

2010 floods: Sunny Bank citizens win case over Transports Quebec

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The court is forcing Quebec's Department of Transport (MTQ) to redo a portion of York Boulevard West between Sunny Bank and Wakeham that has been the cause of a dozen floods since 1977 in the Sunny Bank neighbourhood of Gaspé, following a class action lawsuit filed by the area's citizens.

From December 13 to 15, 2010, some 246 millimetres of rain fell on Gaspé. The road rebuilt in 1977 that connects the two areas is blocking the flow of the York River.

Before 1952, it was a road at water level and when it overflowed, the river invaded the roadway. In 1952, the road was raised by 1.5 metres and

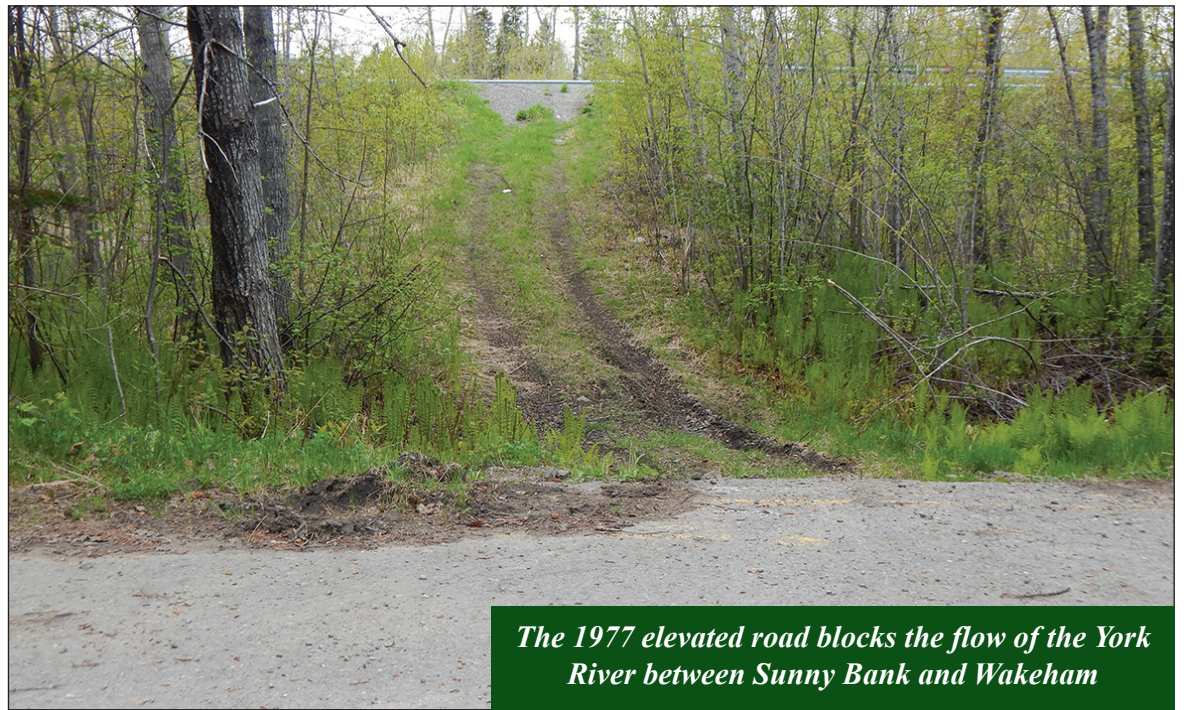
it was noticed that it partially blocked the flow of the river. In 1977, the road was raised by two metres, making it even more difficult to assess the water (level).

The flood of 2010 was the last straw. The citizens filed their appeal in 2013 and the court approved it in 2015.

Initially, a sum of at least \$3 million had been estimated, but the citizens' attorney, Marie-Anaïs Sauvé, could not put a precise figure on it.

"Although the judge ruled on categories of inconvenience, the damages were not the same for all these people.

The judge set an amount, but we don't know how many people fall into these categories. As for the material damages, we will have to fol-



The 1977 elevated road blocks the flow of the York River between Sunny Bank and Wakeham

Photo: N. Sergerie

low up on the claims that the members will eventually make," she explains.

In the decision, Judge Pierre C. Bellavance wrote that "the MTQ recognized that it was the road's own activity that caused the water level to rise upstream of the road when the river overflowed its banks at Sunny Bank in 2010."

The magistrate even writes that "the evidence showed that the choice of this location was not preceded by any impact study, even if only to verify whether its location was optimal given its proximity to residences."

He also notes that, as early as 1977, several letters were sent to the MTQ to remind them of the problem. "The MTQ not only acted recklessly and carelessly when raising the road in 1977, but it did not subsequently make

any corrections despite numerous representations."

Flooding occurred in 1977, 1980, twice in 1981, 1983, 1997, 1998, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2017.

He also rejected the idea that the December 2010 rains constituted a case unique in its gravity, as evoked by the Attorney General of Quebec, which defended Transports Québec.

Judge Bellavance concluded his decision by ordering the MTQ to carry out corrective work in order to maintain an adequate level of service for a flow of 600 cubic metres/second over the next six years and to build a station within two years to measure the river's flow.

Cont'd on page 2



Flooding in December of 2010.

Photo: From documents submitted to the court

Osisko Metals obtains an extension

Gilles Gagné

MURDOCHVILLE - Osisko Metals Incorporated announced on July 4 that it has reached an agreement with Glencore Canada Corporation in order to extend to July 8 the negotiation period between the two companies.

The extension gave more

time for exercise of Osisko Metals' option to acquire the Gaspé Copper project, located in Murdochville and the surrounding area. Osisko Metals' option consists of purchasing from Glencore Canada a 100% interest in the Gaspé Copper property. It was previously announced on March 25.

Both parties initially had

until June 30 to complete negotiations but Osisko Metals' president and chief executive officer, Robert Wares, told SPEC on June 27 that only one aspect of the potential deal remained to be agreed upon. He was confident to get an extension if that aspect was still being discussed on June 30.

Mr. Wares couldn't be

reached as of July 7, SPEC's deadline. He was also confident that Glencore's management could extend the negotiation period slightly beyond July 8.

Osisko Metals will pay US\$25 million to Glencore upon closing of the transaction, and an additional \$20 million if there is commercial

exploration for copper ore. The potential buyer agreed to spend \$5 million by June 22 to explore Mount Copper, a deposit mined by Noranda until the early 1980s. In fact, Osisko Metals will likely pursue its exploration campaign until September and might invest as much as \$12 million in it.

Catherine Blouin, CAQ's candidate in Bonaventure

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The Coalition avenir Québec announces the appointment of Catherine Blouin, a 36-year-old communications consultant working as a project manager at the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre, as a candidate in the riding of Bonaventure, in anticipation of the October 3 election.

A mother of two, Ms. Blouin was a communications advisor for the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) in the Gaspé Peninsula, the Magdalen Islands and the Lower Saint Lawrence regions during the 2018 electoral campaign.

She is entering politics “because I love the people, my region, I like to help. When I talk about the Gaspé Peninsula, I am chauvinistic (...) Being a Member of the National Assembly means doing one’s part to promote the community,” she notes.

Claiming to be aware of regional issues such as the lack of housing, the shortage of labour, the lack of day care places and the refurbishment of the railway to Gaspé, she will determine other priorities during the campaign. “I just can’t wait to get out there to find out (the other aspects of her electoral priorities). I have to talk to the people in the community in order to do that,” she adds.

She was to announce her candidacy on July 5 in the presence of the minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, Jonatan Julien, but the event was canceled because she contracted Covid-19. As of June 30, when the CAQ published an advisory pertaining to the July 5 candidate announcement in Bonaventure, another minister, Sonia Lebel, was supposed to accompany



Photo: Coalition avenir Québec

The candidacy of Catherine Blouin was announced on July 6 through a short press release.

Catherine Blouin. On July 4, Minister Lebel was replaced by Minister Julien, and the event was cancelled. Ms. Blouin’s candidacy was made through a short press release.

Ms. Blouin is the spouse of the mayor of Carleton-sur-Mer, Mathieu Lapointe, also prefect of the MRC d’Avignon and president of the Table des préfets de la Gaspésie. If she is elected, some people have the perception that it will be hard for them to apply a kind of firewall in order to avoid conflicts of interest or respect the confidentiality necessary in the management of most files.

“We have made many verifications and it is possible to conduct two roles together,” she says. She adds that people should not be worried about the respect of confidentiality in file management.

Catherine Blouin was raised in the Baie-des-Chaleurs area. She also worked as a radio announcer for the Carleton-based CIEU-FM radio station a few years ago.

On October 1, 2018, the CAQ candidate, Hélène Desaulniers, finished in third place with 3,502 votes and 16% of support from the electorate, relatively far behind Liberal Party’s candidate

François Whittom’s 5,586 ballots and just in front of Québec solidaire’s Catherine Cyr-Wright, who gathered 3,282 ballots and 15% support. Sylvain Roy, who is not running this year, won the election with 38.46% of support and 8,416 votes. He was running for the Parti québécois at the time. He is finishing the present term as an Independent Member of the National Assembly.

Catherine Cyr-Wright is running again for Québec solidaire. Alexis Deschênes is the Parti québécois candidate. The Liberal Party, Quebec’s Conservative Party and the Green Party have not made announcements about their candidates yet. The election will take place on October 3.



Espace René Lévesque site.

Photo: Facebook

René Lévesque’s 100th birthday to be celebrated on August 24 in New Carlisle

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - A party will be held on August 24 at the Espace René-Lévesque site in New Carlisle to celebrate the 100th birthday of the former Quebec premier who grew up in the town.

The Société nationale Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine is putting the finishing touches on the preparations for this event, all in collaboration with the Espace René Lévesque site.

“We will have a marquee and at the end of the afternoon, people who knew René Lévesque will come and speak about his commitment and his political work,” explains the president of the society, Marina O’Connor.

An entertainment component will follow with the Gaspé singer, Pierre Michaud. “He will have our great poet Félix Leclerc speak about René Lévesque. Then there will be songs (written) by Mr. Leclerc and Mr. Michaud,” adds Ms. O’Connor.

For the president, it is important to celebrate this anniversary in his native village. “He is a great patriot who founded the Parti Québécois and made many reforms to advance Quebec society. He is a great man,” exclaims Ms. O’Connor who was president of the PQ Association in the Gaspé riding for several years.

