer made by Olivier Paquette in an attempt to simplify the procedure). We also agree that no one waits an hour and a half before boarding at Gaspé airport,” she says.

Olivier Paquette remains pensive and perplexed about his misadventure with Pascan Aviation and about the functioning of air services in Quebec.

“Can’t they or won’t they show flexibility, to make sure it works? Isn’t the image of air transport to be improved and a little indulgence would have helped? I think they should work more on a customer basis. I understand that they have a hard time keeping pi-

lots who want to go to the big companies,” he suggests.

Mr. Paquette believes that firms like Pascan “always win. They cancel flights, it sometimes takes four days to go to Gaspé. They cancel a stopover in Gaspé to go directly to the Magdalen Islands. I have a friend, an anesthesiologist, who does call duty in Gaspé. She recently had her flight cancelled on five minutes notice because the pilot was ill. She drove at night to arrive in time for her shift. With a child, we plan our things. There, I was caught off guard. Are these companies losing money with government rebates? They look frustrated! They receive subsidies but they don’t want customers, it seems,” concludes Mr. Paquette.

Gaspé airport is managed by the municipality. Jérôme Tardif, communications officer for the Town of Gaspé, says “boarding issues are the responsibility of the carrier. We have an administrator at the airport but he does not intervene in these matters.”

Police report

The Sûreté du Québec's investigation squad is asking for the public's help in establishing the circumstances that led to the discovery of a 64-year-old man who died in Chandler on July 16. At about 6 p.m. that day, the police officers of the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) were called to a Monseigneur Ross East Street residence in Chandler where they discovered the body of Richard Allard. Certain evidence indicates that Mr. Allard was the victim of a homicide.

“The SQ officers were working with the assistance of the paramedics. The man was pronounced dead in his home. The place is an apartment building. Elements on the spot suggest that foul play could be the cause of death of Mr. Allard,” explains Nicholas Scholtus-Champagne, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

An autopsy was requested by the investigation unit to clarify the cause of Richard Allard’s death. When asked who called the paramedics and if traces of violence were visible on the scene, Officer Scholtus-Champagne replied that “certain elements must be protected for now because they are important for the progression of the investigation.” He is just as discreet when asked if the victim lived alone. “The investigation will determine the rest of this part,” he simply says.

The SQ is asking anyone with information on this event to contact the criminal information centre of the Sûreté du Québec at 1-800-659-4264.

Karine Rioux, 34, who faces two criminal charges following the December 16 accident that claimed the life of Patrick Donovan, 63, from Gaspé, will return to court on August 22 for the orientation and declaration pertaining to her case. The Gaspé woman has so far appeared a few times in court but just according to pro forma hearings. The woman is charged with one count of impaired driving causing death and one count of driving with more than 80 milligrams of alcohol in her blood. The driver, who fatally struck the victim on Gaspé Boulevard on December 16, was released the following day under several conditions including being prohibited from driving, as well as not being permitted to consume alcohol. “On August 22, the defence will have to decide about a position for the continuance of the court case, like a plea (of guilty or not guilty). The type of trial (judge alone or judge and jury) has not been chosen yet. We are waiting for the defence to take a stand,” points out Percé courthouse criminal prosecutor Anne Joncas-Côté. Karine Rioux last appeared in court on June 13.

The federal department of Fisheries and Oceans recently released a list of people found guilty of various infractions pertaining to the Fisheries Act. The infractions were mostly committed in 2021 while some occurred over the spring of 2022. The following list is limited to residents of the Gaspé Peninsula.

Sylvain Mario Roussy, Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé: \$4,200 fine for possession of snow crab less than 95 millimetres in width. The snow crab was seized. Réal Cotton, Anse-au-Griffon: \$2,500 fine for failing to respect the immersion time of the fishing gear between the launching and the lifting of the gillnets while fishing Greenland halibut.

Martin Muise, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts: \$1,355 fine for fishing and retaining Atlantic cod while the quota was at zero for recreational fishery and interfering with the work of fishery officers. His fish and various objects were seized. He also was fined \$2,850 for lobster fishing without a licence, possession of female lobsters bearing eggs, possession of a claw separated from the thorax or carapace of a lobster and interfering with the work of fishery officers. His fish and gear were seized. Moreover, a court order prohibits him from the wharves of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Tourelle for one year.

Newport’s Michel Syvrais: \$2,300 fine for having fished groundfish, namely Greenland halibut, during a closed time in a specific area, for failing to complete a logbook prior to arrival at the dock and for failing to keep a copy of the logbook in the sequential order of the booklet. His catches were seized and confiscated permanently.

Cap-Chat’s Stéphane Thorn: \$3,250 fine for having snow crab traps on board the fishing boat during a closed time, not complying with licence conditions by not respecting the authorized time limit for calling out at sea and for not complying with licence conditions by failing to ensure the proper functioning of his boat monitoring system unit.

Frederick Henry, Carleton: \$750 fine for failing to keep a true record of his fishing activities in his logbook while fishing Atlantic halibut. Nouvelle’s Charles Lapierre and Marius Lapierre: \$400 fine each for having illegally caught and kept clams smaller than the regulation size of 51 millimetres and for having caught soft-shell clams. The small clams were confiscated. Stéphanie Lavoie-Proulx, Maria: \$350 fine for exceeding the quota established for one day of recreational clam fishing and a \$300 fine for soft-shell clam fishing. The clams were seized.

Martial Leblanc, Saint-Omer, and Bruno Savoie, Nouvelle: \$600 fine each for illegally taking and keeping clams in an area closed by a prohibition order due to contamination. Some of those clams had a soft shell. The items seized were permanently confiscated.

Newport’s Real Sweeney: \$500 fine for having failed to comply with licence conditions through not returning to the harbour within the appropriate time while fishing mackerel.

Pascal Boucher, Chandler: \$300 fine for having captured and retained illegally blue mussels in an area placed under a closure order due to contamination. The blue mussels were confiscated.

New Richmond’s Joël Durette: \$500 fine for having exceeded the quota for one day of recreational clam fishing and soft-shell clam fishing in a recreational context.

Carleton’s Romain Berthelot: \$750 fine for failing to comply with licence conditions as he did not report to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans any loss of fishing gear within 24 hours of arrival at port at the end of the fishing trip while catching whelk.

