

## DFO once again makes a last minute announcement regarding herring quotas

Gilles Gagné

Nelson Sergerie

NEWPORT – Once more, Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced at the last minute a reduction in the total allowable catch of herring, this time around regarding the end of the summer fishery, also known as the fall fishery, in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

The announcement was made at the end of the day on August 19, a Friday, for an activity slated to begin 36 hours later.

The total quota is reduced by 16,7%, from 12,000 metric tonnes in 2021 to 10,000 metric tonnes this year. Out of 10,000 tonnes, the part reserved for the section of the southern Gulf that is open to Gaspé Peninsula and Northern New Brunswick fishermen will be 3,616 tonnes. Gaspesian fishermen usually take between 20 and 25% of that quantity.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada justifies its decision to lower the quota by the decrease in the number of breeding adults and a recruitment rate at the lowest level ever observed for the species.

Authorized catches of fall herring have fallen since 2019 from 22,500 tonnes to 12,000 in 2020 and also 12,000 in 2021. In three years, the quota reduction reaches 55.5%.

This decision affects fishermen in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, where the fall herring stock provides about 1,000 seasonal jobs.

Ghislain Collin, spokesperson for the Southern Gaspé Professional Pelagic Fishermen Group, is furious about the late announcement made by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

“In fact, 10,000 tonnes with the fishermen in the Atlantic will last three or four days from the time they will find the fish and on. In real-



The Bloc québécois leader, Yves-François Blanchet, accompanied by members of his party and candidates from the Parti Québécois, deplores the standstill position adopted by the federal government regarding pelagic fishermen. Ghislain Collin, the spokesperson of the Southern Gaspé Professional Pelagic Fishermen Group, is third from the left.

ity, fishing started on August 23 at 5:30 a.m. because nobody was ready before that. The fishing plan was released at the beginning of the evening on Friday. They (the civil servants) then leave for the weekend. There is no consideration for human beings in that, none! The minister certainly signed the quota a month ago. They issue it late to make sure no one will call, to make certain that the fishermen are in a hurry, too busy to complain,” deplores Mr. Collin.

He also deplores that some of the most vulnerable fishermen will go to sea for a shrinking resource, while Fisheries and Oceans Canada waves the possibility for them to catch other species. In 2022, there was no spring herring fishery and the mackerel fishery was suspended for the whole year.

“They are going to spend fuel and no one is sure to catch fish. It is like a poker gambler who is out of money. There is no compensation in trying to make legitimate fishermen disappear. Diane Lebouthillier said that we were supposed to meet Mr. (Justin) Trudeau before his

visit. There was no spot for us in his schedule. She is now making excuses like a school child. I was very disappointed that he visited a strawberry field instead of coming to meet the fishermen. In the Magdalen Islands, he was photographed on the front page of the newspaper with the president of a company (Line Albert of Pêcheries Renaissance), that owes millions of dollars to lobster fishermen, and which is bankrupt. But she is a good Liberal, who has contributed to the party. It's disgusting,” concludes Ghislain Collin.

### The Bloc québécois proposes a forum on fisheries

Meanwhile, a forum on fisheries is proposed by the leader of the Bloc Québécois to find solutions to the crisis experienced by some fishermen due to the significant reduction in quotas.

This is the idea launched by Yves-François Blanchet following a press briefing in Newport on August 24 in a gesture of solidarity, in particular with pelagic fishermen who have to deal this year

with significant reductions in quotas or closures like those experienced last spring.

Mr. Blanchet notes that scientific data must be made public.

“I am not claiming that it is not justified to reduce or suspend fishing. I'm saying two things: demonstrate in a transparent and clear way and make sure that the people whose livelihood you take away will be compensated or have an alternative fishery,” said the Bloc leader.

Besides herring and mackerel, other species like shrimp are having a harder time.

“We did work on aluminum, in the forest. We managed to get things moving. We are going to tackle the creation of a working group which will analyze the fisheries file and which could possibly take the form of a forum so that the community can express itself in a general and important way and challenge the federal government in a concerted and suggest constructive alternatives,” suggests Mr. Blanchet.

One of these alternative ideas proposed to allow pelagic fishermen to earn a living is to launch a squid

fishery in the Gaspé Peninsula.

“It seems that it is very abundant and that the Quebec market can absorb it. It seemed like a smart solution. I wrote to the prime minister and I did not get any answers,” says the Bloc leader.

His proposal is ridiculed by Minister Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

“I think Mr. Blanchet is talking about a sector he does not know. We tried squid fishing in the Magdalen Islands and there were no squid. I would invite him to consult the scientists before saying anything when he speaks to the media. Mr. Blanchet lacks attention” comments Diane Lebouthillier.

“There are scientists who are real, especially those from Fisheries and Oceans Canada who say that the squid are abundant and that there could be a harvest. The minister may be a great scientist, but great science is generous and disseminates information. It shares knowledge, however, the minister does not do that. I understand that the minister is tired of me coming to the region. She better get used to it,” replied Mr. Blanchet, who mentioned that this file will be brought to Ottawa this fall.

The Parti Québécois was present with the Bloc québécois at the press briefing.

“It is inconceivable that we do not allow people practicing fishing and their families to earn a living,” supports the parliamentary leader, Joël Arseneau.

The PQ candidates from Eastern Quebec support the demands of pelagic fishermen, who want to work or be compensated, and criticize the negligence and incompetence of Ottawa and the Coalition avenir Québec government in the file. That negligence is having impacts in the lives of hundreds of families.

Photos: Bloc Québécois

# Québec solidaire recruits Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The regional director of public health for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, has confirmed that he will wear the colours of Québec solidaire for the Gaspé riding in the upcoming October 3 election.

"This is my fourth election with Québec solidaire. I think that the deep values of Québec solidaire are compatible with mine and those of Public Health. I just want to continue this commitment," says Dr. Bonnier Viger.

The parliamentary leader of QS, Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, travelled to Gaspé on August 23 to make the announcement. "I am very happy that Yv is the second director of public health to join the Québec solidaire health team. Mélissa Généreux, formerly director general of public health in Estrie, is already a candidate in Saint-François and with that of Isabelle Leblanc, the party is putting the best health team on the starting line," says Mr.



Photo: N. Sergerie

*Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger with Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois during the press briefing on August 23.*

Nadeau-Dubois.

The independence of public health will be a spearhead for left-wing party.

"The best way to make public health independent is to free it from the tutelage of a minister. We will make sure to create a public health office accountable to the National Assembly," says Dr. Bonnier Viger, while Quebec set aside the recommendations of re-

gional directors in the controversial issue of Horne smelter polluting emissions in Rouyn-Noranda.

The other element that QS will do if it goes into power will be to modify the Health Emergency Act to avoid renewing this emergency ad vitam aeternam, adds the doctor.

Québec solidaire proposes to increase public health budg-

ets by \$250 million in order to increase its expertise and its power to act as well as additional prevention efforts.

The star candidate in Gaspé is building an electoral platform. "We know that the issues of housing, repatriating more power to the regions in order to make the decisions that concern them, erosion and climate change are fundamental subjects in our minds," explains Dr. Bonnier Viger.

The lack of childcare spaces and transportation are also in his sights.

"Est-du-Québec is one of the regions that have been abandoned by governments on transportation. It is not normal that the services in several parts of the Gaspé have not only not improved, but even deteriorated. Québec solidaire will unveil a major transportation plan at the start of the campaign," adds the left-wing parliamentary leader, who in-

dicates that all regions have the right to public transit.

Mr. Nadeau-Dubois suggests lower fares, more frequency, more comfort and more trips.

"We will have ambitious proposals and historic investments," he says, referring to the impacts of climate change on the Gaspé Coast.

Dr. Bonnier Viger is taking unpaid leave until the end of the campaign. If ever he is not elected, he intends to resume his post.

"I had already run three times for Québec solidaire. Everyone knows and knew when they hired me that I was a member of Quebec solidaire. I think I have demonstrated since 2016 that I can speak with everyone without bias. But I think I will be elected," concluded the candidate who wore the colours of Québec solidaire in Beauce-Nord in 2012 and in Lévis twice in 2014.

## CAQ chooses Stéphane Sainte-Croix in Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The executive director of Destination Gaspé, Stéphane Sainte-Croix, run under the banner of the Coalition avenir Québec in the riding of Gaspé for the upcoming election on October 3.

When contacted by SPEC on August 24, Mr. Sainte-Croix didn't want to confirm any information. The announcement was to be made official on August 26 in a press briefing in Percé with the participation of the deputy premier of Quebec, Geneviève Guilbault.

Escale Gaspésie manager since 2008, Mr. Sainte-Croix, has also been in charge of the management of the tourism component by the Town of Gaspé since 2018 after the municipal council withdrew this mandate from the Gaspé Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

With this announcement, the picture becomes clearer in the riding of Gaspé. Outgoing



Photo: Courtesy of the Coalition avenir Québec

*Stéphane Sainte-Croix will wear the colours of the CAQ in Gaspé*

Parti Québécois Member of the National Assembly, Mélanne Perry Mélançon, had already confirmed her intentions several weeks ago.

The Conservatives nominated Pier-Luc Bouchard and Québec solidaire confirmed the candidacy of the regional director of public health, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, on August 23.

For the moment, only the Liberals still do not have a candidate for the election, even if, according to our information, the party is actively working to find a person from the constituency to run in the upcoming election.

It should be noted that all confirmed candidates to date live in the Gaspé town area.

## Gaspé hemodialysis unit to be expanded

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) is starting the process to expand and relocate the hemodialysis unit of the Gaspé hospital centre.

The regional health network has launched a call for tenders for major work to redevelop the premises in the spaces left vacant by the move of the emergency department to its new premises in July 2021.

The CISSS will first hire a firm of professionals to develop preliminary and final plans and specifications by the fall. The area of the unit will increase from 65 square metres to 584 square metres.

The reception capacity will increase from three to four clients at a time and the space must be designed to accommodate up to six treatment seats.

The objective described in the call for tenders aims to ensure better functionality and more confidentiality for patients in addition to offering the possibility of increasing the service for future needs.

An exclusive washroom and a fixed water treatment room are also necessary for treatments.

Proposals must be submitted by August 31. Once the final plans have been accepted, the CISSS plans to launch a call for tenders for the construction next January in order to launch the work in May. Delivery of the new hemodialysis room is expected by December 2023.

This project, which had been on the table for several months, was estimated in March by the CISSS at \$2 million, which was awaiting approval from Quebec to go ahead.

In addition, the CISSS also wishes to redevelop the hemodialysis department at Maria Hospital.

The organization has just launched preliminary studies in order to set up a project which will be submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval

Currently, the region has six hemodialysis spots in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Chandler and three in Gaspé and Maria for a total of 18.

Last May, at least three patients were waiting for a place to seek care in the region.

The CISSS had indicated that it was looking for alternative solutions while waiting for the improvement of the service in the region.

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# Ottawa supports fisheries projects

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Forty-seven projects will benefit from funds from the Quebec Fisheries Fund for a total of \$4.5 million.

Among the projects selected, 24 are in the Gaspé Peninsula and will receive some \$1.3 million.

Several proposals received support of \$70,000 in Rivière-au-Renard. "We are talking about projects that will help fishermen with bycatches. When you put your net in the water, it's to catch the right species of fish and shellfish and let the other species reproduce," explains the minister and Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouhillier, who made the announcement on August 23 in Rivière-au-Renard. Eleven projects are in this category in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Several other companies are receiving amounts for the purchase and installation of a trawl monitoring system on a shrimp fishing boat, which will improve efficiency and environmental sustainability.

The Alliance of Professional Fishermen of Quebec obtains \$107,000 to develop a new data management system for the Quebec Fishermen and Fishermen's Accreditation Board. Two selected projects are in Lower Saint Lawrence.

In the Magdalen Islands, nearly \$1.5 million is allocated to five projects.

As for the North Shore, the contribution amounts to nearly



*According to Minister Lebouhillier, more than 100 projects have received nearly \$15 million from the Fisheries Fund.*

Photo: N. Sergerie

\$1 million and supports 13 projects.

Finally, an investment of more than \$300,000 is allocated to three projects outside Quebec's maritime area, in Lingwick, Quebec City and Montreal.

