

CBC show Still Standing to film in New Richmond this July

Cynthia Dow

CBC comedian Jonny Harris and the Still Standing crew will be in New Richmond this July to film part of their 8th season lineup. New Richmond town councillor, Natalie Clark, is a big fan of the show that shines a compassionate light on smalltown Canada, marrying humour with documenting the challenges faced by citizens of hamlets, villages, and towns from coast to coast.

Ms Clark told SPEC that CBC producers were interested in how her town has rebounded from the closure of the linerboard paper mill in the summer of 2005. “My goal from the very beginning was to get them to come to New Richmond. I told the producer who had contacted the municipality that ‘Jonny is coming to my town!’”

Ms Clark had been contacted regularly by producers throughout the winter, and then got a call during March break to confirm that New Richmond had been chosen over three other Gaspesian towns. “I understand that someone from the show had visited the Gaspésie in the winter of 2021 and thought the

region could be the focus of a show highlighting rural Québec,” she said.

Ms Clark explained the tri-cultural nature of the locality will be an important aspect of the program. “I can’t tell you a lot yet, but the episode will pertain to the closure of the mill, the creation of the Chaleur Park residential area, how people lived way back when, salmon fishing, and Mi’gmaq basket-making.”

She said the visit by the 17-member production crew will be a “great economic boost to the region. And this is a great way to promote our town.”

Jonny Harris began working on Still Standing, described on the CBC website as a “reality comedy show,” in 2015. Originally from Pouch Cove, Newfoundland, he knows a thing or two about smalltown Canada. Now in production for its eighth season, the crew has visited about 80 towns and villages. Every program ends with a stand-up comedy routine performed by Jonny Harris, based on unique aspects of the place visited.

Mr. Harris is well-known to CBC audiences for his portrayal of Constable George Crabtree in the Murdoch Mysteries series. As a comedian he



Jonny Harris performs a stand-up comedy routine at the end of each episode of Still Standing.

Photo: Evan Seccombe

has been featured at Just for Laughs, and both the Winnipeg and Halifax Comedy Festivals, and has won no less than seven Canadian Screen Awards for hosting and writing the comedy for the Still Standing series.

Series Producer Alex Lazarowich told SPEC that the series “is a format from Denmark that CBC brought over. Jonny was not involved in the initial development but

the show has evolved significantly from the original because of Jonny.”

The seventh season focussed on life in ten places, from Hope, BC, to Oxford, NS, with a stopover in Wakefield, Quebec. Due to the pandemic there were some delays in preparing last season, but Ms Lazarowich added, “We did not lose an entire year, we were postponed a few times but we were able to complete

Season 7 of Still Standing due to our amazing crew, writers, production team and Jonny Harris. You can watch Season 7 now on CBC Gem and CBC TV.”

Due to continuing COVID restrictions, the comedy show in New Richmond will be able to host only a limited audience, so the date, time and location are not being made public. Audience participation will be by invitation only.



Jonny Harris has been the host of Still Standing since 2015.

Photo: CBC Media centre



Sunrises en masse

Gaspesian fishermen are early risers, and as a result are rewarded with a beautiful view from their boats. Captain of the Cindy Steeve, Vincent McRae of Hope Town, regularly shares photos of the view from his boat on Facebook, for all Gaspesians to enjoy.

Gaspésie Railway Society to bid on second tourist train

Train could be used as a makeshift solution until VIA Rail returns

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie management intends to make a bid on the locomotives and automotive cars of the Orford Express, a tourist train that previously operated in the Eastern Townships before the pandemic.

The Orford Express equipment has been up for sale for several months. The shareholders of the train announced the closure of their operations in October 2020.

Luc Lévesque, director general of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (Gaspésie Railway Society), is not disclosing the amount of money the company is ready to pay for the Orford Express material but he thinks the chances are good of making an acquisition.

According to Mr. Lévesque, the rolling material is interesting and could be used for several purposes by the Gaspésie Railway Society.

“There are two Budd (automotive) cars and two locomotives, namely a road switcher and a passenger train locomotive. The two Budd cars are interesting because their operation is affordable. Not everybody wants Budd cars but, in our case, they could be handy. The road switcher has 2,000 horsepower and we could use it for our freight operations,” points out Mr. Lévesque.

The Orford Express owners have not set a transaction date. They are welcoming offers and also making proposals in order to determine a price range.

“I understand that the (rolling) material will likely be sold before the winter. It is stored outside on a siding in Sherbrooke. I am assessing the relevance, the cost and our interest in this kind of acquisition,” says Mr. Lévesque.

The Gaspésie Railway Society already owns a tourist train, the Amiral, stranded in Gaspé since the summer of 2014. It was mainly used between Gaspé and Percé for cruise ship passengers, a service that started slowly in 2013 before getting more popular the following year.

The 2015 closure of the line east of Caplan, a move made by Quebec’s Department of Transport, had put an end to the Amiral service.



The Orford Express operated for over 14 years in the Eastern Townships.

Photo: Orford Express

Transports Québec had just acquired the line because of the financial difficulties of the Gaspésie Railway Society, a municipal entity.

Without giving too many details about the state of the Amiral passenger cars, Luc Lévesque has doubts about an affordable way to put them back in service, given the uncertainty regarding the resumption of traffic west of Gaspé. The line is under repair, mainly the bridge, but no time schedule has been announced for the section between Port Daniel and Gaspé. “It will be very costly to put them back in service, after more than eight years of inactivity. There is also no locomotive in Gaspé at the present time and bringing one back there if the line is not wholly repaired is almost not feasible in the current context of a closed railway,” he says.

The locomotive used for the Amiral, Unit 1849, was moved out of Gaspé five years ago, in parts. The locomotive was put back together in New Richmond but it had to be repaired, mechanically and electronically, at the Canadian National shop in Campbellton. Such a move in the other direction would be very complicated and costly. Would the locomotive be kept in a single piece or in parts? “There is no railway shop in Gaspé,” points out Luc Lévesque.

Passenger service could be brought back

The two Budd cars of the Orford Express could replace the Amiral train in Percé once the line is reopened east of Caplan or even west of Ca-

plan, says Mr. Lévesque, who has another option in mind, given that the message from VIA Rail considering the resumption of the passenger train service east of Matapédia remains an unknown, depending largely on the mood of the public transporter’s management.

Back in 2017, VIA Rail’s former president and chief executive officer Yves Desjardins-Siciliano said that the transporter would be open to come back between Matapédia and New Carlisle, on the condition that the railroad is fit, that the speed is sufficient to respect the former schedule and that a date is set for the return of the train to Gaspé. His replacement, Cynthia Garneau, was saying until recently that the VIA Rail

service would only come back once the service is re-established between Matapédia and Gaspé.

“We don’t know what VIA Rail will do. Will VIA Rail come back once the line is reopened over its whole length or on a section of the line? We don’t know. However, Gaspésians need a service now. Our Budd cars could surely be used to connect with the Halifax to Montreal train,” suggests Luc Lévesque.

He has not initiated lengthy talks about the possible use of Budd cars to allow Gaspésians to have access to a passenger train service.

“I have briefly talked to Daniel Côté (president of the RÉGIM, the region’s commuter bus service) but I have not talked to VIA Rail. Their

people are hard to reach. As for Transports Québec, they are aware of my thoughts and they are not closed to the idea. We sure want to use that train and bring back the passenger train. Connecting it with VIA Rail’s train is an option,” explains Mr. Lévesque.

A passenger service would have to receive public funding in order to work. “I haven’t dug into that much. In my mind, VIA Rail would have to contribute, or another public body. I don’t know if there is a precedent in that kind of service, if VIA Rail has contributed elsewhere to something similar,” says Luc Lévesque

The main operation of the Orford Express included a dome car. That unit has already been sold in the United States for an undisclosed amount. Some rumours mention that the transaction price was close to US\$800,000.

The Orford Express operated for over 14 years in the Eastern Townships. Donald Thompson, a priest, was the main promoter, along with businessman André L’Espérance.

A very popular television show aired by Radio-Canada, “On prend toujours un train,” a reference to a well-known French song, was filmed on that train. The show host mainly interviewed people who had experienced serious difficulties in their life, as the train symbolizes confidence.

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The MNA for Gaspé presented her report on June 23 at her office in Gaspé. Photo: N. Sergerie

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION: The oil file stands out for the Member for Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ – Gaspé’s Member of the National Assembly, Méganne Perry Mélançon, says the issue of hydrocarbons stood out during her last parliamentary session before the October 3 provincial election.

Quebec adopted Bill 21 on April 12, putting an end to the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the province. That bill is now being challenged in court. On June 22, Utica Resources announced its intention to sue the Quebec government for as much as \$18 billion, the alleged value of its claims if they produce the quantity of oil they are supposed to contain, according to an Alberta-based consultant. The value of such assessment is largely criticized by independent experts.

“What marked my session and which is a highlight of my mandate is really the bill on hydrocarbons,” launches the MNA when questioned about the highlights of the session.

“It is an important move because we must be world leaders. I thought it was an important signal that the Gaspé Peninsula was mobilizing. We can say what we want, but the CAQ will not be able to say that it was done with its own convictions. It was done by the work of people on the ground who have shown that we were no longer there (believing in oil exploitation) in Gaspésie,” adds the elected representative.

Utica Resources, which owns the Galt site near Gaspé via Gaspé Énergies, is asking for the nullity of Bill 21 and, if it fails, could claim \$18 billion from the province.

Méganne Perry Mélançon remains cautious since the case is now before the courts.

“This is the CAQ bill. I had tabled a bill in which there was no compensation. The Centre québécois du droit en environ-

nement told us that the government can go down the road to the end of the industry as long as the intentions are clear and that the collective interest can prevail over the rest,” underlines the elected official, who relies on legal analysis.

“The companies will try everything for everything. We will see the test in court. The government introduced this bill. We tried to reinforce it during its detailed study. We’ll see for the rest, but I can’t comment further,” she says.

Citizen mobilization has been important in advancing the issues over the past few months. The question of the lack of housing or places in childcare facilities are examples where an outcry was necessary.

“It is not acceptable to operate like this. This is the result of a government that already has a strong mandate. When you want to focus on a problem, you have to mobilize and shout from the rooftops. This is how we manage to get them moving,” says the MNA.