Maria’s Dany Allard: \$600 fine for failing to comply with licence conditions by recording false geographical positions in his logbook during halibut fishing expeditions.

Sainte-Anne-des-Monts’s Daniel Brisebois: \$2,000 fine for possession of fish caught in contravention of the law pertaining to recreational cod fishing. The fish seized was confiscated permanently.

Thérèse Kenney, whose Gaspesian place of residence is not given by DFO, was not fined but has to serve a six-month prison term in the community after having been found guilty of fishing and keeping Atlantic cod while the quota was at zero for recreational fishing. She has also failed to comply with an order prohibiting cod recreational fishing in the waters of the St. Lawrence River and the Gaspé Peninsula. Her fish and gear were confiscated permanently. At the end of the prison sentence, she will be prohibited to be found on all wharves in the province of Quebec for the next three years.

Gilles Gagné Commentary



A rising interest rate is far from the only solution to counter inflation

On July 13, the Bank of Canada, the central bank making decisions about the country's monetary policy, among other responsibilities, increased its interest rate from 1.5% to 2.5%. That 1% increase was the biggest upward jump in decades. Usually, the policy interest rate rarely increases or decreases by more than 0.25%.

The July 13 decision influences the prime rate of the Bank of Canada upward and it follows the interest rate offered by private banks to their customers, notably ordinary citizens. A rising interest rate will also propel upward the credit cards' interest rate imposed on customers who do not pay their balance on time.

The July 13 move was made in anticipation of the following week's announcement that the inflation rate had hit 8.1% in June, following an already whopping 7.7% in May.

Overall, the Bank of Canada is also responsible, besides formulating the country's monetary policy, for the promotion of a safe and sound financial system. It is the sole issuing authority of Canadian banknotes, and it provides banking services and money management for the government. Moreover, the Bank of Canada lends money to the country's financial institutions.

The government has decided that the Bank of Canada's policy interest rate will be the main tool to counter inflation. It is not the first time. It also happened at the beginning of the 1980s, when private banks' interest rates, notably the ones applied to mortgages, soared past 20% and reached about 22% in 1981-1982. Some people were barely able to pay the interest fees on their mortgage. The capital (amount owing) was not going down and in some cases, people gave up on their mortgage because they could not even pay their interest fees.

We will likely not reach that level of desperation but another reality is hitting the country's households, the skyrocketing value of housing.

In many parts of Canada, housing accounts for 50% or

more of households' monthly or weekly budget. Since the beginning of the 1980s, the cost of mortgages has not been such a cause of concern, despite very low interest rates over the last 25 years.

So how is the Bank of Canada supposed to control inflation if the biggest source of expenses for any household, namely mortgages, will almost undoubtedly rise over the next months or years? Mortgages are a source of inflation!

For decades, a cross section of economic analysts, mainly very conservative business people, managers and economists, predicted an inflationary phase. Governments of the industrialized world were spending too much, according to them, and it was just a matter of time before prices would rise dramatically.

Those people now boast that they were right but it doesn't take a genius to predict that one day, inflation will rise. For centuries now, the economy has functioned according to cycles. Today, one can predict that at one point down the road, between now and let's say 2050, the interest rates will decrease. He or she will have been right!

The objective

Increasing interest rates are supposed to reduce consumer purchases. In theory, a reduced demand for products will lead to reduced prices.

The problem is that the rising inflation rate is far from attributable to just the rising demand. There are currently huge problems in the supply of products. Transportation challenges pose massive hurdles in the manufacturing industries' capacity to reach their markets.

The pandemic has also paralyzed certain economic endeavours for months and some manufacturers have not recovered yet from that slump.

Moreover, a surprisingly high number of workers and business people involved in fields that were not affected by the pandemic are coming out of the challenges with way more money in their pocket than before March 2020. They now want to spend that money through travels, acquisitions of luxurious commodities and they create an increase in demand that further fuels inflation.

Common sense would suggest that Canada and the other countries fighting inflation could also adopt measures to improve the supply chain's functioning in order to make products available that are stored in warehouses around the world, waiting to be distributed.

Adopting measures to convince wealthy people to slow down their unbridled consumption would also make sense. It can be achieved through taxation or by increasing some ceiling levels of savings, under which income tax is re-

duced.

According to Belgian economist Marc Van Audenrode, an expert in that kind of analysis, the biggest inflation break the world's economy could benefit from in the short term would come with the establishment of a safe Black Sea corridor to distribute all the food produced in Ukraine before the war. That food is stranded in various parts of Ukraine and is frequently targeted by Russian attacks. Ukraine's economy was strongly dependent on food and fertilizer exports before February and an impressive list of countries were and remain just as dependent on getting those supplies.

Establishing that safe corridor is easier said than done but it has to be seriously considered in any attempt to give a break to the hundreds of millions of households currently dealing with inflation worldwide.

In Canada, including in Quebec, we are also paying a heavy price for decades of neglect regarding the shortage of affordable housing. Both levels of government have failed miserably in that aspect. Now, we collectively have to catch up, with the astounding price of building material that can only feed an inflationary fever. Bravo!

We are not alone in the damaged boat. Europeans have to deal with a historical decline in the value of the euro compared to the American dollar. Europeans have over the last 20 years ignored the situation in Russia. They have been collecting money from Russian oligarchs, profiting from the cheap gas coming from Russia.

However, such a large influx of capital will not happen again in the foreseeable future. Europe's fuel supply has to be reviewed and the continent's economy looks to be on the verge of experiencing a serious downward trend.

So it is time to show some imagination to counter inflation with a policy based on a rising rate of interest because this simplistic solution will not succeed alone.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Diane Skinner has done it again. She puts so much thought and research into her articles. They vary from clear unbiased reporting of historical facts (the Coffin case and Roe v Wade come to mind), to inspiring her readers to take on creative projects (like recording our family memories before they disappear), to insight and empathy over dilemmas we face (to get vaccinated or not as an example), to opening our eyes and understanding of natural wonders around us (those wonderful dandelions), to appreciation of people in our communities doing surprising things (both past and present), to recipes for the kitchen... and recipes for life.

SPEC's readers are so fortunate to have her inspiring us about so many things. Thank-you Diane Skinner.