According to the Deputy Minister, since the establishment of the Fund, more than 100 projects have been approved for \$14.8 million out of the \$42 million expected by the end of March 2024.

"We have other projects that are currently under study in the Fisheries Fund. Our goal is to ensure that the community can benefit from it," says Ms. Lebouhillier.

Fisheries sectors such as shrimp, herring or mackerel are having a difficult season and fishermen asked for help from the federal government earlier this season.

"We work with everyone in the fisheries sector, in all types of fisheries. A ministerial com-

mittee was set up at my request. We have proposals on which we have discussions and I can tell you that if there is anyone who is aware of fishing, it is me. I lived through the moratorium on groundfish. I know the impact on the environment and the fishermen. I am very aware of the current issues and I am able to talk about them with my colleagues and we will make sure to have the best solutions," says the elected official.

The five-year Quebec Fisheries Fund (QFF) supports projects in the areas of innovation, science partnerships, commercial fisheries, aquaculture and processing. These projects increase the value of high quality fish and seafood products from sustainable sources, and help position Quebec's fish and seafood sector for continued long term growth.

The Ottawa-Quebec agreement is funded 70% by the federal government and 30% by the province.

"The Quebec Fisheries Fund is an important economic lever for the communities that rely on the sustainable development of the fish and seafood sector. Over the last three years, this collaboration between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec helped Quebec companies grow while promoting their high-quality products across Canada and worldwide," says Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Joyce Murray.

## 475th anniversary: Gaspé reprimanded by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Gaspé is being reprimanded by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in connection with contracts awarded 13 years ago as part of the town's 475th anniversary celebrations.

Ten years after the celebrations, notices of non-compliance were issued on the awarding of contracts. The town responded and the ministry recently replied.

"They detected various notices of non-compliance in the contract award process. There are questionable elements. We received the letter. We had the opportunity to send them explanations 10 years later. Three years later, we received their final verdict," says the mayor, Daniel Côté. "We accept the verdict

reluctantly, but we accept it," he adds.

The mayor emphasizes that these are legal elements that were at stake. For example: two contracts totaling \$30,000 were awarded by mutual agreement, which exceeds the \$25,000 threshold.

"They interpret the two \$15,000 contracts as a single \$30,000 contract even though they were two different objects. In short, it is the interpretation between us that we understand and they understand the law," justifies the elected official.

The letter of the verdict was read to the municipal council on August 22.

"The ministry asked to modernize certain elements. We did it," says the mayor, who mentions that no money was wasted.

### Money for a revival of the crossing to Anticosti and Havre-Saint-Pierre

Gaspé grants \$5,000 for the construction of the inter-shore link project between the North Shore, Anticosti and Rivière-au-Renard.

Participation is conditional on the agreement of all the stakeholders, namely the owners of the Havre-Saint-Pierre wharf and the Town of Gaspé, the Anticosti Island municipality and the Minganie MRC.

"The council decided to get on board. It is \$5,000 that we will put into the adventure of a re-study, a revival and a new deposit with the Government of Quebec, perhaps from a new angle. Gaspé is ready for this project to move forward," says Mr. Côté.

The owners of the Havre-

## Police report

Karine Rioux, 34, from Gaspé faces two criminal charges following an accident that claimed the life of Patrick Donovan, a 63-year-old man also from Gaspé. The accused has opted for a trial in front of a judge. She waived the judge and jury trial option on August 22 at the Percé Courthouse. Quebec Court Judge Denis Paradis postponed her case until September 6, at which time a date will be set for her preliminary hearing. The woman is charged with one count of impaired driving causing death and one count of driving with more than 80 milligrams of alcohol in her blood. Mr. Donovan was struck and killed on Gaspé Boulevard at the end of the day on December 16.

On August 22, at the Percé Courthouse, Jean-Félix Beaudry, 31, address unknown, waived his bail hearing and Quebec Court Judge Denis Paradis requested an evaluation to assess his criminal responsibility regarding charges laid against him. That psychiatric assessment will cover a period of 30 days and his next court appearance is scheduled for September 27. Jean-Félix Beaudry's place of residence in previous criminal cases was in Montreal.

He faces charges of break and enter in a cottage, theft of over \$5,000 also in a cottage and mischief of less than \$5,000. The Sûreté du Québec is still investigating the case since other cottages situated in the Gaspé Peninsula were damaged extensively over recent weeks. The cottages linked to the initial charges are located in the back country of Gaspé.

He allegedly stole a chainsaw, a compressor and its accessories, ammunition, a .410 shotgun, two helmets, four jerry cans of fuel, two tanks of propane and a Makita radio. He was arrested on August 10. He returned to court on August 15 and was charged with other counts of break and enter, theft and arson. In the latter case, the cottage was located in the Castonguay township, also in the backcountry of Gaspé.

Lisette Hautcoeur, 58, from Chandler, charged on August 12 with the non-premeditated murder of Richard Allard, 64, will come back to the Percé Courthouse on October 11. The August 24 decision was made by Quebec Court Judge Denis Paradis in order to allow the criminal prosecutor to complete the communication of the evidence to the defence. Richard Allard's body was found on July 16, around 6 p.m., in his Chandler apartment. The accused resided in the same building. She has been in custody since her first court appearance on August 12. The victim and the accused knew each other, a detail confirmed by the Sûreté du Québec. The police first considered the case as a suspicious death before confirming a few days later that it was a murder.

Over the last few days, thousands of Gaspé Peninsula students have returned to school. The presence of school buses, pedestrians, cyclists and guards will necessarily increase traffic on the road network. For the purpose of prevention, from August 31 to September 9, Sûreté du Québec police officers will intensify their actions around schools. Drivers are advised to be extra careful in order to ensure a safe return to school for all.

Respecting posted speed limits in school zones is important, as the fine is doubled if the offense is committed within the period specified on the sign. Road users, including cyclists, are required to stop more than five metres before reaching a bus or minibus whose flashing red lights are on or when a mandatory stop signal is displayed. When traffic is directed by a police officer, school crossing guard or flagman responsible for directing traffic, everybody must, despite signs to the contrary, obey their orders and signals.

The Sûreté du Québec also stresses that drivers are obliged to stop when approaching a pedestrian crossing when a pedestrian has entered the yellow or white stripes or has clearly demonstrated his intention to do so. People should also remember the importance of respecting the signs around schools, particularly areas reserved for buses, areas where parking is prohibited and landing areas. As many parents drop off their child at school, they must make sure to do so in a safe place to avoid careless manoeuvres such as "U" turns.

Saint-Pierre wharf, who re-launched the project in April, want to define it with the financing obtained and the enthusiasm that would be there.

A ferry connected these

three ports between 1994 and 1996. A study by the Société des Traversiers du Québec concluded in 2019 that a ferry service would have generated a deficit.



## Gilles Gagné Commentary

### The race is on!

The Quebec electoral campaign was officially launched on August 28. In fact though, the unofficial campaign has been going on for months, with the Coalition avenir Québec government making multiple announcements; and some opposition parties, in an attempt to avoid being forgotten, presenting their platforms far ahead of the official start.

They want to avoid being forgotten because according to a wide array of surveys conducted over recent months, the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) is dominating voting intentions.

Considering the way our parliamentary system is built, based solely on the results in individual ridings without taking into account the overall percentage of support, a party can win a majority with 36% or 37% of the votes. The participation rate can make that proportion vary sometimes.

In the Léger survey held a few days before the official start of the campaign, the CAQ gathered a 44% rate of support. Considering that it is a five-party race, it is a clear lead. The Liberal Party gets 18%, compared to 15% for Québec solidaire, 13% for Québec's Conservative Party and 10% for the Parti Québécois.

At the dawn of the electoral campaign, we can say that it is the CAQ and the others. Some analysts predict that the CAQ could win in a few more than 100 of Quebec's 125 ridings.

However, other factors might make that prediction change, although a CAQ majority government seems to be a done deal.

The participation rate will play a role on October 3. A lot of voters might decide that it is not worth going to the poll because the CAQ will win for sure. So, the parties' capacity to mobilize their supporters will be decisive in many ridings.

The CAQ, or any other party's popularity could decrease because of a major blunder. In that regard, CAQ leader François Legault, who has a tendency for awkward declarations, will be watched closely by the opposition par-

ties, but even more by his supporting cast.

Economy Minister Pierre Fitzgibbon will also be on the radar screen. He recently said that "nobody will die from that," "that" being the pollution generated by the Horne copper smelter in Rouyn-Noranda, the environmental story of the year in Quebec because of arsenic rejects that are 33 times higher than the norms. Such a gaffe thrown in the middle of the real campaign could make a difference in a few seats.

The 18% of support received by the Liberal Party is misleading. That backing is essentially concentrated in Montreal's West Island area, where the party has sometimes won ridings with the nod of 90% of the electorate. Such a large winning margin means a strong concentration of ballots, and it leaves large holes elsewhere when the province-wide support is only 18%. The anglophone vote might be weaker this time around, as recent orientations of the party have caused dissatisfaction in some communities.

Dominique Anglade's party is in trouble for other reasons. The terrible consequences of Philippe Couillard's austerity measures in the Quebec regions between his 2014-2018 term as premier have left a sour taste in a lot of people's mouths.

Who would have guessed, only 10 years ago, that the Liberal Party would have a problem finding a candidate in a riding like Bonaventure, a party stronghold for generations? The party has failed to examine the deep reasons behind its members' demobilization since the 2018 defeat.

The Liberal Party started the campaign without candidates in Bonaventure and Gaspé, something that has not been seen in ages, if ever.

At the same time, that Liberal Party shortcoming provides a chance for the CAQ to win in the Gaspé Peninsula. If there is no strong Liberal candidate in the ridings of Gaspé and Bonaventure, another sign of demobilization, longtime supporters of that party will likely vote for the CAQ, considering the party's chances of winning a second term.

In a way, the Parti Québécois, represented by incumbent Méganne Perry Mélançon in Gaspé and Alexis Deschênes, a solid debater, in Bonaventure, might see its chances to win both ridings lowered by a poor showing of the Liberal Party. Who would have guessed that just a few years ago?

At the starting line, Québec solidaire entered the campaign with 15% support, province-wide. The party's "think

tank" puts emphasis on youth and campaigns heavily in cities and towns with university and CEGEP campuses. Québec solidaire is renowned to be an urban party but was also able to win an Abitibi riding in 2018.

The party also has two solid Gaspé Peninsula candidates in Catherine Cyr-Wright and Yv Bonnier-Viger. They both have electoral experience and a solid nucleus of supporters. Their presence in this year's campaign will heighten the thoroughness of the topics raised between now and October 3.

Despite its excellent chances to win a second term, Quebec-wide, the CAQ had recruiting problems in the Gaspé Peninsula. The first potential candidates met by François Legault in Bonaventure refused to represent the party and Catherine Blouin's nomination only came at the beginning of July.

In the riding of Gaspé, it was even worse. The CAQ contacted at least 10 people located between Cap-Chat and Grand River to find a candidate before convincing Stéphane Sainte-Croix to run. He only made up his mind on August 23 and it was announced three days later.

Gaspésians have long memories. They remember the wind energy bashing methods of François Legault during the televised debates of 2014 and 2018, and his strong stance against the Port Daniel cement plant. Mr. Legault has accepted since the beginning of 2021 that wind energy is a very competitive source of energy, and it is renewable. The stubborn premier is now promoting that form of energy but some people still entertain doubts about his recent conversion. However, despite the fact that Gaspésians have proven in the past that they don't fear voting for an opposition party, a strong CAQ wave could also have its effects here.

The Conservative Party of Quebec is represented by two men living in their riding, Pier-Luc Bouchard in Gaspé and François Therrien, who live in Saint-André-de-Restigouche, in Bonaventure. With a still surprising score of 13% province-wide in the last survey, Éric Duhaime's party nevertheless lost 2% compared to the previous consultation. His votes are highly concentrated in the Quebec City and Beauce regions. His chances of getting good results in the Gaspé Peninsula are slim. Seven years ago, Mr. Duhaime, then a radio show host, was rooting about the closure of the region. He has changed his mind since but Gaspésians have a long memory!

