

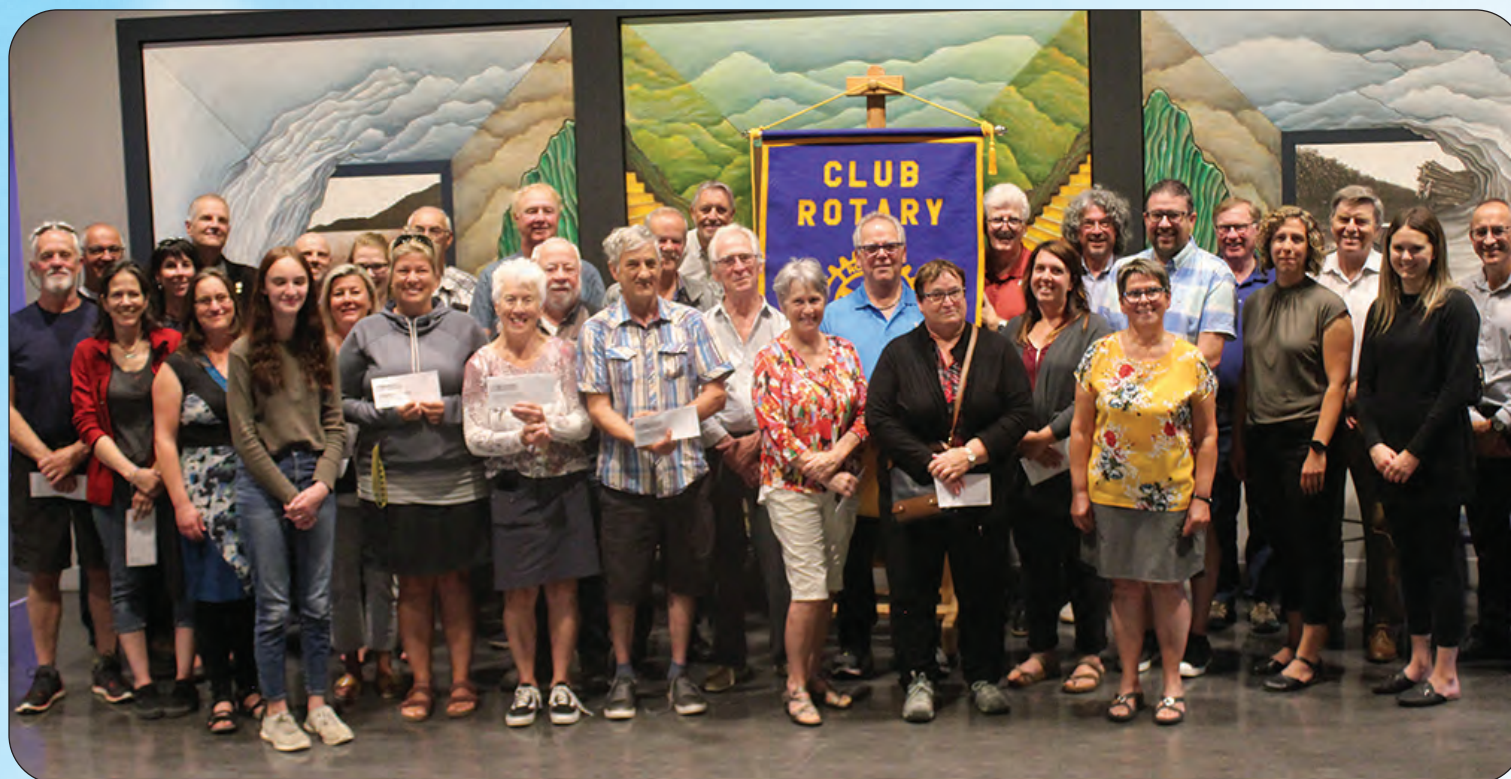
## New Richmond's Rotary Club donates \$21,000 to local organizations

Gilles Gagné

**NEW RICHMOND** – New Richmond's Rotary Club handed out its annual donations on September 6. A total of \$21,000 was donated to local organizations.

The money raised came from the Rotary Club's annual Lucky calendar sales. The organizations who benefited from a donation cover a wide verity of causes such as physical and mental health and services, community initiatives, student bursaries, and so on.

As explained by its local spokesperson Jean-François Binet, this year's donations are enhanced by a second amount of \$20,000 provided by the international division of the Rotary Club, which annually selects projects that need a higher degree of support. Two Bay of Chaleurs organizations the Maison Oasis and L'Émergence will each benefit from \$10,000. Maison Oasis offers shelter to people who have experienced various problems, including mental health, and who are working to improve their autonomy. L'Émergence offers shelter to women and



Photos: G. Gagné

The New Richmond Rotary Club donates a total of \$21,000 to local organizations.

children who are victims of violence.

"The money will be used to renovate the bedrooms at the Maison Oasis. In the case of L'Émergence, the living room will be refurbished," explains Mr. Binet.

Mr. Binet also points out that the New Richmond Rotary Club has raised \$1,725 to support Ukraine.

Over the last year, the Rotary Club lost a member, Dale Ball. "Dale's family has donated \$500 for the creation of a bursary. The Rotary Club is matching the amount and we will hand out two bursaries of \$500, one that will be given to a New Richmond High School student and another one to a New Carlisle High School student," explains Jean-François

Binet.

The New Richmond Rotary Club is making efforts to recruit new members this fall. "We have 17 members and we would like to have 20. We have only one woman so we would like to recruit more women. At the international level, 25% of the members are women. We are far from that proportion in New Richmond.

What we are doing for the community is important.

There are 34,000 clubs in the world and we have 1.3 million members. We are not paying salaries with our donations. We are supporting organizations' projects, when acquisitions of equipment, like furniture are needed, or renovations. We are looking for durable initiatives," stresses Mr. Binet.

Organization	Amount (\$)	Organization	Amount (\$)
Salmon dinner for the seniors	2,500	New Richmond's Figure Skating Club	500
Baie-des-Chaleurs Health Foundation	1,000	New Richmond's Youth Centre	500
OGPAC (support to cancer patients)	1,000	Eagles Club of Cascapedia-Saint Jules	500
Maison de la famille (Bonaventure MRC)	1,000	New Richmond's Swimming Club	500
New Richmond Student Foundation	1,000	Association des personnes handicapées Action Chaleurs	500
Knights of Columbus (Christmas baskets)	1,000	Alpine Ski Club	500
Support to youth initiatives	2,500	Mutual Aid Club	500
Support to community initiatives	1,500	Maison Oasis	500
Relay for Life	500	La Passerelle (mental health)	500
Linda Lemore Brown Foundation	500	L.I.F.E Association	500
Fonds Leblanc Lobo Turcotte	500	New Richmond's Soccer Club	500
Ressource d'aide aux personnes handicapées Gaspésie	500	Naval League of Canada	500
Volunteer Action Centre Le P'tit bonheur	500	Casacapedia 50 Plus Club	500
Association des TCC & ACV	500	Maison Oasis and L'Émergence (International Division)	10,000 ea.

# Parti Québécois wants to put the talents of experienced workers to good use

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Accompanied by Bonaventure candidate Alexis Deschênes; the leader of the Parti Québécois, Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon, presented a tax exemption measure that could make it possible to fill thousands of vacant positions in Quebec while improving the income as well as the quality of life of many retirees.

Mr. Saint-Pierre-Plamondon presented that measure during a stop in Carleton, which was part of his September 6 and 7 visit to the Gaspé Peninsula.

His idea is to raise the standard of living of people aged 60 and over, by recognizing their experience and removing the tax barriers that deter them from remaining active in the labour market.

“We must consider that 60% of people aged 60 and more earn less than \$30,000 a year, and that 20% of that age group earns less than what is considered a viable income threshold, the income that makes ends meet, to live in dignity,” states Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon.

To fight the chronic labour shortage, the Parti Québécois wants to bring 150,000 experienced people back into the job market by 2030. To do this, the party proposes to give people aged over 60 a significant tax rebate, with no penalty on their retirement income.

“The Parti Québécois will also allow the Quebec Pension Plan contributions to be stopped for people aged 65 and over who continue to work. Experienced workers represent a wealth (of knowledge): they often do not need training, they are ready to work and have valuable knowledge that they will be happy to share with their new colleagues,” adds the PQ leader.

He stresses that the measure would increase the standard of living, socialization and recognition of workers aged between 60 and 69.

“The benefits are numerous for people, and the operation will quickly be at zero cost for the government, given the foreseeable increase in productivity,” points out Mr. Saint-Pierre-Plamondon.

The number of vacancies is estimated at nearly 248,000, and the losses of small and medium-sized enterprises amount to billions of dollars.

“We have a duty to find in-



Photo: G. Gagné

*PQ leader Paul Saint-Pierre and Bonaventure riding candidate Alexis Deschênes think one measure of the party's program can help older workers.*

novative solutions that can be common to both issues: solutions aimed at increasing the income and quality of life of retirees, while ensuring that their talents serve the progress and prosperity of Quebec,” argues the leader of the Parti Québécois.

With this in mind, the Parti Québécois undertakes to provide a tax reduction of 15% on the last \$35,000 declared in income, without penalty on annuities and pensions, up to a maximum annual income of \$80,000. Concretely, this means that people aged 60 and over who earn \$50,000 or less will not pay tax, while those earning \$50,000 to \$80,000 will benefit from a significant incentive to stay at work or come back to it, if they wish.

“We also estimate that this measure will be at zero cost two years after its implementation, thanks to the projected increase in business productivity, the surpluses that the government will be able to collect through corporate tax, and the increase in taxes levied on consumption. In the medium and long term, we are talking about a measure that will be downright profitable for the Quebec state,” says Bonaventure riding candidate Alexis Deschênes.

**It works elsewhere, stresses the PQ**

Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon insists that the potential is there and that other parts of the industrialized world have significantly higher levels of employment for the older labour force.

“In Ontario, the employ-

government could add more than \$2.6 billion annually to its revenue column,” explains the PQ leader.

The government's annual shortcoming for the tax exemption would hover around \$2 billion, which would leave a \$600 million surplus.

“That is not counting the benefits for the workers, the enterprises and the society in general,” adds Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon.

In addition, the Parti Québécois wants to allow the cessation of contributions to the Quebec Pension Plan for people aged 65 and over.