Enid Legros-Wise, Hope Town

New Office Hours



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The Gaspé Spec



The Gaspé Spec

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AUDITE

More than 1000 megawatts submitted by the Eastern Alliance in Quebec's call for tenders

Nelson **Sergerie**

SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS - The Eastern Alliance, which includes the Gaspé Peninsula Intermunicipal Energy Board, is banking on seven projects totalling just over 1,000 megawatts as part of the call for tenders launched on December 13 for wind energy in particular.

Hydro-Québec was asking for proposals for 480 megawatts of energy from renewable sources and 300 megawatts reserved for wind energy.

In a decree adopted by the Government of Quebec on July 14, 2021, the text mentioned that the community must be a 50% shareholder of future projects; with Quebec content targeting 60% of overall spending; maximizing regional content to 35%, either from the MRC where the project will be located or from the MRC of La Matanie or the Gaspé Peninsula Magdalen Islands region and contracts are to be for a period of 30 years.

The president of the the Gaspé Peninsula Intermunicipal Energy Board, Simon Deschênes, mentions having signed fifty-fifty partnerships with private producers.

"We have a list of projects in which we submitted our

bids in the Hydro-Québec call for tenders," said Mr. Deschênes. That process ended on July 21.

These projects are mainly concentrated in the Lower Saint Lawrence region and the communities that could receive the projects have been consulted.

"We have the support of all the localities. Our homework has been completed. It will be a long wait until mid-December to know the winners," says the president.

Mr. Deschênes cannot specify the exact number of megawatts. "There may be different variants filed. I won't go into the fine details. But in each project, there are 100, 200 and 300 megawatts that have been tendered. Why? According to all the possibilities that Hydro-Québec will receive, we can choose a site, but with a lower or higher capacity. It is important for producers to file different variants in order to give Hydro-Québec more opportunities to analyze them and win megawatts. For the moment, there are more than 1000 megawatts," explains the president, who explains the choice for Lower Saint Lawrence.

"A site may have great potential, but is 40 kilometres from an adequate line for



The president of the Gaspé Peninsula Intermunicipal Energy Board, Simon Deschênes.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Hydro-Québec to receive it. There is a cost for such a great distance. Where there is already a position available, the cost of integration is practically zero, which means that it ensures very good competitiveness in calls for tenders. We have optimized our chances. There are many projects in Témiscouata, Montmagny, Kamouraska, Rivière-du-Loup and Matapédia. Those are essentially the sectors targeted in these calls for tenders," commented the president.

On July 14, 2021 in Gaspé, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Jonatan Julien mentioned that the "next calls for tenders will probably come out below 6 cents (per kilowatt delivered

to the grid)."

"We are very confident. The strongest wind deposits and the greatest potential are found in eastern Quebec. We won't win all the tenders, but we should be part of a few winning projects next December. Our model is recognized. Our partners are confident. The financial modeling has been completed with experts to ensure that we see compet-

itiveness," according to the president who anticipates one, two or three projects.

Energy deliveries must begin no later than November 30, 2026.

This is an important first step that will shape what will occur in the coming months since Quebec will use the current results to establish a benchmark price for the future.

On April 20, in Gaspé, Premier François Legault while at LM Wind Power announced a new round of calls for tenders, this time for 1,000 megawatts reserved for wind power and 1,300 others for renewables.

The call for projects should be launched in December and would provide for 400 megawatts in 2027, 300 in 2028 and 300 in 2029.

In 2021, the Energy Board paid a royalty of \$4.5 million to member municipalities.

The 2022 budget provides an equivalent amount.

Work underway at Ruisseau-Leblanc harbour

Gilles **Gagné**

CAPLAN - For years, the Ruisseau-Leblanc harbour remained largely inactive, as sand blocked its entrance and the state of the wharf was unfit for fishing boats and yachts. The location had previously been identified as non-essential to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Small Craft Harbours division. There is a program at the Small Craft Harbours that transfers ownership of non-essential ports to other levels of



Photo: G. Gagné

government, not-for-profit organizations or First Nations. In the case of Ruisseau-Leblanc, the property was transferred to the Municipality of Caplan in June. Work was carried out to improve it. The work consisted of demolishing part of the old wharf, consolidating that old wharf, creating a traffic lane on the breakwater and a pedestrian promenade, building an exterior pedestrian wharf and an interior wharf for the needs of fishermen. Electrical services and a line of pontoons were also installed or are on the verge of being installed. The harbour is also dredged, an operation that started weeks ago. Construction work on the harbour was completed in early July. The dredging will be completed before the beginning of August, depending on weather conditions. This work totals approximately \$3.9 million and is part of the investments allocated to the Small Craft Harbours program in the 2018 federal budget. All of the construction work was carried out by Rimouski's Gestion AJ (2003) Inc. and the dredging work is carried out by PEC Inc, a company based in Bonaventure and New Richmond.



Photo: N. Sergerie

A litre of gas went from \$1.984 to \$1.864 on July 22.

Gas prices down by 12 cents

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - A welcome surprise for motorists at the dawn of the construction holidays on the morning of July 22 when a litre of regular gasoline fell below the realistic price of the Energy Board.

The posted price is \$1.864, which is a decrease of 12 cents from the \$1.984 posted since July 15.

This is the first time since mid-March that a litre of gasoline has sold below the realistic price estimated by the Energy Board.

Based on data from the government agency, the price at the pump should be around \$1.91. CAA-Quebec estimates this price at \$1.93 in the Gaspé Peninsula.

The board estimated the cost of acquisition for a Gaspé retailer at around \$1.79 on July 22.

The downward movement seemed common throughout Eastern Quebec because gasoline was also selling at \$1.864 in Rimouski.

In recent weeks, motorists have had to pay, sometimes nearly triple the average profit margin of the past year for their gasoline, which led the Gaspé Peninsula Table of Prefects to consider looking into the matter, as it did in 2019.

On July 15, a litre was back below the \$2 per litre mark, a level it had reached in early May in the wake of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Diesel was generally trading around \$2.10 on July 22.

Saint Mary's Cement gets extension from Environment Department to specify means to curtail emissions

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL – Saint Mary's Cement, the owner of the Port Daniel cement plant, has obtained a three-week extension from the Quebec Department of the Environment in order to present its written observations to Minister Benoit Charrette. They are required to specify how the company intends to reduce the dust emissions coming out of its Gaspé Peninsula facility.

On June 30, Saint Mary's Cement received a "notice prior to an order" regarding the Environment Quality Act. The notice asks the plant's management to take the appropriate measures to stop the regular dust emissions that have occurred over the last two years.