“The CAQ turns corners. The CAQ has improvised on several big issues: four-year-old kindergartens, seniors’ homes where we no longer even calculate the projected additional millions. We are experiencing a crisis in housing, in CPEs. It is a government that must be reasoned with,” clearly affirms the outgoing elected official.

Her other major point was the question of the elderly.

Ms. Perry Mélançon made a video with seniors. “It is incredible what they are going through both financially and in terms of access to health care. It is not easy. At the end of their life, they feel abandoned by the system. There is a general feeling of injustice,” says the MNA.

While she succeeded in convincing Quebec to grant Centre de la petite enfance

Police report

Raynald Croussette, 70, from Les Méchins, charged with theft, hit and run as well as breach of probation, will return to court on August 12, 2022, in New Carlisle. He last appeared in front of Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida on June 27. He remains detained at the New Carlisle prison in the meantime. “He is looking for a lawyer to represent him. No new charges were laid against him for the moment but the police should submit other files to us shortly,” explains criminal prosecutor Cédric Leblanc-Falardeau.

Arrested on June 17 in the woods near New Richmond, Raynald Croussette appeared in court that same day. He is charged with theft of more than \$5,000 and a hit and run charge likely linked to the police operation that led to his arrest. As for the breach of probation, it is tied to the conditions set when he served a sentence of six months, less two days in prison for a case of violence for which he was convicted on October 7, 2021.

The Sûreté du Québec officers had to use a Taser gun to arrest him on June 17. He had no known address in the Bay of Chaleur area at the time. His hometown of Les Méchins is located between Matane and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. His arrest came after complaints were laid by New Richmond citizens, as a wave of thefts were committed in many properties. Raynald Croussette had previously served a six-month prison term for an illegal use of a firearm in 2012 and a probation period was imposed on him in 2000 for assault.

Judge Andrée Saint-Pierre, of the Quebec Court, has accepted as evidence a warrant issued in 2019 regarding a police operation that took place on a property in Hope Town owned by Éric Maldemay, a 45-year-old man from Paspebiac. Éric Maldemay was charged on December 17, 2019, with cannabis production, which allegedly took place between June and October 2019 in Paspebiac; cocaine trafficking, also in Paspebiac; possession of cannabis that he knew to be illicit, tied to the same date; and possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking between October 15 and 18, 2019.

On April 14, former defence attorney Ariane Cayer had filed a motion to void the warrant that gave Sûreté du Québec investigators the right to visit Éric Maldemay’s lot in Hope Town. That part of the police operation was considered important in the case. The accused is a recidivist in drug trafficking and he has served several prison terms in the past. The investigation that led to his arrest had started at the beginning of 2019. Éric Maldemay has been imprisoned since his December 17, 2019, arrest.

“Mr. Maldemay had previously announced that he had no defence to offer. His lawyer filed a motion to quash the trial. The judge has rejected that motion. There will be a trial and Mr. Maldemay wants one. Attorney Cayer has pulled out of the file. The trial will likely take several weeks. The case is postponed until August 12 so that the judge can find enough time for a two-week trial. The accused will have some time to find a lawyer,” explains criminal prosecutor Maxime Rocheville-Paradis.

The Sûreté du Québec would like to remind the public that police officers will continue their efforts to counter the activities of cannabis producers and sellers who act outside the legal framework. The investigation work will be carried out throughout the season to fight and eradicate illicit outdoor cultivation of cannabis. SQ investigators and patrol officers will look for suspicious behaviour and will intervene to locate illegal external production, identify producers, make arrests, eradicate plants and counter illicit supply.

“In fact, despite the implementation of legislative measures authorising certain cannabis-related activities, it should be remembered that the production, possession for the purpose of trafficking, sale on the black market, import and export of cannabis remain criminal or penal activities. Thus, any cannabis planting without certification or licence issued by Health Canada is prohibited,” stresses Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the SQ.

The unauthorised cultivation and sale of cannabis have consequences for Quebec society, he adds. In addition to fueling the black market, they generate significant revenue that can be used to finance other criminal activities. The Sûreté du Québec therefore invites citizens to pay attention to clues. The presence of an illegal crop might be noticeable because of frequent comings and goings of unknown vehicles, the presence of driverless vehicles parked near fields, the discovery of unusual well-travelled paths on land, the presence of concealed gardening tools and products such as shovels, fertilizers and bags of soil. The comings and goings of unknown people around fields or woods from the month of May and the presence of visual cues such as colored ribbons hanging from trees are also valuable clues.

Sgt. Claude Doiron adds that anyone who witnesses such activities is invited to report it to the police service covering their region and to avoid venturing near the area. Information such as the description of suspect persons or vehicles can facilitate the work of the police. Any information on the smuggling or illicit production of cannabis can be communicated confidentially at any time to the local police station or to the Criminal Information Centre at 1-800- 659-4264.

Through the ACCES Cannabis program, the Sûreté du Québec works to combat cannabis smuggling at all stages of the supply chain, from illegal production to neighbourhood smuggling, on the entire Quebec territory. Coordinated by the Ministry of Public Security, the ACCES Cannabis program (Concerted Actions to Counter Underground Economies) is a government initiative implemented in 2018 whose objective is to promote the integrity of the Quebec tax system, reduce the accessibility of cannabis for young people and to direct consumers towards a legal and safe market.

(CPE) spots to Grande-Vallée, she notes that there is still a lot of money paid to the private sector to convert places.

Regarding health, in Haute-Gaspésie, the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre is struggling to find dentists for the community clinic announced last fall.

“The transport file is a good example of unfinished work,” underlines Ms. Perry Mélançon, citing the recent re-

port on rail or the plan on air transport which does not serve the regions.

A few weeks before the elections, Méganne Perry Mélançon is the only candidate so far for the Gaspé riding.

“I find it flattering. Recruitment for parties does not look easy. Every week there are different names. It does not seem they’re throwing themselves at the doors of the CAQ to be a candidate. There is a reason:

the CAQ has failed to stand out regionally,” explains the elected official.

She gives as an example the decentralization of civil servants. “The only promise made was not fulfilled and the CAQ botched it. In Haute-Gaspésie, it was priority number one. It is the most devitalized MRC in Quebec and no announcement has been made for Haute-Gaspésie,” notes the MNA.



Gilles Gagné
Commentary

Avoiding a problem is better
than fixing it later

Dealing with problems as soon as they are recognizable is a better way to solve them than waiting to see those problems becoming big, fat and hairy crises. Solving those crises is much more complicated because other hurdles have gotten in the way by then.

For the best part of the Coalition avenir Québec term, a housing crisis has been ongoing in many parts of the province, not only Montreal and Quebec City. A fair number of the Québec regions were and are also experiencing it.

A housing crisis is generally acknowledged by the authorities only when there is a shortage of housing units and when governments show good faith. Decades ago, the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation determined that a vacancy rate of 4% stands as a balanced situation, that is to say a situation whereby people looking for a house or an apartment should find something that suits their needs, space-wise and cost-wise.

Any vacancy rate of less than 3% can lead to some difficulties in finding a suitable housing unit. A vacancy rate of 1% or less represents a nightmare. Such a rate is experienced in the town of Gaspé at the present time. Percé, Carleton and Maria are also experiencing similar difficulties. In fact, that shortage has been ongoing for years in those communities.

A housing crisis doesn't only take the form of a shortage of dwellings. It translates into people having to live in a unit smaller or bigger than their needs would require. In all likelihood, the occupants are consequently living in a space that doesn't meet their needs, a place that costs way more than their budget sug-

gests, for example, if it is too big.

It triggers other problems, like those people's capacity to live together because of the tensions created by the space scarcity, or problems in feeding themselves properly because the proportion of the family budget earmarked for housing far exceeds what it should be.

Over the last few years, the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands have fared particularly well in attracting newcomers. Among the rural regions of Québec, our region is often leading. The shortage of housing hampers our collective capacity to remain strong in that department. It is extremely important in order to maintain the vigour that will allow the Gaspé Peninsula to recuperate some of the demographic losses we have experienced for decades.

However, newcomers have it rough when they arrive. According to a study carried out in 2020-2021 by CIRADD, a research centre linked to the Carleton Cegep, 81.25% of newcomers face an absence of available housing units when they arrive. When they finally find a dwelling, 37.5% of the units are not in a good state, and 41.67% are characterized by a rent that is too high. Owning an animal will rule out almost half of the units available, at 45.83%, while 29.17% of the newcomers find a place that is far from work and schools. The size of the dwelling is not convenient 22.92% of the times.

Tourism worsens crisis

In a tourist region like the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, it forces some families to buy a trailer for the summer months because their landlord is throwing them out in order to greet tourists who will pay more for a week than tenants over a month.

Greed takes over loyalty and since some tourist lodging systems are favouring tax-free payments, the whole society loses at the expenses of a happy few. A recent check by municipal authorities of the region indicates that there are at least 125 Airbnb units in the Gaspé Peninsula alone. The phenomenon is also hitting the Magdalen Islands heavily.

Emptying houses of their regular tenants between

the end of May and the beginning of October for the benefit of tourists convinces some landlords to leave their house vacant during the winter, as they have made enough money during that period. Why would they bother with tenants who will pay \$7,000 of rent for eight months when various groups of tourists will cough up \$1,500 weekly, sometimes more, and leave altogether \$25,000 or \$30,000 under the table at the end of the summer? This factor is contributing to the crisis.

The current Quebec government's biggest shortcoming in housing comes from a failure to maintain the rate of social housing needed to fill the needs of the population. Social housing means new units made available through a certain form of funding support from the government. It can be an interest-free loan, a grant, sometimes both.

Social housing takes a few forms. In the region, an organization like the Groupe ressource en logements collectifs Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine offers administrative and technical support to projects initiated by groups founded by community members. They are often committees formed by people caring for seniors who decide to initiate a residence project for them. It can also be young families wanting to erect an apartment building, as they are not ready to own a house.

For a decade or so, the needs for social housing stood at least around 3,000 units per year in Quebec. A certain number of experts affirm that, more recently, those needs probably reached 5,000 units annually.

During the first three years of its term, the Coalition avenir Québec government has only initiated social housing projects that generated a grand total of 500 housing units; not 500 units per year, only a total of 500 units for three years, projects that had gone through the planning stage of the former government!

That's a deficit of 8,500 housing units in three years if we think that the minimum should have stayed at 3,000 dwellings. That's a deficit of 14,500 units if we adopt the new norm established by the experts following the situation closely.

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Wendy Dawson
Guest Commentary

Why is Abortion
such a dirty word?