“Seniors who wish to continue working after age 65 will thus be able to fully benefit from their work: the 6.15% contribution will go directly into their pockets, which will constitute a direct increase in their income. Notwithstanding this incentive, their retirement will continue to be enhanced by the employer's share. The employer will continue to be required to contribute. These amounts that they will not have to pay represent another incen-

tive to participate in the work,” mentions the leader of the Parti Québécois

“Seniors suffer the most from inflation because their incomes are fixed and, more often than not, limited. Welcome to the job market, they must however find the offer attractive, especially from a financial point of view. We must also respect their rhythm. It is essential. The fact remains that they represent an important key to overcoming the lack of manpower. The strong measures that we are announcing today will convince many, I am sure, to join us in meeting the challenges that arise,” assures Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon.

Alexis Deschênes stresses that, as a Legal Aid lawyer, he meets a lot of cash-strapped people. “Poverty is there. I recently met a man in Matapedia who had to use his last savings of \$2.50 in order to put gasoline in his pickup truck and come to see me. I met a woman from Chandler who is stressed out when she goes to the grocery store. We must help these people,” he concludes.

## PQ proposes regional development funding for transportation

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – At the beginning of the electoral campaign, Parti Québécois leader Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon announced that if his party would form the next government, it would inject \$11 billion in 10 years for regional development initiative. That is \$1.1 billion per year.

While in Carleton, asked by the SPEC what his party would do to improve the transportation situation in the Gaspé Peninsula, Mr. Saint-Pierre-Plamondon replied that the Parti Québécois would use its regional development fund to improve that situation, considering that transport is a vital aspect for the region's population.

“This amount, \$11 billion in 10 years, must translate into structuring projects. We see that there is a clear shortage of transportation means in the region. If we are elected, we will double the current bus services. The development fund targets areas like the Gaspé Peninsula,” says Mr. Saint-Pierre-Plamondon.

Bonaventure riding candidate for the Parti Québécois Alexis Deschênes is quite incisive about the Coalition avenir Québec record of the last four years regarding public transport in the Gaspé Peninsula.

“A Parti Québécois government will restore the passenger and freight trains between Matapedia and Gaspé faster than what we see now. The freight train was supposed to be back in Port Daniel by 2022 and it is not there. It was supposed to be back in Gaspé by 2025 and there is no longer a deadline! It is unacceptable that Via Rail is not serving the Matapedia to New Richmond portion of the line, considering that the corporation receives hundreds of millions of dollars in grants yearly,” states Mr. Deschênes.

“We want Via Rail to come back gradually when the line is serviceable. It should be New Richmond, then New Carlisle, then Port Daniel and so on as the line is repaired and reopens. It is technically feasible and the region needs it. Via Rail must stop finding excuses

to refrain from coming back and when they do, let's not accept that they come every fourth day or so,” adds Mr. Deschênes.

He expresses the same criticism for Keolis-Orleans Express' bus service, which was basically cut by 65 to 70% at the beginning of 2015.

“The day will come for the permit renewal hearings of Keolis and I will be there,” he points out.

The president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Éric Dubé, recently told Carleton-based CIEU-FM that he is not pushing much for a return of Via Rail's passenger train because he thinks it will already be hard to convince the public transporter to resume its service between Matapedia and New Carlisle, in a first step towards a full resumption of the service to Gaspé.

“We are not divided on the matter. I met Mr. Dubé recently and we talked about the issue. There is no contradiction there. It is just that our expectations are not the same,” concludes Mr. Deschênes.

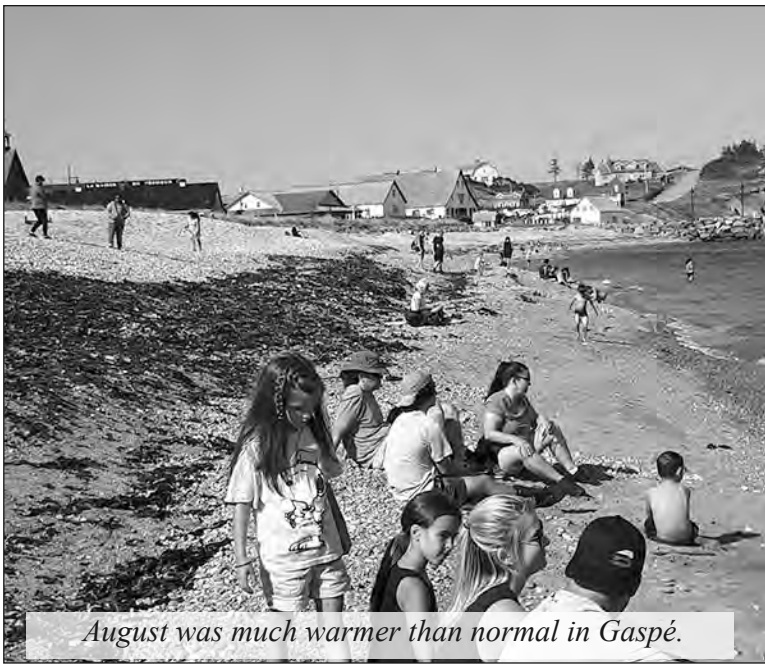


Photo: N. Sergerie

## Gaspé experienced a warmer than usual August

Nelson **Sergerie**

**GASPÉ** - According to Environment Canada, the average temperature was 18.5°C, or 2.4°C above normal, which is significant in terms of temperature.

Last year, August was even hotter with an average of 19°C.

The Magdalen Islands and Gaspé are the places in Quebec where the gap was the largest in Quebec last month. Only one day exceeded 30°C: August 20 when the mercury rose to 30.3°C.

Only one other day in the summer of 2022 exceeded 30°C: that of July 23 with 30.6°C.

This is much less than in the summer of 2021 when the tem-

perature was above 30°C, but the data was incomplete as several days in July had not been measured.

In terms of precipitation, Gaspé received 20% more rain than normal. 112 millimetres of rain fell, while the norm is 94 millimetres.

Environment Canada notes that the weekend of August 20 was particularly hot even though no record was broken. It was 35°C on August 20, 1935.

According to the Environment Canada, September should continue in a similar manner with a smooth transition into autumn. The temperature should be warmer than normal on average across Quebec.

## The Case of the Disappearing English Content

Diane Skinner

An interesting and significant change has occurred very recently. On Wednesday, September 7, all English content is being removed from the CAQ party website. The only two parties that do not have their policies in English as well as French are the Parti Québécois and the CAQ. Premier Legault responded to questions about the removal of English content by stating that French is Quebec's only official language.

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## Police report

Steve Soucy, 50, from Saint-Elzéar was the source of an alert that sounded throughout Quebec on September 2. He was sent to the Maria hospital for psychiatric evaluation for a period of 30 days following his second appearance on Tuesday at the New Carlisle Courthouse. On September 3, he was charged with uttering death threats and causing injury to police officers, possession of a weapon without a license, possession of a weapon for a purpose dangerous to the public's safety, and possession of a firearm while prohibited from doing so. He also faces a charge of driving without a licence from August 19.

Steve Soucy has been known to police officers since 2018, when he was sentenced to serve 30 months in prison for various offenses related to break and enters.

Quebec Court Judge James Rondeau sent the case back to court for October 6, when the assessment from Maria Hospital of the accused's ability to face his actions should be completed.

The police intervention on September 2 began in the early hours of the morning and ended around 9 p.m., not far from the residence of the suspect, who surrendered without firing a shot. He had been seen earlier, carrying a rifle outside his property. On September 2, most of Quebec was aware at 4 p.m. of the general alert triggered by the Quebec government's operational centre, but it took considerably longer to inform the population of Saint-Elzéar because the cellular phone coverage is poor there.

David Guy, 38, from Maria serving a four-year prison sentence for having inflicted abuse for 17 years on his spouse, will again face a criminal charge as he allegedly attacked an inmate. On August 12, he pleaded guilty to six charges in relation to this ex-spouse, namely assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm, two charges of uttering death threats, and two breaches of conditions. The assaults and threats occurred between 2004 and March 2021.

This time, "he faces one count of assault causing bodily harm. The gestures were allegedly made last June against a fellow prisoner. He will appear in court on September 12," says Maxime Rocheville-Paradis, criminal and penal prosecutor at the New Carlisle courthouse. According to a court document, the crime would have occurred on June 21, more precisely.

The ex-spouse of the accused, shaken by the fact that there was only one year and 325 days left of David Guy's sentence as of August 12, had at that time informed the court of her worries that her ex-spouse will make her suffer once out of prison.

She died five days after the sentencing, in her Rivière-du-Loup apartment, where she had moved in the summer of 2021. Her body bore no marks of violence when it was discovered: David Guy was imprisoned on a preventive basis since his arrest on March 18, 2021. Each day of preventive imprisonment counts for a day and a half of firm detention.

A minor was arrested on the evening of September 6 in Bonaventure after an hour-long chase that started in the Percé area of Cape Cove. A nail carpet had to be used to stop the suspect, who was arrested by the Sûreté du Québec police officers not far from the nail carpet. "At about 6:45 p.m., members of the Rocher Percé police detachment tried to check the state of a young driver from Cape Cove. He decided to flee and covered 100 kilometres, using dangerous manoeuvres to get away from the police. In Grand River, he hit an unoccupied vehicle and he kept going. In Paspébiac, he was stopped on Highway 132 after passing on the nail carpet laid by the police. He continued on his way for some distance but he could no longer drive his vehicle, which had become very unstable," explains Officer Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

"The young man was arrested and taken to hospital for a blood sample in order to check if he had previously consumed alcohol, drugs or a combination of both. He will have to appear in court later. He will be summoned to do so but, for now, he remains hospitalized for a while," added officer Doiron. The young offender will likely face charges of obstruction in the work of police officers, hit and run, dangerous driving, impaired driving and possession of narcotics. He lives in Cap d'Espoir and will likely appear at the Percé Courthouse.

A fire completely destroyed a residence on 4th Avenue in New Richmond in the wee hours of September 6. The emergency call was received around 3:30 a.m. The blaze was already widespread when the firefighters arrived, points out Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec. The firefighters were alerted by neighbours. The house was unoccupied and its owner was sleeping in a trailer on the same premise. Nobody was hurt as a result of the fire. According to the New Richmond Fire Department, a small smokehouse on the back porch of the house was the source of the blaze. A total of 14 firefighters fought the blaze, which forced the preventive evacuation of nearby houses.

On September 1, an elderly man in his forties was seriously injured in an all-terrain vehicle accident that occurred on a trail in Gaspé. According to the Sûreté du Québec, the individual was travelling on trail number 5 about four kilometres from the intersection of boulevard York Ouest and Montée Wakeham when he left the trail around 4 p.m. As a result of the impact, the man was thrown from the vehicle. A second ATV was nearby, but the driver was not involved in the crash. Firefighters were called to the scene. The victim suffered significant injuries, but police say his life is not in danger. An investigation has been opened to determine the circumstances surrounding this accident. However, alcohol could be involved.