The letter notably mentions that "since the dust emission

problem emerged in the summer of 2020 in Port-Daniel-Gascons, which has been recurring ever since, the (ministry) has been doing everything it can to ensure compliance with the Environment Quality Act and the authorizations issued."

The government document also underlines that "despite several notices of non-compliance and an ongoing criminal investigation, the Department had to assess other remedies available to it to correct this situation. Thus, the Minister intends to serve the company with an order to compel it to correct this problem."

Saint Mary's Cement spokesperson Chris Mason says that "the team at the plant requested and received an extension to ensure a complete and accurate response that represents the improvements

being made and work underway. We are in close contact with the (Environment Department) and remain committed to responding in accordance with the (Environment Department's) deadlines and requests, and to operating in compliance with its permitting conditions."

The Ministry of the Environment initially wanted an answer within 15 days, by July 15 at the latest.

Chris Mason says that the firm now has until August 8 to send a satisfactory answer to Minister Charrette.

The dust emissions mentioned in the ministry's notice took place in July 2020, August 2020, June 2021 and May 2022. They consisted of sticky emissions of clinker, the main cement powder input. On May 17, 2022, a significant overflow of cement powder occurred at the main truck

loading terminal

If an order is served to the management of the plant mainly known as McInnis Cement, the company will have to stop the discharge of contaminants into the environment beyond the standards established in the authorization and by the Clean Air Regulation. They must also request an independent expert recognized by the Ministry to carry out an assessment of the proper functioning of all air purification equipment.

The company will have to send the Department a report setting out the expert's findings, conclusions and recommendations; The firm will have to submit to the Department a control plan for dust and other atmospheric contaminants with a work schedule as well. Saint Mary's Cement will also have to carry out the work

in accordance with the dust and other contaminants control plan according to the submitted and approved schedule. Then they are required to submit a certificate to the Ministry from an independent expert confirming that the work carried out complies with the approved control plan.

Documents included in the notice reveal that since the spring of 2020, 80 complaints have been filed to Urgence Environnement, and 11 dust emissions have been recorded. The company has notified the ministry of 10 equipment failures.

In its first reaction to the notice of order, Saint Mary's Cement's management stated that the company has "approximately CA\$40 million slated for operational and environmental improvements this year."

1,500 gannet carcasses found near Bonaventure Island

Nelson Sergerie

PERCE - Avian flu continues to claim victims in the Bonaventure Island gannet colony, with some 1,500 carcasses found so far within the boundaries of Bonaventure Island and the Percé Rock Park.

This is what the director, Rémi Plourde, says, but he puts the number of dead birds into perspective when the colony numbers some 110,000 individual birds. "I don't think we can say that the situation is under control. What we see from our observations since the beginning of the season is a slow progression of mortality within the park boundaries," comments the director.

"It's a slow progression, but it's not lightning fast," adds Mr. Plourde. This is why the basic instructions remain, notably to keep a distance from the birds but especially visitors who have chickens or ducks at home are reminded to clean their boots well to avoid contamination.

Even outside the park perimeter, reports of carcasses are decreasing. "At the beginning of the season, I had a lot of reports of (dead) gannets being found outside the park, which I don't have anymore. This leads me to believe - and this is not scientific - that there is indeed a mortality, but it is not lightning fast and it is at a relatively low stage," says Mr. Plourde.

But the director does not dare to guess the rate of reproduction of the species. The assessment will be made at the end of the summer by the teams of researchers in the field.

"It is obvious that if one of the two parents dies when the young are still in the nest, it will have a reproductive impact. But it's much too early to tell," says the director, noting that the chicks will be less well fed and

more susceptible to predation.

Nevertheless, the situation has no impact on the number of visitors.

To clean up the beaches around Percé, the Town hired a firm to collect the carcasses in early July. The mayor, Cathy Poirier, did not want to take on this responsibility, hence the delay in taking action.

"We still had to negotiate with the Ministry of the Envi-

ronment to find out who would be responsible. It is clear that the municipality did not want to take responsibility because it is not a municipal responsibility," says Ms. Poirier.

Quebec confirmed that it would assume the bill.

The firm SaniPro was awarded the contract and has already made a first round and other rounds will be made if necessary in the coming weeks.

The mayor confirmed that citizens are finding fewer carcasses compared to previous weeks. "So much the better if the situation is resolved," says the mayor who cannot say how much Quebec will have to pay.

Paspebiac had also launched a beach cleaning operation in June after citizens reported several gannet carcasses on the shore.



Mawiomi Treatment Centre honours staff members

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG – The management team of the Mawiomi Treatment Centre in Gesgapegiag recently honoured the members of its staff, as they were presented with a gift recognizing years of service. Specializing in the treatment of people experiencing addiction problems, the Mawiomi Treatment Centre consists of a team of 21 people.

Four employees have 15 and more years of service, while one other has between 10 and 15 years, five have been working for a period ranging between five and ten years. Eight employees have between one and five years of experience at Mawiomi's, which was founded in 1996. This was the first time the treatment centre's management recognized staff in this way. It fits with Mawiomi's recent priorities, notably using a rewards and recognition program. The goal is to develop a positive work culture and celebrate the employees' successes.

CAQ likely to target Joël Berthelot for Gaspé riding

Nelson Sergerie

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - Former lobsterman Joël Berthelot of Grande-Rivière is rumoured to be the prospective candidate to represent the Coalition avenir Québec in the Gaspé riding.

His name is circulating as several sources indicate that the man who was for several years the president of the Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie has met with party officials.

SPEC attempted to contact Mr. Berthelot several times, but the potential candidate did not want to comment at the moment.

Officially no candidate has been confirmed as of yet.

In the Gaspé riding only the outgoing Parti Québécois Member of the National Assembly Mélanne Perry Mélançon is confirmed for the October 3 election.

The Director of Public Health for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger recently confirmed that he is considering a possible candidacy for Québec solidaire in the riding of Gaspé.

Dr. Bonnier will not make his decision known until the end of August, as he considers whether his current position is compatible with a decision to enter politics.

The Liberals remain very discreet about a possible candidate to be announced in Gaspé.

PQ presents itself as the leading political force in Eastern Quebec

Nelson Sergerie

MATANE - The already designated candidates of the Parti québécois Eastern Quebec are presenting themselves as the primary political force in Eastern Quebec for the October 3 election.