“When I started my activism, I saw this man express his vision of Quebec and its place in Canada. Mr. Lévesque was a model and his phrase. ‘We are something like a great people,’ for me, we are great people. He was proud to be a Quebecer. He was proud to be Gaspésian. I am in awe,” concludes Ms. O’Connor.

On August 27, the Espace René-Lévesque will hold another activity with conferences and an exhibition of artifacts related to the former premier of Quebec from 1976 to 1985. Several guests will come and share their thoughts about Rene Levesque.



Adoption of by-laws Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Eastern Shores School Board adopted the following By-Law to set the time, date and location of the Council of Commissioners and Executive Committee meetings for the 2022-2023 school year.

BY-LAW 8 with a view to setting the day, time and location of the Council of Commissioners and Executive Committee Meetings. Unless otherwise indicated, meetings will be held at the Administrative Center of Eastern Shores School Board, 40 Mountsorrel, New Carlisle, Quebec.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the Council of Commissioners will meet SEVEN (7) times a year on the dates and times indicated below:

The Executive Committee will meet SEVEN (7) times a year on the dates and times indicated below:

DATE	LOCATION	EXECUTIVE	COUNCIL
August 22, 2022	New Carlisle	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
October 24, 2022	Gaspé	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
December 13, 2022	New Carlisle	9:15 a.m.	9:30 a.m.
February 27, 2023	New Carlisle	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
April 3, 2023	Metis Beach	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
May 29, 2023	New Carlisle	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
June 20, 2023	New Carlisle	9:15 a.m.	9:30 a.m.

Given at New Carlisle, Quebec this 5th day of July 2022

Denis Gauthier, Secretary General

SUNNY BANK:

Cont'd from cover

The department had already made a commitment during the pleadings to do some \$8 million in work on the road to improve the situation within six years.

“We’ve had a lot of experts, a lot of witnesses. People who have been suffering from flooding, some for 45 years. The judge drew the appropriate conclusions with the evidence

presented,” says Ms. Sauvé.

The MTQ has 30 days to appeal the decision rendered on June 29.

By email, the Ministry wrote “to take note of the decision and will not comment on the file”.

It is following the expiration of the appeal period that a date will be set to determine the amounts to be granted to the people owning the 99 buildings affected by the floods.



Sigewigus coordinator Claudie Carignan and Chief Terry Shaw pose with a bottle of maple syrup.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Gespeg inaugurates Maple syrup production centre

Nelson **Sergerie**

GESPEG - Sigewigus - the spring season in the Mi'gmaq language - is the name of the Gespeg Mi'kmaq Nation's maple syrup, which was officially inaugurated on July 7 at the Gespeg Administration Building.

Already in operation for two springs, it had 3,000 taps at the beginning, a figure that climbed to 10,000 this spring on about 30 hectares of forest.

It cost \$800,000 to build and the facilities are state of the art. Various federal departments and agencies contributed more than \$500,000 to the project.

"I am very happy to see

this project come to fruition. Fortunately, we had good financial support to make this development sustainable so we can continue our traditional activities," says Chief Terry Shaw.

The Nation has ambitions. "We aim to do more: expand and see if other activities can be attached, first for our members, but also for a tourism component," adds Mr. Shaw, who emphasizes that his team will first take ownership of the site before thinking of expanding.

The leader also wants to improve the environmental footprint. "We want to make it a sustainable project. We want to reduce fossil fuels like the

gasoline we put in our generator. It's not easy, but it's in our interest to improve that element," says the chief. The use of wood or solar energy could replace the fuels.

The project has created three new jobs for community members and extended the working season for forestry workers. The objective is to diversify the local food offer for the members of the Nation and the population of Gaspé.

"We are in the process of improving our product for quality and finding the precise recipe to find the best taste so that we can be proud of the product we will share and sell," says Chief Shaw with pride.

Police report

Charged with double murder in Listuguj, a tragedy that occurred on May 15, 2021, Brandon Metallic, 30, is now deemed fit to stand trial, following another 60-day treatment period by the Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute in Montreal. The accused has been remanded in custody in that institution since late spring 2021. The conclusions of the latest psychiatric evaluation of Brandon Metallic were presented to the Quebec Court on June 30 in New Carlisle. The accused was in Montreal and attended the court through a video conference. He will return to court on August 9 in order to obtain a date for the preliminary hearing. He was first judged fit to stand trial at the end of 2021 after being treated at the Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute, but he was sent back for treatment and an ensuing evaluation in March when he displayed erratic behavior. He is accused of murdering a child and a man in his twenties at a residence on Riverside Road in Listuguj.

On the afternoon of July 3, a violent collision at the intersection of Highway 132 and Road 197 in Saint-Majorique claimed the life of Jacques Ferguson, 60, from Gaspé. At approximately 3:30 p.m., Mr. Ferguson turned onto Road 197 where he was hit by a pickup truck. Under the force of the impact, the two vehicles ended up in the ditch. The victim was taken to the hospital and succumbed to his injuries. The two occupants of the pickup truck were taken to the hospital as well. "They suffered from minor injuries. Traffic was not restored until around 6:15 p.m. The investigation is ongoing to determine the circumstances of this tragedy," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec. During the two long weekends at the end of June and the beginning of July, nine fatal accidents were recorded in Quebec on the territory under the jurisdiction of the Sûreté du Québec.

The next court appearance of Éric Maldemay, 45, from Paspebiac, charged with drug possession and drug trafficking, will take place on August 8 instead of August 12 at the New Carlisle Courthouse. He was charged on December 17, 2019 with cannabis production, which allegedly took place between June and October 2019 in Paspebiac, cocaine trafficking, which also allegedly occurred on December 17, 2019, in Paspebiac, possession of cannabis that he knew to be illicit, and possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking between October 15 and 18, 2019. Éric Maldemay has been imprisoned since his December 17, 2019, arrest. He must find a new lawyer before August 8.

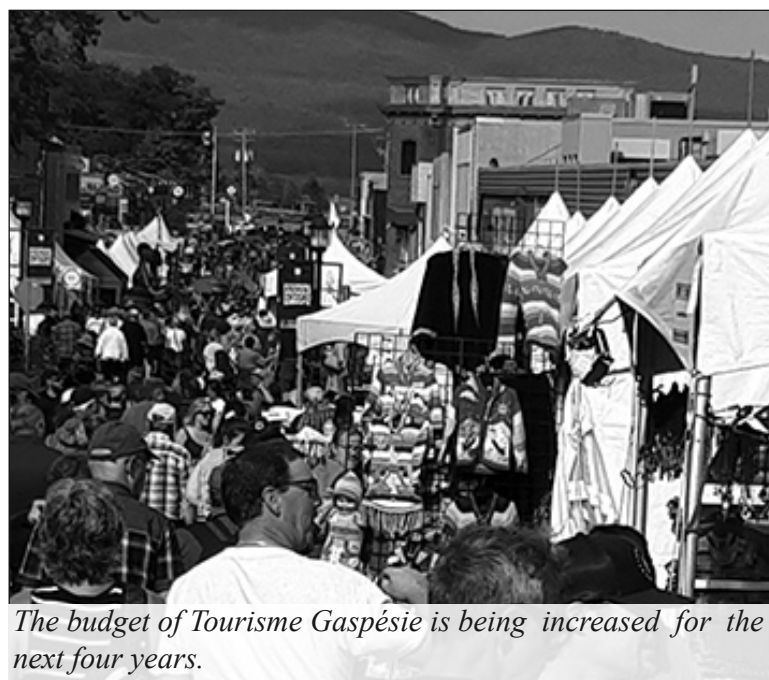
Tourism Gaspésie's budget is now greater

Nelson **Sergerie**

MONT-JOLI - A first in 25 years is taking place for Tourisme Gaspésie since the base budget of the organization that promotes the region's tourism in Quebec and Eastern Canada has increased by some \$200,000, going from \$425,000 to \$625,000 for each of the next four years.

"We are very pleased with the amounts awarded and the four-year mandate. We have time to see it through. It's easier to manage. We were renewed in recent years and sometimes late in the years," says the director of Tourism Gaspésie, Joëlle Ross.

However, the mandates will have to be more eco-responsible and oriented to-



The budget of Tourisme Gaspésie is being increased for the next four years.

Photo: N. Sergerie

wards sustainable tourism while allowing for innovation.

"We will take one step at a time, but we will be able to fulfill these mandates in the

right way," she adds.

In addition to this overall sum of \$2.5 million, the Regional Partnership Agreement provides \$1.4 million, to which Tourisme Gaspésie

will add \$950,000 for a total of \$2.3 million over three years.

"With the pandemic years, it allows us to do things differently and continue to work with regional businesses," says Ms. Ross.

"It must be 15 years or so that we've had this kind of agreement. It's to help entrepreneurs with their development projects and it's purely a grant. It allows them to get money elsewhere to realize their entrepreneurial dreams of expansions or new products or modifications to their businesses," says the director as an example to meet the needs of increasingly demanding customers.

The beginning of the tourist season is off to a good start, according to Ms. Ross.

"The bad weather in June

will probably cause it to be a bit down from last year. June 2021 was exceptional. We don't know if it will be the same. Reservations are going great," says the director.

Gas prices could put a dent in the season. "People will still honour their reservations, but at their destination, they may spend differently. I hope for the clientele to be here, but especially for the warm weather in July and August because that's what makes people appreciate the outdoors on the Gaspé," she says.

The English-speaking clientele is also back in the region, notes Ms. Ross, whose office is located at the first welcome kiosk in the tourist region, located in Mont-Joli. From there, she can assess the various clientele.

Gilles Gagné Commentary



A tenacity and resolve Sunny Bank people can be proud of

Gaspésians are tenacious people. The most recent proof of that reality is the clear victory of the Sunny Bank residents against Quebec's Department of Transport regarding the numerous floods experienced over decades.

Since the road, now known as York Boulevard West, was built between 1952 and 1954, the residents of Sunny Bank have been hit by floods, a situation that was unknown when the previous dirt road was at the same level as the fields. Heavy rain was just passing over the dirt road and the people living in the area would just wait for the water to go down, a matter of hours, sometimes days.

"Progress" then hit the sector: The Gaspé Copper Mines operations needed a direct link between the new town, the railway and the Port of Gaspé. At the time, the road between Wakeham and Sandy Beach passed precisely in the downtown area. It was not convenient for the trucks and the people of Gaspé. So it was decided to raise the road passing near Sunny Bank, now York Boulevard West, by 1.5 metres, roughly five feet.