In the last Léger survey, the Parti Québécois received a disastrous 10% of support. It was, nevertheless, a 1% increase compared to the end of spring survey! There are contradicting realities hitting that party. More people could vote for the PQ than four years ago, but its number of seats, 10 in 2018, could be as low as one, Pascal Bérubé in Matane, if Méganne Perry Mélançon and Alexis Deschênes don't win in the Gaspé Peninsula. The party is paying a heavy price for not choosing Alexandre Cloutier at the end of the 2016 leadership race, won by Jean-François Lisée, who is a good analyst and strategist, but who was a terrible leader.

So, yes, the electoral campaign has started. It could be a rather boring one in Quebec but an exciting one in our region, where nothing is decided.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Québec Solidaire's concrete measures to solve the housing crisis:

By Yv Bonnier Viger and Catherine Cyr Wright, candidates for Québec Solidaire in Gaspé and Bonaventure

Tenants pushed out to the streets because their home is turned into an Airbnb for the summer, seniors forced to live in housing that is not adapted to their needs, workers who can't return to their home region, women who are compelled to stay in a violent environment... The number of people who find themselves without adequate housing and even in a situation of homelessness is constantly increasing in the Gaspésie region. One only has to visit social network groups about housing for rent to realize the extent of the crisis and, especially, the distress experienced by our fellow citizens.

However, this hardship should not be a surprise. For years, Québec Solidaire has been sounding the alarm about the housing crisis that is now raging throughout the province, the Gaspé included. For years, Andrés Fontecilla, Québec Solidaire's critic for housing, has been urging the government to act on this issue and, for years, François Legault and the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) have turned a deaf ear and have been denying the reality. Their total inaction during their four years in office has only made the problem worse.

Yet, there is no shortage of solutions. In fact, for a long time, Québec Solidaire has been trying to put solutions in place. First, we must put an end to summer evictions, which are illegal evictions that put tenants on the street for the summer against their will, while their housing is rented out at high prices to tourists. The government needs to put the resources in place to ferret out unlicensed tourist residences and force Airbnb to cooperate in targeting violators. It is not with the CAQ's laissez-faire approach that this situation will

improve.

In Gaspésie, nearly half (46.6%) of the tenants are in a low-income situation. With the rising cost of living hitting them hard, it is urgent to establish mandatory rent control and a national public registry to prevent people from having to cut back elsewhere, such as in their grocery cart.

Another regional particularity of the crisis is that the cost of materials is higher in Gaspésie. Thus, either the construction of housing is not attractive to private developers because it is considered unprofitable, or the cost of the units built is not affordable for the majority of people living in the area. At Québec Solidaire, we firmly believe that housing should be a right, not a business, and this is why we will prioritize the construction of 50,000 social housing units that promote social diversity.

Finally, because owning a home is a dream that is less and less within the financial reach of young families in the current real estate market, it is essential to put in place measures to limit speculation and overbidding as well as to facilitate access for first-time buyers.

All in all, what we need are concrete solutions to prevent more people from ending up on the street, forced to live in their car, on a couch or in a tent. Regulating tourist accommodations, controlling rents, building social housing, facilitating access to property: the solutions already exist. All we need is a government with the political will to implement them.

For the future and the dignity of the Gaspésian people, we invite you to support a party that will defend all communities, that proposes an inspiring vision for the future and that has the courage to solve the housing crisis with solutions adapted to our region and our way of life.



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AUDITE

# A neighbourhood dispute surrounding a campground in Chandler

Nelson **Sergerie**

CHANDLER - A dispute between a campground owner and his neighbours in Chandler's Newport area could escalate in the coming weeks.

Some citizens are fed up with the attitude of the campground owner, Christian Travers, who is stirring the tranquillity of the neighbourhood by threatening those who, for example, use their all-terrain vehicles on their own land or cut wood on their land.

The citizens that are affected voiced their grievances to the Chandler Council on August 15. "We're on our own property. The other is complaining saying, 'Respect the campsite.' Not to allow four-wheelers on your property. You're trying to control the world. You're supposed to accommodate the world when you open a campsite. Now you're not accommodating anything. You're arguing with everyone. All the neighbours are here. It's not for nothing," explains one of them, Pascal Michel. "We're fed up. We're asking the town to act because



Trailers are available near some residences.

Photo: Facebook

it's urgent," says the visibly upset man.

The owner of the campsite offers another version of the story. Mr. Travers describes the citizens' appearance before the municipal council as being staged. He said he himself was threatened and that the case was going "a bit too far," and that he might have to take the matter to his lawyers.

Speaking passionately, Mr. Travers believes the challenge is coming from "a few jeal-

ous" disgruntled people.

He says Newport needed this project and there is a demand. Eventually, the developer wants to create 300 camping spaces and cottages and says he has a lot of support in the community.

Mr. Travers made all of his statements at once before hanging up on SPEC, thus avoiding answering questions.

Among the recriminations raised by the citizens, trailers are parked south of the rail-

way tracks, which was not in the original plans. The concept was to build the site north of the railway, in a forested area away from the neighbours.

In images posted on the campground's Facebook site, trailers can be seen parked south of the tracks, near neighbouring residences.

The mayor, Gilles Daraïche, listened at length to the citizens during the question period.

He said he was aware of the issue and had already met with the owner.

"Every week, I get phone calls or meet with people who are against the campground. The relationship between the owner and the neighbours is not very good either. It brings its share of reflection," says the mayor, who points out that the permit had been given in the past.

According to him, the campsite must have at least a reception desk, showers and toilets.

"There are steps to follow in the development. It has to be done. We brought water to the roadside. He has to make his connections. That's all we're going to try to do to get it done as quickly as possible so that it's better for the citizens," explains the mayor.

Some citizens have said during the question period that the owner did not have the funds required to do this work.

"Citizens have the right to have peace of mind," concludes the mayor.

The promoter must submit a development plan to the town soon.

## Carleton-sur-Mer Arena to open this fall

Nelson **Sergerie**

CARLETON-SUR-MER - Delays caused by a period of reflection on the costs of refurbishing the Léopold-Leclerc Civic Centre has led the Town of Carleton-sur-Mer to offer a half-season of ice this fall.

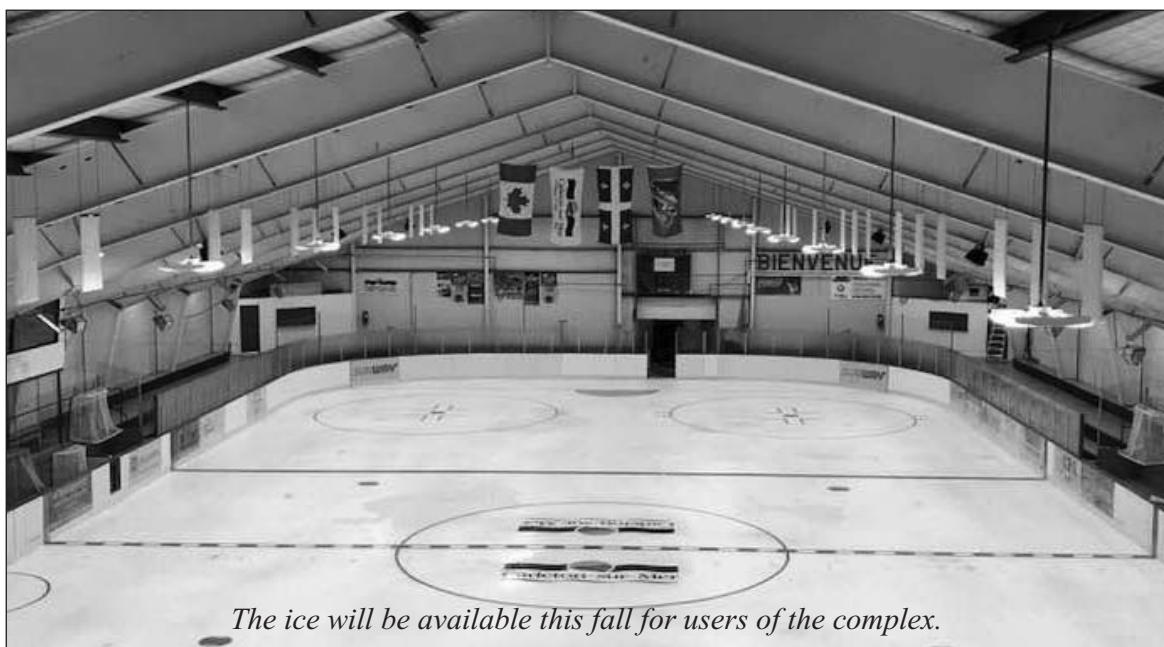
The project, which has been in the works since 2020 will finally get underway within the next few weeks.

The complete plans and specifications for the infrastructure were to be received by the municipal administration on August 23, allowing the call for tenders to be launched on August 29.

If all goes according to plan, the opening and analysis of the bids will take place on September 27 and, if the proposals are in line, the contract could be awarded on October 17 in order to start the work in January 2023.

"We were supposed to call for tenders during the holidays and in the winter, but this was delayed," said Mayor Mathieu Lapointe.

On April 25, during a presentation to the public, the cost



The ice will be available this fall for users of the complex.

Photo: Courtesy of the Town of Carleton-sur-Mer

was increased from \$3 million to \$4.8 million. The citizens agreed at that time that the project should go ahead anyway.

In a new update on May 9, the cost to complete the entire project was \$6.5 million.

Faced with this situation, the town council asked the architectural and engineering firm to go back to the drawing board to refine the project to fit within the \$5 million budget.

These delays will permit the town to operate the arena

starting October 8 for minor hockey, figure skating and adult leagues, among other things.

"There will be no work on the arena this fall. We can reopen the arena for our youth and adults to practice their sports," adds the elected official.

The work consists of improving the building's insulation, redoing the water supply system and the electrical system and bringing it up to universal standards.

The cooling tower and

equipment were also part of the project as they are old and may stop working soon.

"The cooling tower has already broken down several times and has been repaired temporarily. We hope it will last for the next few months. We also have a dehumidifier that broke. When it's hot outside, it's difficult inside the arena. We won't replace it because we won't need it with the new equipment. We are at the end of our rope and we hope that it will hold up until the construction is com-

pleted," says the mayor.

Discussions are being held with New Richmond and Nouvelle to continue activities in their respective complexes once the civic centre closes.

"Both have been very open and accommodating in offering time slots so that everyone can continue to play their sports," says the mayor, who remains confident that the adjusted budget will remain at \$5 million.

"At the moment, there is no indication that it will move. It's certain that the real price will be known once the bids are opened," he said.

Ottawa and Quebec had committed to a fixed contribution of \$2 million under the PAFIRS program, the financial assistance program for recreational and sports infrastructures.

"We took political steps to see if we could adjust the funding. It was not accepted," says the mayor.

Taxpayers will, therefore, have a bill of approximately \$3 million to pay. If everything goes as planned, the work should be completed in July 2023.

# Louissette Langlois saga: over \$300,000 in legal fees

Nelson **Sergerie**

CHANDLER - The bill keeps swelling in the litigation between the Town of Chandler and former mayor Louissette Langlois in connection with her setbacks before the Quebec Municipal Commission in 2020 and 2021.

The bill now totals \$308,190 following the adoption by the municipal council on August 15 of new invoices totalling \$7,019 from Ms. Langlois' attorney, while the town's attorney's bill was for \$10,053.

The town went to court in January to claim \$230,411 from Langlois, the bill assessment for the entire saga at that time after her 180-day suspension in 2021 for breaches of the code of ethics for elected officials.

The Town reserved the



*Chandler Mayor Gilles Daraïche says the dispute has a significant impact on the town's finances.*

Photo: N. Sergerie

right to increase the claim, based on invoices subsequent to the filing of the petition.

In addition, the municipal council authorized the transmission of documents at a spe-

cial meeting on August 10.

The resolutions refer to authorizing the transmission of responses to undertakings including confidential information conditional on obtaining a

confidentiality order from the Superior Court and authorizing the transmission of responses to undertakings including confidential information protected by solicitor-client privilege conditional on obtaining a confidentiality order from the Court in connection with the psychological harassment cases.

"It was at the request of the prosecutor who asked us to access certain documents to adjust their plea. These were documents that had been allowed to be handed over to the prosecutor. So it was a formality," says Mayor Gilles Daraïche.

## Slight deficit

Chandler had a slight deficit of \$10,569 on a budget of \$11.7 million for the 2021 fiscal year.