The five chosen candidates launched their campaign in Matane on July 14.

The Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, Mélanne Perry Mélançon, recalls that in 2018, the slogan of the PQ was a "strong team serving Eastern Quebec." The theme of this campaign is therefore a logical continuation.

To justify the theme, the outgoing member brought up the files of child care, hydrocarbons, housing and health.

"We have been a strong voice. I think we have represented the values of the Parti québécois for the people we represent with brilliance. We have at heart the well-being of the people we represent," says Ms. Perry Mélançon.

"We believe that the current era is full of economic turmoil. It is really important that in the Gaspé Peninsula, there are representatives who are connected to the world and who have freedom of speech and that they are hard-working /focussed people. We are not ashamed to say it. We think that this is what we offer in Eastern Quebec," adds the candidate in Bonaventure, Alexis Deschênes.

The pursuit of the defence of the interests of Gaspésians in Quebec remains the objective.

"I think that for four years, we have been the voice of Gaspésians and not a political party. Our voice has been heard and I think that the population is satisfied with the results achieved" says the outgoing member for Gaspé.

"If Gaspésians want allies, members (of the National Assembly) who will have the heart to defend them and to lead all the battles for them, what we are saying is what they will find that with the candidates of the Parti Québécois in Eastern Quebec," adds Mr. Deschênes.

Both candidates will focus on decentralization during the upcoming campaign.

"Let's give the power back to the regions. In the Gaspé Peninsula, we know our problems and we have solutions. This theme of decentralization of powers to the regions can be applied to all spheres of activity. In daycare, it is inconceivable that in Quebec City, they recently judged that the riding of Bonaventure did not need any new daycare spaces when this is not the situation. We think that we are the best equipped to decide for ourselves. That's what we're going to demand," concludes Alexis Deschênes.

Marked drop in the unemployment rate in June

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The unemployment rate fell to 7.8% in June in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, according to Statistics Canada.

The federal agency estimates that 35,500 jobs were filled last month in the region, 1,100 more than at the same time last year.

However, there was a decrease of 1,400 full-time positions to 27,800, offset by an increase of 2,400 part-time jobs, for a total of 7,600.

The number of unemployed fell from 4,300 to 3,000 between 2021 and 2022.

Compared to May, 1,000 positions have been added: 1,200 full-time and a slight drop of 200 part-time.

The unemployment rate was 10% in May 2021 and 11.1% in June 2021.

Still long delays in getting employment insurance benefit

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - Delays remain significant in obtaining benefits for some Employment Insurance claimants.

Mouvement action chômage Pabok says that once an agent processes a case, the response time is long. "We have fraud (incidents) that take a long time, voluntary departures, lack of tax returns, discipline or similar elements, before decisions are made, it is really extremely long," says coordinator Nadia Mongeon.

These delays remain despite the additional resources at Services Canada to speed up the process.

Identity fraud cases seem to have decreased, but once seasonal work is done and those workers apply for benefits, the overall outlook should be better, according to Mongeon.

Another concern is the sharp drop in the unemployment rate in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, which was 7.8 per cent in June.

This statistic means that unemployed workers will only receive 18 weeks of benefits next fall, which will create a long black hole.

"In mid-October, Minister



Photo: N. Sergerie

Diane Lebouthillier suggests people "get to work."

Qualtrough (Carla, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion) is supposed to announce an Employment Insurance reform. Will she succeed in solving this problem?

The federal Member of Parliament for Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands is aware of the difficulties experienced by people who are dealing with delays.

Diane Lebouthillier reminds us that identity theft at Desjardins complicates the work and suggests making sure that claimants are actually receiving the amounts requested.

"I have a lot of sympathy for people who are waiting. We are working very hard to improve security and to ensure that people receive their money," says the elected representative, who adds that the labour shortage is huge and could jeopardize certain services in the region.

Faced with the feared black hole due to the decrease in the number of benefit weeks, the elected official has no details on the upcoming reform. "I don't have any details, but what I can tell you is that there are jobs right now and what I strongly suggest to people is to work," she says.

No TDLG on foot again this fall

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Traversée de la Gaspésie on foot scheduled for next fall is again cancelled due to the current health situation. This is the fifth TDLG event to be cancelled since the start of the pandemic: three on foot (2020, 2021 and 2022) and two in skiing and snowshoeing (2021 and 2022).

"With all the resurgence that we are experiencing with COVID, we have, nevertheless, done all the verifications with the various stakeholders, with Public Health, both regional and provincial, and the finding is that it is much better to postpone the fall edition again this year," confirms the president of the TDLG, Claudine Roy.

The board of directors wanted, above all, to prevent the event from being a vector for the transmission of the virus in the communities "We will look in September or October at the possibility of holding a winter event but right now, we can't make a decision," adds Ms. Roy.

The popularity of the event has not waned despite the cancellations of recent years.

"It's crazy! After two years, to say the number of emails, text messages, telephone calls we receive. People want to come and walk the Gaspé Peninsula," says the president.

Last winter, the TDLG had thought of holding a reduced event with a hundred participants before having to forfeit due to the health context.

The Great Upheaval Expulsion of the Acadians

Diane Skinner

On July 28, in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia it is a day of commemoration of the Great Upheaval (Acadian Expulsion). This day was established in 2003 by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson to honour the almost 12,000 Acadians who were expelled from their homes between 1755 and 1763.

During the French and Indian War, the British began a movement against New France and the Acadians living in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Great Upheaval displaced between 10,000 and 18,000 Acadians, the majority of whom were deported to the Thirteen Colonies. Approximately 3,000 fled to the Louisiana area, which at the time was a colony of Spain.