Occasional floods occurred in Sunny Bank between 1954 and 1977 but nothing compares to what the residents of the area have experienced since 1977. The 700-metre road was raised again, this time through the addition of two more metres along its main stretch and five metres along the main bridge approaches. So, in two shots, the Ministry of Transport had raised the road by close to 12 feet.

We are reminded by the Superior Court judgement rendered on June 29 that the experts of the ministry did not carry out any study on the effects such a high road could have on the area's properties.

We all agree that the jobs related to Gaspé Copper Mines were important to the region, just like sound operations for the company. However, taking into consideration the relevance of protecting Sunny Bank residents and their

properties should have been considered in the Ministry of Transport plans. Some of the ten important floods that occurred since 1977 and the huge one of 2010 threatened the lives of some residents. Two more floods have taken place since 2010.

Some residents of Sunny Bank like Bruce Patterson started sending letters to the Ministry of Transport in 1977, before the end of the construction of the new road, to tell civil servants that a higher section of boulevard would put their properties at high risk of floods. Those letters were written to no avail. Letters were notably sent in 1977, as a flood hit the area on year one of the works, and again in 1980, twice in 1981 and once more in 1983. Floods also occurred in 1997, 1998, 2004, 2009 and 2010.

The ministry bypassed consulting local competence, as it happens in other files. How many wharves along our coasts are ill-designed and ill-placed because the locals were not consulted?

During the court case hearings, Transports Québec representatives admitted at one point that small corrective measures were implemented and that a major project to put an end to the floods was in preparation. The ministry's executives were caught between a rock and a hard place. Not doing anything would have put a threat on the residents and caused much more damage, especially considering the intensity and increased frequency of climate-related events. Doing and planning corrective works was like admitting the failures of the 1977 project.

In the Sunny Bank case, Transports Québec authorities heavily feared a precedent. "That's why they fought all the way," says Andrew Patterson, the citizen who initiated the class action in December 2013 after several failed attempts to get compensation while dealing with Transports Québec directly.

At the time, he wanted to defend himself and his neighbours without a lawyer as he knew the flood file well enough to convince a court of the relevance of their cause.

However, a judge called and told him that in a class action, the pursuants need a lawyer. It is a rule. "The judge allowed me three months to find a lawyer," he now says. Eight-and-a-half years later, the verdict of Judge Pierre C. Bellavance is clear. Transports Québec should have carried out studies and he forces the ministry to realize corrective works in a determined amount of time.

The ministry could appeal Judge Bellavance's decision, however, it is an election year and it would be naive to think that there is no link between Transports Québec's upcoming decision regarding an appeal and politics. It might not be the determining factor but it will likely play a role.

In a way, through eight-and-a-half years of procedure, and decades of denial pertaining to its responsibilities in Sunny Bank floods, the ministry has shown a lot of people that the government has the legal and financial means to discourage potential pursuants involved in similar cases against the authorities.

It is terrible. Government officials argue that this way of managing cases protects the public, that they are defending public interest. However, attempting to exhaust vulnerable citizens' legal and financial resources is lame.

Time represents a huge factor in cases such as Sunny Bank's. As Andrew Patterson underlines, "a lot of people affected by the 2010 floods have died since the class action was undertaken."

Despite that sad side, the victory by Andrew Patterson and his neighbours is remarkable and gratifying. Mr. Patterson says he has so far put close to 1,100 hours in the case. He is counting those hours but how many more uncounted hours of worries has the case generated in his mind and in the mind of his neighbours?

It is not over yet, as Transports Québec's delay to launch an appeal is not over. More time will be required to determine the compensations the 90 property owners of Sunny Bank could receive.

One sure thing is that the resolve and tenacity of the Sunny Bank group is an example for everyone.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Just wanted to share my helplessness, very heart rendering to watch these beautiful seabirds dying slowly on the beaches, washed out when the tides crash in; they are too weak to survive. Also horrifying to witness crows feasting on the carcasses, too disturbing to photograph.

Another pandemic, but less covered so far, is that landbirds are not as obviously hit. Called the phone number given out by the media, only to be informed it's not a provincial matter but a municipal one, or property owner, if the carcasses are on private property. Amazing the confidence CAQ has in municipal officials' capacity to manage the issues - corpse disposal, precautions undertaken by municipal employees, who pays the bill, corners that should not be cut, for example: all dogs should be on leashes when on the beach.

Vivian Beebe, New Carlisle

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

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

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

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AUDITE

Tourist tax: Percé asks for the support of the UMQ

Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCÉ - The Town of Percé has appealed to the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) for help in the legal challenge launched by those contesting the tourist tax that came into effect on May 1.

On July 5, the council adopted a resolution officially requesting the union's assistance, which had already been secured.

An initial preparatory meeting was held on June 28 to determine the next steps for the legal process.

The case is expected to be heard in the fall and Mayor Cathy Poirier believes the hearing should only last a few days.

"Clearly, we're going to challenge this application. We think we are perfectly legitimate to go through with the process," says the mayor with confidence.

In the application for a declaration of nullity, the opponents' attorney alleges that the bylaw is unconstitutional, illegal and has an abusive,



Photo: N. Sergerie

The mayor of Percé at the July 5 meeting.

unreasonable and intrusive character.

In addition to a request for financial assistance from the UMQ's legal fund, Percé wants the union to testify in court.

"We consider that this is a regulation that will serve all municipalities in Quebec. The president of the UMQ has already stated publicly that he will support the Town of Percé in the defence of the

bylaw. It is a regulation that opens up new possibilities and we are a forerunner in the adoption of this regulation. The UMQ is definitely concerned," adds the mayor.

The president of the UMQ and mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, indicated in June that if the town needed legal services, the union would be there because the challenge to certain provisions of the law was a first and could es-

tablish a precedent.

"It's very important for the municipal community to follow the issue closely and perhaps participate," he says.

Historian Jean-Marie Thibeault, a resident of Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie, came to support the principle of a tourist fee.

"Like many citizens of the municipality, I find that we pay too much taxes for the services we have. Here, the municipality finds an original way to find money and I think it is good for the basic taxpayer," says the historian who brings up Mont-Tremblant and Iceland as examples.

"The municipal rest stop in Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie, I don't need it. I pay for it like other taxpayers and merchants. Who benefits from the service? The visitors and to a certain extent the merchants but I don't get anything. I pay. It's original (the tax) and it's a good thing. I want to tell the council to persevere. The silent majority sometimes speaks," con-

cludes Thibeault.

The Town Council used the meeting to adopt its investment strategy for the tourism tax revenue.

The first part of the strategy concerns the maintenance of current infrastructure and the hiring of new staff, while the second part deals with tourism development, such as the creation of a parks and recreation department, a new cultural and convention space, improving the trail system and protecting the coastline.

"From the moment tourist infrastructures are developed, the dedicated fund will allow investments. Obviously, it is not only the fund that will pay for all these developments. We will have access to subsidy programs. This will allow us to invest the part requested by the promoters," says the mayor, who cannot put a figure on the amounts since the royalty is in its first year, but a sum of some \$1.5 million was mentioned in the past.

CISSS slows down some activities for the summer

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Slowdowns in surgeries are planned this summer at the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre to allow employees to take a vacation.

"We have a summer that will not be easy, as it is all year long. We are maintaining emergency services. There will be no closed beds on this side. There will be unpredictable situations, we know that in advance, but we don't know when they will happen. But we have contingency plans to deal with these situations," says Martin Pelletier, president and CEO of the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS.

The health network mentions that the situation is not unique to the Gaspé.

The contingency plan includes reassigning staff with expertise to be moved. Service corridors are also in place. "There are several solutions that can be applied, depending on the circumstances," says Mr. Pelletier.

"We do it every year, mainly at the operating room level. It is done for less urgent elective cases that are scheduled before or after the summer period. The operating rooms remain ready to be used for emergencies and critical situations.

For the rest, services will be maintained," promises Mr. Pelletier.

Home care and nursing homes are also fragile. Currently, 10.8% of the CISSS's regular employees are off work, which is approximately 400 out of 4000 employees.

"We are at 85% for services to the elderly, which means that 15% are absent either for preventive leave, CNESST or illness," explains Mr. Pelletier.

The CISSS uses 170 people from agencies. "It affects various types of jobs: we have nurses (70), beneficiary attendants (about 60), social workers and nursing assistants. These people are hired to fill shifts to maintain services," says the CEO.

There will be more students on the floor this summer.

"We understand that a student hasn't finished their training. We'll place them where they can help us. We can't take a first-year radiology student to replace a radiology technician. It remains that these (students) are people who are most of the time teams' replacements," explains Mr. Pelletier.

The network suggests that people avoid hospitals, if possible, and consult first via the 811 service or use pharmacists as a first step.

COVID-19 is back with a bang

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - COVID-19 is not taking a vacation and is gaining in intensity in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands

A total of 437 cases were identified among people admitted for screening in June, representing approximately 10% of the population.

Of those cases, 306 were identified during the second half of June. In the week ending June 26, 222 cases were reported, and 84 in the week ending July 3. There were 61 cases in the week ending June 12 and 131 cases in the week ending June 19.

This is what the data updated on July 6 by the Institut national de la santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) reported, which led the management of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre to suspend visits to the four hospital centres in the early evening of July 6.

Only family caregivers will be admitted to care settings. This will be one caregiver at a time for a maximum of two caregivers per 24 hours.

According to the INSPQ, 14 people were hospitalized on July 6 in the Gaspé Peninsula, a worrisome situation, but not alarming, according to the regional director of public health, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, at a time when three new variants are hitting Quebec.

"We thought we would have something similar to the last two years. These new variants are more contagious and we are seeing an estimated increase in cases and an actual increase in hospitalizations," says Dr. Bonnier Viger.

"In our region, there are probably many more cases and hospitalizations follow suit but, in our region, it is not too significant, but it could go up, too," says the specialist.

"We expect it to continue to go up for a few weeks before it goes down again. That's what we saw in South Africa and Portugal with these variants.

People had a good eight weeks of (the virus) climbing and then it went down again.

Here, as it has been rising for four weeks, we can expect it to rise for another four weeks before it goes down again," he

says.

The situation remains under control and isn't at a point of returning to having sanitary measures. "We remember that basic measures are effective. If we are not able to manage the situation, it is certain that other measures that we know well could be added, but for the moment, it is not yet discussed because we think that we will be able to manage the situation as we are currently doing," says Dr. Bonnier Viger.