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Gilles Gagné  
**Commentary**



## Does Quebec really need more power dams?

Premier François Legault raised quite a controversy on September 7 when he said that Quebec needs new power dams to meet the province's electricity demand, which is expected to increase by 50% between now and 2050. He made that statement in Bécancour, near Trois-Rivières, on the 10th day of the electoral campaign.

It seemed to come out of nowhere, as the alleged necessity to build new power dams doesn't appear in the priorities of Mr. Legault's electoral platform, or his party's, the Coalition avenir Québec.

The premier justified his statement by explaining that over the next 30 years or so, Hydro-Québec, the province's utility, will need to increase its electricity output by 100 terawatt-hours. One terawatt hour is the equivalent of 1,000 billion watt-hours. Quebec's current electricity production reaches a bit more than 200 terawatt-hours.

François Legault added that he is giving Hydro-Québec the mandate to determine how the utility can deliver the power to meet the province's demand in 2050, given that new power dams will be part of the picture.

Presently, Hydro-Québec is working on the construction of the Romaine-4 power dam on the North Shore, a project that has a two-year delay. The utility is neither working on any other power dam construction nor planning to add power dams to its existing electricity production capacity.

The premier was asked to determine how many power dams he intends to add to Quebec's capacity, and where he plans to install them. He answered that it would be part of Hydro-Québec's responsibilities to draw that sort of map.

The whole thing seemed improvised and we can be sure that it was, at least in part.

Shortly before winning the October 2018 election, François Legault expressed interest in adding more power dams to Hydro-Québec's portfolio. About two years later, he started saying that Quebec didn't need additional electricity production because we were experiencing an energy surplus. He used that situation profusely to perform some wind energy bashing, something he had already done during the 2014 and the 2018 electoral campaigns. The excuse was also that wind energy was too expensive.

For a trained accountant, Mr. Legault was lagging behind in the comprehension of the cost reality of wind power, as in 2018, that form of electricity was already cheaper than that coming from most dams built since 2000. Truth be told, Quebecers are still not informed about the exact cost of the hydroelectricity produced by the first three Romaine dams, for example. Rumour has it that its production cost far exceeds that of wind energy.

By the first quarter of 2021, François Legault had finally understood that there is hardly any form of clean energy more competitive than wind power.

The drawback with that form of energy is that the

wind is not always blowing. However, improving technologies make it easier now to couple wind farms and power dams. So, when the wind stops, power dams can take over in a few minutes. Moreover, the development of huge and more efficient batteries will allow the storage of the electricity produced by windmills.

Most experts, even those who were criticizing wind energy five or ten years ago, now agree on the fact that power dams will hardly solve Quebec's future challenges, energywise.

The province's rivers that carry the highest potential have already been harnessed. The remaining rivers are either far smaller and will consequently be very costly to put to good use.

Moreover, things have changed a lot since the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Environmental regulations have been tightened quite a bit, and it is now much more complicated to plan a power dam and build it than 40 to 60 years ago. It takes more time and it is consequently more expensive.

Still on the environmental front, it is no longer acceptable to flood huge surfaces of land, including trees that will emit mercury, which will then flow into the rivers, inducing contamination that affect human beings and wildlife.

In today's world, new power dams can hardly be viewed as part of an environmentally friendly means to produce electricity because of the sum of greenhouse effect gases generated by all the soil disturbed to build them, and the fuel burned to lay out those enormous structures.

More importantly, François Legault's desire to add power dams in Quebec waves completely any discussion that should previously have taken place with the First Nations communities. By and large, it deeply contravenes with the Natives' strategy and need to protect their territory from further invasion.

So, again, the premier improvised on a crucial issue, which divulges his true nature, his intention to opt for outdated forms of development. Sometimes, he seems to understand more modern ways of presenting projects and strategies. However, when left to improvise and express his views freely, he goes back to the "good old ways" of yesteryears. However, those good old ways might work for certain things, but they don't fit in a sustainable strategy, economically, environmentally and socially.

It might be true that we will need to add 100 terawatt-hours of energy to Quebec's supply over the next 25 to 30 years but it is clear that Quebec will need an array of means to carry out that task.

First of all, we have to reduce the sum of energy wasted through negligence. Because our energy cost has traditionally been very low, arguably one of the lowest costs in the world, if not the lowest, Quebecers have not all learned to use electricity wisely.

Our houses and buildings either let some heat escape or let some cold in, sometimes both. Our huge parking lots create heat zones that force people living or working around to install air conditioning systems. We leave unnecessary lighting on in rooms where there is nobody.

The cheapest way to harness new electricity is to recuperate the power already produced. Renovating houses and buildings, plus changing habits as well as conceiving our villages, towns and cities differently are much less expensive solutions than building new dams or wind farms to satisfy our luxurious needs.

Some power dams will be modernized over the next

decades and efficiency will arise from the installation of more productive equipment. Some terawatt-hours will be gained there.

The way wind energy was deployed over the last 20 years in Quebec was far from optimal. Social acceptance was hardly considered in wind farms erected during that period.

If wind energy is to play a pivotal role between now and 2050, in an attempt to produce a sizeable part of the 100 terawatt-hours increment we are supposed to need, a new vision will have to emerge.

First of all, the First Nations will have to be consulted, no matter where the next wind farms are erected.

Secondly, there are parts of the Quebec territory that are already visually affected by the presence of power dams and electricity transport lines. Usually, those dams and lines are located in areas where the wind is blowing strongly. Wouldn't it be relevant to consider erecting the next wind farms near those power lines and/or next to some power dams, considering that the scenery is far from top-notch there?

Thirdly, as it has been the case in the Gaspé Peninsula for close to ten years now, Hydro-Québec should sign partnerships with the First Nations regarding the future wind farms, either as shareholders in private projects, the model adopted around the coast and elsewhere in Quebec so far, or in some kind of joint ventures with the public utility.

During his improvised statement, the Quebec premier also expressed his will to see the realization delay of power dams, currently estimated at about 15 years between the initial thought and the turnkey phase, be reduced. It is easy to say, but it is far from sure that it is feasible and, above all, ideal. Some precious consultation steps would likely be botched, and the results are never brilliant in that context.

François Legault is also dreaming about transforming Quebec into the big battery of the northeastern part of the United States. Quebec is a huge territory but he is dreaming in technicolour if he thinks a province counting a little under 9 million people can play such a huge role. It would likely destroy its natural beauty. Quebec can keep contributing to the decarbonization of part of the continent but not to the extent imagined by the premier, who should seriously reconsider his talent for improvisation.

*The Gaspé Spec*

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# Liberal party candidates: Christian Cyr in Bonaventure and Michel Marin in Gaspé

Gilles **Gagné**

NEW RICHMOND – Christian Cyr, a well-known real estate agent based in New Richmond, and Michel Marin, the director general of the Groupement forestier Chic-Chocs in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, will represent the Liberal Party of Quebec in the riding of Bonaventure and Gaspé, respectively.

They made their candidacy official during the weekend of September 3, a week after the August 28 start of the electoral campaign leading to the October 3 election.

Christian Cyr, 55, was born in New Richmond and moved to Sainte-Anne-des-Monts when he was eight years old. He was later a town councillor there and was involved in many economic development files before coming back to the Bay of Chaleurs area 16 years ago.

He became involved in the Liberal Party in 2018 and acted as president of the party for the whole region of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, as well as president of the Bonaventure Riding Association.

“We were on a good swing in 2019 and in early 2020 but the pandemic cut our activities without stopping them completely. However, the intensity of the pandemic really reduced

those activities. We have a membership consisting of workers and retired people. Communicating with them was a challenge. We had Zoom chats and emails,” points out Mr. Cyr.

Christian Cyr says that the Liberal Party Association of Bonaventure had 400 members before the pandemic. He is not aware of the updated count but assures that it is rising since the beginning of the electoral campaign. His brother Stéphane, who is a radio announcer in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, is moving to New Richmond for the duration of the campaign in order to be director for the Liberals. Retired businessman Sylvain Langis, who has moved back permanently to New Richmond, is also playing an important role in the campaign.

“Our board is not complete yet, and our electoral team is pretty much set. I am a full-time candidate now,” adds Christian Cyr, who is fairly bilingual.

He admits that the Liberal Party was late in announcing his candidates in the Gaspé Peninsula. “They (party officials) asked me a long time ago, months ago to be accurate but I had professional commitments, and community responsibilities, as well as family ones, so I had to make sure that those commitments would

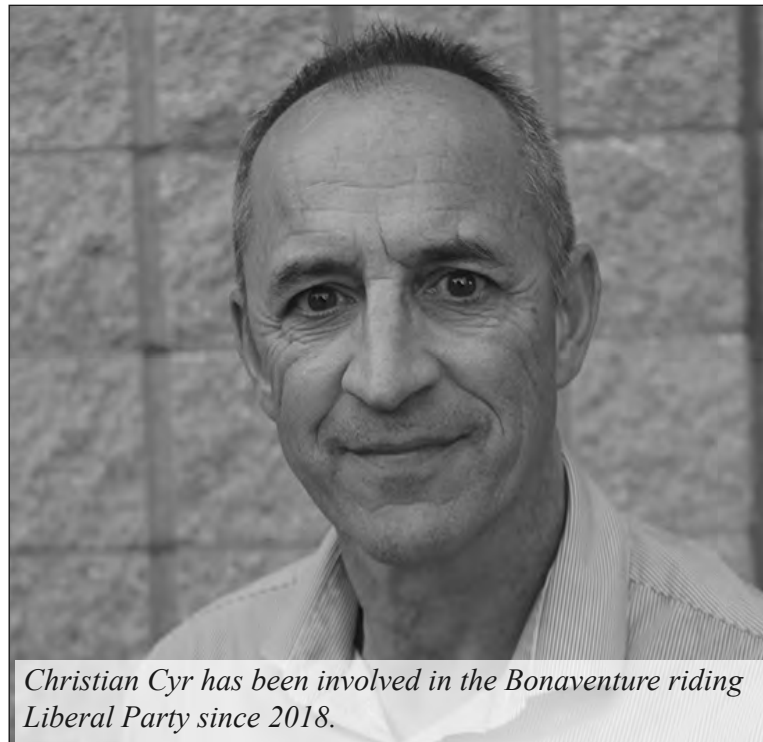
be respected. If another candidate had shown up, I would have delayed by four years my intention to run. Let’s also consider that the CAQ, the governing party, also experienced problems in finding candidates in the Gaspé Peninsula ridings,” explains Christian Cyr.

Despite moving back to New Richmond in 2006, Christian Cyr kept some responsibilities as an economic and strategic development agent for the Haute-Gaspésie in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts for 10 years.