Many Acadians were refused entry to the Thirteen Colonies, so they were forcibly transported to France and Britain. When the Acadians were expelled, the British military destroyed

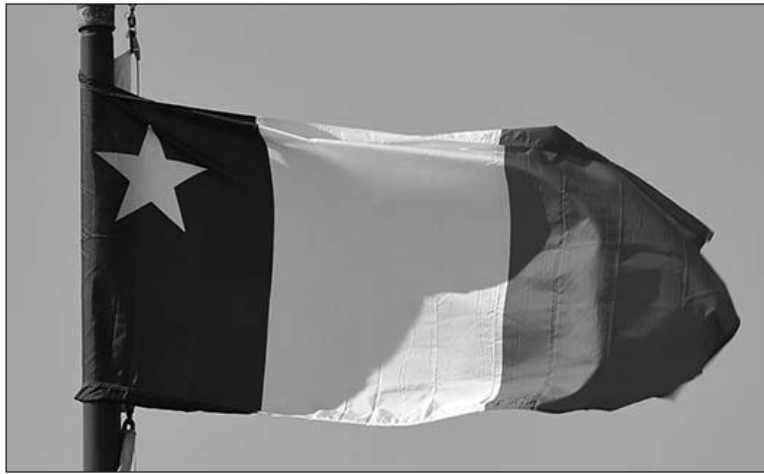


Photo: Canadian Encyclopedia

The Acadian flag, with its distinctive tricolour vertical stripes of blue, white and red, with the star of the Virgin Mary in the blue stripe, is still proudly displayed today.

their homes and barns. Thousands of the Acadians died from disease and drowning. The Acadians lost everything.

Today Acadians live predominantly in northeastern New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and the Gaspé Peninsula.

National Acadian Day is celebrated on August 15. On this day, communities in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have colourful festivals and events.

How do you know if you are an Acadian? "Any French person whose ancestors lived in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and eastern Maine, between 1636 and 1755 is considered an Acadian.

A fascinating trip to see the Historic Acadian Village near Caraquet, New Brunswick will inform you about the lives of Acadians with restored historical buildings, people in period costumes, and many artefacts.

Keeping cool - without air conditioning

Diane Skinner

I'm glad it's finally hot enough to complain about how hot it is.

Record breaking heat in the United Kingdom this summer is a sure sign that climate change is here. On July 19, the hottest ever recorded temperatures in England reached over 40 degrees Celsius. Even though we are overjoyed when the hot summer weather is here, when the heat gets in the house it can be unpleasant and disrupts sleep.

If you do not have air conditioning, what can you do to keep cool? There are some "cool" strategies to try.

If you have ceiling fans, set them to rotate counterclockwise.

Switch your flannel sheets for cooler cotton ones. Buy a "Chillow" which is a special pillow that contains a cooling gel. They do help!

Insulation! This keeps your home warmer in the winter and keeps it cooler in the summer.

Use your larger appliances in the evening, such as ovens, ranges, dishwashers, and washing machines.

Use a dehumidifier. Moist hot air is more uncomfortable



Photo: Wayfair

Set your ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise. This produces a current that moves down and out, sending the air back up along the walls.

than dry. Aim for keeping the indoor humidity under 60%. Close the blinds or curtains. Windows let in heat, so close them in the day and open in the evening.

Make a "cooling fan." Place a bowl of ice in front of a fan and it will create a chilly breeze.

Using the same principle of making your own cool air – spray a sheet with cold water and cover the window. It can help to cool down a room.

Turn on the bathroom fans

which will help to get rid of the warm air in bathrooms.

Install awnings above your windows which can reduce the amount of heat coming in through windows.

Open windows at night and a cross breeze will cool things down.

Switch light bulbs to LED because incandescent bulbs produce a lot of heat. LED bulbs use less energy so will reduce your Hydro bill.

Place fans in windows and halls to create air movement.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Eco-stress is real

The world's climate is changing right before our eyes. We may have become slightly inured to the warnings from scientists and youth activists, such as Greta Thunberg. This week temperature records are being broken in the United Kingdom. This means that people will die. This is real and tragic.

It seems that some children are more concerned than adults about these catastrophic changes. Politicians are not doing a great job of making the big changes that will slow down global warming. Desperate times



Greta Thunberg.

Photo: Biography.com

(and surely these must be desperate times) call for desperate measures.

Kids can and should be part of the solution. Children are expressing their worries for the future of "their" planet. They will be inheriting this planet one day. A compelling reason to get kids actively involved is that it gives them a sense of control. These are the "doomsday" kids. Since they have been small, they have been hearing about the effects of climate change and what is to come.

Let us get the children actively involved (for they are aware) in helping to slow down climate change. That wee bit of power and activism will lessen their eco-stress.

Kids can...

Learn to make wise purchases. Avoid buying "fast" fashion which is mass-produced cheap clothing (much of it made in China). It harms the environment because cheap clothes do not last and end up in landfills. When these cheap clothes are manufactured, it results in greenhouse gas emissions. Not a good thing. Don't be shy about wearing secondhand clothing. It just makes sense. Besides, it is fun to shop for secondhand clothing! Don't be afraid to be creative with your clothing choices.

Buy products with less packaging.

Plant flowers and shrubs for bees, which are essential to our ecosystems.

Take your bike, rather than ask your parents for a drive. No pollution and you will get exercise and fresh air. The biggest cause of climate change is the use of fossil fuels.

Keep learning and asking questions. Knowing what causes climate change prompts us to be more Earth-friendly.

Share this article with a child. They will most likely impress you with their awareness of the problem. If they get active and do something positive for this planet, we are equipping the Earth with a new generation of eco-warriors.



What is climate change?

Climate change is the long-term change in global temperatures. Climate has changed throughout the Earth's history, but this time it is different. Humans are causing worldwide temperatures to rise higher and faster than any time we know of in the past.

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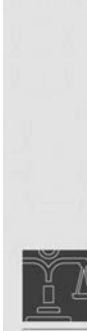
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Announcements



Obituaries



DRODY: Joseph Elias 1930 - 2022

It is with deep sadness and very heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Joe on Saturday, July 16, 2022. He was the adored patriarch of our family.

Joe was the loving husband to his wife of 51 years, Nelda (Lucas) Drody who predeceased him in 2009. He will be forever missed and lovingly remembered by his daughters, Donna and Alice; son-in-law Troy Bradley, and grandchildren Matthew and Lisa. Joe was born in Gaspé, Quebec to his dear late parents, Joseph and Pearl (Grant) Drody.

Joe's kindness touched so many peoples' lives and we were all so blessed to have had him in our lives. We will always remember his love of music and his exceptional fiddle playing. Nothing meant more to Joe than his family, especially his grandchildren Matthew and Lisa Bradley.

He will be laid to rest in his beloved hometown of Douglastown, Gaspé, Quebec on August 1, 2022. Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Douglastown. Wishes of condolences will be held in the front of the church at 1 p.m. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Society.