People are a little sicker when they contract the virus, according to epidemiological surveys in the field. "There are people who are healthy and who are forced to stay in bed for a day or two. You have to be careful," the doctor suggests.

Fifty-three workers at the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS were affected by COVID-19 and were absent from work on July 5.

Absences are more numerous in the Bay of Chaleur and Côte-de-Gaspé local networks. The situation is less preoccupying in the Rocher-Percé and Haute-Gaspésie local networks.

Sylvain Roy retires from political life after 10 years in the National Assembly

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Sylvain Roy, Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Bonaventure for 10 years, announces his retirement from politics. After having driven 625,000 kilometres since September 2012 to commute between his riding and Quebec City, as well as to serve his constituents in Bonaventure, he wants to spend more time with his family.

“It’s the equivalent of three years sitting in our car, 6.5 hours per one way trip and the same for the return trip,” summarizes Mr. Roy, who compared these living conditions to those of a truck driver.

Sitting as an independent since June 2021, he promises to remain at the service of the citizens of his riding until a new Member of the National Assembly takes over the office. Sitting as an independent contributed to his decision to retire from politics, although he says he would have had a chance of getting re-elected, even if the lack of party affiliation makes the phenomenon extremely rare.

“It’s exhausting, being an independent Member of the National Assembly. (...) It’s more attractive for groups that don’t want to stick to a political party. Many of these groups have chosen me to carry their message. It allowed me to explore another facet of political life, which I found fascinating but exhausting,” he summarizes.

He thanks his wife, Diane, who accompanied him on most of his trips, “which forced her to sacrifice her projects.” He expresses the desire to get closer to his sons, Nicolas and Samuel, their spouses and his three grandchildren, “soon to be four”, he underlines.

He also thanked his sons “who, by their reflections and judgment, have prevented me from sinking into the pompous exaggeration and narcissism of self-promotion.”

He believes that the change in governance at the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre, a change that occurred in May after a devastating report by the Auditor General delivered following representations on his part as well as his defense of forestry workers, truckers and farmers, are the main highlights of his 10 years in poli-

tics.

He also has on his record the establishment of a parliamentary committee on pesticides that led to the Sustainable Agriculture Plan, stable funding for small cohorts of Cegeps located far from urban centres and the \$100 million program intended to finance people from urban areas wishing to study in more rural areas.

He also obtained the recognition of sufficient budgets for the CIRADD, the French acronym for Centre for Initiation to Applied Research in Sustainable Development, a college research organization he founded when he was a professor at Carleton’s Cegep.

The aspect of politics that has disappointed him the most, “is the usurpation of power from the political class, the inability to force paradigm shifts into the heads of deputy ministers, certain deputy ministers,” he says, giving as an example a deputy minister of forests unable to recognize the usefulness of silvicultural work. Sylvain Roy was a silvicultural worker before his graduate studies.

Although he defended forestry workers during his decade of public service, he regrets not having “been able to improve (their) working conditions. Conditions are deteriorating.”

To the person who will replace him in Bonaventure, he wishes, as well as to his fellow citizens, better access to inter-regional transport, “a powerful determinant” for “the health of a region and its ability to be attractive. (...) We currently don’t have the passenger train and the bus service is not convenient. Since I live in Escuminac, flying at Bonaventure airport was not practical, as we had to drive an hour-and-a-half in the opposite direction of where we were going.”

He clarifies the long-standing rumor sending him to the Coalition avenir Québec. “I have never approached the CAQ or been approached by the CAQ,” he said, specifying that he was never complacent towards the party in power while trying to show that it was possible to work with his colleagues from the National Assembly.

Sylvain Roy gave an update on his political career on July 4 at his constituency’s main office. He left the Parti



Sylvain Roy wants to spend more time with his family.

Photo: G. Gagné

Québécois in June 2021 due to differences with leader Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon on regional issues.

A sociology professor at the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, Carleton campus, Sylvain Roy began his political career by running for the Parti Québécois in the December 2011 by-election to fill the seat left vacant by the withdrawal of Nathalie Normandeau from political life. He lost to Damien Arsenault of the Liberal Party.

It was, however, his last defeat. He then lined up three victories, on September 4, 2012, April 7, 2014 and October 1, 2018, still under the PQ banner. During the 2018 cam-

paign, he battled throat cancer that forced him to spend most of the campaign undergoing treatment in Quebec City.

What will he do with his retirement? He describes his return to teaching as “very likely” and he wants to take care of his farmland and his woodlot. “If I want to be consistent, I will put some order to this. I am coming back home permanently, because you spend a lot of time in Quebec City when you are a Member of the National Assembly.”

Come the fall, he promises to collaborate with the new Member of the National Assembly, no matter the party. “I’ll transfer the files in transparency,” he insists.

The Parti Québécois candidate in Bonaventure for the next election, Alexis Deschênes, paid tribute to Mr. Roy, who committed not to intervene during the campaign leading to the October 3 election.

“I salute his commitment to public life and I thank him for his work for the benefit of the people of Bonaventure. His involvement in forest and wildlife issues has been significant and, more recently, his work led to a salutary intervention by the Auditor General of Quebec regarding the management of the CISSS de la Gaspésie. Thanks Sylvain!” wrote Mr. Deschênes in a press release.

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Gaspesian lobster season sees a decrease in catches due to a slow start

Gilles Gagné

PERCÉ – The Gaspé Peninsula lobster fishermen could well have suffered a 15 to 20% drop in catches in 2022 compared to 2021. The decrease is mainly due to a very slow start of the season characterized by bad weather, such as snow, rain and wind.

The director of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen's Group, O'Neil Cloutier, has received echoes of this from fellow fishermen operating in the two main catch areas, sectors 20a and 20b, covering the area between Forillon and New Carlisle.

"We are working without any statistics for now, especially mid-season statistics. We are working with the fishermen's statistics. In our sector, the results at the start of the season suggest a general decline of 15 to 22% for 20a and 20b. In the smaller peripheral zones 19 and 21, the results are exceptional. In areas 21a and 21b, for example, I hear that it was really special. Personally, it's a 20% drop compared to 2021," says Mr. Cloutier.

He attributes the lack of statistics to lobster buyers not quickly submitting their data, such as purchase receipts, to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

"It would be easy to hand them over quickly, since the fishermen are paid regularly from these receipts," he says. While fishing ended on July 2 in 20a and 20b, it continued until July 8 in the New Carlisle sector 20b8, then between July 14 and 18 depending on the sectors of zones 19 and 21, where there is some latitude as to when to start fishing in the spring for various reasons such as the opening of the harbours, and the presence of ice or storms at the end of April.

An end to the season, characterized by strong catches, helped to compensate for the difficult start to the lobster season notes O'Neil Cloutier.

"A fisherman told me this morning that the end of the season was very, very strong, with an overall increase of 9% in his catches. The results of the last two weeks exceeded the results of the first two weeks of catches. It's rare. It shows that there are lobsters on the bottom (of the sea). We saw a wave of male lobsters, big lobsters, at the end of the season. Some fishermen landed 800, 900 and 1000 pounds on the last day, July 2. Dual-licensed holders caught



The season statistics about lobster catches are not out yet but most fishermen are reporting fewer catches in 2022 than in 2021.

Photo: Homard Larocque fils frère occupés

up to 2000lbs. The fishermen went to sea until the last day, which is not always the case. They were hurt by the first two weeks, marked by the weather conditions the snow and the prevailing winds from the southern sector.

When the catches are not made, it is worrisome. You cannot recover almost two weeks of lost fishing over a 10-week season," sums up Mr. Cloutier.

An early start

The season started on April 24 in zone 20, with the first landings the next day.

"You have to start at some point, as soon as possible, because the egg laying period is coming. The females deposit their eggs on the bottom and the young females lay their eggs under their tail. You have to get used to starting early to reduce the handling of these females. The fishermen never want to exceed July 1. Egg laying begins around the third week of June. The closer she gets to spawning, the more likely the female is to lose eggs. Suddenly, during handling, she can lose 30% of her eggs, according to a study that we have already done. This forces fishermen to start as early as possible in the spring," explains O'Neil Cloutier.

While the statistics confirm a 15 to 20% decline in lobster catches, the fact remains that by putting the volume of catches back into a comparative horizon dating back to the last five years, the last season will be good just the same, even if official statistics are not available yet.

"It remains at a higher level than in 2020. It must be remembered that there was a 34% increase in catches in 2021," notes O'Neil Cloutier.

According to the most recent statistics from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the average price of lobster landed in Gaspé Peninsula was \$8.46 per pound in 2021. Landings totalled 4,644 metric tons for a value of \$86.7 million, which includes catches by Gaspesians fishing on Anticosti Island. There they fish a few hundred tons worth a few million dollars annually.

O'Neil Cloutier believes that the Gaspesian lobster fishermen could have received a better price during the first two weeks of the season, during which they received \$8 a pound. The Gaspesian fishermen were alone on the Quebec market during the first week of catches. Their price is determined by the joint marketing plan for the Magdalen Islands when the catch begins on the archipelago, a week or two after the peninsula.

"The Newfoundland lobster fishermen received \$9.28 and \$8.78 in their first two weeks. In New Brunswick, which is not far from us, the fishermen received \$9.50 in their first week, which was our second (week). We are a little bothered by the disparity," adds Mr. Cloutier.

In the absence of overall statistics for Gaspésie, he calculated his own price for 2022, obtained by multiplying his weekly catches by the price obtained during this week. It settled at \$7.94 a pound.

He stresses that lobster fishermen must adapt to new realities. "We are also facing steep cost increases such as gas and helper salaries, insurance and bait. My bait was \$27,000 in 2021 but \$35,000 this year. That's almost 30% more. We are also coming out of two years of pandemic," he says.

Price drop expected by processing plants

On the marketing side, Roch Lelièvre, president of the firm Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan, specifies that sales went well in live lobster, but that they are slower for processed products.

"The market is still difficult. We turned to Europe, where it is good. In the United States, people fear recession. American buyers do not want inventories. They buy, but only by small quantities. When they don't buy, people in the industry get nervous. The live lobster market was very good in Quebec. I sell live lobster in the United States too, but only in large sizes," says the president of the company based in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé.

Acquisitions of processed products in small quantities had an effect on the price. "The price has come down a lot in the market. All processing plants have a storage problem. It's not far from overflowing. Some buyers won't take them if you don't lower the price. They know that some processors have to reduce their inventories," says Mr. Lelièvre, noting that it is too early to assess the price drop.