The municipal administration carried out several projects with the surplus of the defunct Gaspesia mill-related SDEIC, notably the Camping des bâtisseurs, which still raises questions.

The Town had kept \$122,000 of government assistance related to the pandemic in the 2021 budget.

The numbers show that Chandler's budget remains very tight.

The bill related to the legal

saga involving former Mayor Louissette Langlois weighs heavily. "There are several cases that have an impact, but this one, for sure, has an impact. It is about \$300,000. There are bills that are added every month. We can't wait for it to end. We hope, for the town, that it will be positive," the mayor explains.

The net debt is \$11.2 million.

## Negotiations for the ladder truck

Chandler will try to reach an amicable agreement with the only bidder who submitted an offer for the acquisition of a ladder truck for fire safety.

The Town had budgeted \$450,000 and the bid came in at \$465,000.

The mayor still believes in the importance of such equipment. Chandler wanted to conclude an agreement with the other towns of the MRC.

The elected official remains hopeful.

"It does not mean that the door is closed. They are probably thinking about it and at some point, they may come up with an offer and we will look at the possibilities," says the mayor.

The user-pay principle will be applied if other towns use the truck.

# Gaspé asks for a study of the intersection of Routes 132 and 197

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The safety of the intersection of routes 132 and 197 in the Saint-Majorique sector in Gaspé must be studied by the Ministère des Transports du Québec.

The Town adopted a resolution on August 22 asking the ministry for an analysis in order to improve the safety of the intersection which was the scene of a fatal accident on July 3.

"As a volunteer firefighter, I am regularly called upon to go to high-velocity accidents that require the jaws of life. There is more than one per year. It is widely documented that this is a problematic intersection," says Mayor Daniel Côté. The place is a long straight line at the exit of the Saint-Majorique crossing in the direction of Rivière-au-Renard. The speed limit is 90 kilometres per hour, but many motorists do not respect this rule.

"It is the job of the Ministry of Transport to secure its intersections. They will tell us that it is too fast a road for traffic lights. It's too fast for a roundabout. We will be given a-thousand-and-one reasons to say that we cannot take action. We are going to be offered road markings. We start to know the routine. All I want is for there to be no more accidents or for the risk to be reduced," claims the mayor, who underlined that this site



*The intersection of Routes 197 and 132 in Saint-Majorique must be analyzed, according to the Town of Gaspé.*

Photo: N. Sergerie

and the intersection of Boulevards York South and West are the two most problematic in Gaspé.

At this location, the marking work planned since last year has once again been postponed after studying the issue for two years following a fatal accident in July 2019.

Last year, a contract was awarded to make the changes in the fall, but the weather did not allow them to be carried out.

This year, the strike by Quebec government engineers was a first element and at this time of the year, it is already too late to remove the current markings and put in place the new ones.

The department had planned to redo the lines on York South: two lanes were to be maintained between York

Boulevard West and the end of the four lanes in the direction of Percé.

In the direction of the city centre, the left lane had to be removed and dedicated to left turns. The speed limit was to be reduced from 80 km/h to 70 km/h.

Rather than announcing the postponement at the beginning of next summer, the ministry is instead working on other plans for this sector, but does not want to mention what it is.

The spokesperson, Jean-Philippe Langlais, mentions that announcements will be made in due course.

However, according to our information, the asphaltting would be redone on this section, which would explain the postponement of the work. No date is mentioned at this time for new plans at this location.



*The Frederick James Villa is now sitting on a new base.*

## Frederick James Villa rehabilitation bids delayed

Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCÉ - The opening of the bids for the rehabilitation and construction of the Frederick-James Villa in Percé, designated as the Espace bleu for the Gaspé Peninsula, will not take place until September 1.

On July 14 and August 11, the Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI) modified the planned duration of the contract twice.

Thus, the SQI is asking the contractors to carry out the work within 52 weeks from the date of authorization to begin the work.

In addition, the SQI estimates that the work must be launched between October 3 and 31.

Quebec officially announced the Espace bleu for the Gaspé Peninsula on April 8 and plans to spend close to \$21 million to carry out the work.

# Nearly 150 people paid tribute to the late Marie-Ève Gagné Lévesque, the former wife of David Guy

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – Nearly 150 people paid tribute, on the evening of August 21, to Marie-Ève Gagné Lévesque, who died on August 17 in Rivière-du-Loup.

Between 2004 and March 2021, she endured the abuse of her ex-husband, David Guy, sentenced on August 12 to four years in prison.

The vigil to honour Ms. Gagné Lévesque was held in Maria, where she lived for about a decade. Neighbours, co-workers, some members of her family and even citizens who did not know her wanted to speak about this tragic story.

The organizer of the vigil, Georges-Michel Allard, spoke first, in particular to express how difficult it had been “to witness my neighbour’s daily life and her decline.”

In this sense, Mr. Allard joined several other testimonies of neighbours, friends and co-workers who reported to the police the actions of David Guy towards his spouse. Several participants in the vigil expressed, aloud or discreetly, the regret of not having intervened more to put an end to the violence in this home.

Sister Réjeanne Goulet tried to reassure the audience with soothing words. “You did not leave us but you went to the land of life, where the flowers will never fade.”

Another citizen of Maria, Linda Rail, helped to rid people of the guilt of believing that they could have changed the fate of Marie-Ève Gagné Lévesque earlier.

“First of all, I would like to say that we could not have chosen a better place. She lived close-by, across the



*The main organizer of the vigil, Georges-Michel Allard, on the left, expressed how, as a neighbour, he had found it difficult to see the daily life of Marie-Ève Gagné Lévesque.*

Photos: G. Gagné

highway, and she came to take walks here to recharge her batteries. Anyone with regrets shouldn't have any. As long as the victim does not find the courage to speak, justice can do nothing. (...) What can we do in our lives, our workplaces? We can stop the vicious circle of physical violence and psychological violence. (...) Marie-Ève, her suffering is over. We have to look ahead,” said Ms. Rail.

“You are the proof that a community holds together,” declared Jean-François Blais, a cousin of Marie-Ève, to thank the crowd on behalf of the Gagné Lévesque family. He explained how for years, David Guy had isolated his wife from the rest of the family and how overnight he had forced her to quit her job at the Caisse Desjardins in Maria.

Mr. Blais also lives in Maria. He and his wife tried to support the victim to the best of their capacity, “but for a while, she was also keeping a distance between herself and other people, out of fear that her husband would beat her up

if he found out that she was challenging his will to keep her socially isolated,” he added.

He also referred to the letter written by the victim which she read on August 12 at the hearing during which the details of the out-of-court agreement were revealed, including the four years imprisonment of David Guy.

“She was hoping to change the decision. She described four years of violence but there had been 17. We will probably make this letter public. (...) We must not forget two years of hell that have passed since the arrest. (...) She left in fear from the courthouse, with the fear of what was to come,” said Jean-François Blais.

He was thus referring to the fact that on August 12, there was just one year and 325 days of sentence to be served for David Guy, a little

less than two years. At the time, he had been in prison for close to 17 months, a period that counted for 50% more, considering the rules of preventive imprisonment sentences.

Work colleagues from the Caisses Desjardins described with emotion their efforts to unlock the secret of Marie-Ève's great shyness, not suspecting that she was going through hell at home.

“We should have understood. We should have asked more questions. (...) But she was not always unhappy. We saw her laughing at group dinners,” noted one of them.

“At first, we thought: she's just embarrassed. We ended up discovering a smiling Marie-Ève,” added another colleague.

The cause of death of Marie-Ève Gagné Lévesque is not yet known. Her body, when discovered by a relative

on the morning of August 17, did not bear any marks of violence, according to the Sûreté du Québec and the results of the autopsy performed on the remains are not yet known. The hypothesis of a natural death is considered but she still suffered the physical and psychological consequences of 17 years of ill-treatment, stresses her cousin Jean-François Blais.

Despite the interventions of the police and the Department of Youth Protection in the couple's home, it was a sudden decision by Marie-Ève Gagné Lévesque, on March 17, 2021, that led to the arrest of David Guy. She had gone to the hospital to have fresh injuries treated, injuries that had escalated in severity in the previous two days. He tried to follow her into the hospital, without success, and the police nabbed him soon after.

In the letter she read in front of the tribunal on August 12, she explained that she fled her home on the evening of March 17, 2021, and sought refuge at the hospital, convinced that he would have killed her that night. The couple was not living far from the hospital and he followed her on a bike. He tried to retrieve her in the hospital but the security people prevented him from doing that. He was arrested later that night.

She spent a month in the hospital to heal from her previous injuries. During her treatment period, it was determined that she had suffered many injuries in the past, including fractured ribs.

## Transports Québec launches call for tenders to repair rail line east of Port Daniel

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL-GASCONS – Quebec's Department of Transport launched a call for tenders on August 17 in order to find a contractor

who will move to the north, a section of railway located just east of the Port Daniel cement plant, and west of the Anse-à-la-Barbe bridge in Gascons. So far, since making the decision to repair the Matapédia to Gaspé line along its whole course in May 2017, Transports Québec has only undertaken what could be considered minor work east of Port Daniel. Various contractors have added ballast, straightened up the rails and cleared some sand in areas affected by storms. The portion of line targeted by the August 17 call for tenders is located along a line of cliffs that was damaged by rock slides from 2014 and on.

The last train that passed there was the Amiral tourist train in the summer of 2014. Transports Québec suggests that the bids that will come in for that area should be in the \$10 million and \$15 million range. Companies interested in that contract must submit bids on September 16 at the latest.

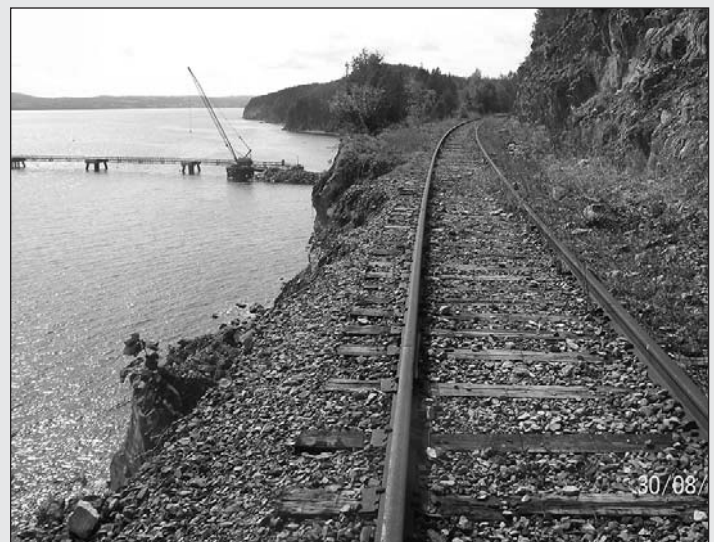


Photo: Anthony Bernard Prince



*Sister Andrée Mainville tried to console a crowd of attendees that was quite disturbed by the recent death of Marie-Ève Gagné Lévesque.*

# PQ has a lot of ambition for Eastern Quebec

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The Parti Québécois is proposing 12 major themes containing more than 70 points in Eastern Quebec for the election on October 3.

Inflation, housing, day care, transportation, decentralization, and fisheries are some examples of ideas that the PQ candidates in the ridings of Rimouski, Matane-Matapédia, Bonaventure, Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands intend to debate during the election campaign.

In Gaspé on August 25, the PQ said it wanted to make every effort to have the railroad repaired as far as Gaspé, noting that the CAQ had promised 2026, before advancing the deadline to 2025 and then eliminating the deadline.

"It is clear that, for us, in the horizon of a four-year mandate, we would like to go to Gaspé or very, very close to Gaspé, if we can have a realistic, pragmatic and quantified plan to get there: 2026, that's what we want," says the candidate for the Magdalen Islands, Joël Arseneau.

"If we can do it faster, we will do it faster," adds his col-



The five candidates from Est-du-Québec propose more than 70 elements for the October 3 election

Photo: N. Sergerie

league from Bonaventure, Alexis Deschênes.