My grandmother told me the story of going to the doctor in her 20s. She was married, had two children close in age and knew that she was not yet ready for more. She had heard about the cervical cap, a birth control apparatus that would help her better plan her family, her future, and her young family's very limited finances. When she went to see her doctor about this birth control option, his first question was "Does your husband know you are here?" The next statement was "You will need his permission." A grown woman, married, with two children, needed the permission of her husband to obtain birth control.

It would be another 19 years (in 1969) before contraception was legalized coast to coast in Canada.

When the U.S. Supreme Court recently reversed the constitutional right of American women's access to abortion, a right that was secured 50 YEARS AGO, I got mad. Not annoyed or discouraged. Real fire in the belly, unadulterated rage. I immediately thought of my grandmother and of the story she had told me and how many decades and generations had passed and, still, here we were with governments and religion making their way into the reproductive rights of women. Again. Still.

There are no "two sides" to abortion. It is not a good against evil scenario. It is not piety vs godlessness. It is a medical procedure. No more, no less. There are dozens of reasons why a woman and her physician

might make the decision to proceed with an abortion and none of those reasons, nor any woman's decision, is anyone's business.

Forcing girls and women to give birth against their will is tantamount to sterilizing them against their will – surprise, surprise, a practice that is still legal in the US in 31 states. Therefore, it would appear the government can decide to force you to have a baby, and they can also decide that you can't have a baby. Are our conservative neighbours to the south God-fearing people, or do they just like to play God?

How can a country that purports to be "land of the free and home of the brave" remove a woman's right to her personal physical autonomy? That doesn't sound very free. What is so terrifying to conservatives about a uterus? Not very brave. It is amazing to consider that a country could limit the rights, privileges, and freedoms of half of their population, and consider it progress.

I fully recognize that the United States is not Canada. I know that the US Supreme Court does not lay or structure laws for this land, however, this ruling should be of concern to all women everywhere.

While much has been made about the legality of the abortion process in Canada, the truth is in this country we do not have an "abortion right" law. That said, we don't have a hip replacement law either, or a kidney dialysis law. So why would a law for an abortion procedure even be necessary?

I think that, simply put, when it comes to abortion suddenly everyone becomes a philosopher, a theologian. Everyone is swift to share their opinion about the value of a cluster of cells being housed in a COMPLETE STRANGER'S BODY. Regardless of your opinion on this cluster of cells, the fact is, it cannot live on its own without a vessel. An egg is not a chicken, a seed is not a plant, a zygote is not a human. Any opinion about that

cluster of cells is just that, an opinion, and NO opinion should influence a population's access to necessary and vital health care services.

Whether or not a woman decides to continue or terminate a pregnancy, it must be her decision. Not yours. Not mine. It is her future, career, her family, her education, her life. If we restrict a woman's right to make this decision for herself, we are grossly infringing on her basic human rights.

I fully understand that discussing the concept of abortions, reproductive services and sexual health is a challenge for most. After all, we live in a society where

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Resumption of Murdochville mining activities

Osisko Metals in the home stretch of negotiations with Glencore

Gilles Gagné

MURDOCHVILLE – Osisko Mining and the global giant Glencore are still negotiating for the transfer of the mining asset that the latter company owns in Murdochville. In March, the two sides determined that they had to reach an agreement before midnight, June 30, and they were still talking as the SPEC reached its deadline.

These assets include most of the sectors where copper mining was carried out from 1954 to 2002 by Noranda Mines. The last Murdochville mine was closed in October 1999 but the copper smelter operated until April 27, 2002, before being dismantled.

Noranda Mines was acquired after the closure of the Murdochville smelter by Falconbridge, later bought by Xstrata, which was taken over by Glencore.

Osisko Mining president and chief executive officer Robert Wares says negotiations, announced March 29, are progressing well.

“We are still in negotiations. Thursday, June 30, is the deadline date to have an agreement. Everything is fine. There is just one thing left that we have to agree on,” Mr. Wares told the SPEC shortly before that deadline.

Glencore Canada Corporation and Osisko Mining signed a letter of agreement on March 25 giving the buyer, Osisko Mining, the option of purchasing 100% of the former Murdochville copper mines. Osisko Mining will pay Glencore US\$25 million if a deal closes.

Twenty million dollars more will be paid by the buyer if there is commercial exploitation of copper ore.

Osisko Mining began drilling in mid-April at Mount Copper, where Noranda operated an open pit mine between the 1950s and the early 1980s. The March 2022 agreement stipulates that Osisko Metals was to spend \$5 million by June 22 on this exploration campaign. The Mount Copper mine was closed because of the recession of 1981-1982, but not because of the depletion of the deposit.

Robert Wares believes that Glencore management could be open to continuing negotiations beyond June 30 if only a few details remain to be agreed upon.

“We have until June 30 to decide to buy the properties and until September 30 to close the transaction (to effectively become the owners of the mining asset). It includes the agreement of the government to transfer the mining claims. It could take the agreement of the minister of Natural Resources (Jonatan Julien). We do not know, on this point,” says Robert Wares.

Glencore's mining assets are partly located on private company property, but another portion is on public land. There are also different rules when it comes to surface rights and underground mining rights.

“We don't need the government to reassign surface rights, but for the subsoil, yes,” points out Mr. Wares.

He is referring in particular to the fact that underground mines have also been exploited



Photo: Google Earth

in Murdochville and that they form part of the assets of Glencore.

In the meantime, the exploration campaign led by Osisko Mining is progressing. “We have four drills in operation. We want to drill 30,000 metres to collect samples. According to the analyses made to date, things are going well, things are going according to our forecasts. We are drilling to confirm historical data,” says Robert Wares.

The first laboratory analyses carried out from the samples collected in April reveal that the copper content of these samples is 0.35%, broken down into 0.31% of recoverable copper sulfide and 0.04% of oxidized copper, much more difficult to recover.

“We are confident of being able to reduce the proportion of oxidized copper and increase the proportion of recoverable copper,” specifies Robert Wares, speaking of the laboratory results from all of the

30,000 metres of geological cores constituting the exploration campaign of Osisko Metals.

Oxidized copper is more common at the surface of a deposit, points out the chief executive officer of Osisko Mining. However, the analysis results announced so far do not specify if the underground samples were mainly taken at a low depth or deeper.

Historically, the Mount Coppermine has yielded low-grade copper ore, at 0.37%. If the copper content remains at 0.31% over all of what will be explored until September at Mount Copper, 456 million tonnes of mineralized rock could be found there.

By recovering 0.31% of copper in the deposit, the total volume of metal could reach 1.4 million tonnes. This is about the same tonnage that the Murdochville mines produced in almost half a century.

The price of copper stood at US\$4.50 per pound in March. Since that time, it has fallen to \$3.75, a drop of 17%. Robert Wares is not too worried about that drop.

“These are market specula-

tions based on fears of recession. The fundamentals have not changed. Copper demand is expected to hold. Unfortunately, that (speculation) complicates things for financing projects. We have made no secret of the fact that we want copper at \$4 a pound to go ahead with the Murdochville project,” says Robert Wares.

A possible resumption of mining activity in Murdochville would require an investment of around \$1 billion. A few hundred jobs would be created. The ore would be concentrated on site before being transported to a smelter probably belonging to Glencore, which operates the Horne smelter in Rouyn-Noranda, the nearest such facility.

Residents of Murdochville, who settled in the town for the quality of its outdoor activities and its quietness, are closely monitoring the progress of Osisko Metals.

The exploration campaign conducted by the firm has so far enabled it to raise \$12 million on the capital market to carry out the Murdochville drilling campaign, notes Robert Wares.

The Rivière-au-Renard industrial park on hold

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - While Grande-Rivière has reached an agreement with Quebec to municipalize the industrial park, there is no word about the transfer of the Rivière-au-Renard industrial park from MAPAQ to Gaspé.

The first attempt at acquiring the park dates back to 1996 and the mayor, Daniel Côté, points out that this file is at a standstill.

“A few years ago, we asked the department to redo the infrastructures before starting discussions on a retrocession. We were offered financial assistance so that we could do the work ourselves but assume the risk. We didn't want to assume the risk as a town,” said Côté.

The Town was asking for work on the water supply, sewers, salt water pumps, paving, etc. Minister André Lamontagne did not want to get involved in the announcement for Grande-Rivière on June 20.

“We are not there. What was important for us in the first instance was to resolve the issue of Grande-Rivière,” says the minister.

The town had passed a resolution in 2019 to test the water. In 2013, the upgrade was valued at \$6 million. Gaspé has maintained the park since 1995 in exchange for \$50,000, a sum that has never been indexed.

“We had put in our requests for an indexation of this amount, until the agreement was settled. To date, we have fallen on deaf ears. That is correct. We are not in a hurry to take possession of it. As long as it remains the property of MAPAQ, they are the ones taking the risk. It is they who assume the maintenance of major infrastructures,” says the mayor.

NOTICE (C.C.Q., section 795 par. 2)

Notice is hereby given that Anita Le Touzel (the “Deceased”), in her lifetime domiciled at 225, York West Boulevard, Gaspé, Quebec, G4X 2M3, died at Gaspé, on March 21st, 2022. An inventory of the Deceased's property has been made by the liquidator, Allen Morency, on June 23rd, 2022 before the undersigned notary, in accordance with the law.

This inventory can be consulted by interested parties at the office of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton s.e.n.c.r.l., situated at 155, rue de la Reine, Gaspé, Quebec, G4X 2R1.

Given at Gaspé, on this 27th day of June 2022

Mtre Line Desrosiers, notary
Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton s.e.n.c.r.l.
Tel: (418) 368-3292



Le Chaleur, model train

Photos: Ira Gladstone



The Océanic will stop in Chandler on September 9 and 10.

Photo: Rimouski Oceanic website.

CN days and VIA Rail’s Chaleur trains return in model form!

Mr. Fix-It arrives at Duthie’s Point

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND - Mr. Fix-It was an institution in Montreal for 68 years and, as the present incarnation, Ira Gladstone had the regretful task of closing the family business in 2020. As a result, he moved to New Richmond with his wife, Caplan native Sylvie Babin, his many plants and some forty boxes full of model trains, including the “Chaleur,” the Montreal to Gaspé train that has been suspended since September 2013 due to the state of the railway’s infrastructure.