In 2021, Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan bought approximately 1.2 million pounds of lobster from Gaspé Peninsula fishermen, 14 evolving along the coast of the peninsula and 4 others taking their catches on Anticosti Island. The year 2022 is less fruitful.

"I haven't done my calculations, but there is a drop. There is a drop in New Brunswick, too," says Roch Lelièvre, referring to the 40 New Brunswick lobster fishermen delivering their catches

to his plant, which employs 230 people in high season.

"Live lobster represents about 20% of our sales, and it comes from the Gaspé Peninsula and Anticosti. New Brunswick lobster is 100% processed. It arrives a day later and they don't put elastic bands (around their claws) like that of the Gaspé Peninsula. There are several broken lobsters and that's why we send them to the plant," said Mr. Lelièvre.

Whole lobster is "by far" the main product targeted by buyers of processed products this year, "especially cooked but also whole lobsters frozen raw," he says.

The plant is also producing meat, tails, claws and mince flesh, "less than last year but the minimum to meet the needs of our markets. We have good inventories," concludes Roch Lelièvre.

Lobster fishermen raging about short notice in pelagic fishing suspension

O'Neil Cloutier cannot help but comment on the "incredible" situation of pelagic species fisheries, hit by a catch ban for mackerel in 2022 and a spring suspension for herring.

"We deplored the impact of the closure of the herring fishery without consultation. In mackerel, we had just had the advisory committee and nothing announced this measure.

The price of mackerel for bait climbed more than 25 cents, from \$1.45 to \$1.50 a pound to \$1.75 to \$1.80. For small redfish, taken accidentally, the increase was 40 cents, to \$1.40. In herring, it was \$1.40 a pound this year. We paid \$1 for it in 2021," he says.

"The minister (Joyce Murray) is not addressing the real problem, the reality of the gray seal. Is it inexperience, or she listened to her officials. Was it too difficult to solve as a problem? It has been said for 30 years that Fisheries and Oceans Canada must manage these pelagic species with seals in mind. The evaluation is only done every two years and (scientists) cannot follow the age classes of fish. The mackerel for our bait is bought from Spain, as long as we want it, blue mackerel, the same as ours. These are species that travel a lot. The Americans are fishing it. Newport lobster fishermen caught mackerel in their lobster traps. There must be a little left," he concludes.

Major construction work on the Saint-Majorique crossing

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The Saint-Majorique crossing in Gaspé was closed between July 6 and 11 inclusively for the concrete phase of one of the two structures, a major component in the reparation of the infrastructure which has been worn over time.

The detour was via the Montée de Corte-Real and the Montée de Pointe-Navarre which has been the subject of paving work in recent days to make the roadway more passable for users.

The detour is necessary to allow the complete setting of the reinforced concrete coating.

Work on two of the three structures is slowing traffic, which must alternate lanes.

Construction will continue until mid-October.

Another complete closing of the crossing will allow the pouring of concrete on the last of the three bridges of the crossing.

The three wooden structures built in 1966 that cross the Dartmouth River had their eight by eight foot



Photo: N. Sergerie

The Saint-Majorique crossing has been the subject of major work for several weeks.

wooden joists replaced as well as the steel rods under the bridge.

The pavements of the south and centre bridges were redone in reinforced concrete, while asphaltting is planned for the approaches.

The latest inspection reports from June 2020 showed that these structures needed major repairs.

The documents consulted noted several cracks, traces of rust on the frame, the beginning of light rot and cracks in the wood.

The three bridges had been redone in 2013 and 2014.

A load restriction has been in effect on the three infrastructures since January 2020.

Motorists' wallets held hostage by oil companies

Nelson *Sergerie*

GASPÉ - Gaspesian motorists are finally getting a break after paying far too high a price at the pump for almost a month.

The downward trend seen over the Canada Day weekend in major centres finally reached the region on July 4. In Gaspé, the price of a litre of regular gasoline dropped from \$2.19 to \$2.06, which reflected data from the Energy Board which calculated the cost at about \$1.91 for a retailer at that time.

Based on these figures, a litre of gasoline should sell for about \$2.03. The price at the gasoline service stations was nowhere near that before July 4. At \$2.11 and \$2.13 in the Bay of Chaleur area, the profit margin was about 22 cents, twice the average of the past year.

It was worse in Gaspé and Haute-Gaspésie where the profit margin was 28 cents, almost triple the average of just over 10 cents during the past year. You would have to go back one month, to June 7, to have a price equivalent to the data of the board.

In 2019, the Town of Gaspé asked the Competition Bureau to investigate the price in the Gaspé Peninsula after finding between June 3 and August 26 an average margin between 8.3 and 18.5 cents per litre higher than the minimum price estimated by the Energy Board. The Table of Prefects followed the Town of Gaspé's lead.

To date, the Competition Bureau's findings have not been made public. At the beginning of 2020, the Energy Board had established that Gaspé retailers had accumulated a profit margin twice as large as the Quebec average in 2019. In its report, the board even indicated that in five years, the Gaspé Peninsula was, in 19% of cases, the region with the highest price in Quebec.

For 2019, the percentage was 34%. During the last six months of 2019, the price of gasoline in the Gaspé Peninsula was the highest of all regions in Quebec, except for Northern Quebec because of its special status.

At the time, after the request of an investigation by the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, a litre of gasoline in the Gaspé Peninsula was generally sold under the realistic price. A year ago, gasoline sold for around \$1.37.

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IN WHAT WAY IS YOUR BUSINESS UNIQUE?

Bois JL is distinguished by the quality of its products and competitive prices. "There is no intermediary. I saw and sell the wood. This is why we are a lot less expensive" as he explained. "We cut a lot of aspen, which is a less known species. We saw it differently. Once it's dry, we straighten it and it's really nice wood which can be used for panelling."

HOW DID SUPPORT FROM THE SADC HELP YOU?

"I got a loan when I started up my business." Jacki also mentioned having had technical assistance to create a Facebook page. He really appreciated the support he got. "It helped me feel secure" he admitted. "When I took out another loan later on, I also went along with the SADC."

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WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ANYONE WHO IS CONSIDERING STARTING UP A BUSINESS IN THE BAIE-DES-CHALEURS REGION?

According to Jacki, you have to know how to look for the right support and knock on the right doors. In addition to the SADC, the MRC Avignon gave him valuable help. "The MRC gave me a strong helping hand for the business plan. I was given good advice."

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A woodworking enthusiast, Jacki Leblanc employs from five to six persons annually at Bois JL.

New Richmond celebrates Canada Day



Downtown New Richmond was crowded on Canada Day as the Rallye Baie-des-Chaleurs kicked off its weekend event. Perron Boulevard was blocked off near the Town Hall to showcase the cars and provide entertainment: music, face-painting and many other activities.



Pop Trigger entertained the crowds on Canada Day on the steps of the Town Hall.



Irish Narrows, with lead singer Nathan Hayes, Dave Felker, Dominick Briand, Kevin Jones and Catherine Maldemay, got people up on the dance floor at the Racines-Roots festival at Duthie Point.

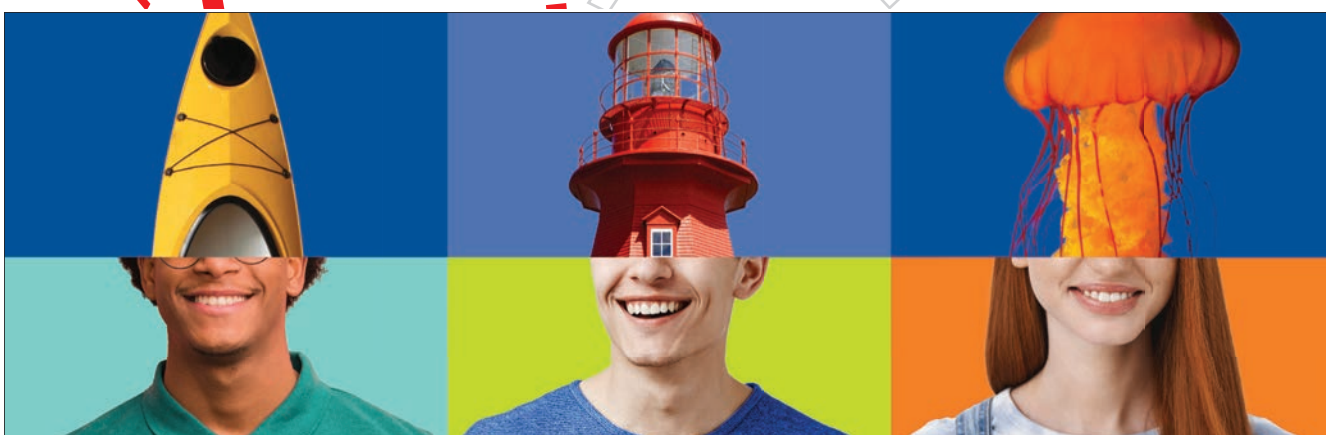


Les Triculturels, from left Melissa Girvan, Dave Felker, MLou and Kevin Jones, delighted the crowd at the Racines-Roots Festival held all weekend at the Duthie Point site with their songs in three languages exalting life in the Gaspésie.



The Babin family of New Richmond were well prepared for their trip to Cascapedia - Saint-Jules to see the parade prepared by members of the Legion: Maelie, Emma, Nathan, and Alice with Roxanne and Sébastian.

Photos: Cynthia Dow



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Environment Ministry could intervene to curtail cement plant's dust emissions

Minister Charrette writes to McInnis Cement, asking company to correct situation

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL – The Ministry of the Environment issued a “notice prior to an order” regarding St. Mary’s Cement Inc. (Canada), the company operating the plant known as McInnis Cement, with regards to the Environment Quality Act. The notice asks the plant’s management to take the appropriate measures to stop the regular dust emissions that have occurred over the last two years.

The letter sent by Environment Minister Benoit Charrette on June 30 specifies that “since the dust emission problem emerged in the summer of 2020 in Port-Daniel-Gascons, which has been recurring ever since, the (ministry) has been doing everything it can to ensure compliance with the Environment Quality Act and the authorizations issued.”

The letter also mentions that “despite several notices of non-compliance and an ongoing criminal investigation, the department had to assess other remedies available to it to correct this situation. Thus, the minister intends to serve the company with an order to compel it to correct this problem. As required by the Environment Quality Act, the order must be preceded by a prior notice, which was served to the company on June 30,



Photo: G. Gagné

Pascal Bergeron is relieved to see that the Ministry of the Environment is moving on the Port-Daniel cement plant file.