His platform was still in development as of September 8 but he insists on the importance of sustainable development.

“I am a grassroots person, who believes that local people must control the development of their natural resources, their salmon rivers, tourism and so on. We, Michel Marin and I, are in politics to help the community make forward strides, not to find work,” concludes Mr. Cyr.

Michel Marin is an old friend of Christian Cyr. He has been Director General of the Groupement forestier Chic-Chocs for close to three decades and has been involved in forestry for more than 30 years. He is also a former Sainte-Anne-des-Monts town councillor.



Christian Cyr has been involved in the Bonaventure riding Liberal Party since 2018.

Photo: G. Gagné



Michel Marin has been deeply involved in forestry for more than 30 years in the Haute-Gaspésie area.

Photo: Courtesy of Christian Cyr

## A spectacular fire hits the Gaspé technical landfill

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - A fire at the Gaspé landfill kept the local firefighters very active for several hours on September 7. The blaze broke out at dawn and spread some 60 metres along a pile of garbage before the firefighters had it under control.

In the middle of the afternoon, the director of the Town of Gaspé Fire Protection Department, Carl Synnott, mentioned that the fire was almost out. Only a few homes were affected with the smell of smoke.

Machinery was used to ensure that the fire was not smoldering under the waste. No less than thirty firefighters with a dozen trucks extinguished the blaze.

“There was a good job done by the firefighters and the employees of the LET

(landfill),” mentions the director general of the Intermunicipal Residual Materials Processing Board of the Gaspé Peninsula, Nathalie Drapeau.

She points out that a landfill contains a lot of flammable materials such as plastic bags, cardboard, wood or shingles.

“We find ourselves with material that quickly feeds the first flames. This is why you have to keep monitoring the place to make sure it’s really out,” she comments.

A situation assessment will be made in the coming days. “What could have happened? Was there an unusual contribution (flammable materials)? Can we change anything at the operational level? Should we adapt our plan for emergency measures? These are good opportunities to analyze and

challenge things,” recalls the director.

The difficulty of getting water nearby will also be part of the analysis since the site is about ten kilometres from inhabited areas.

A column of smoke was visible at daybreak as far as downtown Gaspé, but it dissipated throughout the day. The Town of Gaspé suggested residents keep windows and ventilation systems closed, because of the strong smell of smoke.

The exact source of the blaze remains unknown for now and it might remain a mystery. For example, some people or businesses dump ashes in their waste and it can smolder for days before becoming a blaze. A bad combination of chemicals can also trigger a fire. (With contribution from Gilles Gagné)



Photo: Courtesy of the Town of Gaspé

A large column of smoke rose in the sky on September 7 during the fire at the Gaspé sanitary landfill.

# Elections: Gaspesian MRCs present their grocery list

Nelson **Sergerie**

**CARLETON-SUR-MER** — The Regroupement des MRCs de la Gaspésie (Grouping of Gaspesian MRCs) is submitting eight demands highlighting the regional priorities for the October 3 election.

A consultation was conducted with mayors and prefects to establish the issues they would like to see debated during the electoral campaign.

Demography has been at the heart of concerns for several years now. “The brake on demographics obviously relates to the issue of housing and childcare services. It will not be a surprise to anyone, but the issue is there. This is the region’s priority for the municipal world,” explains the president, Mathieu Lapointe.

Among the other elements to be considered by candidates in Bonaventure and Gaspé are climate change, the continued development of the wind power sector, the forest industry and regional development funds.

The elected officials want a commitment for the continuation of the Aid Fund for Regional Initiatives (FAIR). “It’s \$5 million per year for the development specifically of the Gaspé Peninsula and the FAIR expires in March 2023. We want to ensure that the fund is renewed,” says Mr. Lapointe.

## Caribou versus economic development



*The president of the Regroupement des MRC de la Gaspésie, Mathieu Lapointe.*

The group wants to ensure that caribou protection does not come at the expense of the region’s economy.

Mr. Lapointe points out that elected officials are in favour of protecting the species, but workers, especially in the forestry sector, and citizens of Haute-Gaspésie must not be the only ones to pay the price.

“The commission has done a job to assess the condition and come up with recommendations. Now, what we want to do as a region is to come up with proposals to offset the impacts that caribou protection will have to ensure that it does not harm the economy,” comments the president.

The group does not know the position of the government, but the idea of protecting the environment bordering

its habitat will inevitably have impacts. The group wishes to obtain tools and means to come up with concrete proposals.

## Fisheries study

A study is commissioned by the group to determine the importance of the fishing sector in the Gaspé Peninsula. “We have little data on the direct and indirect economic impacts. We gave a mandate to the Institute for Research in Contemporary Economy to document and assess the benefits to better understand this industry in the region and to better defend its interests,” explains Mr. Lapointe.

The Corporation de développement économique de Grande-Rivière commissioned a study that estimated

the economic benefits at \$800 million per year in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

The objective was to demonstrate to the federal government the major impact of the sector in order to convince federal politicians to invest in port areas. “We want to go further. We have researchers on the territory who will meet industrialists, fishermen, but also everybody directly or indirectly related to fishing, such as Exploramers in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. We are going to cast a wider net to have the most encompassing portrait possible,” explains Mr. Lapointe.

## Always the cell phone issue

The MRCs of the Gaspé Peninsula will not wait any longer to have adequate cellular coverage in the region.

On September 2, a national alert was released that an armed and dangerous man was hiding in the forest in Saint-Elzéar, but with inadequate coverage in the municipality, the citizens of the village did not receive it.

“I don’t know what it’s going to take to speed things up but, clearly, other elements have arrived, such as on the road between Murdochville and Gaspé recently. In the Matapédia Valley, we experienced it. Several times a year, tragic incidents occur but, despite everything, we see that

we are fragile. We must offer cellular coverage everywhere,” claims the president.

For more than a decade, the various MRCs have adopted resolutions to improve coverage. For Mr. Lapointe, cell phones are now part of essential services in Quebec and must be offered quickly.

## An invoice that is not unique

The \$381,000 bill claimed by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources in Gaspé for the sale of land for housing is not unique in the Gaspé Peninsula. Carleton-sur-Mer experienced a similar situation when the town wanted to exchange land with the Ministry of Transport. The bill came to \$25,000 to buy a piece of land for a sidewalk.

“We experience it in different ways with the school service centres, the health centres too. There are land allocation issues. Municipalities have an obligation to donate or exchange land but, sometimes, we have the impression that between ministries, the departments do not speak to each other and that they are not listening to the reality on the ground. We see aberrations like these happening,” says Mr. Lapointe.

On the issue of housing, legislative actions have been taken recently. Mr. Lapointe regrets that the departments are not listening to housing concerns.

## ELECTION: Gaspé has many expectations for upcoming provincial election

Nelson **Sergerie**

**GASPÉ** - Gaspé targets several expectations of political parties in view of the election on October 3.

The town’s top priority is to combat inflation. Mayor Daniel Côté notes that the effects are beginning to be felt on various aspects of municipal life, including fuel, vehicle maintenance and rising interest rates.

Among topics of interest are, “the arena file, the aid for the Pointe-Navarre detour, the protection of the banks at Anse-à-Valleau which is dragging on, we want more support for the construction of housing, daycare spots, labour recruitment in the regions and that we are helped to get through the current in-



*The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté*

Photo: N. Sergerie

flationary crisis,” says Daniel Côté.

The elected official notes that Quebec and Ottawa reap revenues related to consumption, taxation and income tax while municipalities spend more on fuel, asphalt and

concrete.

“In short, a lot more spending for us, but no more revenue, while the other levels of government have much more revenue than spending,” says the mayor.

According to him, in the short term, municipalities must be compensated. Otherwise towns will have to turn to property taxes.

“We are still talking to taxpayers, who themselves are suffocated by inflation. It is not a good idea to pass the bill on to property taxes, except that it takes compensation for the municipalities to assume their additional expenses,” explains Mr. Côté.

In the long term, according to Mr. Côté, it will be necessary to provide for a new sharing of the tax base.

“If you remember, Quebec was talking at one point about a fiscal imbalance vis-à-vis Ottawa. The fiscal imbalance is now between the municipalities and Quebec. We will have to review our ways of doing things,” says the mayor.

The question of the sports complex is back. The next government must commit to reinstating a funding program that will allow municipalities to carry out arena projects in Quebec.

“The one (arena) in Gaspé is at the end of its useful life and, at present, no one can tell us how many more years we will be able to find parts to operate the obsolete refrigeration system. I expect local candidates to speak out on this issue and support us in

obtaining funding as quickly as possible to begin construction of the new sports complex,” says the mayor.

With economic growth, the problems of lack of housing, labour and daycare places are a brake on the development of Gaspé and have been mentioned many times for several years now.

Even if announcements of 184 places in CPEs (early childhood daycare centres) have been made, the Town is asking for an acceleration of the deployment.

The Town has prepared a chart containing all the demands which is sent to the candidates who will be present on the ballot and each of them will be invited to meet the municipal council before the vote.

# Gaspé must pay \$381,000 in penalties to sell the land to be used to build 144 housing units

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - In the midst of a housing crisis, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MERN) is asking Gaspé for \$381,000 in order to agree to the transaction between the town and a developer for the construction of 144 housing units near Carrefour Gaspé.

"While the Government of Quebec says it supports housing construction, the MERN is putting the brakes on it. It took six months to tell us that they were going to invoke a clause dating from 1978 in an old contract, that they were going to extort the sum of \$381,000 from us as a form of penalty relating to this clause," criticizes the mayor, Daniel Cote.

"The MERN processes ensure that there is nothing to do to negotiate," adds the elected official who tried to use all sorts of ways to avoid paying this sum.

"We don't have time to use a private law firm or obtain legislative changes. The political side was very attentive and tried to support us in this. The blame isn't there," Mr. Côté carefully notes.