A specialist in restoring antiques, ceramics and glassware, Ira Gladstone has been collecting miniature trains since childhood. After discovering and falling in love with Duthie’s Point in New Richmond, he has made a niche for himself there. On the site of what used to be the Gaspesian British Heritage Village, Mr. Fix-It will offer

workshops on the restoration of antiques, ceramics and glassware as well as selling selected objects from his collection of small appliances and antiques.

The heart of his involvement, however, will be the creation of a model railway layout in the Almond Art Centre. This is a community-based project which will feature models of points of interest on the line between Matapédia and Gaspé.

Ira Gladstone and the administration of Duthie’s Point are inviting individuals who are interested in learning about model making, in sharing their passion for rail transport and in wanting to preserve the history and the stories of the Gaspesian rail system to hop on board.

Time, passion, images, stories, and ideas are needed to help realize this community dream in miniature. Everyone can contribute.

It is from its “Central Station” in the Almond Art Cen-

tre that this long-term community-based project will take form. Sharing this love of the railways with as many participants as possible could even inspire and hasten the return of our train, “The Chaleur,” on the real Gaspesian tracks.

Before moving to New Richmond permanently in 2020, Mr. Gladstone spent many summers in the area inquiring about railway activities and looking for documents and photos.

People interested in getting additional information about the train model initiative can dial 581-886-1489 or write to train@pointe-duthie.ca.

Two Océanic exhibition games to be held in Chandler

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - The Rimouski Oceanic will play two exhibition games in Chandler on September 9 and 10.

“It’s a great pride to host these teams. We know that the calibre of major junior hockey is quite high and that is very well followed by Gaspésians. Two games at the Clément-Tremblay Centre, it will be extraordinary,” says the mayor, Gilles Daraïche.

The Blainville-Boisbriand Armada will be their opponent for the event.

“It is not a pure coincidence. Chandler is a hockey town. There have been great players in Chandler and there are still great players. Chandler is very proud to host this,” adds the mayor.

The public will have access to practices. Autograph sessions are also planned.

“It will be a festive weekend. People will have access to the players and it will be fun,” concludes the mayor.

In addition to Chandler, the Rimouski club will play exhibition games in Mont-Joli on August 24 against the Quebec Remparts and on September 16 in Matane again against Quebec City.

“The organization is very happy to be able to meet its fans from all over the region. From Montmagny to the Magdalen Islands, the magic of the Océanic has always been felt and we are very proud to be able to present these games in different towns in the Lower St. Lawrence and Gaspé regions,” said the club in a release.

Bill for school transportation will be steep

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The rising cost of fuel will have a significant impact on school transportation this September.

Contracts expire at the end of the school year and demands are high.

Josée Synnott, interim director of the Chic-Chocs School Services Centre, says the Education department has released \$10 million this year and \$30 million next year to address the rising cost of fuel, in addition to \$22 million over two years for electrification.

Other driver retention measures are also in place.

“The demands are in the 30% range. These are huge amounts of money. We believe that the investments made by the (Education) department will ensure that negotiations will progress towards an agreement that will satisfy both parties,” says the interim director.

The carriers prefer to wait for the evolution of the discussions before commenting.

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Legion

Anse-au-Griffon community centre requests meeting with council

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - A delegation of about 30 people showed up at the Gaspé Town Council on June 20 in support of the committee wanting to place a community centre in the l'Anse-au-Griffon church. That committee is demanding a meeting with the town council.

For several months, it has been facing a refusal from the Town of Gaspé to support the project financially.

The president, Mireille Bilodeau, presented herself to the elected officials, recalling that for the past seven years, a citizen's initiative has been underway to provide the village with such a centre.

She specified that she had submitted a pilot project for a community centre and safe

haven for the population in case of a climatic emergency.

"You are aware that volunteers have already accumulated \$2 million (in federal and provincial aid) and that the refusal of the municipality of Gaspé will destroy seven years of efforts by citizens who consider that such a centre has a crucial safety function not only as a place of exchange, but also as a place of resilience in case of disaster related to the climate crisis," said Bilodeau, who said that the council has never met with the board of directors of the Griffon Community Centre.

"We are formally requesting an emergency meeting with all board members to clearly outline this project based on the need for safety. For us, this is our number one challenge,"



About 30 people showed up at the Gaspé Town Council on June 20.

Photo: N. Sergerie

adds the president.

"The notion of a climate emergency has come to an end," replied Mayor Daniel Côté, "We have already explained in a letter the decision of the town council. We have already mentioned the financial issues related to the project: the

capital outlay, the risk of cost overruns where other partners were reluctant to get on board, and the annual operating costs required by the Town. These were the elements that justified the Town Council's decision."

"The committee's requests were for \$500,000, and the op-

erating assistance that was \$2,000 per year was brought to \$60,000 and then down to \$20,000," the mayor added.

Mr. Côté stated that elected officials have already met with the committee.

"The council will decide in the next few days if we are able to meet them. I have never hidden that it was a beautiful project. It's just that the financial demands were much too high," said the mayor after the public meeting.

Councillor Réal Côté mentioned during the discussions that the aid should reflect the notion of equity with respect to other organizations receiving aid from the Town of Gaspé. Exchanges between the audience and the council lasted nearly three quarters of an hour during the question period.

Marion Richard sails 700 kilometres for mental health

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Leaving Quebec City on May 28 by windsurfing and paddle boarding, Marion Richard reached Gaspé on June 15 after a 700-kilometre journey.

The man from Grande-Vallée came up with the idea of performing a sporting challenge in 2020.

"I am someone who really likes adventure and it (the idea) has been maturing for some time. This project is my passion it dictated the activity," says Mr. Richard a few minutes after his arrival.

"I had imagined between 14 and 17 days based on the fact

that one day it is windy from the west, one day it is windy from the east and one day it is not windy. If that had been the case, I would have returned in 14 days without any problem. Over 19 days, I had four days of westerly winds and the rest was practically easterly winds, which was difficult because we had to fight headwinds," explains the athlete.

The phase in the Rimouski sector was a little more difficult due to the weather conditions.

"The worst day, I did two kilometres. On the other hand, as soon as I had westerly winds, I set myself the goal of covering 100 kilometres. I managed to do it on the only



Marion Richard upon his arrival at the Gaspé Marina.

Photo: Jacinthe Bédard

day when the wind was present from morning to evening: I covered 100 kilometres between Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Grande-Vallée," says Mr. Richard.

He had partnered with the organization Mon Relief to raise funds. When he arrived in Gaspé, he had raised just over \$30,000 out of a goal of \$50,000. The campaign ended

on June 30.

"The cause was really for mental health. This is something that appeals to me a lot: anxiety, unhappiness, suicidal thoughts. The idea came to me when I was 48. One morning, I woke up saying to myself that my business is going well. The sports project was in the lead. I said to myself, why not pay it forward and help people who are suffering," says Mr. Richard.

"I'm proud of the response from the people and companies who donated," says the man who had no idea how much (of a goal) he should set. "I am very satisfied with the amount," says Mr. Richard.

A moratorium called to stop the sale of the Biard house in Percé

Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCÉ - Percé's International Film and Art Festival - the Percéides - and the Grande Rencontre des Arts Médiatiques of the Gaspé Peninsula are asking for a moratorium on the sale of the Biard house.

"There is the whole issue of cultural development in Percé with the designation of the Espace Bleu through the Villa Frederick-James project. There is also a lack of spaces to accommodate artists and filmmakers. We consider that to sell the Biard house is to slow down cultural development when the house could be transformed into an artists' residence," says the director of Percéides, François Cormier.

Laval University acquired

this house for educational purposes and artistic training by creating the Percé International Summer School about twenty years ago, at the same time as it acquired the Frederick-James Villa. The university decided three years ago to end its academic activities in Percé.

Despite several attempts to raise awareness, Laval University has put this house, located on the heritage site, up for sale and it is almost sold.

"If they no longer use it and want to get rid of it, there are organizations in Percé that are ready to take over. I think Laval University is a government-subsidized institution. We are asking for a moratorium because they are in the process of selling quickly," says Mr. Cormier, who made the request



The Biard house in Percé.

Photo: Ministry of Culture

to the Minister on June 21.

Both groups rent the house during their activities.

"We have real needs even this summer. Last summer, the house was closed. We had to put pressure on the Minister responsible for the Gaspé Penin-

sula, Jonatan Julien, who asked them to open the house for the Percéides Festival to welcome filmmakers and artists. They did it a bit by force of circumstance," says the director.

"If we lose that, it is a cultural good that we lose which

will slow down cultural development. Laval University is a bit disconnected from reality," says Mr. Cormier.

The university even has purchase offers on the table.

The Ministry of Culture specified by email that they cannot interfere in the sale.

The press secretary of Minister Nathalie Roy, Maxime Roy, points out that the law does not allow the Minister to impose a moratorium since it is a private real estate transaction. In 1901, Jersey native Charles Biard set up his fishing business and Biard's Beach Hotel on the shore of Anse du Nord in Percé. Of this estate with many cabins, only the house facing the Rock remains today and is an integral part of the Percé heritage site.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Roe vs Wade Knowing the facts

Dominating the news this week from the United States is the overturning of the Roe vs Wade decision of 1973. That year the United States Supreme Court established that women in the United States had a legal right to abortion. This decision has been in effect since then – until June 24, 2022. This means that the constitutional right of women to have an abortion becomes severely limited.

No matter what side you may be on (Pro-Life or Pro-Choice) it is certainly important to know the history behind this law and to understand how and why this law was struck down this year.

The Roe vs Wade was (and is) one of the Supreme Court’s most controversial decisions, both in 1973 and in 2022. The decision in 1973 stated that individual states could not pass laws restricting access to abortion in the first trimester of pregnancy. The vote in 1973 was 7 – 2 in support of Roe vs Wade. The decision was supportive of women’s “constitutional rights including the right to privacy without government interference.” Furthermore, the Supreme Court stated that the Fourteenth Amendment of the American constitution prohibited the states from denying citizens “life, liberty, or property, without process of law.” This right ensured a right of privacy. This was the interpretation of that Amendment. They found (in 1973) that the denial of rights to an abortion was unconstitutional.

We are living in contrasting times in 2022. The shift of power in the United States further right, particularly in the makeup of the Supreme Court, has reopened the discussion about the rights to abortion. Over the years, since 1973, there have been many legal challenges to Roe vs Wade. The discussion about the law continued and due to the make up of the Supreme Court (six of the nine Justices are Republican) Roe vs Wade was overturned.