2022.”

The dust emissions mentioned in the ministry’s notice mainly occurred in July 2020, in August 2020, in June 2021 and in May 2022. The first three emission bouts took the form of sticky emissions of clinker, the main cement powder input. On May 17 of this year, there was an important overflow of cement powder at the main truck loading terminal.

The Port Daniel plant was built between May 2014 and June 2017, when commercial production started.

According to the notice prior to order no. 714 issued under section 114 of the Environment Quality Act, the envi-

ronment department “informs St. Mary’s Cement Inc. (Canada) that it intends to order them to take several actions aimed at correcting the situation.”

The company will have to stop the discharge of contaminants into the environment beyond the standards established in the authorization and by the Clean Air Regulation, as well as give a mandate to an independent expert recognized by the ministry to carry out an assessment of the proper functioning of all air purification equipment.

Saint Mary’s Cement will have to send the department a report setting out the expert’s findings, conclusions and rec-

ommendations. The firm will have to submit to the department a control plan for dust and other atmospheric contaminants with a work schedule as well.

The company will also have to carry out the work in accordance with the dust and other contaminants control plan according to the submitted and approved schedule.

The company must also submit to the ministry a certificate from an independent expert establishing that the work carried out complies with the approved control plan.

Saint Mary’s Cement must record in a register the work carried out in applying the ap-

proved control plan and make it available at the request of the Ministry of the Environment.

Following this notice prior to the order, the firm may present its written observations to the minister within 15 days, that is to say on July 15 at the latest. Minister Charrette may then decide to issue the order by considering the observations made by the company, if any.

Department documents contained in the notice reveal that over the last two years, 80 complaints have been filed to Urgence Environnement, and 11 dust emissions have been recorded. The company has notified the ministry of 10 equipment failures.

Saint Mary’s Cement’s spokesperson, Chris Mason, reacted to the letter sent by Minister Charrette by stating that the company has “approximately \$40 million slated for operational and environmental improvements this year. We are also actively working with our environmental team to effectively monitor performance, address issues and put lasting preventative measures in place to ensure the compliance operations of the plant.”

The environment ministry’s communication division was not able to supply additional information to SPEC prior to the paper’s deadline.

Finally some action, according to Environnement vert-plus

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL - The spokesperson for the Gaspé environmental group Environnement vert-plus, Pascal Bergeron, who has been denouncing since the summer of 2020 the lack of vigor of the Ministry of the Environment in the Cement McInnis file, is relieved to see a bit of move-

ment. “The ministry, for the first time, tells us that there are overruns of standards,” stresses Mr. Bergeron, who judges that “the ordinance is strong”, as expressed in the “notice prior to an order” document.

“It does not go as far as we asked the ministry to go, since

we asked to suspend the operation until the company identified the problem. The ministry has decided to go there in stages without asking for a production stoppage,” adds Pascal Bergeron.

He nevertheless thinks that the Ministry of the Environment could suspend the operating authorization permit for Saint Mary’s Cement in Port-Daniel if the firm does not comply with the order, in the event that it is presented to the company.

The documents attached to the notice of order reveal that the filter bags of the cement plant dust collectors are wearing out prematurely. There are 4,000 bags per dust collector. “We conclude that the process

is not well calibrated. The bags are wearing out prematurely and the problem has not been corrected. We knew there were problems, a lot of problems, and now we have data to confirm the extent of it,” says Pascal Bergeron.

Ontario-based Saint Mary’s Cement is part of Votorantim Cimentos, a company that bought an 83% share of McInnis Cement in April 2021. The manager of Quebecers’ pension funds, the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, owns the minority share of 17%. It used to be the controlling shareholder of the Port Daniel cement plant until the main promoter of the project, Beaudier, left in 2016, following an important cost overrun.



Photo: G. Gagné

Pascal Bergeron is relieved to see that the Ministry of the Environment is moving on the Port Daniel cement plant file.

An unpleasant flight

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - It was quite an adventure for a dozen people who flew back with Pal Airlines on Sunday and Monday from Montreal to Gaspé.

"It's quite an adventure," says Réal Côté, municipal councillor for the Town of Gaspé, who says he booked seats in May for a round trip at a cost of \$1817 with the airline.

The departure to Montreal scheduled for June 27 was postponed to the next day.

On the return flight the situation became complex. "We arrived at the airport at 10:30 a.m. The departure was supposed to be at 12:30. It was delayed until 2 p.m. It was delayed to 3:45 p.m., 4:25 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and then the departure was cancelled," Mr. Côté says.

The carrier's staff at the counter told people to take a cab and get a room at the hotel for a Monday departure.

Côté complains of a lack of communication. "We were the ones going to the counter to ask for information. If we hadn't been there, there wouldn't have been an announcement. We understand the lack of employees, but we would like to see better communication with customers, especially when you pay a price like that to go faster and you spend a day at



Passengers flew from Quebec City to Gaspé on July 4 in this small aircraft.

Photo: Courtesy

the airport. At that price, you're better off taking Orleans Express," says the councillor.

After a "lost" day, the return trip the next day was just as unique. "We were sent to Gaspé on a bush plane. It's a plane with no bathroom and no flight attendant. It was terrible. However, we made it," says Mr. Côté philosophically, stressing that he did not hear any excuses from Pal Airlines.

"One thing is certain. We won't fly from Gaspé again until it gets better," says Mr. Côté.

Pal Airlines confirms the problems experienced by these passengers by mentioning that a supplier's error caused the chartered plane to receive too much fuel and the aircraft had

to make two round trips.

To make matters worse, the personnel on the plane had reached the maximum flight time limit and had to go on break, which led to the postponement of the departure to Monday.

The Montreal-Quebec City flight was operated by the carrier.

An aircraft was chartered between Quebec City and Gaspé to continue the flight.

The carrier confirms that the chartered aircraft did not have any toilet or services on board. This was the only way, according to Pal, to get people back to Gaspé.

The company will compensate customers who request it, as required by law.



Photo: Courtesy

Minister Diane Lebouthillier went to Gaspé to announce the good news

Gaspé's Le Cormoran Sailing School building gets a makeover

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - A new modern building will be built at the Gaspé sailing school Le Cormoran.

\$300,000 will be invested, of which \$200,000 will come from Ottawa, to enlarge the current building and to outfit it by adding, among other things, changing rooms and a multifunctional room necessary for the organization's activities.

Regular users of the facility will tell you that this planned upgrade is far from a luxury.

"The investment will allow us to have facilities that meet the standards of young people who sail," says Diane Lebouthillier, Federal Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, who presented a \$200,000 grant on June 30.

"The Bay of Gaspé, in the middle of the town, is an exceptional place to go further and develop the sailing school, especially with the economic development of Gaspé. I think it can only grow," adds Ms. Lebouthillier.

The money from Ottawa comes from the Canadian Community Revitalization Fund.

The Town of Gaspé will add about \$22,000 and the Jacques-Cartier Yacht Club will invest about \$65,000.

Garlic Scapes: Waste not, want not

Diane **Skinner**

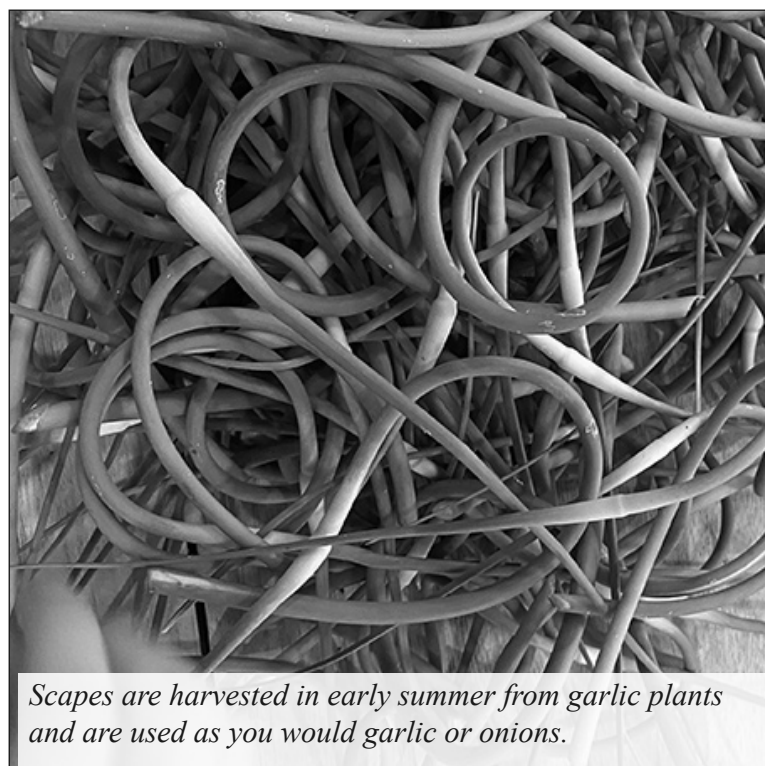
What is vibrant green, thin and curly and most importantly, edible? Scapes! Don't toss out these tops of hardneck garlic plants. These stalks appear in early summer on garlic bulbs growing in the garden. The growth of the garlic is dependent on the temperature of the soil, so once it warms up the garlic will grow, and the scapes will follow. If you do not harvest them, they will become garlic flowers later in the season.

Garlic is an example of a plant with two "harvests." Scapes can be harvested in early summer and bulbs harvested at the end of the season. In fact, it is good for the bulbs if you harvest the scapes. If you do not, the plant will use its energy to grow flowers which can mean your garlic will be less flavourful in the fall.

When harvesting the scapes, wait until the stalk grows well above the garlic

bulb. At first, they grow straight out of the garlic bulb and then they begin to coil and will start to curl upwards. When you cut the scapes from the plant, go as close to the plant as possible but do not cut off any leaves. They will look like very long and curly green beans. Rinse them off in cold water and snip off any bits that appear inedible. Sometimes the scape will have a tiny "bulb" at the end which you can simply snip off.

The entire scape is edible, and you can use it now or later. Cut them now and use as you would onion, scallion or garlic. Make a scape pesto which is refreshingly tasty. Snip them and place in freezer bags to use whenever you want to add their flavour to sauces, soups, omelets, dips or stews. Use about four to six scapes to equal the flavour intensity of one garlic clove. Scapes tend to be "fragile" in flavour, so avoid overcooking. If you harvest the fresh scapes, you can keep them in your fridge for up to



Scapes are harvested in early summer from garlic plants and are used as you would garlic or onions.