"One thing that we are going to demand very quickly is that VIA Rail, heavily subsidized by the federal government, come and offer services to Gaspé residents as the rail is operational. Nothing prevents VIA Rail from offering service to New Richmond. As soon as it (the rail) goes to New Carlisle, they (VIA) can go to New Carlisle. As soon as it goes to Chandler, it's going to go to Chandler. Our commitment is strong," adds Mr. Deschênes.

Still in the transportation

sector, the PQ suggests a ClimatePass, an annual pass at \$365 per year or \$1 per day. Public transport and intercity transport would be covered by an "Opus card".

The RÉGÎM will be able to take advantage of it in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands

While an Orléans Express round-trip ticket between Gaspé and Quebec City costs nearly \$250 before taxes, the PQ suggests that the pass would allow unlimited access.

"\$365 per year for a pass and you take the bus as often as you want within the

Gaspésie region or towards Quebec. It's an annual pass for the use of all urban and interurban public transport, including those of the Société des traversiers du Québec for passengers," explains Mr. Arseneau, who puts the cost at between \$150 million and \$180 million.

"It's an investment, not an expense. It's a drop in the bucket that will completely change the way of getting around in Quebec," says the candidate from the Magdalen Islands.

On the lack of places in day cares, the PQ position is

simple: each child will have a place.

"For us, it's a child, a place. We will have to once again put the question of the one-stop shop what it represents, but everywhere in Eastern Quebec, each child will have their place. It is not negotiable," says the candidate in Gaspé, Méganne Perry Mélançon.

The same principle can be applied to solve the lack of housing while the various studies show that there is a deficit of more than 2000 apartments in the region. "The Parti Québécois wants to meet the needs of the population. We are going to do everything to promote housing construction until we fall into a vacancy rate that is balanced, that is to say more than 3%," declared Mr. Deschênes, who mentioned that in Bonaventure, municipalities have a 0% (vacancy) rate.

On the fisheries file, with the abandonment of the fishermen by the federal government, the PQ wants to recover its management via the independence of Quebec.

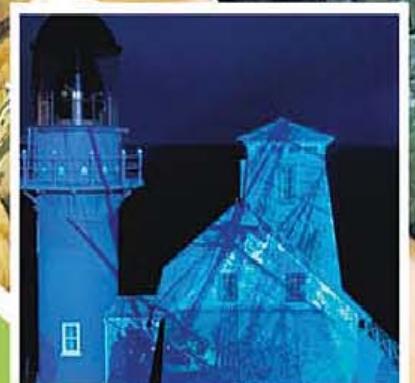
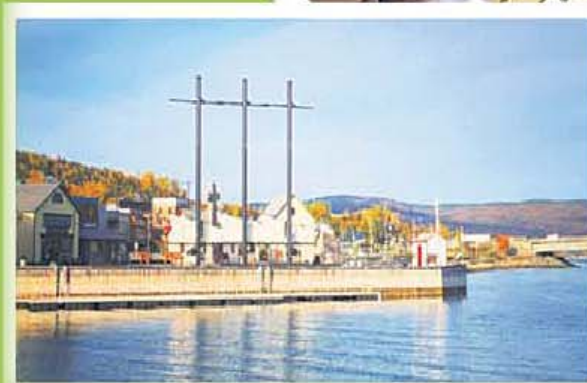
"Until then, we will stand up with the fishermen to claim their due. This applies to all fleets," argues Mr. Arseneau.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Gaspé SADC invites all those interested in economic development and who live within the territory of the Côte-de-Gaspé to its annual general meeting. The investments made in 2021-2022 and the actions planned for the coming year will be presented.

Tuesday, September 6 at 4 p.m.  
Birthplace of Canada  
(Seaplane building)

Registration Required  
[www.sadcgaspe.ca/aga2022](http://www.sadcgaspe.ca/aga2022) or  
418-368-2906, option 1



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DE GASPÉ

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# Ottawa provides \$3.8M for tourism and community projects

Nelson **Sergerie**

CHANDLER - Ottawa is granting aid, this time, to the tourism and community sector to the tune of \$3.8 million for the realization of 23 projects in the Gaspé Peninsula.

These Canada Economic Development for Quebec regions investments will enable the recipient organizations and municipalities to launch their projects, upgrade their facilities, or improve or modernize their tourism offering.

“We also have community projects with anglophone organizations. For us, it is important,” said the minister, referring to the Family Ties organization in New Carlisle, which is receiving \$750,000 for a project worth almost \$2 million.

The goal of the project is to upgrade The Family Ties community centre, with a view of revitalizing the centre of New Carlisle and supporting green initiatives.

The money will cover the cost of renovations and upgrades to the building, and the replacement of the heating system with a greener and more efficient and cost-effective electric system.



Member of Parliament Diane Lebouhiller with economic development players from the MRCs of Rocher-Percé and Bonaventure.

## Tourism

“The tourism sector is vital for the Gaspé Peninsula and these sums will be used, for example, in the MRC of Rocher-Percé’s Bourg de Pabos, which will receive \$500,000 to promote Île Beauséjour. There are a lot of facilities, tourism accommodations who want to upgrade their facilities,” mentions the Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouhiller, who made the announcement on August 25 in Chandler.

The MRC of Bonaventure received the lion’s share with \$2.4 million. In addition to

Family Ties, the Bioparc de la Gaspésie, Héritage New Carlisle, the Town of Paspébiac, the Ferme Bourdages Tradition in Saint-Siméon, the Hotel Le Francis in New Richmond, the Motel Carol in Paspébiac, the Town of New Richmond, and the municipalities of Hope and Hope Town are getting a boost from Ottawa.

The Gaspesian British Heritage Village will receive \$100,000. The project aims to develop tourism accommodations at Duthie Point-Nesue’g. The money will cover all of the activities of the project, which involves renovating and refurbishing various houses.

The Gaspesian Bluegrass Music Association gets \$66,000. The project targets marketing activities to attract tourists from outside the region for the New Richmond Bluegrass Festival. The contribution is spread out over the years 2022, 2023 and 2024.

In Rocher-Percé, \$959,000 is allocated to five projects: In addition to the Bourg de Pabos, the Town of Percé for its Émeraudes River project, the Domaine du Renard, the Hôtellerie FNP and the Camp de Base Coin-du-Banc, all in Percé.

Finally, six projects were selected on the Côte-de-Gaspé for a contribution of \$514,000.

Accommodation developments at Camping des Appalaches, Gestion Mathieu Guimond for Chalets Nautika, Gestion Nordet, all in Gaspé, and Village en Chanson de Petite-Vallée each receive \$100,000.

The Anse-au-Griffon warehouse committee will be able to buy two yurts and equipment with \$74,430 from Ottawa on a nearly \$150,000 project and Destination Gaspé will be able to create digital content and signage with assistance of \$40,500.

“At the Canada Economic Development level, the discussions I had with my colleague, Minister (Pascale) Saint-Onge, were impressed by the quality and the number of projects presented by Gaspésie and the Îles-de-la-Madeleine. It shows to what extent we have a great work of synergy that is done between the government, the community and our offices,” says Ms. Lebouhiller.

Other sums are available for development ideas. According to Ms. Lebouhiller, “We are going to be there to support structuring projects for the region.” Announcements were recently made for the MRC de la Haute-Gaspésie as well.

# 35 recommendations to protect the caribou

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Classified in 2009 as a vulnerable species by Quebec’s Act Respecting Threatened or Vulnerable Species, several of the 35 recommendations of the Independent Commission on Woodland and Mountain Caribou target the Gaspé Peninsula caribou.

One of the most important recommendations in the report tabled on August 22 is that the coexistence, under the responsibility of the same minister, of wildlife protection and forest management, be re-examined by the competent authority.

On the recommendations specifically concerning the Gaspé Peninsula caribou, the commission accepted the proposal to create the Vallières de

Saint-Réal protected area in the Chic-Chocs wildlife reserve.

In addition, the commission suggests establishing a moratorium on planned logging within the range and definitively prohibiting logging at this altitude, including for the recovery of wood affected by the spruce budworm.

It calls for the implementation of a reinforced control plan for alternative prey and predators and an increase in the predator management zone, in addition to rapidly reinforcing some road closures and renaturalization program.

It is also necessary to set up a maternity enclosure – which is in progress – and to carry out a study to measure the impact on the caribou of human frequentation of the Gaspésie Park and to identify

the corrective measures required, in particular the development and implementation of a framework plan for recreational tourism activities throughout the territory.

For the whole of Quebec, it is suggested to plan a program of supplementation by breeding and reintroduction in the forest for a sufficiently long period to ensure the sustainability of the populations and to set up financial compensation programs to ensure a transition for certain communities that depend on current forestry activities.

It is also recommended that the government set up regional consultation committees or forums to allow stakeholders to contribute to decision-making in the development and implementation of the caribou strategy to be

tabled by Quebec.

The First Nations must not be forgotten, taking into account the special value attached to caribou, the traditional knowledge they hold as well as the ancestral rights that may be affected.

On the sidelines of the tabling of the report, Quebec and Ottawa affirm that progress has been made in the discussions concerning the maintenance, protection and recovery of the Gaspé Peninsula caribou.

The federal government has threatened to impose an order to force the issue, but the two levels now say they are confident of reaching an agreement. Quebec says it is ready to take additional measures, with financial assistance from Ottawa.

The measures aim to re-

duce the rate of disturbance of its habitat to reach 65% of undisturbed habitat in each of the distribution areas, according to a schedule adapted by each of the populations.

In particular, Quebec intends to use legal wildlife habitats, biological refuges, administrative protections and the dismantling of forest roads for the protection of the territory.

Quebec is implementing short-term measures at a cost of \$12 million and Ottawa is committing \$6.1 million as the provincial government commits to publishing its final strategy by June 2023.

In response, Environnement Vert Plus, which had questioned Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on August 18

Cont’d on page 12



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# The 100th birthday of René Lévesque was celebrated in New Carlisle

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – Politicians, historians and sociologists in the Gaspé Peninsula agree almost unanimously on one point: the human values of René Lévesque, who would have turned 100 on August 24, traced his journalistic and political career, characterized by fairness, integrity and honesty.

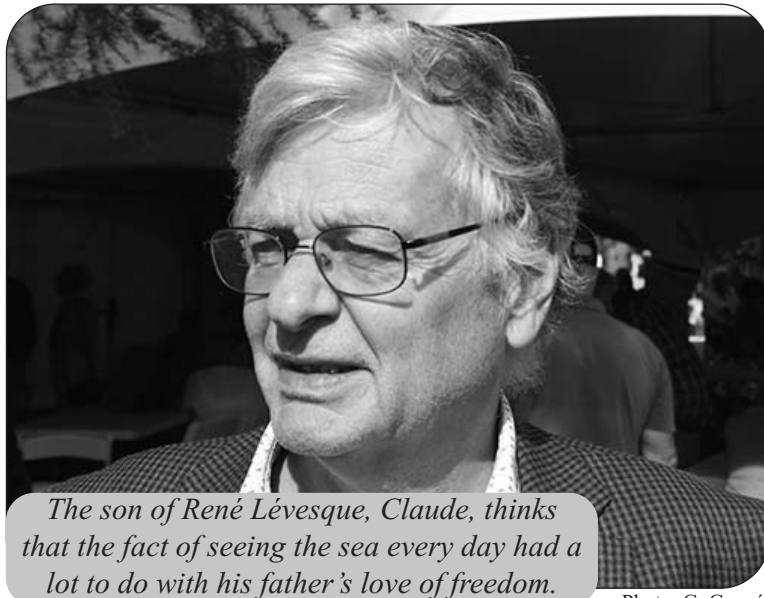
On August 24 the former premier's birthday was celebrated at Espace René-Lévesque in New Carlisle. Those present noted that René Lévesque's first 16 years in the Gaspé Peninsula had largely shaped the man he became.

"I know that he has kept very beautiful memories of his youth here. (...) The fact of seeing the sea every day has a lot to do with the love of freedom," indicated his son, Claude Lévesque, who, often, when he was younger came to the Gaspé Peninsula with his journalist and politician father. Claude Lévesque was "very impressed and moved" by the two hours of tributes paid at the event. "He would hide and he would adopt all the facial expressions we were talking about earlier (legendary shrugs), if he were here. He was modest. He had high self-esteem, but he wasn't a big head. With hindsight, it is the human side that I retain from him, the personal qualities of the man. He was a humanist, progressive, social democrat and nationalist, in the good sense of the word."

The outgoing Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, who will return to teaching sociology in 2023, recognizes for his part the talent of René Lévesque in popular education, whatever his functions, as a journalist, as a liberal minister or as premier under the banner of the Parti Québécois.

"He did political education to allow people to understand and agree to the changes essential to the modernization of Quebec and that is no longer done, due to the atrophy of the intervention capacity of elected officials," says Mr. Roy, elected under the PQ banner but who opted to be an independent Member of National Assembly in June 2021.

The man who could become his successor in Bonaventure, during the October 3 election, Alexis Deschênes, candidate for the Parti Québécois, recalls that René Lévesque is "a Gaspesian who made Quebecers grow. (...) by giving them confidence."



The son of René Lévesque, Claude, thinks that the fact of seeing the sea every day had a lot to do with his father's love of freedom.

Photo: G. Gagné

Mr. Deschênes also praises the modernity of the former premier. "I am a lawyer and I work regularly with laws adopted under René Lévesque, such as the Consumer Protection Act, the Automobile Insurance Act and the Agricultural Land Protection Act."

Parti Québécois Member for Bonaventure in the National Assembly between 1994 and 1998, Marcel Landry, also returned to the values of René Lévesque as a teacher in the late 1950s, when he hosted an information television show called *Point de mire*, as well as to his sensitivity.

"His status as a war correspondent gave him not just a taste for journalism but also his humanism. (...) At my father's forge, everyone was talking about the show *Point de mire*, aired the day before. He was our adult teacher of the day with his chalk and blackboard. It was understandable, even for an 11-year-old. He was one of the first popular educators we had. He spoke directly to people's intelligence," recalls Mr. Landry, who became a sovereign activist in 1968-1969, under the influence of René Lévesque, founder of the Mouvement Souveraineté-association and later of the Parti Québécois.

Historian Jean-Marie Fallu assures that René Lévesque owed Gaspésie "a modesty that never left him," and which ensured him a unique place in the hearts of Quebecers, until today.

"He remained very, very simple even in moments of great decorum," notes Mr. Fallu, recalling that at 14, René Lévesque, then a student at the Séminaire de Gaspé, had already used the slogan 'maîtres chez nous' in a text. However, he did not want to take this paternity, when asked by the historian in the 1980s to check whether he had suggested the liberal slogan of the 1960 campaign, as if to say that it was not important."

Jean-Marie Fallu also points out René Lévesque's efforts in regional development, in particular through the move of the General Directorate of Maritime Fisheries from Quebec to Gaspé. However, the Premier was never able to convince the Deputy Minister of Fisheries to move there.

"That is what made him say that it is easier to send a cod to Quebec City than to bring down a civil servant in Gaspé," says Mr. Fallu.

New Carlisle Mayor David Thibault underlines with a grin that his father and René Lévesque had a couple of things in common, including the fact that "they both worked for a radio station." He also stresses that "his childhood (in

New Carlisle) helped his development. The Gaspé Peninsula was lucky to have him."

René Lévesque died of a massive heart attack on the evening of November 1, 1987, in his home. He was 65 years of age. He had retired from active politics in October 1985. He had planned to come more often to the Gaspé Peninsula during his retirement but he died before fulfilling that dream.

## Comments

"I was not born when he was in politics but reading about him, I was impressed by the whole aspect of defending the regions, through the decentralization of power. He always had to push collective projects, but also taking into account everyone's responsibilities. He influenced me. I believe very much in the distribution of wealth. Also, he was not afraid of those who could overshadow him, such as Lise Payette, Claude Charron, Robert Burns or Camille Laurin." —Méganne Perry-Mélançon, Member of National Assembly for the Parti Québécois in the riding of Gaspé.

"He died before I was born but I read about him, heard him, and it inspired me. If there

is one element that we remember the most, it is the man (...) The great reforms came about because he had strong humanity." —Kristina Michaud, Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia.

"He helped clean up political practices. I remember his deep sense of democracy. He felt that the government was not going far enough. He was Leader of the Opposition for six years, which is unthinkable today. He was a man of ideas. He had a sense of the formula, never with the aim of putting people down, but with a desire to have clearer communication. This is what is most lacking in today's politics." — Joël Arsenneau, Parti Québécois Member of National Assembly for the Magdalen Islands.

"He wanted to give Quebecers the chance for complete fulfillment. (...) whether they live in cities or regions. You know that Mr. Lévesque, as we all called him, knew you and loved you. We are celebrating something real, something great, the heritage of René Lévesque." — Lucien Bouchard, former Quebec Premier under the banner of the Parti Québécois, who addressed the people gathered in New Carlisle by video on August 24.

## Shigawake Fair and Music Festival coordinator happy with 2022 results

Gilles Gagné

SHIGAWAKE – Dave Felker, who coordinates the Shigawake Agricultural Fair and Music Festival, draws quite a positive wrap up of the event that took place between August 11 and 14.

"After a virtual edition in 2020, and a local, limited edition in 2021, we were back in full force for 2022. With the full three and a half days of activities restored, the Shigawake Fair and Music Festival had plenty of highlights. One of those highlights was the return of the animals. The shelters were full of bunnies, donkeys, chickens, cows, calves, ponies, goats, sheep and more! The horses were on full display. The vegetable competition had many exhibitors as did the crafts and baked goods," points out Mr. Felker.

Every day was characterized by marks of appreciation from the fair and festival goers, he adds.

"The music kicked in on Thursday evening with a local showcase that seemed to be

quite the fan favorite. The well-attended wine and cheese evening saw a multitude of local talent on stage that has inspired a second edition to take place in September. Stay tuned! Friday saw well-attended music workshops for kids, and an evening of rock and dancing kicked off by a young singer, Wolfy, that has entered into a music competition and performed to a large, very appreciative crowd. Most of the rock acts were local or homecomers. Friday saw very good numbers of participants," says Dave Felker.

Saturday, always a big day in Shigawake, kept the tradition going, he says. "Saturday afternoon had a Family Ties picnic for the youngsters, magicians, and a petting zoo. Horses were showcased in the ring, the music returned to the Trough and the tent. The lawn tractor races were a hit, as they always are. The wide variety of music continued into the evening with some hard rock, some folk, some new discoveries, and the melodies of Patrick Watson," he describes.

The last day of the event is usually much calmer, and this year's Sunday made no exception.

"Sunday saw the rains come, but that didn't stop the horse haul, and spectators were able to enjoy the renovated grandstand that supported a roof to protect from the elements. All the while, the tent and Trough showcased music of folk and country, leading to a finale with Joe Grass and many of the directors as well as volunteers joining on stage for a few songs to round out the weekend," describes Dave Felker.

The final numbers are not all calculated yet but there is a lot of optimism regarding the return of the Shigawake Agricultural Fair and Music Festival.

"Approximately 2000 people were able to come in and out all weekend, enjoying the comfortable vibe of the music festival and discovering the agriculture of the region. We are looking forward to keeping the momentum going into 2023," he concludes.

# Reflections on rising food costs and vulnerable seniors

## “The cost of food has risen but my pension hasn’t”

Diane Skinner

STRATFORD, PEI: Maclean’s magazine was recently searching for a senior to interview about food security during this time of rapidly rising inflation. The magazine made contact with Joan Carr, former resident of the Gaspé Peninsula for over 21 years, residing in both New Carlisle and Murdochville. You can read the article and others in a series entitled “The Food Diaries” in the September issue of the magazine.

It all began when Joan’s daughter, Cindy, contacted her mother and told her that Maclean’s would like to talk to her about living in today’s reality, primarily about food security. Joan notes that this is a common topic these days. Joan then spoke to stringer Alex Cyr, also from PEI. (Note: Stringers are freelance contributors to a news organization.)

During their first conversation, Alex asked a number of questions and Joan found it difficult to understand what he wanted to know. Consequently, Joan sent him a “thinking paper.” Joan states, “It consisted of things I felt should be discussed in terms of the ever-growing cost of living, food, gas, etc. He, in the end, decided to hone in on the cost of food (which I guess was the actual reason for the interview) and how it affected my daily life and eating habits.”

In the Maclean’s article, Joan speaks about her history growing up in a minister’s family where they had “enough,” but managed by living frugally. She states that she was never hungry and often dressed in hand-me-downs. She also mentions working for CASA for about 17 years. She recalls that she was able to live quite well while feeding and clothing three children. They were a “middle class” family.

After her divorce in 2000, she travelled around doing a variety of jobs, and finally ended up settling in Prince Edward Island. She worked for a while doing contract jobs and then took care of her ex-husband who was ill for a number of years, approximately 2008 – 2015. Then, in 2012, Joan found out that she had breast cancer and is now fully recovered. In 2014, Stuart, her ex-husband, found out that he, too, had cancer. Joan

says, “That did not have the same successful outcome.”

Joan moved into an apartment in 2015, as her savings were depleted by then and she reflects, “I found it difficult to budget on a below poverty income but I managed. I drew from all the programs that were then available to seniors including subsidized housing and an income supplement for single seniors. Over the years since then I have found it more and more difficult to keep up with the rising costs of food, gas, utilities, etc. In a budget such as mine I have what is known as “fixed costs”: my rent, my car, electricity, insurance: both car and life - at least enough to bury me, and apartment insurance and, unfortunately, a credit card. My budget wouldn’t stretch so I acquired a credit card which I do not use anymore but which has to be paid. Looking back on my budget in 2021 after paying my fixed expenses, I had approximately \$400.00 to pay for my groceries and my car expenses for a month.”

Joan adds that she has enough to stretch her grocery budget by reading through the sale flyers. She is now paying \$5.69 for two litres of lactose free milk, which used to cost \$3.50 in 2020. With the high price of meat (and still rising), she buys about three kinds of protein as part of her bi-weekly shopping. Then she completes her grocery shopping with foods such as legumes, vegetables and rice.

Food prices continue to rise and, in July 2022, Joan found that her balance left for groceries and gas for the month was \$108.16. This occurred because she had incurred an overdraft in previous months that had to be repaid. Any unexpected expenses can throw a senior’s budget off for the whole month!

Joan speaks clearly and astutely about the situation that many Canadian seniors are facing in 2022. “The governments both provincial and federal have to realize that they are making their cuts in all the wrong places! They are spending “helter - skelter” to pacify the wealthy. Taxes are on the rise, there is a housing crisis, and the entire transportation system in this country has been decimated, which started in the Mulroney era. Don’t get me started on the health care system! In PEI

there are 25,000 people without a family doctor, and at 75 years old I have to stand in line at the clinics from 6:30 in the morning to be seen by overworked doctors who will only deal with one issue at a time. Therefore, if you have several issues such as high blood pressure and severe leg pain, you have to prioritize your pain because one of those issues will have to wait until the next visit.

The food banks are overrun with seniors who never in their lives made use of them, in fact they were the ones who ensured they were stocked over the years. People need to wake up and realize that this economy is causing seniors and the most weak and vulnerable to suffer. There needs to be special clinics for just the seniors at certain times during the month. There needs to be increases in the Old Age Pension and cost of living increases in the Canadian Pension Plan for seniors. Having said that, there needs to be a change in the way seniors are taxed. About two years ago, during the worst of COVID, seniors were really struggling and so the government made a big announcement that they were going to give each senior over the age of 75, \$300 to help with their expenses. Everyone cheered except the senior who found themselves having to pay back almost half of it in taxes. I know there is no ‘free lunch’ but come on. Then this year in July the government announced that they are going to give (over the course of the year) to seniors over the age of 75, \$800. Again, everyone cheered except the senior who hadn’t reached 75 and who was suffering from the same hardships as a 75-year-old. That increase isn’t even in line with the cost of living and will most assuredly be taxed.”

Why would Joan reveal her personal financial issues? She agreed to be interviewed for Maclean’s article for those who can’t or who are too embarrassed to admit they are feeling vulnerable. Joan remains optimistic. “Can I find a way through this? I am certain I can, mostly because of my faith, I believe God will provide. Someone said to me after reading the article in Maclean’s, “Joan, how can you say you are poor? You have a car, you have a really nice apartment, and you have really good friends and fam-



Photo: Courtesy of Joan Carr

Joan Carr was recently interviewed by Maclean’s magazine (September 2022 issue) about seniors and food security. She has some very astute observations about what could be done to support seniors during these times of rising inflation.

ily.” All this is true. I didn’t say I was poor; that is something that Alex Cyr (Maclean’s stringer) said in the published article. I said, “I have never felt poor” but when I sit down to do my budget each month, I feel scared that there may come a time I will lose my independence. I am not alone in those fears, I am just someone who is willing to express them.”

Joan says that she loves the Coast and it will always feel like her “home away from home,” home being Prince Edward Island. She

raised her children on the Gaspé and her son Allen remains there to this day and she doubts he will ever leave. Joan adds, “He is a true Gaspesian, having been born in Murdochville, and I know his heart is Gaspesian through and through. I have two daughters, Cindy and Nikki, both were brought up on the Coast and both look upon the Coast as “home,” although the Magdalen Islands has a particular lure because our family lived there for about seven years when the children were very young.”



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# “Double” entrepreneur ... and more!

Diane Skinner

PASPÉBIAC: Roxanne Major, originally from Hopetown, wears many hats. She is a “double entrepreneur,” (selling and managing a Tupperware business and she has another venture offering footcare and reflexology) and she is a part-time nursing assistant at the Centre d'accueil in New Carlisle. She is a wife and a proud mother to two “amazing children” and her calendar must always be full!

Just recently she received recognition from Tupperware as part of “Les Diamants,” those who are highly successful in sales. She just began selling Tupperware in January 2022 and in July was recognized as #5 in the Top 25 for unit sales in North America and #1 in Canada for personal sales! An amazing accomplishment.

Roxanne tells The Gaspé Spec that she has always been interested in Tupperware since she was very young and her mom had Tupperware parties at their home. The skill of entrepreneurship started at a young age for Roxanne!

Roxanne states, “I started to be interested in Tupperware to have as much as possible at a low price. I wanted everyone to save as much as I did and six months later, I have recruited 40 friends and family to be on my team. After two months I became a Star Manager.”

She is proud to have earned many rewards, including pots and even an iPad. She



Photo: Courtesy of Roxanne Major

*Roxanne Major proudly displays her most recent recognition as Star Manager for Tupperware and a member of Les Diamants. In addition she has a business providing foot care and reflexology. She is also employed as a part-time nursing assistant.*

says it is a great hobby. She adds, “I never realized how much food was wasted until I got involved with this. Our food lasts longer and we don’t have to run to the grocery store every day.”

Being organized and prepared are two important skills that Roxanne possesses and these help her to keep a balance in her life. Her creativity is evident on her Facebook group, “Major Girls Tupperware,” and she was enthusiastic about a recent live post she did on how to make Crab Mousse. Then she offered an online bingo and awarded a

prize of \$150 worth of Tupperware. She is a hard and conscientious worker who enjoys any challenge she undertakes.

She is proud to say that she has three huge bins already full for her children, aged 10 and 12, for when they move out on their own. They will be the most well-prepared young people with everything they will need that Tupperware offers.

Roxanne is a multitasker and she approaches her busy days with a positive attitude and her key to success is: “I write everything down.”

## CARIBOU:

Cont'd from page 9

in New Richmond on the fate of the caribou, is showing a certain openness.

“The recommendations are generally quite satisfactory,” says spokesperson Pascal Bergeron. “We would like to put more emphasis on participatory management of forest management, but that is one of the concerns mentioned by the commission,” adds the spokesperson.

Mr. Bergeron is pleased to see that the same minister would not be responsible for wildlife protection while managing the forest if the Commission’s recommendations are applied.

“Right now, Pierre Dufour and the ministers who came before him are in a conflict of interest when it comes to protecting a species at risk like the

caribou,” notes the environmentalist.

On the space of 65% of undisturbed habitat, Mr. Bergeron believes that this is not enough. “It is far from enough. That Ottawa and Quebec jointly decide to take it that way is not reassuring. The commission goes further in its report,” he says.

However, the announcement of the final plan for June 2023 is too late. “The ministry is trying to buy time. There are measures that can be put in place tomorrow morning. We can put a moratorium on the cuts. Old growth forests should not be touched. We have no guarantee from the ministry as long as he does not announce it!” says Mr. Bergeron. “We still have big problems in the management of the forest and the fact of having a deadline by June 2023 for a strategy and that there is nothing concrete

in the joint announcement, it is worrisome.”

The group fears that the report will be forgotten during and after the electoral campaign.

For her part, the Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé is asking that Quebec take action.

Méganne Perry Mélançon notes that several factors affect the Gaspé wildlife. “There are recommendations that are not new. Why not start now? We are no longer at the time of the consultation. The population and the actors have already been part of a great reflection. We must not wait until June 2023,” says the elected PQ member who notes that the proposals are a start but she is not yet convinced that the trend will be reversed.

The elected official is satisfied to see that everything is done to avoid a decree from Ottawa.

## Reflections

by Diane Skinner Flowers

### The love of reading

“If you are going to get anywhere in life, You have to read a lot of books.” Roald Dahl

The new school year is upon us and children will be back to continue their academic careers. Some children will not have read any books at all during the summer months while others, some with the gentle nudging of their parents, have enjoyed many books. It is never too early to let your children in on a secret: Reading is a pleasure.

Reading is not just something that children do in school. Make it part of everyday life and never force a child to read as a punishment. Reading for pleasure comes about when the child is introduced to many different books and types of reading material. This is why it is vitally important to read to children when they are very young.

Make good books available for your child. A book is a perfect gift – but it is also important to allow the child to choose their own books. You as parents are the guide. Pave the way and then get out of the way. Reading is a personal journey.

Set a good example by reading also. Set aside a time, which does not need to be long, when everyone in the family sits and reads. Then talk about what each of you is reading. Reading can be a shared pleasure.

Reading aloud is great for children at almost any age. Pick a family novel and read a chapter out loud each evening. Depending on the age of the child, they can take a turn reading out loud also. Reading should be part of our lives every day.

The benefits of reading are many. Reading for pleasure leads to many secondary strengths including improved spelling, richer vocabulary, better writing ability, greater confidence and continued reading for pleasure throughout life. The strongest and undeniable advantage is that reading leads to greater all-around academic success. Do you want your child to do well at school? Encourage the love of reading.

The love of reading is a way to find magic. Dr. Seuss said, “You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax. All you need is a book.” Reading allows you to experience other worlds and times. It allows us to use imagination. The words are on the page, but every reader imagines the world of that book in their own unique way.

Reading makes you more curious about the world. This, in turn, allows the reader’s brain to make connections about the material they have read and other connected themes and issues.

Reading can make you more empathetic. A good book can help you to understand others’ point of view.

Your role as parent, or teacher, is to guide the young reader towards books they will enjoy. Allow them to make the final choice as well. This sense of ownership is important to make them feel that reading is “their” pleasure.

Sadly, reading as a chosen pastime is on the decline for most. An increase in access to technology is part of the reason for this decline. Use this factor to lead your child to reading. By using a tablet, children can access many reading programs. Encourage that.

The main thing to focus on is helping your child to find books that interest them. Studies show that children who choose their own reading material are more motivated. In addition, providing a quiet and comfortable place to read promotes the love of reading.

Reading is not just an activity we do in school. Reading is a pleasurable part of our lives and children should be encouraged to believe this.

#### Encouraging reluctant readers:

- Use technology to get them interested in reading. Read short stories on the tablet.
- Read aloud to your child.
- Allow children to choose their own books.
- Try a graphic novel, similar to a comic book format.
- Give small incentives. When a child finishes a chapter, give them a reward.
- Make a list (with the child) of things that they are interested in. - Now look for books that are related to that interest.)

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# Announcements



## Obituaries



### GAGNON: Noella

December 24, 1941 - August 9, 2022

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of our dear Noella on August 9, 2022, at the Maison Michel Sarrazin in Quebec City.

Daughter of the late Helen B. Jones and the late William Leo Gagnon of Port Daniel, she leaves to mourn her two sisters: Marcella and Opal; predeceased by her sisters: Frances, Theresa and Leona; and her brothers: Alban, Leo and Reynald.

Her devotion to caring for people extended well beyond her profession as a nurse. She embodied the best of everything, the best sister and the best aunt and great aunt to her many nieces and nephews. She was a wonderful and cherished friend to many; she loved animals and would happily greet any dog or cat she met and chat with its owners.

She exuded energy and warmth to all. A good listener, she was nonjudgmental and generous. Her passing has left a void in our lives and she is irreplaceable.

We take comfort that she lived life to the fullest and her final wishes will be granted, to be buried with her parents in Port Daniel. Burial of her ashes will take place at a later date.



### MILLER: Phyllis Laura

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Phyllis Laura Miller (nee Patterson) of Bass Lake, Lombardy, Ontario on July 28, 2022, in her 91st year.

Phyllis is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 70 years, Victor Miller. Phyllis devoted her life to her husband and family and leaves behind to mourn, her children: Michael (Josy), Marlene (Dave), Coreen (Phil), Louise (the late Ian). She was a loving grandmother to Sean (Deanne), Stephanie (Dave), Cathy (Joel), Scott, Rachel (Barry), Heather, Jason (Jenn), Lauren (Oliver), Caleb (Emily), Michael (Katrina) and Jennifer (Korey). She cherished her time with her great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Phyllis will also be dearly missed by her sister:

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Elaine (Curzon); brothers: Archie (Linda), Carter (Sharon); brothers-in-law: John (Lorena) Darrell (Mabel) Allison (Ellen); sisters-in-law: Carol, Liz and Pat; and daughter-in-law Linda. Much loved aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by her parents Beryl and Norman Patterson and parents-in-law Thelma and Henry Miller; sister: Hilda; brother: Wilson; brothers-in-law: Merrill, Brian, Ralph and Mel; and sisters-in-law: Elva Maxine, Sarah and Shirley.

Phyllis was born in Gaspé as the eldest of six children. Together with Victor, the love of her life, she moved to Montreal in 1963 with their family of four young children. They eventually moved to Mississauga, Ottawa, Kemptville and Lombardy. Phyllis spent many years lovingly providing childcare in her home and devoted many hours to volunteer work in the Anglican Church.

Friends are invited to attend a funeral service at St. James Church in Wakeham on Wednesday, September 7, at 11 a.m. A reception will take place after the service at the York Hall. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the St. James Church, Wakeham or the Canadian Lung Association would be greatly appreciated.

### Eulogy

I am so very thankful for our mother and the example of love, kindness and generosity she showed us throughout our lives.

Mom was a natural caregiver. From the time she was a small child she was protecting and lovingly supporting to her younger sister who was intellectually handicapped. She helped bring up her two youngest brothers who have often said she was a second mother to them. She had a close friendship with her other two siblings, still talking on the phone every day with her sister.

At a very young age she started working, helping people take care of their home, and you guessed it, their children. When Mom and Dad moved to Montreal, it wasn't long before she was lovingly caring for children in our home, some of whom have kept in touch to this day.

At the same time our home was always opened to family who would drop by for a visit, to watch TV (not everyone had a TV in those days), or to have a meal. We also had people stay with us when in Montreal for appointments, to the point our home was lovingly called the "Gaspé Hotel." Not only did this give us a good example, it gave us close lifelong relationships with extended family.

Mom's first priority was always her husband and children and their spouses and grandchildren (including the greats and great-greats). Recently Mom was thrilled to be able to meet her youngest great-great-grandchild, the granddaughter of her granddaughter. She had a heart so full of love that there was more than enough to spread around to family and friends. And, speaking of friends, it seemed Mom and Dad instantly made life long friends wherever they lived, Gaspé, Montreal, Mississauga, Ottawa, Kemptville and Lombardy.