Why is it important to know about Roe vs Wade? It is an example of how divided and polarized politics has become. This is happening in the United States and Canada, and in many democracies around the globe. There seems to be no middle ground and a resulting tug of war about how to interpret the Constitution has occurred.

Understanding the system of law is critical to understanding this decision. The Supreme Court has the right to interpret the Constitution. Roe vs Wade, first supported by the Supreme Court in 1973 was overturned in 2022. This decision illustrates how the country to our south has changed over the past 50 years. It is a sign of where it may be headed.

Does this decision affect Canadians? Yes, we are influenced by the happenings in the States, and it has already started serious discussions about Canadian rights and laws. The pull of left and right-wing politics has become so polarized, that the possibility of collaboration has been diminished.



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- Continued from page 4

Until a few weeks ago, Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Andrée Laforêt and Premier François Legault were refusing to use the word ‘crisis’ to describe the current housing situation. If that is not stubborn blindness, what is it?

They announced a new housing program over the winter, so to prove that they were active to counter a problem they were still not wholly recognizing, while Accès-Logos, the previous program, only needed to come back to its prior budget in order to function.

Then, they finally acknowledged the housing shortage during the spring and announced a few days ago measures to accelerate the construction of new housing units.

Overall, the Coalition avenir Québec term was weak in many aspects like day cares, the environment, transport, forestry and immigration, but housing also placed high on the list of poor management and stubbornness.

It leaves people without an apartment on July 1, and it makes headlines. However, overall, it triggers many more difficulties. It should be taken into account when people will start reflecting on the coming election.

- Continued from page 4

half of the population menstruates for most of their lives, and yet even this basic bodily function is addressed in hushed tones, flowery packages and demonstrated using blue dye. Women are perfectly aware that there is nothing discrete, flowery, or blue about menstruation. If we cannot speak honestly about menstruation, how will we be able to speak plainly about abortion?

It is necessary to start removing the stigma associated with abortion. I understand that this is not easy. It is a medical procedure that has become wrapped in shame and humiliation, and that is brutally unfair. A country that can offer ready access to health services for women is something that should be admired, not be something controversial.

So, while legal in Canada, abortion is still not readily accessible everywhere. While the rights of our American neighbours are being eroded, let us be diligent about our own. Let us speak plainly about abortion as health care, let us lobby and rally for access to services and let us remain diligent in our pursuit of the protection of our reproductive rights in this country.

Finally, I do not know of one earthly pregnancy that did not in some capacity involve a man’s participation. It is time for our partners, our sons, male friends and most importantly our male legislators to support women. If they cannot, then they must get out of the way. The health, welfare and liberty of women has been governed much too long by our male counterparts and it is time to get legislators out of our reproductive business. We don’t have to ask for permission anymore.

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Page 8, July 6, 2022 - Spec

A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered: *Dandelions*

Diane Skinner

From all appearances it seems that No Mow May was a success if seeing fields and lawns covered in bright yellow blooms during the month was any indication.

As the summer progresses, there will be fewer dandelions but, never fear, dandelions are a hearty plant which will bloom again!

Though, for many, the dandelion is a pesky and prolific weed, it is loved by others for its usefulness and not just for kids who enjoy blowing the white dried fluff of the dandelion and making wishes.

The word *dandelion* is from the French words, *dent de lion*, which translates as the lion's tooth. This is because the leaves are coarse and rough looking. Every morning, the dandelion, a member of the daisy family, opens its bright yellow head and closes it in the evening. Dandelions are a hearty plant and have one of the longest flowering seasons. Their airborne seeds can travel up to 8 km (5 miles).

Gardeners spend a great deal of time, money and effort to rid their lawns of the *tooth*

of the lion. but this was not always the case. In the past, in the 1800s, people planted dandelions and other useful weeds including chickweed and chamomile. If you want a new perspective on this hearty and invasive plant, consider the benefits of the dandelion. Fans of the dandelion say that it is an excellent source of food and an herbal medicine. The dandelion is a source of beta-carotene, which provides Vitamin A. It also provides calcium, Vitamins B, C, and D, fiber, iron, magnesium, phosphorus and zinc. Dandelions can provide more protein than spinach.

There are many more claims that extol the benefit of the dandelion. These include, as an antioxidant, promising studies in the treatment of cancer, regulating blood sugar, combating high blood pressure, cholesterol and inflammation, and strengthening the immune system. Dandelions might just be the next, new superfood! Kale move over, dandelions are moving in!

If you do collect dandelions to consume, make sure that they have not been sprayed with pesticides.

Where can you begin? Dandelion flowers, leaves and roots are edible. Though slightly bit-

ter, if you pick them in the spring or fall, they tend to be less bitter. Start by putting them in a salad. If you cook them, they are less bitter with a flavour akin to spinach.

Proceed slowly and cautiously as you would with any new food. Some people are allergic to dandelions and if you are allergic to ragweed or daisies, then stay away from dandelions. Furthermore, experts tell us to ask a doctor before ingesting dandelions if you are pregnant or nursing. If you are seriously contemplating using the dandelion as a food or herbal medicine, it is helpful to learn more about it before you do. The internet is a great source of current information about the pluses and cautions of dandelions.

Perhaps this is the perfect time to open our minds to the possibility of using readily available foods that can be foraged for free.

Meanwhile, whether you decide to eat dandelions or not, you can still pluck the dried white heads and blow! Make a wish and wait and hope for it to come true but, remember, there is only so much a dandelion can do.

Foraging

Do not pick where a field or

lawn has been chemically treated or close to a road. You can eat dandelions after washing them in icy water. They can be kept in the fridge for a couple of days. When you pick them, separate the flower from the stem and leaves. Flowers are edible. Sometimes the greens can be bitter but are edible also. They taste like honey and are a beautiful golden yellow colour.

Dandelion Jelly

4 cups of dandelion petals
2 tbsp. lemon juice
1 pkg of powdered pectin
5 cups sugar

Instructions

1. Rinse dandelions in cold water and separate petals. (Cut off stems and green bits.)
2. Boil petals in 2 quarts of water for 3 minutes. Allow to cool and then place in a strainer. Press the petals. (You will be using the liquid only.)
3. Use 3 cups of the dandelion juice and place in a pot. Add the lemon juice and the package of pectin.
4. Bring to a boil then add sugar. Boil for about 2 to 3



Made from easy to find ingredients, most people describe the flavour of dandelion jelly as honey-like.

Photo: Bethany Briggs

minutes, stirring constantly.
5. Ladle the liquid, while hot, into sterilized 4-ounce jars. Fill, but leave about ¼ inch space at top. Add the lids and tighten well.
Place jars in the fridge or freezer and use within a couple of weeks. If you want dandelion jelly to last for up to a year, you will need to process the jars using high heat.

*First, I make a wish.
Then I blow real hard
And the little dandelions
Blow all over the yard,
And I wait and hope
For my wish to come true.
Guess there's only so much a
dandelion can do.*

Making dandelion jelly is a family activity

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: Bethany Briggs has been making dandelion jelly for four years after coming across a recipe which she found intriguing. She has continued to make it every summer since then.

Like most people, Bethany considered dandelions a weed, so making jelly from them sounded strange at first. Bethany loves to try new things, so she decided to give it a “go” and she was not disappointed! After doing some research, Bethany discovered that the dandelion is not a weed at all, but rather herbs that can offer many health benefits. She drinks dandelion tea now on a regular basis.

Bethany explains that the process and the ingredients are quite simple. She says, “You steep the dande-

lion petals to create a tea, to which you add sugar, pectin and lemon juice. Once the mixture is boiled and left to cool, it sets into a jelly.”

Making the jelly has become a family activity and her five-year-old daughter has been helping for the last couple of years and she loves it! They begin by gathering dandelions from the garden and then plucking the petals. She adds, “It is a great activity for getting little ones involved in the kitchen as they can help with many different steps, from picking dandelions to measuring the ingredients and mixing.”

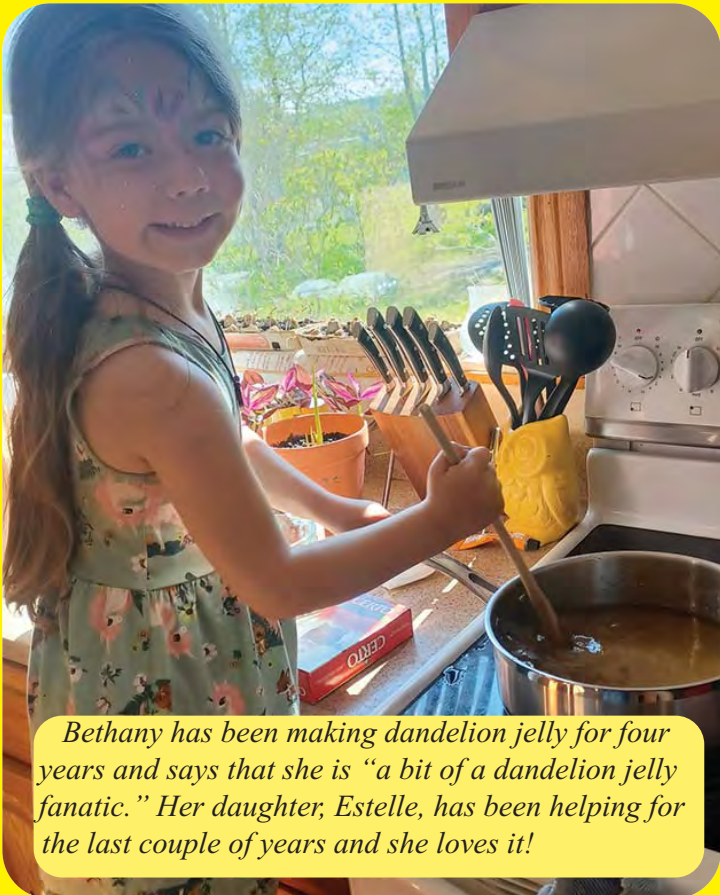
The whole family enjoys the flavour which Bethany describes as a subtle, sweet flavour that resembles honey. A few summers ago, when her daughter, Estelle, was three, Bethany caught her eating it by the spoonful. She had confused jelly with Jello and thought it was “some kind of dessert.”

For the sake of her teeth, because the jelly contains sugar, Bethany now places it on a higher shelf.