Photo: D. Skinner

two weeks.

When freezing scapes, chop them and spread them on a cookie sheet and freeze. Then place the frozen scapes into a container or freezer bag. The flavour is best if used within six to eight weeks.

Scapes are versatile. They can be simply chopped and

added to a recipe or sautéed, roasted or even puréed. If you want to make a fresh tasty topping for hamburgers, sauté them in some butter and add a bit of salt. Delicious! They are tender and flavourful when cooked but are often tough when consumed raw.

If you enjoy pesto, try a

scape pesto for a taste delight. You take any traditional pesto recipe and replace the basil with fresh scapes.

Scape Pesto

This recipe takes about 10 minutes to make. Use it right away on pasta, salad or serve with crusty baguette or freeze in ice cube trays to use later, but best within a few weeks.

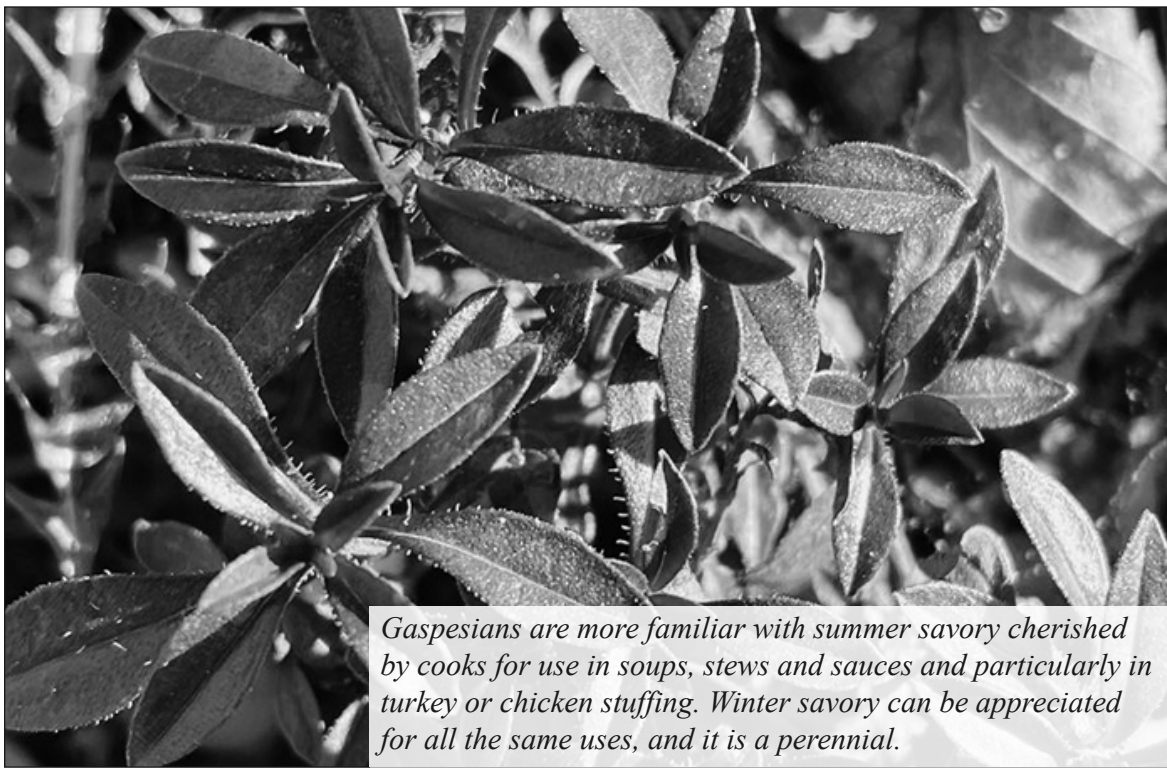
Ingredients:

1 cup chopped fresh scapes
1/3 cup parmesan cheese (grated)
1/3 cup pine nuts
1/3 cup oil
4 tsp. lemon juice
Pinch of salt

Directions:

Using a food processor, add scapes and pine nuts and pulse until both are finely chopped. Add the parmesan and pulse twice. Keep the "motor running" and slowly add the oil. The mixture will be smooth. Add lemon juice and salt. Add pepper, optional.

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Gaspésians are more familiar with summer savory cherished by cooks for use in soups, stews and sauces and particularly in turkey or chicken stuffing. Winter savory can be appreciated for all the same uses, and it is a perennial.

Photo: P. MacWhirter

Winter savory Cousin of summer savory

Diane Skinner

Gaspésian cooks love to use summer savory because of its beautiful fragrance and flavour. Historically, it has been grown on the peninsula for centuries. Many people are just learning about the cousin of summer savory – winter savory. There are some similarities but also differences between the two plants.

Winter savory is a perennial, unlike summer savory, and it has a much longer season than summer savory. It is easy to grow and is low maintenance. Pick a fresh sprig from the garden and add it to a cooking stew for a beautiful aromatic addition to the meal. The flavour of winter savory is stronger than summer savory.

This hardy herb will go dormant in the winter and, though it is a perennial, this does not mean it lasts forever, perhaps likely for a couple of years. It is a member of the mint family. It may also be called Spanish savory. Originally from the Mediterranean area, it grows between 20 and 40 inches in height and typically spreads from 30 to 60 cm.

The leaves appear glossy and about two or three centimetres in width. Through the growing season tiny flowers will appear in pink, mauve and white. The plant will go dormant in winter but in the spring will begin to grow again.

The word “savory” comes from the Latin word *sapor* and then from the French *savoure* which translated means fragrant or tasty. Old texts refer to savory and its

ability to heal certain maladies. In ancient Rome both summer savory and winter savory were grown and used to stuff meat and poultry.

Many archaic texts speak of its use as a seasoning and for its healing properties. It was the Roman poet Virgil who recommended planting it near beehives and, in “The Complete Herbal,” Nicolas Culpeper favours it as a stimulant to “quicken the dull spirits.”

Introduced to Europe by the Romans, both the summer and winter species were grown in walled gardens and it was used to stuff meat and poultry. Germans found that adding a fresh sprig of savory to a pot of beans or lentils made them easier to digest. Gardeners in France and England grew the herb for its lovely fragrance. Winter savory was first brought to North America in the 1800s.

Growing winter savory

Winter savory can be grown by seed or stem cuttings.

If using seeds, start indoors about six to eight weeks before the last frost. Place seeds in trays but leave the seed near the surface as they germinate by using light. Seeds should sprout in two weeks. Keep soil moist, not wet. When the plants have four sets of leaves, they are ready to be transplanted to larger containers. When the risk of frost is over, transplant them into the garden.

If using cuttings to start

new plants, take a ten to fifteen centimetre cutting in spring or fall and strip off leaves in the bottom 5 cm.

Place the cuttings in damp sand or a starting mix for seeds with the addition of about 1/3 sand. When the roots have started (about 6 weeks), transplant them into larger containers and then into the garden when the soil is warm enough.

When the savory is in the garden, enrich the soil with compost or aged manure and add some sand which will improve drainage. Place your plants about 20 to 30 cm apart and add a bit of bone meal. This will make your roots hardier. Over the winter, pack straw mulch around the base of the plants.

In the spring, once the plant starts to show signs of growth, prune your savory. Though it is a perennial, this does not mean it “lasts forever.” Likely you will need to replace the plants every five years.

Pollinators are attracted to savory and the savory repels cabbage moths. Beans and onions are good companion plants for savory and will improve the flavour. Pick sprigs of savory in the morning, but after the dew is gone.

You can harvest the savory and use it fresh, but within two weeks. To dry your savory tie bundles together with kitchen string and hang in a cool, dry location. When the stems are completely dry, strip off the leaves and store in a glass jar for up to three or four years.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



A Staycation? Lots of reasons why

It’s summertime and our thoughts turn to vacation! A staycation makes sense for several reasons, not just that it is less expensive than travelling farther from home. The price of gas is high and booking accommodation anywhere is futile. Everybody is travelling this summer. The news about the chaos at some airports is discouraging and the photos of hundreds of pieces of lost luggage might be enough to discourage you from travelling out of your area, province or even country.

You still want to make summertime special so plan a staycation – a holiday spent at home and taking day trips near home. The Gaspé has so much to offer that planning a staycation should be a fun proposition. So, why is a staycation a good choice?

You don’t have to drive a long distance to an airport or a faraway destination. You can rise and begin your staycation when you wish. No rushing, no dealing with lineups.

No packing is required. There is no need to worry about how heavy your suitcase is and no need to sort items into checked baggage and carry-on.

You get to explore the areas nearer to your home that you might not have before. Go off the beaten path. Visit a museum. Have lunch in a café or canteen.

You get to sleep in your own bed! There is nothing as comfortable as sleeping in familiar surroundings.

You can keep your schedule flexible. If it is raining, you can easily postpone your day out until the weather is more suitable.

Pets need not be a worry. When taking a long vacation away from home, you will need to plan for the care of your pets.

There is no pressure when on staycation. If you are away from home on a longer vacation, you feel the pressure to make every moment count. You can set your own pace.

Safety is not such a big concern. You don’t have to think about crime because this is your home turf. When travelling to other countries, you have to be hyper-vigilant about others.

Staycations are cheaper. You can pack a picnic to cut down on costs. It is easier to control the vacation budget when you are closer to home.

Of course, it is exciting to travel to a faraway destination, especially one where you have never been before. But planning a staycation can be a lot of fun. Think of it this way – you will save money that you can use for a future vacation to a place further away!

Explore the beauty of your own area and the Gaspé has so much for all ages to enjoy.



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Announcements



In Memory



FOURNIER: Flora Mullin

In Memory of Flora Mullin Fournier, mother of four, grandmother of four, great-grandmother of three, and now five years later three more.

*A wife, a mother a nanny too,
This is the legacy we have from you.
You taught us love and how to fight,
To defend what we know is right.
You gave us strength, you gave us might.
A stronger person would be hard to find,
Because in your heart you were always kind.
You fought for us all in one way or another,
Not just as a wife, not just as a mother.
For all of us you gave your best,
Then the time had come for you to rest.
Rest in peace, you earned your sleep,
Your love in our hearts we'll eternally keep.*

Remembered today and every day by her family.

PATTERSON: Vernon

In memory of my dear husband Vernon Patterson, who passed away July 19, 2021.