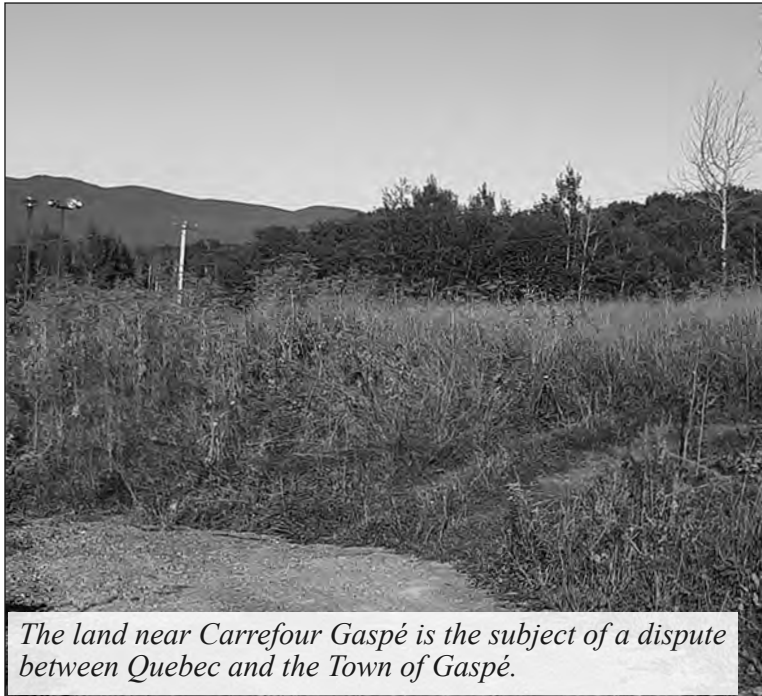
MERN regulations allow certain exceptions, but the construction of housing or a childcare centre is not on the list.

"Even if there is a crying need, there are no exceptions in the regulations. The ministry could have had a little discernment. They cannot do it nor do they want to do it," comments the mayor.

The payment of this large sum is not done lightly. "We do not have the time and the luxury of waiting for months to wait for legislative or process changes. Our promoter is moving forward and wants to keep moving forward. We want to sell him the land. The council will finally resign itself to paying this sum of \$381,000 for this old clause that makes no sense, but we have to do it because we believe that we must continue to develop housing in our community," justifies the mayor.

If forced to pay this penalty, the Town will not make a penny in this transaction.

At the time of the announcement of the project in September 2021, the an-



*The land near Carrefour Gaspé is the subject of a dispute between Quebec and the Town of Gaspé.*

Photo: N. Sergerie

nounced sale price was \$300,000 for this land valued at \$566,000 with several conditions including the construction of four 36-unit complexes on set dates, otherwise, financial penalties will apply.

"Assuming that the promoter builds on time, with the incentives put in place, in the end, no, we are not making a penny because of this clause," admits the mayor.

We are going to fight in the long term so that these proce-

dures, which date from another era, change. We want housing. We want childcare spaces. All the ministries will have to talk with the government for that to change," hopes the elected official. The mayor wants to add housing and CPEs to the exceptions.

Carleton-sur-Mer has already experienced a similar situation, but this time with the Ministry of Transport. "We had to negotiate a land swap. It took two years and it cost us \$25,000 to buy the

land when we just wanted to do a trade. We stopped fighting against the system," comments the mayor of Carleton-sur-Mer, Mathieu Lapointe. The property was needed for the installation of a wooden sidewalk.

The situation is experienced at different levels such as with the School Service Centres and the CISSSs where there are also land distribution issues.

"Sometimes, we have the impression that between ministries the system does not speak to each other and that they are not listening to the reality on the ground and we see aberrations like these which occur," adds the mayor of Carleton-sur-Mer. On the issue of housing, Mr. Lapointe had met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Premier, and new powers were granted to municipalities given the urgency to act.

"We need to broaden our horizons and focus on the large picture and be attentive to the issues of the territories," says the mayor of Carleton-sur-Mer and president of the Regroupement des MRC de la Gaspésie.

## Québec solidaire proposes to improve home care services

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Québec solidaire hopes to succeed where several governments have failed over the years by suggesting improving home care and better support for caregivers.

In a press briefing on September 2 in Gaspé to make his announcement of the day accompanied by the solidarity candidate in Gaspé, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, Québec solidaire spokesperson, Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, pledged to invest an additional \$750 million each year to guarantee access to home care and an additional \$380 million to support informal caregivers.

"A 'solidaire' government will give Quebecers the means to age at home by focusing on prevention and home care, thanks to a total investment of more than \$1.1 billion," says Mr. Nadeau-Dubois.

According to Québec solidaire, more than 45,000 people are on a waiting list to receive home care.



*The co-spokesperson of Québec solidaire, Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, and the candidate for Gaspé, Yv Bonnier Viger*

Photo: N. Sergerie

A Solidaire government would also create the first allowance program for caregivers, which will be added to the only current tax credit. In addition, caregivers will be able to receive real financial compensation for their essential work. These are direct allowances to caregivers, modulated according to the needs of the person being cared for.

In the Gaspé Peninsula, the health network is struggling to provide this home care due to a lack of personnel. "The labour shortage problem in Gaspésie is multifactorial. Yesterday, I met a woman who told me about nurses who are camping because they haven't found accommodations in the Gaspésie yet. It will take action on several fronts," says Mr. Nadeau-Dubois, referring

to the housing shortage.

In addition to the lack of housing, the shortage of places in the Centres de la petite enfance (early childhood daycare centres) and the working conditions for daycare employees explain, according to him, the lack of human resources.

"We will make announcements soon on the creation of places in CPEs. There will be some in the Gaspésie. We will soon make our announcement on social housing. There will be some for the Gaspésie and, at that time, it will be quantified by region," he explains, indicating that the announcements will be modulated by mandate.

The presence of Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois did not go unnoticed in the region. He visited the ridings of Bonaventure and Gaspé for three days and came just prior to the start of the campaign to present his candidate for Gaspé, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger.

The candidate isn't hiding its ambitions for the October 3

provincial election. "If we (he and his team) came twice in two weeks, it's because we're confident and it's because we have the best team in our history in the Gaspésie. There are more solidaire activists on the ground than ever before," explains Mr. Nadeau-Dubois, who isn't closing the door to another visit to the Gaspésie during the campaign.

The candidate in Gaspé sees the leader of the political party in the region as a positive sign. "It proves that Québec solidaire attaches great importance to the values of public health, among others, as much as I attach importance to the values of Québec solidaire," explains Mr. Bonnier Viger.

About the Parti Québécois, Yv Bonnier Viger mentions its contribution in the past for Quebec, but he believes that Québec solidaire is now taking its place in development. "Honestly, we can see that they don't have the strength they had," concludes the doctor.

# Percé: no imminent sanction for the tourist fee

Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCÉ - Merchants in Percé who have not yet collected the tourist fee or made their first payment scheduled for July 31 are getting a reprieve.

The Town does not intend to take action in the coming weeks against those who do not respect the by-law adopted by the municipal administration.

"The vast majority of merchants have signed up for the register. The vast majority collect the fee as the regulations stipulate. We are aware that there are many who do not. Many are not registered and many do not collect it," says Mayor Cathy Poirier.

July 31 coincides with the peak season. The payment covers the period until June 30.

"Several merchants have asked us to make a repayment in the fall, basically a single payment. We are in our first year. We had mentioned that there would be flexibility. We accepted this request, which came from several businesses," explains the mayor.

The Town can't provide a total amount for the tourist fee at the moment since a large majority of businesses will make their payments later in the season.

Merchants who are not yet registered or do not collect the fee are subject to penalties.

"There is no urgency to issue fines for the moment. Verifications will be done. We are aware. Some have shouted it loud and clear via the media that they're not collecting (the



Mayor Cathy Poirier indicates that the Town will be patient when it comes to the tourist fee.

tourist fee). We will crack down in due time. It is clear that merchants who have not registered are exposed to significant penalties, unfortunately," says the mayor.

## Director General

Former Mayor Bruno Cloutier, who was leading the council between 2009 and 2013 publicly questioned the absence of the director general "who resides in another continent while receiving his remuneration."

In an open letter, Mr. Cloutier suggests "that an agreement was reached with a person of authority in the town. This agreement has no legal value if it has not been ratified by resolution." He adds that the director general should forfeit his salary.

"The director general is actually abroad for the summer, about four months. Mr. Kacou is at work. In telework. It is functional," comments the mayor who finds it deplorable

to launch this discussion publicly.

"He is there for personal reasons. His trip was authorized by the town council. He's not on vacation. He works remotely via Team, via all the means we have discovered in recent years," says Ms. Poirier, who nevertheless says that such a situation could not have happened in 2018 or 2019.

"In 2022, I think the whole planet knows that there are opportunities to work remotely. This is happening more and more, in several positions. He is on duty as if he were in Percé," says Ms. Poirier. The return of Jean-François Kacou will take place in October.

## Misinformation

Tuesday's session was somewhat stormy. "There are people who come forward with allegations that are mostly unfounded. It's not easy to manage. It is rather a shame because it mixes up the information," explains the elected official.

According to her, questions from citizens sometimes make it possible to go further in the observations. "We are seeing more confrontation. There is a lot more misinformation than information and that's a shame," says Ms. Poirier.

A regulation exists to limit the time allowed for question period. The mayor does not want to apply it, stressing that she chose not to do so in order to let people express themselves.



Ciment McInnis responded on August 31 to the Ministry of the Environment on dust emissions since 2020.

Photo: N. Sergerie

## Dust: Quebec is studying the observations of Ciment McInnis

Nelson **Sergerie**

PORT-DANIEL-GASCONS - Forced to indicate what it was going to do to correct the numerous dust emissions since 2020, McInnis Cement of Port-Daniel-Gascons finally transmitted its observations by the deadline of August 31, 2022 to the Ministry of the Environment.

This was indicated by the ministry. The observations were requested by the ministry. An email sent, the ministry specified that the observations "are analyzed on their merits," while not wanting to reveal details surrounding the information transmitted and the verifications in order "not to interfere with our order process."

However, Quebec once again assured in its message that it wants to remain firm regarding the objectives of the notice prior to the order.

In July, when it made the notice public, the ministry indicated that despite several notices of non-compliance and an ongoing penal investigation, it had to assess other remedies available to it to have this situation corrected.

The Ministry of Environment intends to serve the company with an order to compel it to carry out several actions, in particular to stop the discharge of contaminants into the environment beyond the established standards and to grant a mandate to an independent expert to carry out an assessment of the proper functioning of all air cleaning equipment.

The ministry would also be asked to transmit the conclusions of the expert's report, to submit a dust control plan, to carry out the work suggested and approved, and to conclude by an independent attestation that the work carried out is compliant.

At the time, the company said it had planned \$40 million for operational and environmental improvements this year, including ensuring compliance of plant operations.

At this time, the Ministry of the Environment writes that "the Minister may issue the order announced in the notice prior to the order. If the company subsequently fails to comply with this order, the Ministry will not rule out any remedy available to it to enforce this order."

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# Reform of the federal electoral map: a unanimous “NO”

Nelson **Sergerie**

**GASPÉ** - The proposal to re-design the electoral map made by the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec is being rejected in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

The commission held public hearings on this issue on September 6 in Gaspé and succeeded in creating unanimity against the proposal to eliminate the electoral division of Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia to distribute the population in new ones temporarily named Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj and Rimouski-Matane.