The sugar content means that the jelly is very sweet, so a little goes a long way. The family “enjoy it on toast or drizzled on pancakes, mixed with yogurt, or used to make sandwich cookies. I have also seen recipes that use it in cakes, so that is something I will try this summer.”

Bethany admits that people tend to be very skeptical about making jelly from dandelions. She adds, “However, they are generally pleasantly surprised once I manage to convince them to try it.”

She offers this advice for someone contemplating making dandelion jelly. “Give it a go, you won't regret it! There are several different recipes online, so just find the one that works for you. Don't be tempted to try and reduce the sugar content. I tried this once



Bethany has been making dandelion jelly for four years and says that she is “a bit of a dandelion jelly fanatic.” Her daughter, Estelle, has been helping for the last couple of years and she loves it!

Photo: Bethany Briggs

and ended up having to re-boil the whole batch with the missing sugar, because it didn't set.”
Bethany is looking forward

to trying something new this year, lilac jelly! She says, “Hopefully it is just as much a success.”

CONTAINER GARDENS:

Gardening in small spaces

● Diane **Skinner**
A garden returns 50 times the investment you put into it. Not just food, but joy, peace and a real connection with creation. A spiritual retreat from a noisy world and hurried people.

If you have ever considered planting a garden, this would be a wonderful time to begin! Food is expensive and will become more so in the days and months ahead. The benefits of growing your own food are not just the healthy food you reap, but the joy of being outdoors and shedding some of the stress we are carrying. Much of the coastal Gaspé Peninsula is hardiness Zone 4A as it pertains to growing food and gardening. Zone 4A is characteristically an area that is further north consisting of long, warm days during the summer with highs around 21°C and lots of snow and cold

temperatures in the winter. This is a rather short growing season of about 113 days. It is important to be ready for planting to maximize your yield. It may be helpful to talk to other experienced gardeners who have good success with their gardens. Zone 4A is perfect for using greenhouses and raised beds. Also, plant north to south because this will give your garden maximum sun exposure. Conversely, in hotter climate zones, it is best to plant east to west so the plants shade each other. If you are a beginning gardener, you may wish to start small by planting in containers and then building on your successes next season. Gardening in small spaces can be on a patio or even on a balcony. You do not need a large space because there are plenty of plants that will produce great results in small boxes or pots. Choose

plants that grow vertically to maximize the use of space.

Vegetables to grow in containers

- Green beans or pole beans** – These plants can reach heights of 8 feet (2 ½ metres) so using a trellis will support your beans.
- Tomatoes** – Cherry tomatoes grow extremely quickly!
- Herbs** – One of the easiest plants to grow. Basil, chives, cilantro and parsley grow well in small pots or containers.
- Lettuce** – This veggie grows quickly in a large container, and you may have lettuce ready to eat in 45 days!
- Chard** – This leafy green grows very quickly and may even do better in a container garden because it thrives in tight spaces. If you have never



If you are starting out with gardening, use containers such as planters and window boxes and choose plants that you enjoy eating.

tried chard, it is a great replacement for lettuce if chopped small and is a nutritious addition to soups or stews.

Radishes – These grow very quickly, so you may be eating your radishes within a month of planting. A one-gallon planter should work well.

Edible flowers – These little beauties can add beauty and flavour. These will do well in hanging baskets and window boxes. Starting with pansies, lavender and violets will give you an opportunity to see if these are plants you enjoy eating. If not, enjoying the beauty of these plants is a bonus.

If you are starting out “small” by gardening in containers, stick with plants that you enjoy eating. Growing your own food is like printing money.

Pesky bugs:

Plants can help!

● Diane **Skinner**
Are you “bugged by bugs”? Use nature to help to keep some of those pests away by planting certain flora.

Peppermint: Planting peppermint will cut down on mosquitoes and flies. It is perfectly suited for container gardening because in the garden it will spread rapidly and take over other plants. The bonus: you can use mint in summer drinks for an extra flavour punch. Try mint, cucumber and lemon infused sparkling water!

Lavender: The beautiful aroma of lavender deters mosquitoes, mites and other pests. It also attracts pollinators. Plant two to three feet apart or in containers and place in direct sunlight. Water a few times per week.

Basil: Basil will repel mosquitoes and flies. It may kill mosquito larvae before they hatch. They attract pollinators and can be used to make basil pesto! Also, it is very easy to grow.

Catnip: Catnip repels mosquitoes and other small bugs. Recent studies show that the

oil produced by catnip repels mosquitoes ten times more than the chemical Deet which is found in many commercial bug sprays.

Marigolds: Marigolds are beautiful in the garden and deter mosquitoes and aphids.

Rosemary: Rosemary cuts down on ticks, mosquitoes, and slugs. Rosemary leaves contain oil that have been proven to be an effective repellent. It can be grown in a window box or right in the garden. It can be used to season food.



Photo: Facebook

Planting lavender will reap four benefits: deter pests, attract pollinators and provide beauty and the lovely aroma!

Pollinators Paradise

● Diane **Skinner**

Creating an eco-friendly garden or yard can be a boost for pollinators. Some quick and easy ways to provide a pollinator friendly environment are: Let your grass grow. Long grass (8 cm or more) including some dandelions and other wildflowers will attract bees, birds and butterflies to visit and spread the pollen they gather from your lawn. If you find this unattractive and prefer a short well-groomed lawn, even leaving a portion of your lawn to grow “wild” is an asset. Bees love the scent of herbs, particularly those from the mint family. This includes lavender, peppermint, basil, rosemary, sage and oregano. Planting these will lure bees to visit and do their critically important



Photo: D. Skinner

Add a bird bath in a shady area because “busy bees” like to stop and take a sip of water while doing their work.

role of pollinating. You could add a bird bath in a shady area because “busy bees” like to stop and take a sip of water while doing their important work.

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to your summer to-do list

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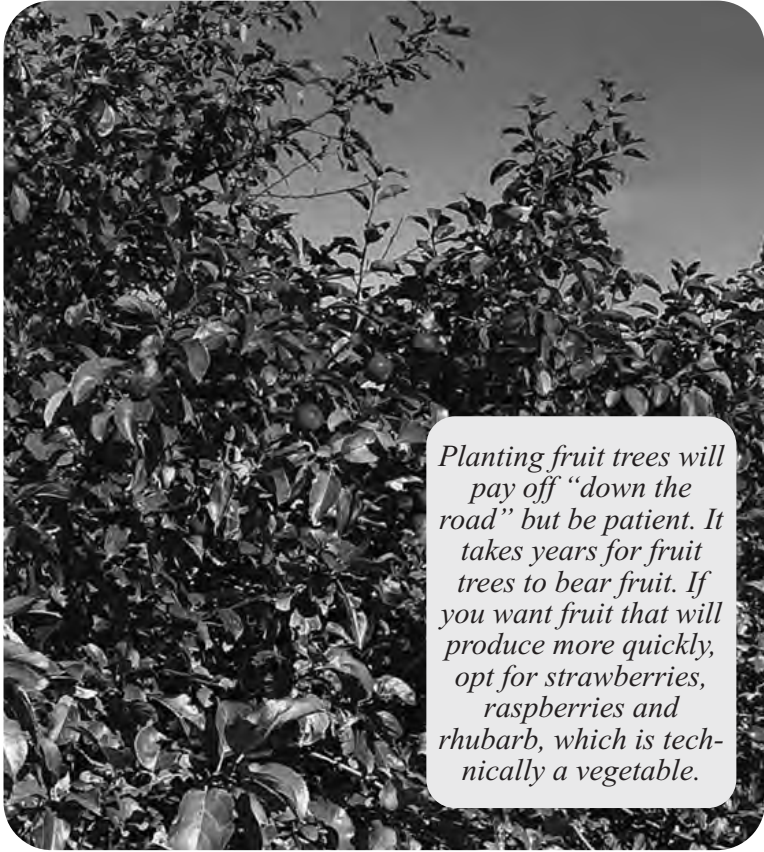
Plant perennials and harvest annually

Diane **Skinner**

Food security is becoming more of a concern. One in four Canadians are buying less food because of the rising costs. In 2022 there are several factors that are colliding that threaten our ability to eat nutritiously and economically. Gas prices continue to rise so food prices follow suit. There is a worldwide scarcity of fertilizer, partly due to the war in Ukraine. Bees, our essential pollinators, are declining in numbers and many hives have had a disastrous winter when huge numbers of bees have died.

How can we counter some of these factors? By growing our own food. Much has been written about increasing food self-sufficiency and having a food producing garden is a major way to provide that.

Consider planting fruits, vegetables and herbs that are perennials! Plant once and harvest many times. This saves time and money! Note that perennials do not neces-



Planting fruit trees will pay off “down the road” but be patient. It takes years for fruit trees to bear fruit. If you want fruit that will produce more quickly, opt for strawberries, raspberries and rhubarb, which is technically a vegetable.

Photo: D. Skinner

sarily mean forever. You may have to dig some up after several years and reseed or replant.

What is a perennial? A plant that comes back for several years, and fruit trees and bushes may last decades! An-

nuals need to be planted each year. Biennials live and produce food for two years. Plant once, harvest multiple times. It is always helpful to know your planting hardiness zone. (Source: Empress of Dirt site has Canadian zones listed.)

Most of the coast of the Gaspé is Zone 4, with some areas on the coast being Zone 3.

Caveat! Perennial does not mean maintenance-free. The plants will need fertilizing and pest control. If you chat with a local successful gardener, you can ask all the questions about which plants, including perennials, thrive in your zone. If your garden contains annuals and perennials, consider planting them separately. This will help at planting time and cleaning up the garden at the end of the season. You want to avoid ripping out your perennial vegetables.

Perennial vegetables

Asparagus
Garlic (not a true perennial because it gets replanted in the fall, but scapes can be snipped off in early spring to make pesto or just save them for later by freezing.)
Rhubarb (The plant that

keeps on giving!)

Onions (Not a perennial, but the tops of onions left in the garden over the winter are edible in the spring.)

Perennial fruits

(Fruit trees and bushes will feed you for many seasons.)

Apples
Blackberries
Currants
Grapes
Peaches and pears (Opt for a hardy type for Zone 4)
Raspberries
Strawberries

Perennial nuts

Hazelnuts (Takes three years to produce nuts.)