*Vern, you just walked on ahead of me,
And I've got to understand.
You must release the ones you love,
And let go of their hand.
I try to cope the best I can,
But I'm missing you so much.
If only I could see you,
And once more feel your touch.
Yes, you've just walked on ahead of me,
Don't worry, I'll be fine.
But now and then I swear I feel,
Your hand slip into mine.*

Love you forever, Barbara.

PATTERSON: Vernon

In memory of our dear Dad and Papa.

*He was a father so very rare,
Content in his home and always there.
On earth he toiled,
In heaven he rests.
God bless you Dad - Papa,
You were the best.*

Loved forever and always missed, Shawna, Tyler, Trevor, Alyssa, Julia and Jett.



Funeral and Burial



HAMILTON: Ethel

April 24, 1939 - April 16, 2022

A final gathering to say goodbye will be held at the St. Albert Cemetery, Gaspé, on Saturday July 23, at 11 a.m. All family and friends are welcome.

Graduation



Alfred Buttle and Darlene Landrigan would like to congratulate their daughter, Meaghan Landrigan-Buttle, on graduating from Concordia University.

Meaghan recently earned her Master of Arts degree in History and Irish Studies and will begin her Ph.D. research at Concordia in September, where she has been awarded a four-year doctoral fellowship.

She is looking forward to conducting research in Ireland and Newfoundland, as well as continuing her education at the university, where she works as a teaching and research assistant.

Graduation



On June 5, 2022, Haley Gallan graduated from Bishop's University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sports Studies with distinction. She also received the university prize in Sports Studies, which is awarded to the top graduating student of the program.

Haley is from St. Jules - Cascapedia, Quebec and is the daughter of Shelley and Kevin Gallan; the granddaughter of Judith and Donald Gallan and Joan and Reginald Sexton. She is the sister to Courtney and Logan, who attended the lovely ceremony along with their parents.

Gramma and Aunt Stephanie were thrilled to watch the ceremony live-streamed online.

Haley spent a month working in Paris, France before the ceremony and is presently working in Quebec City.

We are all so proud of you Haley!



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Obituary or Wedding: \$40 (\$45 with picture) (Max. 300 words). If it is more, we will give you a quote.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY AT 4 P.M.

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 homemade handi-crafts, 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 20: Opening Day of the 350th Anniversary of Bara-

chois 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.

BARACHOIS:

BADC

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

July 21: Seniors day activities beginning at 10 a.m. and Gift Bingo (Barachois Rec Centre) beginning at 7 p.m.

July 22: Children's Day beginning at 10 a.m. and Nash Stanley and the Narrows (\$10) beginning at 9 p.m.

July 23: Amateur Hour (\$10) beginning at 2 p.m. and Music with Tammy Adams (\$10) beginning at 9 p.m.

July 24: Brunch by the Barachois Rec Centre (\$12) from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Fiddling afternoon (\$10) beginning at 2 p.m.

July 30: Public Market from 9 a.m. to 12 noon under the festival tent, 1062 Route 132 East. To reserve a table for \$10 please contact Sandy Coombs at 581-887-1417.

PORT DANIEL:

Three Star Golden Age Club

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

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Centre

August 4: Tea and sandwich lunch from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

September 5: Hunting Bingo

NEW CARLISLE:

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.

July 21: Music with Tammy Adams

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 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.

July 22: Jam sessions, open to all musicians and spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 7:30 p.m.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room

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

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:

The winners for the week of June 26 are: Thérèse Gallant, Pierre Gravel, Don Fallow, Martin Duguay, Alexa Appleby, Michel Roy and Bradley Dow.

The winners for the week of July 3 are: Mélanie Caissy, Jovette Bujold, Marcel Leblanc, Rachel Leblanc, Marc-André Pineault, Micheline St-Onge and Nathalie Cormier.

UNITED CHURCH

NEW RICHMOND

Sunday, July 17

10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH

HOPE TOWN

Sunday, July 17

10 a.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, July 17

NEW CARLISLE

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

PORT DANIEL

10 a.m Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, July 17

St. Andrew's - York

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

with Rev. Douglas Johnson

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

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



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Try not to question the mysteries of the universe right now, Aries. Unconventional vibes are coming your way, which may lead you on some bizarre, yet enjoyable journeys.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Don't believe everything you read on social media, Taurus. Some strange information is coming in and you have to weed through misinformation to make some smart choices.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

There may be surprises around the workplace this week, Gemini. A supervisor could act out of sorts and

the momentum may be a bit erratic. Ride out this unsettling wave.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

You have a sensitive and compassionate demeanor, Cancer. Unfortunately, this can make you vulnerable. Keep a few tough friends in your corner.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, advocate and negotiate for yourself as much as you can in the days to come. You can't expect anyone to promote yourself better than you can.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Give yourself a break, Virgo. You have been putting your nose to the grindstone for so long, you deserve an opportunity to enjoy the lighter

side of life for a bit.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Your responsibilities are at an all-time high right now, Libra. That means you are in much demand. Pick and choose your projects because your schedule is packed.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, celebrate yourself this week. You deserve some recognition and celebration just for being you, and what better person to initiate it than yourself?

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

You may have a sudden urge to get organized at home or at the office, Sagittarius. Spend ample time sorting and cleaning out the

clutter. You'll be more productive for your efforts.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Light banter is the name of the game for conversation this week, Capricorn. Avoid any topics that can be deemed controversial or lead to confrontation.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Appreciate the world around you, Aquarius. It's easy to get fixated on what is going wrong. Instead, be grateful for all of the things that are going right.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Good vibes are heading your way, Pisces. Cosmic energy continues through your sign, articulating vi-

sions of future ambitions.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 10

Sofia Vergara, Actress (50)

JULY 11

Giorgio Armani, Designer (88)

JULY 12

Phoebe Tonkin, Actress (33)

JULY 13

Harrison Ford, Actor (80)

JULY 14

Loni Love, Comic (51)

JULY 15

Brian Austin Green, Actor (49)

JULY 16

Carli Lloyd, Athlete (40)

National parks of the Gaspé: Four unique sites to explore

Diane Skinner

The Gaspé boasts four national parks. For a unique adventure, plan to visit all of them this summer or fall. Of course, not on the same day as they are found in disparate areas! There is so much unspoiled beauty at our doorstep. National parks are the most beautiful representations of Canada's gorgeous environment. National parks were established to protect the natural habitats, the wildlife that lives there and the entire ecosystem that exists in the park. Parks Canada protects these areas and manages them so that visitors can enjoy their beauty while being mindful to tread lightly on these lands.

Forillon National Park

At the easternmost point of the peninsula is Forillon National Park which offers visitors unique and beautiful sights and opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. A hiker's dream, it offers many trails where you may observe Gaspesian wildlife including whales, seals, black bears, moose, beavers and many species of birds. There is a vast network of trails to choose from. You can enjoy as much as the park offers, depending on your level of fitness and time available. If you crave a peaceful walk along the beach, Forillon offers that too. Enjoy the history of the area brought to life by interpretation activities, including a historical general store, a typical fisherman's house and WWII fortifications. Bilingual guides are available, and plaques are posted in both French and English. You can



Miguasha National Park, located in Nouvelle, provides an opportunity to learn about paleontology and its importance to understanding the development of life on Earth.

choose a more active experience if you wish to cycle, kayak, snorkel, or swim. The park is open until October 10.

Three camping areas are available. Cost for entry in peak season is adult \$8.50, seniors \$7.25, youth (6-17 years) free, and family/group \$16.75. Off peak season rates are available. Check the website at www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/qc/forillon for updates or call 418-368-5505. The park is located at 2286 Blvd de Grande Greve, Gaspé.

Parc national de la Gaspésie

Parc national de la Gaspésie is a nature lover and hiker's paradise. In the park you will find over 25 peaks that are higher than 1,000 metres! Currently the only herd of caribou south of the St. Lawrence is found here. This national park was established in 1937 to protect the caribou as well as the rugged beauty of Mont Albert and the McGerrigle Mountains and the salmon of the Rivière

Sainte-Anne. It is a "mecca" for serious hikers and even the amateur hiker should be dressed to be safe and protected from the elements. The wide variety of trails, which can be planned using the trail map available, span distances from 1 km to 17 km. over terrain termed from easy to very difficult. If you want to see a caribou, the best location is Mont Jacques Cartier.

Due to the difficulty of hiking this area, there are rules that should be followed: do not go off marked trails, hiking Mont Jacques Cartier is only permitted from July 1 to October 10, hiking on trails is authorized from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and departures for hiking must be initiated by noon. Park wardens enforce these rules.

Other activities are offered such as canoe rentals to explore Lac à Pierre. Other possibilities include fishing (speckled trout and Arctic char), backpacking, and for a touch of luxury stay at Mont Albert Inn. Daily admission is \$9.25. For updated

and additional prices, check online at parc.gaspesie@sepaq.com or call: 418-763-7494. Located at 1981, Route de Parc in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé

This national park displays a rich history of geology, nature and historical information and remains of homes belonging to the people who were expropriated from the island. Access the island by boat departing from Percé, observe the famed Percé Rock up close and then disembark onto the island if you wish and you can walk up to 15 km of trails. Observe the gannets who make their home there, well over 100,000! The island is home to over 200,000 birds of 11 varied species making it the largest bird sanctuary in North America. Scuba diving opportunities are available. Access to the island by boat is offered through various private

companies. The cost is about \$40.00, but subject to change.

To visit Bonaventure Island, an adult ticket costs \$9.25. For full and updated pricing check their website at https://www.sepaq.com/pq/bon/index.dot?language_id=1 or call 418-782-2240. Located at 4 Rue du Quai P.O. Box 310 Percé.

Miguasha National Park

Miguasha National Park is a fossil-rich site and is on the UNESCO World Heritage site list. It is the world's most outstanding example of the Devonian era, also known as the Age of Fishes. Fossils that are over 370 million years old have been found there. The Age of Fishes led to the development of the first four-legged and air-breathing vertebrates on the planet called tetrapods. Over 5,000 fossils have been identified and categorized. Covering an area of over 85 hectares, it offers protection for the exceptionally well-preserved fossils found there.

Visit the park and the museum to learn about paleontology. Adult admission is \$9.25. Check online at https://www.sepaq.com/pq/mig/index.dot?language_id=1 or call 418-794-2475 for updates and additional pricing. Open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.. It is located at 231 Rte. de Miguasha O, Nouvelle.

Caution: Due to the presence of avian flu, certain areas may be restricted or access denied. When entering any park, ask about these safety precautions. Do not touch any dead birds, but let staff know so that wildlife agents can collect the birds.

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