SCOTT: Wilma Eileen McCallum

Wilma Eileen McCallum Scott peacefully took her last breath at home surrounded by family on April 5, 2022, a few months before her 92nd birthday.

Wilma was born and raised a small town girl in Gaspé, Quebec on August 2, 1930 to Stanley and Ina (nee Miller) McCallum. Wilma met the love of her life while working as a teller at the TD Bank in Gaspé when a handsome young geologist working out of Murdochville came in to cash his pay cheque. They married soon after. Expanding her horizons, Wilma's children were born in four different Canadian provinces and the family finally settled in Don Mills, Ontario. She was active in the community and in the

lives of her children. Wilma was a stable presence at home while her husband, Fenton Scott, was often away pursuing his career in the mining industry. Their marriage was strong, stretching over 60 years until Fenton's death in 2011.

Vilma and Fenton raised three daughters and a son, as well as many cats and dogs and the occasional turtle or fish. After the death of her father, she began to follow the stock market and her financial acumen allowed her new freedom and opportunities. She bought herself an orange convertible sportscar as well as a beachfront property in St. George de Malbaie, to which she drove for many summers. She was passionate about her garden and the wildlife that visited her daily from nearby parks. She read the papers diligently, to stay apprised of finances, world affairs and politics. In recent years Vilma became a devoted Toronto Raptors fan.

Vilma was a kind and generous person. She was independent, strong willed and opinionated. She had an uncanny ability to elicit the life history of strangers shortly after meeting them. She was a feminist, raising her children to believe they could and should do whatever they wanted. Once her children were in high school, Vilma took university courses and went back to work. Her family and friends will especially miss her stories. She remembered her life in amazing detail.

Vilma will be sorely missed by her family: brother Alton McCallum; daughters Dawn (Michael Harris), Sharon Jo (Jabu Bell), Jill (Peter Walker); son Graeme; grandchildren, Jeffrey, Kate, John, Chris, Evie, Dani, Rebecca, Stanley and Mitchell; and great-grandchildren Roman and Orion. She will also be missed by her nephews in Gaspé: Ron, Dave and Brian McCallum and their families; nieces Jane and Heather; and her nephew Michael Scott from New Brunswick. Her cat Rosie is bereft.

Throughout her life, Gaspé remained the one place on Earth that Vilma loved and longed for wherever she lived. Vilma will be buried in Sandy Beach on August 6 at 2 p.m. Reverend Cindy Patterson will be presiding. A celebration of life will follow at the family home in Sandy Beach.



In Memory



COCHRANE: Herbert Leslie

June 22, 1945 – July 29, 2021

In loving memory of Herbert Cochrane who passed away on July 29, 2021.

A year has passed since you left us, a loving husband, great dad and grandpa. Our memories of you are such a blessing. We miss you every day and will be in our hearts forever.

Your wife Elaine, daughter Lynn (Eric), grandsons Ryan and Matthew.



Funeral and Burial

CORBEL: Donald

LEMIEUX: Cletus

A funeral for both Cletus Lemieux and Donald Corbel will be held at St-Pierre Catholic Church, in Barachois on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Burials to follow the service and all are invited for a light lunch at the Legion afterwards.



The Gaspé Spec wishes to inform its subscribers that August 3, 10 and 17 issues of The Gaspé Spec will only be mailed on Thursdays.



PHOTO QUALITY

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

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



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COAST ROUND-UP

GASPE:

Gaspé County Women's Institute

Gaspé County Women's Institute is pleased to announce that the annual fair will again take place on **September 10**, in York Hall. We will be following the same program that was organized for Fall 2020. The judges will be advised that the exhibits may have been started in the fall of 2019. To register or for information, contact Bonita Annett at 418-368-3453 or email gaspe22@gmail.com

BARACHOIS:

BADC

Together with the 350th Anniversary of Barachois, the Malbay Festival is holding the following event under the tent at the Barachois Rec. Centre (1062 Route 132 East).

August 3: Join us at the Barachois Recreational Centre at 10 a.m. for a morning of fun! Children of all ages are welcome to the Kid's Activity Day. There will be a bouncy house, face painting and all sorts of crafts! A parent or guardian is required to stay on site with the child.

PERCE:

160th Anniversary

August 7: A Eucharist celebration of the 160th anniversary of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Percé (Route des Failles) will be held at 11 a.m. with Rev. Canon Stuart

Pike presiding.

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.

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Centre

August 4: Tea and sandwich lunch from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
September 5: Hunting Bingo

NEW CARLISLE:

Funeral Association

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

September 3: We will also be having a Pot Luck Supper at 5 p.m. at the Town Hall. \$15 per adult and \$7 for children 10 years old and under. Anyone wishing to donate a casserole or any other food items, please contact Mary Woods or Betty Ann Crozier.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64

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

August 2: General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

August 6: Music with Vern Huntington beginning at 9 p.m.

August 13: Karaoke/Talent competition night. Contact Fay Gallon at 418-375-9158 to register with two songs to perform! Prizes to be won!

August 14: Social gathering with BBQ and afternoon music beginning at 12 p.m.

NEW CARLISLE:

Heritage New Carlisle

Wednesdays: Afternoon tea every Wednesday until August 17. Menu: Scones, muffin of the day, tea biscuits, jam of the day, tea, coffee and lemonade. Two sittings available 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$12 adults and \$10 for children. Special teas in the Alcove 2nd floor is also available. Cost \$15 per adult. For reservations please call 418-752-1334, message on facebook or email heritagenc@globetrotter.net

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel

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:

Farmers Market

Saturdays: Farmers market will now be held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the park next to the municipal hall. For more information about booking a table, visit our facebook page: Marché Local Market - New Carlisle or contact 581-233-0658. Hope to see you there.

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.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50 Plus Club

Please be advised that the **Tuesday** Grocery Bingo will resume in September.

August 13: BBQ at 319 Route 299 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Hot dogs, hamburgers and salads will be served. Everyone welcome.

August 26: Jam sessions, open to all musicians and

spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 7:30 p.m.

September 17: Harvest Bingo beginning at 1 p.m. Cost: \$10 for 3 cards and \$1 for each additional card.

October 7-9: Fall Fest.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:

The winners for the week of July 17 are: Jacques Bjold, Nathalie Fillion, Tom Duncan, Lucie Pidgeon, Marie-Hélène Basque, Marc Carmachaël and Jean-Claude Blanchard.

**UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, July 31
10 a.m. Service**

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, July 31
10 a.m. Service**

**ANGLICAN
CHURCH
OF CANADA**

**Sunday, July 31
NEW CARLISLE
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

**PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, July 31
St. Paul's - Gaspé
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
with Rev. Canon Curtis
Patterson**

**DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE:
WEDNESDAY AT 4 P.M.**

Please send your Classified or Coast Round-Up to: holly.smith@globetrot-



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

This week you may find yourself taking on a teaching or mentoring role, Aries. It is one way to volunteer in the community and pay it forward.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, this week it may be challenging for you to relate to others on a certain level. Try to put yourself in someone else's shoes and see things from a different perspective.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
It's possible you will find people to be extra aggressive this week, Gemini. Try not to react to what they are putting out. Instead, deflect

that negative energy.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Get together with others this week because you can use some extra support, Cancer. Otherwise, you may find yourself floundering in an uncomfortable situation.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, self-control is important for you this week, especially as it pertains to shopping. Do not buy every item you see. Rather, think through purchases before taking the plunge.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

This is a good week to look at things in a new way. All it may take is viewing something from a new angle or with a revised attitude to have an entirely new percep-

tion.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Take a break and get some exercise in the process, Libra. Visit a nearby park and take an extended bicycle ride or jump in the pool to swim a few laps. Enjoy fresh air and breathing room.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

This week you may consider furthering your education or learning new skills. Try volunteering if you're not ready for a financial commitment or if you don't want a firm schedule.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Spend time with people who care about you, Sagittarius. They can help brighten your

day when things feel overwhelming and provide advice when you need it most.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Hold your tongue as much as possible, Capricorn. Even a slight criticism may put a person off you for a while and that can cause friction that is tough to overcome.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, even though you would like to spend most of your time planning fun activities for the future, this week you have to hunker down and focus on business.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

You may be more sentiment-

tal now than in the past, Pisces. Feelings evolve and there is no wrong way to feel. Go with the flow.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
JULY 24**

**Bindi Irwin, Animal Activist (24)
JULY 25**

**Matt LeBlanc, Actor (55)
JULY 26**

**Roger Taylor, Musician (73)
JULY 27**

**Maya Rudolph, Actress (50)
JULY 28**

**Harry Kane, Athlete (29)
JULY 29**

**Wil Wheaton, Actor (50)
JULY 30**

Terry Crews, Actor (54)

Keeping pets safe in the heat

Diane Skinner

The temperatures are rising, and it is not only humans who feel it. Very hot weather can be uncomfortable, even dangerous, for pets.

You love your pet, so never leave them in a car. Even with the windows cracked open, the temperature inside a car can rise quickly.

Watch the humidity because this can adversely affect an animal. When it is humid, animals pant to get the moisture out of their lungs and this in turn lowers their body temperature. Keep the animal hydrated because they will be panting a great deal, and this depletes their water levels. Did you know that dogs sweat through

their paws as well?

Provide lots of shady areas and keep their bowl filled with fresh, cold water. Add ice to the water if it is very hot outside.

Buy a kiddie pool for your dog. Fill with cool water and let them roll and splash. Most dogs will love this activity.

Freeze a carrot and give it to your dog for a cooling and fun treat. Frozen carrots make a cheap and healthy treat any time. They can improve their dental health (cleans their teeth) and are a source of vitamin A, potassium and fibre.

Limit outdoor activity. On a blistering hot day, it is not the time to be tossing the frisbee for your dog. Walk the dog early in the morning or in the evening. Walk your dog on

grass because pavement gets very hot and holds the heat. Carry water with you to offer to the animal. If you have a dog with white ears, keep them out of the direct sun, because they are susceptible to skin

cancer.

Watch for signs of sunstroke. These can be difficulty breathing, rapid heartbeat and vomiting. If your pet is old, very young or overweight, watch them closely because these animals are more prone to heatstroke.

If you suspect your pet has a heatstroke, try to get them into a cooler area, one with air conditioning. Put cold cloths on their head and neck. Give them ice cubes to lick and a bowl of very cold water.

Cats are less compliant (an understatement) than dogs so try to move your cat somewhere cool. Offer them lots of fresh cool water. Cats sleep most of the time, so you likely don't need too much intervention. (Primarily because they will not thank you for that anyway!) Cats do sleep more in hot weather because they try to dissipate the extra heat by relaxing their body.

Cats hate getting wet, so don't spray them. If you carefully approach the cat and rub its fur with a small, wet cold cloth that may help. You may also try wetting your hands and rubbing the cat, if it will allow you to!



Hosting a summer get together

Diane Skinner

Summer is here, and this is a super opportunity to host a casual party for friends and family. Keep it simple so that if you are the host, you can relax and enjoy the time also.

Food is important. If you plan to barbecue, hamburgers and hot dogs are a great choice. You can go a little fancier and serve salmon or steaks. Barbecue corn on the cob by pre-cooking it in the microwave for about 2 minutes per cob, slather with butter, salt and pepper and wrap individual cobs tightly in aluminum foil. Then just place on the bbq for about 8 minutes, turning a few times. Whatever you choose, it will be a success!

Plan ahead of the day by making a list of what you plan to serve and a shopping list to

make that happen. A great choice to begin is a platter of veggies or other light finger foods. Put out loads of serviettes and paper plates are perfectly acceptable. It's summer!

Keep everyone hydrated with a wide choice of beverages. Cold sparkling water, juice, lemonade, wine or locally made beers, such as Naufrageur or Pit Caribou beer kept cool in a tub of ice is easy to manage and guests can serve themselves.

Make sure bug spray and sunscreen are available for guests to use. Don't let the blazing sun or pesky insects ruin the fun.

Be prepared if the weather should take a turn to rain. Always have a Plan B.

Plan some fun outdoor activities. Bean bag toss, horseshoes, giant Jenga, croquet, washers – these can be enjoyed by most ages and gets your guests talking and laughing.

If you plan ahead, and are ready for the changes in weather, the day spent with friends and family will go smoothly and be enjoyable for all.

*Summertime and the living is easy.
Fish are jumping and the cotton is high.
Oh, your daddy's rich and your ma is good-looking.
So, hush, little baby, don't you cry.
- Louis Armstrong,
Ella Fitzgerald*

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