Perennial herbs

Horseradish
Mint
Thyme
Sage
Parsley
Lavender (Types: Phenomenal, Hidicote and Munstead)

Three Sisters Gardening

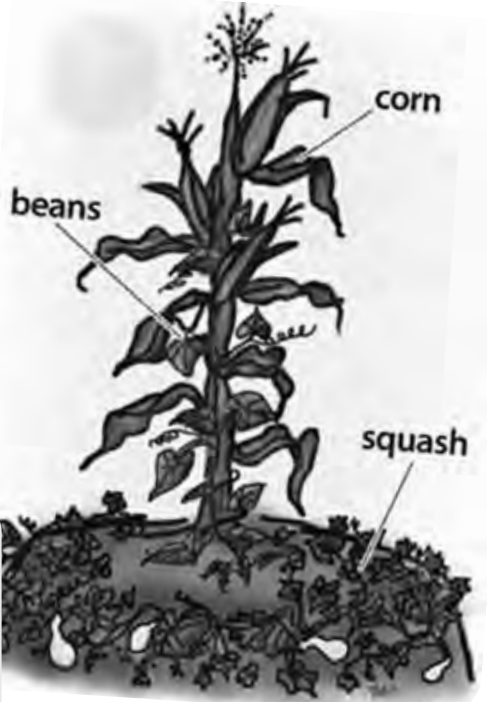
An ancient and proven method

Diane **Skinner**

Native groups, particularly the Iroquois of the North-East, have long practiced a system of planting foods to create a symbiotic environment for their gardens called “The Three Sisters.” This method, also referred to as companion planting, is gaining popularity currently because it is botanically beneficial for all the plants in proximity to each other. Commonly, squash, beans and corn are planted close together so all plants will benefit from their plant neighbours. There are numerous other plants that can nurture each other in this way. Look online for additional ideas of plants to use. The corn provides a “structure” which the beans can climb. In turn, the

beans produce enriching nitrogen which benefits all the growing plants. The squash

helps to prevent the growth of weeds - an example of nature working in harmony.



The Three Sisters gardening method is also referred to as companion planting.

Photo: Almanac.com



If parsnips are left in the ground over the winter its flavour becomes sweeter.

Parsnips

Diane **Skinner**

The parsnip is a root vegetable, in the same family as carrots and parsley. It is a biennial plant with creamy coloured flesh. If it is left in the ground over the winter its flavour becomes sweeter.

These vegetables prefer a sunny location and are usually grown from seeds. Soak the seeds overnight which will force them to germinate more quickly. Plant when the soil is at 13 to 18 degrees. Keep the seedlings moist and do not despair. They may be slow to germinate and when they do, thin out the young plants to about

15 cm apart. If the weather is very hot, protect the plants by placing mulch or even shredded newspaper around the plants. This will make the soil cooler and retain water. Happy parsnips.

Parsnips grow their roots and leaves the first year and when left in the ground they will produce flowers the next. This is called “overwintering” but add lots of mulch (decaying leaves, bark or compost) or straw to the parsnips in the fall. You may be able to harvest them the following spring. It is so gratifying to have food from the garden so early in the season.

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Announcements



Obituaries



MILLER: Russell

Russell Miller passed away unexpectedly, but peacefully on June 22, 2022. He was 96 years old and was predeceased by his wife, Marilyn Coffin, after 67 years of marriage.

He was the loving father of Nancy (Joe) Williams, Rick, and Andrew (Lana Phillips). Proud grandad of Katrina (Raphael), Jennifer (Scott), Jonathan, Danielle (Kyle), Ryan (Leanne) and Brandon (Nick). great-granddad of Violet, Adelyne, Charlotte, Leo, and Isla. Dear brother-in-law of the late Leigh (Marjorie) Coffin, Myrna (late Rick) Landers, and late Sandy (late Kathy) Coffin.

Born in Sunny Bank, Gaspé, in 1927 to Alfred Miller and Louisa Davis, Russell was the youngest of nine children, outliving Helena, Irma, Elva, May, Sidney, Watson, Kingsley, and Francis. During WWII, Russell served with the Air Force and the Army. His last years were spent at Ottawa's Perley Rideau Veterans Centre.

After working for several years in Murdochville, Russell and Marilyn moved to Ottawa where they were a vital part of their six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren's lives.

We will always remember his playful smile and his infectious laugh. He had an enormous generosity of spirit and was always concerned that his family was happy and safe. His memories of growing up on a small farm, with a vast wilderness as his backyard, were a great comfort to him.

We hope to bury Marilyn and Russell in Gaspé, where their roots are deep and wide, in the fall of 2022.



THOMPSON: Harold Adam
1950 - 2022

On Monday, June 13, 2022, Harold Adam Thompson passed away in Pembroke, Ontario, after a courageous battle with congestive heart failure. A beloved member of the Thompson family, Harold will be missed by all.

Harold was born on May 28, 1950 in New Carlisle, Quebec, to George and Gladys Thompson. Harold was predeceased by his brother, Donald and father, George.

He is survived by a large family whose photos and personal gifts adorned his bedroom and living room. Loving son to: Gladys and George (predeceased). Loving brother to Larry (Marion), Donald (predeceased), Fred (Julie), Dean, Tana (Alan), John (Sheila), and Tammy (Greg). Devoted uncle to: Shane, Jason (April), Shauna, Cheri, Alexa, Joshua, Matthew, Robert, Jessica, Dean Jr. (predeceased), Shawna, Philip (Krishani), Nicole (Gareth), Barry (Melissa), Chelsey, George, Steven (predeceased), Jefferey, Tavish, and Macie, as well as many great-nieces and great-nephews. He also leaves many friends and extended family too numerous to list, but not forgotten.

We loved Harold more than words can express. A celebration of life will be held at a later date to be determined.



In Memory

HOWATSON: E. Joan Fairservice

In memory of E. Joan Fairservice Howatson 1932 - 2004.

*A silent thought, a secret tear,
Keeps her memory ever dear.
Time takes away the edge of grief,
But memory turns back every leaf.*

Still missed, still loved, and ever dear. Harold and family

SIMON-ROBERTS: Vera

In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away June 26, 2020.

*The depths of sorrow we cannot tell,
Of the loss of one we loved so well.
And while she sleeps a peaceful sleep,
Her memory we shall always keep.*

Always remembered and sadly missed by Eleanor (Clayton), Garfield (Sandra), Carolyn, Donald, (Frank) and families.



Celebration of Life



MACNAUGHTON: Rita (Willett)

We invite you to join us in celebration, to share memories and laughter.

Please join us on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Cascapedia 50+ Hall located at 319 Route 299, Cascapedia-St-Jules.



Funeral and Burial

GALLICHAN: Ronald

There will be a graveyard service for Ronald Gallichan in Sandy Beach on July 16 at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome. There will be a light lunch at the Gallichan home afterwards.

WILLIAMS: Lois

A funeral for the late Lois Marie Williams (Briand), will be held at Saint James Anglican Church, Port Daniel Mountain on Friday, July 22, 2022 at 2 p.m.

The Gaspé Spec - Obituary Guide

(Please note that paragraphs can be added or removed as needed.)

- Paragraph 1:** In this paragraph you will list the full name, date and place of your loved one's birth and death, cause of death (optional), as well as parents' names.
- Paragraph 2:** In this paragraph you can give a brief biography of the deceased, including if desired the schools that they attended.
- Paragraph 3:** Here you will list employment history, any special awards received and notable accomplishments.
- Paragraph 4:** In this paragraph you can list information about church or religious affiliations, any organizations or clubs, as well as any hobbies or interests that the deceased was a part of or enjoyed.
- Paragraph 5:** This paragraph can be used to give any information about your loved ones personality, their quirks or funny stories.
- Paragraph 6:** This is where you will list surviving family, friends and other relatives as well as any predeceased family. It is important to note that regardless of family situations or relationships with other family members, the obituary should include accurate information for historical purposes, as once it is published it can be used as a reference for future generations. It should not exclude anyone for personal reasons.
- Paragraph 7:** The last paragraph is usually reserved to let friends and family know about funeral arrangements such as visitation date, time and location. It is also where you can indicate where family and friends can make donations in memory of your deceased loved one. Example: In lieu of flowers a donation in their memory can be made to...

**Please note that there are many ways to write an obituary, there are no set rules that must be followed. It is recommended to view samples of obituaries online or in your local paper. Find a style that would fit your loved one and make them proud.*

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

YORK:
York Anglican
Church Women

July 23: The York Anglican Church Women will be holding their annual summer sale beginning at 2 p.m. in the York River Community Hall located at 702 Blvd York West, Gaspé, Quebec. There will be home-made handicrafts, baked goods, mystery parcels, white elephant table and used books for sale. It will be followed by

afternoon tea (\$5 each) Everyone is welcome.

BARACHOIS:
350th Anniversary

July 15: Historical Photo Exhibit opening on the second floor of Thompson's General Store, (Robin's of Barachois) from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Free.
July 20: Opening Day of the 350th Anniversary of Barachois under the tent at the Barachois Rec. Centre. Opening Ceremonies at 3 p.m., Community BBQ at 5 p.m. (free) and a musical evening with the Triculturals at 7 p.m. (free) Hope to see you there! For more info: www.barachois.org

CORNER OF THE BEACH:
Historical Society

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. For more information please call: 418-355-8612.
July 14: Enjoy an evening of beautiful music at the Corner of the Beach Cultural Museum

presented by Zoe Jean-Deslauries beginning at 8 p.m. Zoe is a graduate of the McGill School of Music and entertains in both English and French with her beautiful voice and musical talent. For further details see Corner of the Beach Cultural Museum page on Facebook.

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:
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:
Funeral Association

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:
Royal Canadian
Legion Branch #64

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:
50 Plus Club

Tuesdays: Grocery Bingo every Tuesday night beginning at 7 p.m.
July 8 and 22: Jam sessions, open to all musicians and spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 7:30 p.m.
July 16: BBQ at 319 Route 132 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.