The reality would not take into account several issues, in particular the territories of the MRCs and the administrative regions of Quebec in the options proposed.

“The decision was unanimous. The orientation is to maintain the status quo to not divide Eastern Quebec so as not to lose a riding on our territory,” says the president of the Regroupement des MRC de la Gaspésie and prefect of the Avignon MRC, Matthieu Lapointe.

Mr. Lapointe is ready for a slight compromise. “At a minimum, it is to ensure the integrity of the MRCs’ territories. To have an MRC of Avignon divided into two constituencies with a municipality of 150 people in another constituency is nonsense. Plan B is to maintain the integrity of the Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine territory,” adds Mr. Lapointe.

The prefect of the MRC of the Côte-de-Gaspé and mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, adds that access to a member of parliament is already complicated. “Adding two or three MRC territories makes no sense,” says Mr. Côté.

“We rely a lot on the number of the population. It shouldn’t be the only parameter. We should add geographic parameters as recommended by the Carter decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1991, which says that effective representativeness must be taken into account. We have a string of small villages along the Gaspé Peninsula. We have hundreds of kilometres to cover the federal ridings and, in addition, we have the Magdalen Islands,” explains the elected official.

The argument of a vast territory to cover was used by the four people who were heard by the commissioners.



*The commission heard unanimous interventions against the position to review the electoral divisions in Eastern Quebec*

Photo: N. Sergerie



*The commission's proposal if it goes ahead.*

Photo: Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission

Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament, Alain Therrien, from the riding of La Prairie

near Montreal, traveled to Gaspé to testify. He said he can run through his riding,

which would be impossible in the proposed riding of Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-

Madeleine-Listuguj. “They must give up their plan to subtract a member of parliament in the Gaspé Peninsula because if they go ahead, they will violate the political and democratic rights of Gaspésians. They will compromise the right to effective representation,” says the Parti Québécois candidate for the provincial riding of Bonaventure, Alexis Deschênes.

Since he is a lawyer, he argued as if he were in court, armed with case law and articles of law to back up his comments.

He indicates that he has gone through the commission's proposal which, in his opinion, deviates from the teachings of the Supreme Court of Canada and from the Act that the commissioners are supposed to apply.

“In 2012, this same commission had ruled that there were extraordinary circumstances. I remind the commission that the geography of the Gaspé Peninsula has not changed since 2012. The extraordinary circumstances are still there. There are more because before we were talking about a demographic decline. There is no longer a decline. There is a reversal of the trend and significant challenges in housing, transportation and

**Cont'd on page 11** ▶



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, September 21 at 4:00 PM**  
**Fleurant Community Hall**

The Board of Directors of CASA is pleased to invite community members, stakeholders and partners to our Annual General Meeting. Find out about the exciting work done during 2021-2022, ask questions, and get to know CASA better.

Join us at the Fleurant Community Hall for the AGM, followed by a light supper and entertainment.

**If you plan on attending, please RSVP by September 19 by emailing [ashley@casa-gaspe.com](mailto:ashley@casa-gaspe.com) or call Ashley at 418.751.6007.**

If you cannot attend in person, a zoom link will be sent to you prior to the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you!

# Queen Elizabeth II: 1926 – 2022

## Britain's longest serving monarch

Diane Skinner

A collective sadness has travelled all over the globe. Queen Elizabeth II has passed away and what a beautiful legacy she has left behind. A lady with style, grace and unfailing duty to her country. She was the most beloved of the royals and she can never be fully replaced. Of course, Britain now has King Charles, but time will reveal what his legacy will be.

Elizabeth became queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the age of 25 after the death of her father King George VI in 1952. In 2015 she passed the milestone to become the longest-reigning British monarch.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born in London in 1926. Her father, King George VI, was the second son of King George V. Edward, the eldest son of King George V, gave up the throne to his brother. This meant Elizabeth was next in line for the throne.

Elizabeth married Philip Mountbatten in 1947 and their first child, now King Charles III, was born in 1948. He was followed by Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward.

Queen Elizabeth served as a symbol of her country but did not hold a great deal of power. She attended ceremonies and many public events in Britain and all over the world. She met with the British Prime Minister as part of her duties and in her seven decades on the throne she saw 15 British Prime Ministers come and go, including Winston Churchill right up to Liz Truss, the newest prime minister.

In 2015 she reached a mile-



Photo: Wikimages from Pixabay

*Queen Elizabeth II leaves a legacy of service, style and grace. She is Britain's longest serving monarch.*

stone by passing Queen Victoria's time on the throne. In 2021 her husband, Prince Philip died at the age of 99. In 2022 she celebrated her Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years on the throne.

The Queen saw many changes in the world over her long reign. Britain's position as head of the British Empire changed greatly as countries sought independence from the monarchy. She saw the emergence of technology and she smiled, shook hands and waved through many years. Family

scandals weighed heavy on her, but she remained cheerful in public and her overwhelming popularity was, and is clearly evident today.

Queen Elizabeth II famously said, "I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else – I can give my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations." She gave her heart and devoted her life to her role as monarch. She should not be forgotten.



Photo: N. Sergerie

*A committee has been working for seven years to establish a community centre in Anse-au-Griffon church.*

## A glimmer of hope for the Anse-au-Griffon community centre committee

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - A glimmer of hope is emerging for the future Community Centre in the Anse-au-Griffon church.

On September 2, the gap still seemed wide between the creation committee and the Town of Gaspé.

"We rather had the impression of being part of a bad play where everything was orchestrated in advance," says committee president, Mireille Bilodeau.

According to her, the position of the Town has not changed despite sending several explanations to the municipal administration who had requested the project be broken down in detail. "They maintain the refusal to get involved," says the president.

The committee is still pursuing its creation efforts. "We can't wait any longer. We told them that for us it was a priority to obtain their support for our project, but as we can see that despite all the exchanges and all the information provided, they did not show openness," adds the president who does not want to take the risk of losing the grants obtained and those to come.

The committee is counting on \$2 million in government aid. The assembly of calls for

tenders is in preparation which will be used to obtain plans and specifications for the installation of the centre.

However, at the end of the meeting, a glimmer of hope appeared. "Following the discussions, we tried to bring arguments. The mayor is the key to the decision since he and the director general have been aware of the project for seven years. It is a question of rendering a fair and equitable decision in the same way as other similar projects in the Town of Gaspé," says Ms. Bilodeau, who suggested that with the elements raised, the mayor wanted to discuss them again with the council.

Daniel Côté confirms this assertion. "There are things that were proposed by the organizers at the end of the meeting where the council said that there may be a way after a proposal is made by a representative of the community centre," explains Mr. Côté.

An offer could be made in the coming days, according to the mayor, who does not want to go further for the moment, in particular on the sums to be suggested. "What was requested at the start was too high, but a potential solution seems interesting," concludes the mayor.

## A new school year

As the summer weather and the trophies of an enjoyable and fun summer are over, it is time to return to nurturing our ever-expanding brains.

Students, it's time to put your feet in your running shoes and steer yourselves toward obtaining an education. Have the right attitude for success right off the bat.

Education is a must today and Gaspesian students, you have the tools available to you to get a good education. Keep in mind that the future belongs to you. What will get you off to a good start is motivation and good study habits. Train your mind and pace yourself.

Let's go, students, as education is the passport to the future for tomorrow. We depend on you to prepare for tomorrow. Good luck to you all in the coming year: 2022/23.

Ken Ross, New Carlisle



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THE NEWSPAPER

**DURING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK**



People still remember the 37 people who died at the Blue Bird Café 50 years ago. A ceremony was held at the site, including survivors and relatives of people who perished in the fire that was set deliberately.

Photo: Montreal Gazette

## Remembering the Blue Bird Café fire 50 years later

Diane Skinner

Fifty years ago, on September 1, 1972, the Blue Bird Café Nightclub fire resulted in the deaths of 37 people and injuries to over 40. This fire was the result of deliberate arson. The Wagon Wheel was a country and western bar located above the Blue Bird Café in downtown Montreal. Mostly English-speaking young people, including a number from the Gaspé and Tide Head, New Brunswick would enjoy evenings of music, drinking and dancing.

It was on a Friday evening and more than 200 happy young people had packed the bar at the beginning of Labour Day weekend. At about 10:45 p.m., three men were not allowed in because the doorman determined that they were drunk. The three men did not accept this well and in retaliation set a fire on the main staircase to the bar. This was also the exit. A police inspector, at the time, determined that the three likely used gasoline as an accelerant and the entire bar was in flames very quickly.

The customers panicked and tried to find another way

of exiting the nightclub. There were only two other possibilities: a folding staircase accessible through the kitchen and climbing through the window in the women's washroom and jumping 20 feet onto a parked car. Tragically the emergency exit was chained closed. Most of the victims, who ranged in age from 14 to 39, perished from asphyxiation because of the dense smoke. Five people from the Gaspé and two from Tide Head, New Brunswick, died there that night. Those who were from the Gaspé include Elizabeth Montgomery, Val Huntington, Marlene Dery, Sandra Annett and Patrick Maher. Kathy Wirtanen and Bonnie Rae Evelyn Hill were from Tide Head, New Brunswick.

All three of the men who had set the fire were convicted of either second-degree murder or manslaughter. All three were granted parole within 10 years of their sentencing. The families of the victims received compensation of \$1000 to \$3000 each from the Montreal Fire Department and the owner of the bar.

On August 31, 2012, a memorial in memory of the vic-

tims was dedicated in Montreal on the 40th anniversary of the fire. Lloyd Willett of Cascapédia played a large part in having a memorial constructed in honour of the memories of the 37 people who perished that evening. Lloyd got involved because he knew that some of the victims were from the New Richmond area. He connected with others online who were interested in this project and he, Marley Dow Wirtanen and Sharon Share made this a reality in 2012. Lloyd comments, "This was one of the best things I ever did in my life. I will never forget it."

Now ten years later, the fiftieth anniversary of the tragedy has passed but many still honour the victims of that tragic evening. So many lives were lost - loved ones who never came home. Lloyd Willett who always remembers that day mentions Sharon Share from Montreal who always attended the memorials. It is up to the living to remember the ones who are gone.

As a result of the tragedy, fire regulations at bars and nightclubs were improved throughout Canada.

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



## Adapting to the New World

The world is shifting under our feet. We have lived through a pandemic of huge proportions and it has changed much about our world. We have witnessed the best and "less than best" of humanity. The pandemic brought to light the inadequate care of some of our elderly who live in long-term care. We have seen people turn against each other with clashing beliefs about not only how to deal with COVID, but even the science that informs us about the virus. The reactions have created not just discussion but much anger. The advent of COVID two and a half years ago has driven us apart. The opportunity to come together and face the challenges just did not happen.