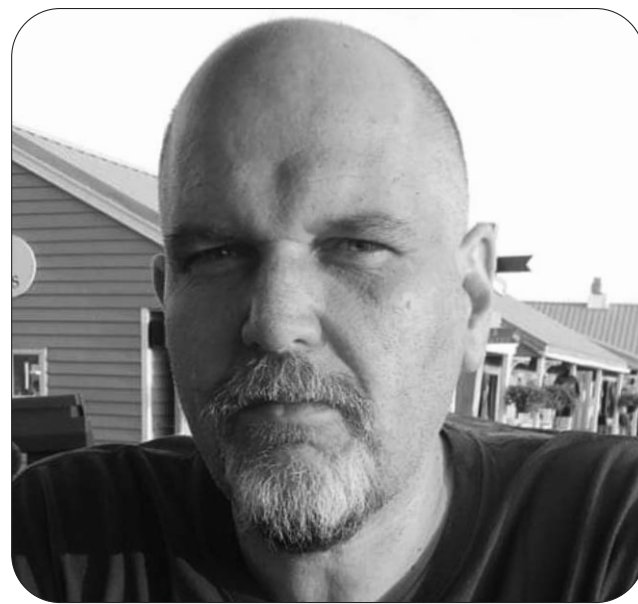
Mom loved all her nieces and nephews and never differentiated between Dad's side of the family and her side of the family. It was the same for her and Dad's brothers and sisters. In fact there were no sides, just "our family".

As a friend of mine pointed out to me shortly after Mom passed, "Phyllis and Victor were a team and always will be remembered that way." After almost 71 years of marriage they were completely devoted to each other with a love that can't be duplicated. We promise you Mom, we will do our best to take good care of Dad, although I'm sure he will be trying to take care of us.

And finally, Mom was devoted to her faith, living it out every day to the best of her ability, by sharing her big heart with the world.

I hope Mom we have honoured you and represented you well in these few words. We love you, until we meet again.

Written and delivered at the funeral service by:  
Marlene Miller Sage.



### REEDER: Scott William

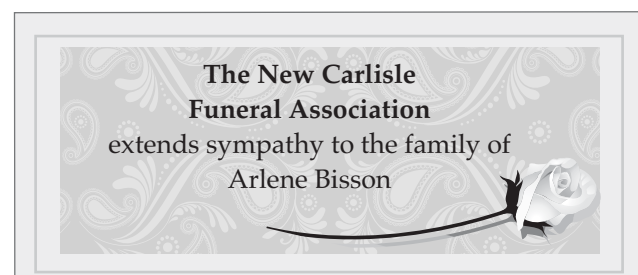
Scott Reader passed away peacefully at his home in Harriston, Ontario, surrounded with the love of his family, on August 18, 2022.


Scott was born on May 7, 1971, to proud parents Sharon and the late Patrick Reeder (2003). Dearly loved older brother to Danny and wife Lisa, and amazing "Untow Dot" to niece Cassidy, all of St. Constant, Quebec. Cherished big brother of Randy, his wife Tracy, proud uncle to Brandon, and great-uncle to Tommy-Lee, all of Burnt River, Ontario. Much loved husband to Chris, extremely proud father to Becca whom he adopted on June 2, 2019, and loving and treasured father to his four-legged furry son Cooper.

In recent years, Scott found a love for gardening once he became a homeowner. He found joy in woodworking, making several custom pieces of furniture, game boards and Christmas decorations. These activities took much of his spare time, with the exception of Sundays when the Philadelphia Eagles stole his attention.


A celebration of Scott's remarkable life was held at his home in Harriston on August 27, 2022, at 2 p.m. We will also celebrate with friends and family in his hometown of Gaspé, Quebec on September 3, 2022, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gaspé Legion.

Memorial donations to Cancer Patient Services at Louise Marshall Hospital, or the Huntington Society of Canada would be appreciated, and may be made through the Hardy-Lee Funeral Home, Harriston. Online condolences at [www.hardyleefuneralhome.com](http://www.hardyleefuneralhome.com).





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1971 - 2022  
HUSBAND OF  
CAROL A. TEED  
1947



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## In Memory



### WATT: Alma Grace Bisson

In memory of our dear mother who passed away September 3, 2021.

#### *Mother with a heart of gold*

*We lost a mother with a heart of gold,  
How much we miss her can never be told.  
She shared our troubles and helped us along;  
If we follow her footsteps  
We will never go wrong.  
She was a mother so very rare,  
Content in her home and always there.  
On earth she toiled; in heaven she rests,  
God bless you Mother  
You were one of the best.  
We miss you from your sitting chair,  
Your loving smile and gentle air,  
Your vacant place no one can fill,  
We miss you Mother and always will.  
Each time we look at your picture,  
You seem to smile and say,  
"Don't be sad but courage take  
And love each other for my sake."*

Forever remembered, forever loved, Diane, Cheryl, Kathy and Leah.



## Funeral and Burial



### MILLER: Russell

### MILLER: Merilyn Coffin

Russell Miller and Merilyn Coffin Miller will be buried at 2 p.m. on September 23, 2022, at St. Andrew's Church located at 1010 York Boulevard West, Gaspé.

All family and friends are welcome to attend. There will be a reception following the service.

### Card of Thanks

The family of the late Raymond Copage would like to express its sincere gratitude for the many displays of kindness, phone calls, messages of sympathy, food delivered to the house and visitation at St. Andrew's Anglican Church.

A special thank-you to Cyrus Journeau and Kenny Ward for the beautiful service; also a warm thank-you to Enid Berchervaise and choir.

Thank you again,  
The Copage Family

### Card of Thanks

The family of the late Christopher Journeau would like to thank Dave and Adam Royal, each member of the choir, and eulogist Lynden Bechervaise for their participation in, and contribution to, Christopher's funeral service.

Special thanks to Rev. Terry Blizzard, former rector at St. Andrew's Church and friend of the family, for a very touching and consoling bilingual service. Heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

The Journeau Family



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# COAST ROUND-UP

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

### COAST ROUND-UP

#### **GASPE:**

##### **Gaspé County Women's Institute**

Gaspé County Women's Institute 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

#### **PORT DANIEL:**

##### **Three Star Golden Age Club**

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

#### **SHIGAWAKE:**

**September 5:** Hunting Bingo

#### **NEW CARLISLE:**

##### **Bible Chapel Meetings**

**Sundays:** 9:30 a.m. Breaking of Bread for believers. Drive-In Gospel Meetings will be held at Fair Haven Bible Camp in New Carlisle Sundays at 2 p.m. 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. For more information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

#### **NEW CARLISLE:**

##### **LLB Membership**

Please note that membership renewals for the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation will start on October 15, 2022 for the 2023 year. You can renew your membership by sending \$20 cash, e-transfer or cheque by mail to: C.P. 219, 168 Gérard D. Levesque, QC G0C 1Z0 or in-person on Tuesdays or Fri-

days between 9 and 11 a.m. For more information, please call 418-752-7223. Thank you.

#### **NEW CARLISLE:**

##### **Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64**

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

#### **NEW CARLISLE:**

##### **Funeral Association**

**September 3:** Pot Luck Supper at 5 p.m. at the Town Hall. \$15 per adult and \$7 for children 12 and under. **CANCELLED** Those wishing to donate a casserole or any other food items, please contact Mary Woods or Betty Ann Crozier.

#### **NEW RICHMOND:**

##### **Attention all Rail fans and Gaspésians!**

**September 8:** Launch of the model railway club that plans to create a model of sections of the Matapedia to Gaspé railway line will be meeting at the Paul Almond

barn at Duthie Point beginning at 7 p.m. Anyone who is interested in the project and those who want to help in its development are welcome to attend. For more information please visit [www.facebook/cfbdcrr](http://www.facebook/cfbdcrr) or [www.dutiepoint.ca](http://www.dutiepoint.ca).

#### **CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**

##### **Book Room**

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

#### **CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**

##### **50 Plus Club**

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

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

for each additional card. **October 7-9:** Fall Fest.

#### **ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:**

**The winners for the week of August 21 are:** Claire Desbiens, Martin Audet, Nancy Paquin, Jean-Michel Allard, Allister Campbell, John Lebanc and Marc Bujold.

#### **UNITED CHURCH**

##### **NEW RICHMOND**

**Sunday, September 4**

10 a.m. Service

#### **UNITED CHURCH**

##### **HOPE TOWN**

**Sunday, September 4**

2 p.m. Service

#### **ANGLICAN CHURCH**

##### **OF CANADA**

**Sunday, September 4**

##### **NEW CARLISLE**

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

##### **HOPE TOWN**

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

##### **PORT DANIEL**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

# Chase Cleary, rising hockey star

Diane Skinner

**CASCAPEDIA-SAINT-JULES:** In April, 12-year-old hockey player Chase Cleary (and his family) was contacted and offered an opportunity to play for Team New England in a tournament in Marlborough, Massachusetts, in August. Chase happily accepted the invitation and felt honoured to have been chosen and recognized for his hockey skills.

Chase's proud parents, Ashley Milligan and Jamie Cleary, and his little brother Nathan were amazed when they got the news that Chase was invited to play in Marlborough, Massachusetts. The family all travelled to the tournament to cheer him on!

Chase started skating when he was two years old and started to play hockey at the age of four. His mom, Ashley Milligan, says, "He instantly fell in love with the sport and it became a passion for him."

When Chase was seven and eight years old, he played with the spring hockey team, The Cougars in New Brunswick. He was chosen to play for the New Brunswick Selects and went to play in Boston where he was noticed for his hockey skills. Consequently, his name was put on a list of players to watch in the future.

Last year he was playing for the Gladiateurs Est BB Team. This is a team with players from New Richmond, Bonaventure and Paspébiac. He also played spring hockey

with the Cougars AAA de la Gaspésie. This is a team composed of players from the Gaspé and Magdalen Islands. Chase also played with the Petit Oceanic team based out of Rimouski.

Chase is now preparing for the winter hockey season and comments on the experience he gained in Massachusetts. He really enjoyed playing in the United States and being the only Canadian on Team New England and having the opportunity to show his skills and to make new friends.

He will be going soon for a final try-out for the Albatross de Rivière du Loup which is an AAA Pee-wee Elite Team. If he is chosen, Chase will play with the team all over Quebec this coming winter. He will return home during the week, and attend Le Bois Vivant School in New Richmond.

Playing elite hockey takes a great deal of hard work, skill and a love for the game. With the support of his family, Chase will continue to develop his skills over the coming hockey season.

*Chase Cleary was recently invited to play in a hockey tournament in Marlborough, Massachusetts, because his name was on a list of "players to watch in the future."*



Photo: Ashley Milligan

## Summer Soups: Using fresh, local, or from your garden produce!

Diane Skinner

Soup in summer? Why not! Use local and in-season produce from your own garden, a farm stand or the grocery store. Buying local foods now will be less expensive and provide top quality flavour and nutrition.

These three recipes are all very quick and simple to make.

### Quick and Easy Cold Gazpacho Soup

4 medium tomatoes, peel and chop finely  
½ cup of cucumber, peeled and seeds removed  
2 cups tomato juice  
⅓ cup chopped white onion  
¼ cup cider vinegar  
1/3 cup olive oil  
1 tsp. sugar  
1 minced garlic clove  
¼ tsp. salt  
¼ tsp. pepper

Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl.
2. Refrigerate, about 4 hours.
3. Serve chilled.

### Corn Soup

6 to 8 fresh tomatoes, peeled and chopped  
1 cup chopped onion  
1 cup chopped green pepper  
2 cups fresh corn niblets (or a bag of frozen corn)  
6 green onions, chopped  
½ cup canola oil  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
3 cups water  
3 cups cooked ham, cut into small cubes  
1 can stewed tomatoes  
1 can tomato paste

Salt and pepper to taste  
Directions:

Use a Dutch oven, and sauté both kinds of onions and green pepper in oil. (About 5 minutes.)

Stir in flour and cook while stirring until it bubbles.

Add water slowly and bring to a boil.

Add corn, ham, tomatoes, tomato paste, salt and pepper.

Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for about 1 hour.

Stir occasionally.

### Summertime Vegetable Soup

1 cup sliced zucchini  
1 cup chopped and peeled tomatoes  
1 small onion, finely chopped  
1 tbsp. olive oil  
4 cups chicken broth  
½ cup peeled and diced red potato  
½ cup fresh green beans cut into 5 cm pieces

Salt and pepper to taste

1/8 tsp. turmeric

¼ cup chopped celery leaves

2 tbsp. tomato paste

Directions:  
Place oil and onion in a large pot. Sauté onion until transparent. Add all other ingredients except celery leaves and tomato paste.

Bring to a boil, then reduce heat. Cover pot and simmer for approximately 30 minutes.

This will allow veggies to become tender.

Add celery leaves and tomato paste. Cover and allow to stand for a few minutes.

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