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

UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, July 10
2 p.m. Service

ANGLICAN
CHURCH
OF CANADA

Sunday, July 10
NEW CARLISLE
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
HOPE TOWN
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist
SHIGAWAKE
10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Wednesday, July 13
2 p.m. Evening Prayer at the Gilker Residence

PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, July 10
St. James - Wakeham
9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer with Tom Matthews



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you can expect anything to happen this week, which makes it an ideal time to fall in love — or fall back in love. Throw caution to the wind and welcome romance.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, don't be surprised if a former romantic partner or close friend reconnects with you this week. It may be possible to rekindle this connection if you so desire.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Don't hesitate to try something new this week, Gemini. You'll likely be surprised at what you discover you enjoy. You may even meet some interesting people.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Spiritual matters are on your mind, Cancer. You are increasingly drawn to them as you get older. Do not hesitate to ask questions in your pursuit of enlightenment.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Optimism about life is in full force for you, Leo. Others will notice you are smiling

more and moving about with a spring in your step. Channel that energy into a fun project.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, this week is full of possibilities. You may strike up a new friendship or decide to try a unique hobby. Travel may be the name of the game as well.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, even though you may be feeling positive and looking well, you're simply not drawing that special attention you desire. Don't be too hard on yourself; it will come.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, communication channels have been blocked lately, so you have been facing challenges getting your point across. Employ a little more patience.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, there have been days you have felt better. Don't let a minor illness derail your plans. Before you know it, you will be back on your feet.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Try an activity that strays from your usual routine, Capricorn. Change the time

or the location to get a fresh perspective on your experiences. It can be the boost you need right now.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Don't be surprised if you have a desire to redecorate or change up your living space in some way, Aquarius. A new look can refresh your mindset as well.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Some interesting news is likely to come your way, Pisces. It's important to answer your phone, read your texts and check your emails.

FAMOUS
BIRTHDAYS

JULY 3
Tom Cruise, Actor (60)
JULY 4
Alyssa Miller, Model (33)
JULY 5
Edie Falco, Actress (59)
JULY 6
Kevin Hart, Comic (43)
JULY 7
Ringo Starr, Musician (82)
JULY 8
Kevin Bacon, Actor (64)
JULY 9
Jack White, Singer (47)

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Pedal Power

Diane **Skinner**

“When your spirits are low, when the day appears dark, when work becomes monotonous, when hope hardly seems worth having, just jump on your bicycle and go out for a spin down the road, without thought of anything but the ride you are taking.”

Riding along on the two wheels of your bicycle on a beautiful, sunny day is a wonderful opportunity for enjoyment, fresh air and physical exercise. Since the start of the pandemic the sale of bicycles has skyrocketed. In fact, so many bicycles were sold over the past two years this led to a shortage referred to as “The Great COVID-19 Bicycle Boom.” You can pedal and keep a safe social distance and your bike will take you where you want to go. Perfect for these times.

Shopping for a bike, you will need to consider several factors including how much you wish to spend, new or used, and road bike or mountain bike (or a hybrid of these two). A road bike is light, fast and is perfect for cycling long distances. The downside are the skinny tires which can get stuck in potholes. A mountain bike has thicker tires and frames, so they are perfectly suited to off-roading. The downside of mountain bikes is that they have heavier frames, and the thick tires mean that you will need to pedal harder, especially on pavement.

You may choose a hybrid of these two main types of bicy-



cles. The hybrid will have wider tires than a road bike and normally allow the rider to sit in a more upright position. The frames of hybrid bikes are lighter than a mountain bike.

Now that you have narrowed down your choice of the type of bike that you need, you can decide where to buy your bike – sports store, department store, online, or used. Your budget will guide you on this decision. The lowest price will usually be offered when buying a used bike. The price at department stores (such as Canadian Tire and Walmart) will offer a choice of types of bikes and the prices will fit most budgets. If you shop in a sports store there will be more choices, in terms of price and type of bike. An advantage of buying in a sports store is the staff may be knowledgeable and can guide you to the bike that is best suited for your

needs. In addition, they may offer little extras like adjusting the pedals or seat for maximum comfort.

Buying a used bike

If your budget is tight, consider shopping for a used bike. Check the frame for rust and examine the tires for cracking. Look at the chain and the “cassette” which is the sprockets on the rear wheel. If there is rust on these, chances are the bike has not been taken care of. Look at the brake pads by squeezing the brake handles – they should grip the wheel tightly. Ask if you can go for a test drive and see if you like the way the bike handles. Also listen for any noises. If you can buy from a friend or neighbour that is even better, because chances are they will be honest with you about the state of the bike.



Photos: D. Skinner

Stay safe

Once you have your bike, whether bought new or used, there are a few items to have that will keep you safe. The first is a helmet which will protect you if you take a spill. Check for proper fit by holding two fingers between the bottom of the helmet (at your forehead) and your eyebrows. Further, the straps should make a “V” shape under your ears. One finger should fit between your chin and the strap.

Next check if the bike has a rear reflector or red light, which all new bikes certainly will have but used ones may not. If not, add one.

A white light on the front is important if you are planning to ride early in the morning or after dusk.

Wearing bright or reflective clothing adds more protection for you so that drivers of vehi-

cles can spot you easily. A bell or horn can be helpful, and some riders like to add mirrors so that they can see what is coming behind them.

If you feel anxious when cycling, stick to side roads where there is less traffic. When passing parked cars be aware that a driver could open the car door. Slow down and watch carefully.

Hand signals

Hand signals can be helpful when there is a lot of vehicle traffic around you. There are three main signals to know. To signal that you are stopping, bend your left arm down. To alert other vehicles that you are turning left, point your arm directly to the left. If turning right, point your right arm to the right or bend your left arm upwards at 90 degrees, fingers pointing to the sky.

The joy of biking

Diane **Skinner**

NEW CARLISLE: Guy Gallibois, recently retired ESSB teacher, loves to bike. In fact, he has already started to bike this season and by October he will have cycled about 5,000 km!

He started long distance biking when he was introduced to it by his wife Ann in 1993. That year he toured the Gaspé Coast for the first time. He owns a road bike, a mountain bike and a “fat” bike for beach riding.

He has cycled the Gaspé coast several times (735 km), biked from New Carlisle to Quebec City (700 km) and is currently planning to go around the Coast this summer with his brother.

Over his years of teaching, Guy has taken students on a special end-of-year trip biking



Photo: Courtesy Guy Gallibois

“While cycling you are more aware of the sights, smells, and sensations than you would be, travelling in a car.” Here, pictured with a group of his fellow cyclists, Guy is second from the left, back row.

around the Coast. He accompanied students four times around the Coast, rode to Quebec City

with 27 students, cycled PEI (273 km) and the Magdalen Islands (149 km) Guy states,

“These trips were transformational for the students, developing discipline, commitment, and resilience... with hours and hours of training. In the days of Bonaventure Polyvalent School, students cycled to school in the mornings from Shigawake in the east and Cascapedia-St-Jules in the west.” The key to enjoying long distance biking he stresses is training. He suggests training for ten weeks and aiming for 200 km per week.

If you are looking for a bike on the Coast, he suggests buying at a sports store, rather than a department store. Guy also suggests that if you are starting to bike longer distances purchase a bike that is good to ride on gravel so that you can cycle back roads and avoid busy highways.

Guy describes the joy of biking. “You are more aware of sights, smells, sensations than

you would be travelling in a car. Life slows down on the saddle. You can access locations that you wouldn't be able to on foot or in a vehicle.”

Guy shares some additional ideas and tips for cyclists. “Cycling is an environmentally friendly way of getting around. Long distance cycling allows you to cover substantial distance yet be gentle on the earth. By joining Warm Showers, a free worldwide hospitality exchange for touring cyclists, you can stay in the homes of bike-lovers around the world and meet some very interesting people. My wife Ann and I stayed in a Warm Showers home while touring the Texas Hill country receiving warm southern hospitality. We have hosted many cyclists in our home: from France, Germany, Toronto, Alberta, Montreal, all with stories to tell and a bottle of wine to share.”

Newly revitalized Barachois Library has lots to offer

Diane Skinner

BARACHOIS: Julie Fournier-Lévesque came up with the idea of reactivating the Barachois Library during the pandemic. She used to go as far as Grande-Rivière and Cap-d'Espoir to borrow children's books. She knew there was a library closer by, in Barachois, but it was closed due to a lack of volunteers. Since she was tired of travelling elsewhere to access books, she applied to the Barachois Recreation Centre to reopen the library.

Julie became not only the volunteer manager of the library, but also coordinates a team of volunteers, chairs the meetings and steers development projects. She connects with a variety of partners, such as the Centre Récréatif, the town of Percé and the Réseau Biblio-GIM. She also writes funding grant applications and keeps Biblio's Facebook page up-to-date. In addition, she is onsite during the hours that the library is open. Her background is in Visual Arts, and she holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Valand School of Fine Arts in Gothenburg, Sweden. She is a native of St-Majorique and she moved to the city for 17



Julie Fournier-Lévesque, volunteer librarian, in the newly decorated Biblio in Barachois welcomes volunteers. In the background are Julie's daughter and goddaughter.

Photo: J. Fournier-Lévesque

years before returning to the Gaspé almost five years ago.

This winter with the help of funding received from Réseau Biblio-GIM, the Town of Percé, and the MRC du Rocher-Percé, a computer software system was purchased which keeps track of the book collection which consists of about 1,000 books, 60% English and 40% French. Until that purchase, when people borrowed books, the names and titles were written on a piece of paper. Funding was also received from Méganne Perry

Mélancon, the Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé for some colourful furniture and other décor to make the library more appealing to children.

The library is part of the Biblio-GIM network which purchases the books and twice a year they rotate about a third of the collection to other libraries in the network. This means that after two years all the books have been changed.

When asked why libraries are still important in the age of

technology, Julie replies, "Knowing how to read and write is the basis of the fight against poverty. A child who is introduced to reading at an early age has a better chance of success in the future." She adds, "I especially love children's books, particularly those with lots of colour and elaborate drawings. They are works of art!"

Future plans for the library include offering inter-library loans, which means being able to bring in any book that belongs to the Biblio-GIM net-

work. This will be in place when there are sufficient volunteers to manage this program.

Julie's hopes for the future include having the resources for a mobile library, for example, a small truck which could then go to seniors' homes and bring them books.

Due to the pandemic, on-site activities have been limited so far. The library is small and would not allow for social distancing. However, now that the good weather is here, more activities, some outdoors, will be offered including story times.

Julie notes that the volunteer committee is composed of Janet Harvey, Nathalie Chicoine, Pierre Wilson, Jules Chicoine-Wilson and Pascale Gagnon. She adds, "Anyone interested in giving their time is welcome. This way we can open more often." Registration and book lending are free. Being a member also gives access to e-book loans (for Kindle, etc.) and gives access to a multitude of magazines, in French and in English, available online for free.

Biblio is located at 1062, route 132 east, Barachois, Quebec, G0C 1A0 (bibliobarachoislibrary@gmail.com)

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