This is not to say that many, many people worked tirelessly to get us through it all. Remember "essential workers"? Nurses and all medical workers, truck drivers, food distributors, teachers, retail workers and more – they all carried on to keep our world working. There may have been some shortages but we had most of what we needed. If we were missing something, we substituted or made do. Remember the lack of yeast? Many learned to be more resilient.

There are those times that were before COVID. We are still in times of COVID and people are still getting sick and some are dying. It has not disappeared. In the last seven days in Quebec there were 12 deaths and thousands of hospitalizations throughout the province.

Data is becoming less accurate as many people who have become infected do not report this so it is not a true reflection of the virus that is still among us.

The New World is being affected and, in no small way, by climate change. This will eventually bring huge differences to our lives, many of them catastrophic. The planet is one huge ecosystem and what happens elsewhere will eventually reach us. The time to make changes in how we treat the Earth is right now.

The political landscape is in flux. Democracy is being threatened in many countries and our neighbour to the south is in a precarious state. The uncertainty and the polarization of politics is very concerning. In the United States the different political parties agree very little on how to move the world forward. The U.S. is a tinderbox of clashing ideologies.

It is a New World and what is ahead is not totally clear. The most difficult aspect is that many of these changes are negative, even fearsome. What will the history books say about these times?

### ELECTORAL MAP:

▶ *Cont'd from page 9*

childcare services," says Mr. Deschênes, adding that it is not in the interest of the community "to take away a member."

The Québec Institute of Statistics predicts stability in its 20-year projections of the population of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

The Member of Parliament

for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia who is witnessing her riding being threatened appeared before the commission in Matane a day later, but had traveled to Gaspé to hear the stakeholders.

"My riding is the least populated in Quebec. When you look at the numbers, it seems logical. But there are other elements to take into consideration and these are the elements that we want to highlight," ex-

plains Kristina Michaud.

Citing examples, the elected Bloc member evokes the distances that her constituents currently have to travel to see an MP or the voters who turned to her because they had no help from the federal government, or her very presence in the 56 municipalities she represents in the House of Commons.

"If we remove one out of four ridings, we lose money

for Canada Summer Jobs and the New Horizons for Seniors program, that too has to be taken into consideration. It makes a big difference," suggests the MP.

During the hearings, many gave examples of the extent of the distances. With more than 700 kilometres of coastline to cover in Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine, it is the equivalent of the distance between Quebec and Toronto.

Public hearings are due to end on October 13. Subsequently, the report must be presented no later than December in order to be submitted to MPs who will have until May 2023 to make their own comments.

The commission will take a second look at the issue and the process should conclude in September 2023 with the decree formalizing the new electoral map.

# Vermiculture: Local business gives “back to the earth”

Diane Skinner

*“Nobody and nothing can be compared with earthworms in their positive influence on the whole of living Nature. They create soil and everything that lives in it. They are the most numerous animals on Earth. And the main creatures that convert all organic matter into soil humus providing soil’s fertility.”*

NEW CARLISLE: Devon Small has always loved being out in nature. As a child, he was always collecting insects or playing with any animal he might come across.

About four years ago, Devon learned about vermiculture (also known as vermicomposting), a method of composting with the assistance of a few specific types of worms. He took some time to research how to start the process. First, he did a test run with worms that he gathered outside his home. He released those and purchased another type that is the correct type for composting. Devon purchased storage totes and modified them for the worms. He acquired vegetable waste from his work that would otherwise be thrown away. He reflects that so much gets



Photo: Courtesy Devon Small

*Devon Small learned all about vermiculture about four years ago. This method of composting is an organic solution to enriching your soil.*

thrown into landfills that he wanted to try to change that. He now turns what would be garbage into black gold.

Devon starts the process by placing peat moss and shredded cardboard into the bins. The worms should be fed weekly and one pound of worms (.45 kg) eats one pound of vegetable scraps per

week. Worms will eat almost any fruit or vegetable and also used coffee grounds including the paper filter as well as egg shells and any cardboard or paper, as long as it is not glossy.

At this point, Devon does not sell worms because he is still establishing his business. Initially he considered selling

worms for fishing but those are a different kind of worm than composting worms. During the winter business is slower, because his compost is used in gardens.

Compost is what is left once the worms have ingested the food in the bins. The average time to get to this stage is three to four months. He separates the worms from their castings (worm poop) and then sells the castings as organic fertilizer. This year was his most successful so far.

Devon points out that “vermiculture is important today because of how much we could keep out of landfills. It is a huge benefit to gardens as well because of all the nutrients it has to offer. We throw so much into the garbage that could be recycled by worms and turned into rich organic fertilizer.”

Now in his third year, Devon hopes to one day make his business into something bigger. His plans include expanding so that he can hire additional workers.

Why is vermiculture an important step in giving back to the earth? Devon states, “We should be looking at ways to rely less on chemical fertilizers and more on or-

ganic solutions. I can name everything that my worms have eaten, because I want to make sure you know what you’re getting.” Devon tells SPEC that some people are skeptical at first because they are queasy about worms but once they realize the benefits they are “believers.”

Brandice Duguay, owner of Crétiens en mer et montagne Plant Shop says, “I have been using Devon’s worm castings for a little over a year. I find it to be an easy way to use fertilizer and is also a great additive to my aroid mixes. Unlike chemical fertilizers, worm castings won’t harm our plants if over-used. It’s wonderful to have this natural product available locally. I recommend it to anyone who is looking to give their houseplants a healthy boost.”

The biggest challenge that Devon faces is supplying the worms with enough vegetable waste. Not many people compost on the Gaspé. Devon also searches for coffee grounds which are very useful but hard to come by in big amounts.

Email: devonsmall@hotmail.ca for all inquire about Devon Small’s organic materials (Small’s Worm Farm).

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# YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

# TEXTING: Simple and easy way to stay in touch with friends

Diane Skinner

Times change and how we communicate has, too. Many people keep in touch with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. This has been particularly helpful during a pandemic when we have not been able to get out and about as much.

Texting is a super easy and quick way to stay in touch with others. You need a cell phone, of course, and there is no shortage of those around. In Canada it is estimated that there are more than 30 million smartphones!

Texts cannot replace a phone call or a real face-to-face meeting but it's simple and quick.

On the plus side, texting is private. What you send to a friend is just between the two of you. (Unless you do group texting. More about that later.)

Next benefit? It's fast. If you text, the other person may reply instantly. If you send them an email, they might not

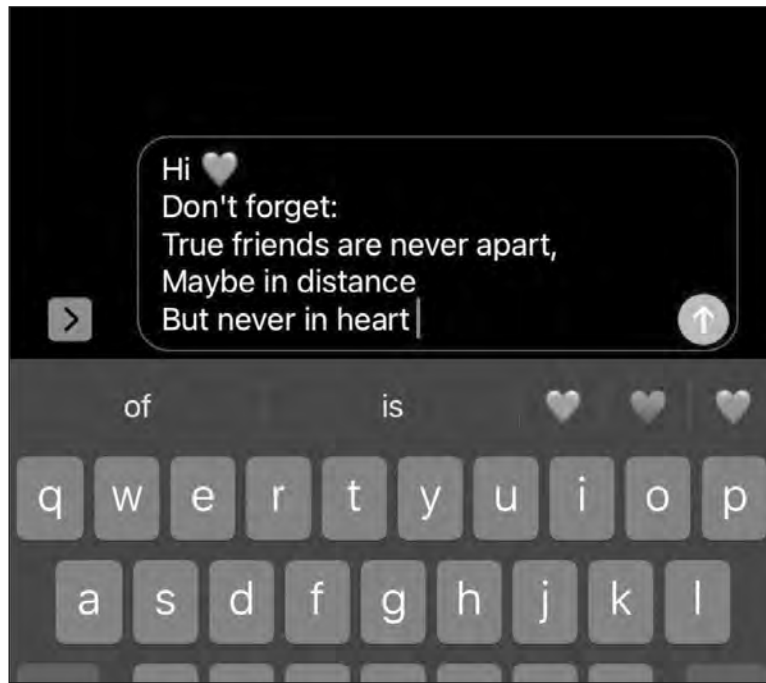


Photo: D. Skinner

*The convenience of texting from anywhere at any time is one of the benefits.*

read it for a while. Then they have to draft a reply. You can phone, but if they are busy, you may not get a reply for a long time if you leave a voice message. Maybe never. Most younger people do not call their friends at all – only text.

It has been estimated that most texts (95%) are replied to within three minutes of being sent.

It is so convenient. You can send or receive a text from anywhere at any time.

You can text photos and

videos! You can text a screenshot of a recipe!

## A few texting tips

Read over your text before you send it. You may have typos that change the meaning of your text entirely. Autocorrect can do some crazy things to what you have typed incorrectly.

Make certain you are sending the text to the correct person. This is particularly critical if you are complaining about someone and you send it to that person! There is no way to take it back once you send it.

If you do not recognize who has sent you a text just delete it. Do not open it.

Do you want to talk with others who are discussing a mutual issue, such as where are we going for lunch? Three or more people can text in the same text. You just put the two people's (or more) names at the top bar and your message will go to both at the same time. Then discuss it as a group.

Acronyms: Sometimes you may find typing everything slow but there are ways to speed up the process by using acronyms. Acronyms are abbreviations made from the first letter of words and can be pronounced as words also. An example of acronyms we have all used: NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and LASER (Light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation). See how handy acronyms can be?

## Texting acronyms include:

TY – Thank you  
TTYL – Talk to you later  
PLZ – Please  
NP – No problem  
NW – No way  
LOL – Laugh out loud  
LMK – Let me know  
IMO – In my opinion  
ICYMI – In case you missed it  
ICBW – It could be worse  
BTW – By the way  
YW – You're welcome  
IDK – I don't know

## Do plants have senses

Constance Brochet

Aristotle thought that plants don't move and so don't need senses and that they were unfeeling and unaware. While it's true that plants don't have legs and can't walk, time-lapse photography shows that they move around a lot. These movements are slow to the human eye, and so common we don't consider them the opening of flower buds called blooming, leaves reaching towards the sun, vines sending their tendrils towards a supporting post. And senses? Aristotle would be astounded at what modern scientists have discovered.

Plants have "Ocelli," photoreceptors similar to the human eye. But while we have four photoreceptors in the retinas of our eyes, plants have 12 such receptors scattered throughout their cells.

Plants see colour red, blue, and even into the far red and ultraviolet parts of the spectrum, (where humans cannot), and they see in dim light. They see better than humans do, but they also see differently. "Plants don't see in pictures," says Daniel Chamovitz, plant geneticist and author of *What a Plant Knows*. "Plants don't care

about details," he says, "what they need to know is the direction, intensity, and duration of light."

Then there's the new field of plant bioacoustics, pioneered in 2012 by Monica Gagliano, a researcher in evolutionary ecology at the University of Western Australia. Her experiments prove that plants can hear the sound of running water and respond to it. (Plants also hear caterpillars munching on leaves and bees buzzing around them.)

There's more. Gagliano and her colleagues discovered that the roots of corn plants make a clicking sound at a frequency of 220 hertz (outside the range of human hearing). Other plants react to this sound by turning their root tips in that direction they hear it.

So plants both hear and speak, but what do they speak about? Sometimes, they complain. In 2019, researchers Itzhak Khait and his colleagues at Tel Aviv University in Israel made an astounding discovery. When tobacco and tomato plants are suffering drought or their stems are being cut, they make a series of fast, high-frequency sounds (20-200 kilohertz) an animal-like re-

sponse to discomfort or pain.

According to neurologist Frantisek Balushka, pain is a survival mechanism, so it makes sense that plants would feel it. In addition, plants produce anaesthetics. Without pain, Balushka feels that such substances would be unnecessary.

Plants smell through their leaves and taste with their roots. Leaves and roots detect different substances. Leaves detect volatile (gaseous) compounds and roots detect soluble compounds. Volatile compounds are detected by leaves when they've built up inside a cell. (Because plants are slow moving, it can take as long as a day before the plant becomes aware of the odour and reacts). Surrounded as they are by soil and water, roots detect soluble compounds (those that dissolve, usually in water).

Plants react to touch. Plants don't like to be handled and they become stressed. In areas of high winds, their growth rate slows. *Mimosa pudica* or "sensitive plant" closes its leaves when touched. *Dionaea muscipula* (Venus fly-trap) snaps shut its folded leaves when an insect is trapped inside. (Like humans,

this feeling of an insect's legs on the body creates an electrical current, but instead of flowing to the brain, it flows through the leaves.)

Like animals, plants have access to the five senses. Plants can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch, and, in fact, may have as many as 15 additional senses (such as elec-

tromagnetic detection).

Plants are far from being insensate. They're highly sensitive and responsive creatures who can detect phenomena in the world that humans can only dream of. It's time to retire Aristotle's antiquated and erroneous view and give these amazing creatures the respect they deserve.



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# Announcements



## Obituary

**CUTLER: Mark G.**  
1953-2022

The Concordia University community mourns the passing of Mark Gordon Cutler of NDG. He will be fondly missed by many at Concordia where he worked for over thirty years.

He was well-known to students, faculty and staff as a warm and easy-going man with always a kind word or a laugh to offer.

Mark sure knew his music and he shared it with genuine joy in the sharing. He will be missed but not forgotten.

**PHOTO QUALITY**

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

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

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*Covering Port Daniel to New Richmond*

## COAST ROUND-UP

COAST ROUND-UP: \$5 per week  
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### COAST ROUND-UP

#### BARACHOIS: BADC

A Public Market will be held on **Saturday, September 17**, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Rec Centre, located at 1062 Route 132 East, Barachois. To reserve a table (\$10) contact Sandy Coombs at (581) 887-1417.

#### 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.

#### NEW CARLISLE: Heritage New Carlisle Annual AGM

Héritage New Carlisle will

hold its Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, September 28**, at 7 p.m., at the New Carlisle Town Hall, 138, Boulevard Gérard-D. Levesque, New Carlisle. The Canada Economic development for Quebec Regions (CED) investment will be discussed. HNC has received money under the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF). The goal of this project is to upgrade the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre, which will include a complete colour change for the Kempffer building. Refreshments will be served. Come and hear all about it!

**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:  
Royal Canadian  
Legion Branch #64**  
**Saturdays:** Open at 1 p.m. Everyone welcome.

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

**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:  
50 Plus Club**  
**September 17:** Harvest Bingo beginning at 1 p.m. Cost: \$10 for 3 cards and \$1 for each additional card.  
**October 7-9:** Fall Fest.

**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.

**UNITED CHURCH  
NEW RICHMOND**  
**Sunday, September 18**  
10 a.m. Service

**UNITED CHURCH  
HOPE TOWN**  
**Sunday, September 18**  
No Service

**ANGLICAN  
CHURCH  
OF CANADA**  
**Sunday, September 18**  
**NEW CARLISLE**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
**HOPE TOWN**  
10 a.m. Morning Prayer  
**PORT DANIEL**  
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**PARISH OF GASPÉ**  
**Sunday, September 18**  
**St. Andrew's - York**  
9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer



**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, think about waking up very early or staying up late to enjoy some quiet time. You can improve upon this sense of peace by enjoying the respite outdoors.  
**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
You may be tempted to live the week in a fantasy world, Taurus. However, there are too many pressing issues that need your attention for you to tune out.  
**GEMINI – May 22/June 21**  
Gemini, this will be a week to focus on financial gain, but don't put too much swagger into your business negotiations; otherwise, your plans may backfire.

**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
It may seem challenging to manage your professional responsibilities with your home life this week, Cancer. Take a day off and give yourself time to exhale.  
**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, your love life is a big roller coaster this week, and you may not know if you are on or off with this special someone. It may be time to sit down and have a serious discussion.  
**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
It is possible that you have outgrown certain people in your social circle, Virgo. Don't feel bad about removing those who fit this description. There are new friends to be made.

**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, confusion or an argument may cause a lack of passion between you and your romantic partner this week. It's only a temporary situation and can be resolved.  
**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
You may feel that others are not giving you the respect you deserve, Scorpio. If this pertains to your career, start polishing your resume and putting out feelers.  
**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Move at your own pace this week, Sagittarius. There is no reason to rush around. Take leisurely breakfasts and enjoy strolls around the neighborhood.

**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, you may be feeling more emotional than usual and that may lead to some unfamiliar situations. Give yourself some space to process your emotions.  
**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
The perfectionist in you may be unhappy with the work of a loved one or colleague, Aquarius. Try not to critique the job they do harshly. Let constructive criticism prevail.  
**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Do you need a confidence boost, Pisces? If so, surround yourself this week with all of those people who love and support you.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**

**SEPTEMBER 11**  
Tyler Hoechlin, Actor (35)  
**SEPTEMBER 12**  
RM, Rapper (28)  
**SEPTEMBER 13**  
Stella McCartney, Designer (51)  
**SEPTEMBER 14**  
Andrew Lincoln, Actor (49)  
**SEPTEMBER 15**  
Prince Harry, Royalty (38)  
**SEPTEMBER 16**  
David Copperfield, Magician (66)  
**SEPTEMBER 17**  
Baz Luhrmann, Director (60)

# Highway 132: Quebec's longest highway

Diane **Skinner**

Travellers to the Gaspé can appreciate the gorgeous views from the Highway 132, with historic towns, impressive churches, the water and the mountains.

Highway 132 is the longest highway in Quebec at 1,612 kilometres long. It follows the south shore of the St. Lawrence River from the border of the state of New York east to Montreal then further

eastward to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and circles the Gaspé. This section of highway is known as the Navigator's Route where it passes through Montérégie, Centre-du-Québec, Chaudière-Appalaches, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspé regions of the province.

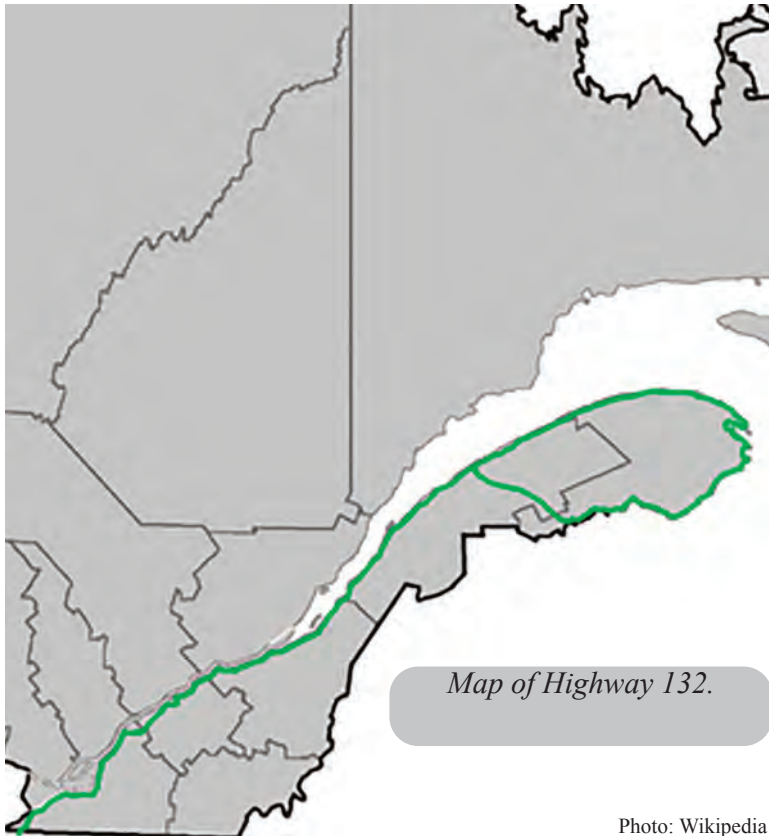
You can choose the more direct Route 20 but, if you have the time, slow down and enjoy the more scenic Highway 132 along the St.

Lawrence River section.

At Sainte-Flavie, one part of Highway 132 turns south

and follows the ruggedly beautiful Matapédia Valley. The other route encircles the

peninsula in a clockwise course. The entire loop is over 900 gorgeous kilometres.



Map of Highway 132.

Photo: Wikipedia



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Contact [specs@globetrotter.net](mailto:specs@globetrotter.net) for more information



## EVENTS

*Shigawake*  
September 17th

Location: Shigawake Fairgrounds

Lawn Tractor Races at 3pm and Local music showcase starts at 7pm.

Canteen and Bar service available

In partnership with the Agricultural Society.

*Fleurant Point*  
September 21st

Location: Fleurant Point Hall

Family Activities, Artist start at 4pm. BBQ and Musical showcase starts at 6:30

In partnership with the Fleurant Point Hall Committee

*Haldimand, Gaspé*  
September 30th

Location: Camp Fort Haldimand.

Family artisan workshops and music showcase. Workshops start at 4pm, with food truck available. Music starts at 6:30pm.

In partnership with Camp Fort Haldimand and Vision Gaspé Perce Now.



**Register now!**

[cegepgim.ca/english-section](http://cegepgim.ca/english-section)

**Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles**