



Gaspesian country singer, Pamela Rooney, wins two awards in Texas

● NELSON SERGERIE

Douglstown native country music singer, Pamela Rooney, won two awards at the Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards on October 16.

The Heritage Award was given to the Gaspesian artist because she sang in the Texas tradition while the Spirit Award was given because she represents the spirit of Texas music.

"I'm very, very proud that a girl from the Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec, Canada [won these honours] because with these awards, it can open doors everywhere," says Ms. Rooney, reached by phone in Memphis,

Pamela Rooney with the two awards she received in Texas.

Photo: courtesy of Pamela Rooney

Tennessee.

With these awards, the artist's presence will be on an annual basis in the town of Marshall as the festival opened a revamped Memorial City Hall Performance Centre this year.

The singer, who has been singing since she was four years old, sees with these awards the opportunity for a career in the United States.

"I think it's going to blow up for a career in the United States. I hope so. I work very hard and I want to go as far as possible," dreams the Gaspesian artist.

She dreams of having a career like Ontario's Shania Twain. "I want to be as popular as she is. I haven't stopped since I was four years old. I work very hard, but it's not an easy career. People think that when I get on stage, I'll be a

star on the same night but it doesn't work that way. I'm still on the road. I love it too much," says the singer who first sang at a St. Patrick's Day party in Douglstown with her mother.

"I always wanted to be a singer when my parents played music in an old-time band. I've been singing all my life," Rooney says.

A fourth album is in the works for 2023 or at the latest 2024.

"I'm starting to write songs and I'd like to do it with country classics and my own compositions. I'm also going to find songs written by my friends in Texas and Nashville. I'd like to find people who would write songs with me. It will be an album that will play all over the world," says the singer who maintains a strong bond with Douglstown while working with seniors in Quebec City.

A page in the gastronomic history of the Gaspé goes up in smoke

● NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PERCÉ - An important monument to the gastronomic heritage of Percé and the Gaspé Peninsula went up in smoke on the night of October 16 with the Gargantua fire.

Emergency services received a call at 8:08 a.m. on October 16 from a citizen who saw smoking debris from the structure which was completely destroyed.

According to Luc Lebreux, Chief of the Fire Department of the MRC du Rocher-Percé, firefighters extinguished a few fires that were still burning when they arrived and poured a layer of foam to finish the job.

The building, which has hosted French President François Mitterrand in 1987 and Canadian Prime Minister Pierre-Elliott Trudeau over the years, may have burned down

in total anonymity as no one would have seen the flames in the heavy fog that prevailed during the night.

It must also be said that the place is isolated at the top of the Route des Failles. As there was no electricity in the building, the firefighters transferred the investigation to the Sûreté du Québec in order to determine the causes and circumstances of the fire considered suspicious.

The police investigation started with photos since no expertise is possible because of the complete destruction of the former restaurant that was used by squatters for several years.

"Le Gargantua, it was for so long an institution for Percé. It was run by great people and visited by great people," said the mayor, Cathy Poirier, who learned about the fire via social media on the morning of the disaster.



Photo: J.F. Tapp

Only the large hearth of the Gargantua remains after the fire.

What is sad news could turn into a great project.

"We know that there is a project for the site of the Gar-

gantua, which is also great news because there were several years that the Gargantua was inoperative," recalls the mayor, "We are moving to-

ward a better future for the site." Discreet about the project, leaving it up to private

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Plans for restoration of Maison Legros are underway

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PERCÉ - Abandoned for more than 70 years, Maison Legros at Pointe Saint-Pierre in Percé will finally be restored, which is a delight for Patrimoine Gaspésie.

The municipal council of Percé authorized the Nature Conservancy of Canada to build a foundation under the house to stabilize it and restore its gallery, while respecting the architectural framework of the residence built in the 1880s.

In its early days, the building housed the firm Legros Brothers, dedicated to the export of salt-dried cod from the port of Gaspé. With the bankruptcy of the Jersey Bank, the company became, over time, a general merchant.

The organization had already been thinking for a few years about restoring the house.

"This summer we carried out feasibility studies for lifting the house. It is still a century-old house and there is a certain risk. The idea of lifting the house is to install a foundation under the house to secure it. The study confirmed that the house is in relatively good condition despite its exterior appearance. The underground structure is still in relatively good condition, which will allow the work to be carried out," says

the project manager for Eastern Quebec of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Olivier Perrotte Caron.

The installation of a concrete foundation would be done next spring to prevent its deterioration. Tenders are underway to have a contractor do the underpinning work.

The organization does not want to advance an amount so as not to interfere with the process.

A phase 2 restoration of the house is planned for three to five years down the road.

"We work with the community to identify opportunities. We are discussing with local partners to see how the house can serve the community in the best possible way," says the project manager.

"It is a heritage house in the Town of Percé. There is an architectural concern to be preserved," reminds Mr. Perrotte Caron who will work according to the financial and human resources available to do so.

The house has kept the character of the time and nothing has really changed since it was abandoned by its occupants. "We want to preserve the character of the house. There are still relics of the past from the last 90 or so years. There are old magazines, coins and diaries. Some items have been transferred to the Musée de la Gaspésie, but there are still



Photo: N. Sergerie

Maison Legros is starting to show increasingly obvious signs of the passage of time.

many items inside the house that have historical value that can be showcased for the community of Percé," says the project manager.

The mayor, Cathy Poirier, is delighted. "From the moment the foundation is going to be started, there is the idea of a more complete renovation. Depending on the funding they will obtain, it remains to be defined. It is very good news that Maison Legros is preserved. It is an exceptional building of great beauty," says Ms. Poirier, recalling the importance of the building for Pointe Saint-Pierre.

The announced restoration delights Patrimoine

Gaspésie. "It's good after the last trying weeks that we have known with the disappearance of Château Dubuc in Chandler to see that a building of great importance like the Maison Legros can be restored and enhanced by a truly credible organization," says the president, Jean-Marie Fallu, noting that Pointe Saint-Pierre was an important fishing post in the 19th century, after Percé.

Work remains to be done to protect heritage, but Mr. Fallu sees the efforts of the Ministry of Culture following a report by the Auditor General in June 2020 which summoned Quebec to take more care of heritage.

The CAQ government amended the Cultural Heritage Act in 2021 to give more powers to MRCs and municipalities. "What we must hope for is that not only are we given responsibilities, but also budgetary envelopes," hopes Mr. Fallu.

Heritage is part of heritage development, a responsibility that falls to the MRCs.

"We start by producing inventories and then we come to conservation plans. The municipalities will have to plan in advance that such a building will have to be preserved in relation to the others," adds the president of Patrimoine Gaspésie.

Statues raise questions in Grande Rivière

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - The acquisition of two works of art by Rimouski sculptor, Roger Langevin, has raised a storm of controversy in Grande-Rivière.

Criticism on social media has led the municipal council to hold a consultation before purchasing the two sculptures already in place in the municipality.

The town already owns a statue by the artist entitled *La Rivière*, in front of the École des pêches, and two others have been loaned *Les pieds dans l'eau* and *La Femme Poisson*.

The municipality had also purchased the statue *Four Seasons* by another artist.

"We realized that there



Photo: N. Sergerie

One of the statues in Veterans' Memorial Park that seems to be upsetting some citizens.

were a lot of negative comments coming from some citizens of the town. I proposed to the town council that before starting the acquisition of the two statues, because it

was a loan and we were obliged to make payments, but before finalizing the process, we called on our partner to make a public consultation," says Mayor Gino

Cyr.

The consultation is being done via the Internet until October 31 and a final consultation in person will be held on October 27.

"I invite the population to participate in the consultation and, following the result, the town council will be able to take a position," says the mayor.

The two purchases total \$45,000 and a deposit of \$7,500 has already been paid.

"We've also had a lot of positive feedback but since we know that there is controversy, it is good to consult the population and the decision will be made," adds the elected official.

If the citizens respond favourably, the purchase will be planned in the 2023

budget.

"Personally, as mayor of Grande-Rivière, I think it's a good acquisition. It adds value and shows a certain beauty to the town and I think that for a small municipality in Eastern Quebec, it is interesting to show a form of art," concludes Mr. Cyr.

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Bay of Chaleur area citizens organize a fundraising campaign to help rescuers

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – On October 17 three residents of the Bay of Chaleur area started a fundraising campaign to help Stéphane Boudreau, of Carleton, pay for the \$39,000 in damages inflicted on his boat on April 10, 2021, during a rescue operation carried out in Miguasha East, a sector of Nouvelle.

Stéphane Boudreau and his wife, Catherine Audet, managed to save Kelly-Ann Dickie and Mathieu Bélanger, stuck between the sea and a cliff, from a very unfortunate position on a rocky spur after their canoe capsized. Mr. Bélanger died of hypothermia within hours of his hospitalization but Ms. Dickie survived, although she still lives today with psychological effects related to the event.

The services of Stéphane Boudreau had been requisitioned by the fire department of the Municipality of Nouvelle. He was then at the Carleton wharf, returning from a sea trip, when he received the call from the emergency services. He was told that he was the only one who could save the small group stranded on the Miguasha East rocks. The cliff was about fifteen minutes from Carleton, by boat.

The rescue was carried out during a strong southeast wind constantly bringing Stéphane Boudreau's inflatable boat against the rocks, resulting in significant damage which amounted to nearly \$43,000, as evaluated in June 2021, and \$49,000 now, considering inflation. He paid \$10,000 out of his own pocket as a contribution to the rescue.

Pierre Bélanger, godfather of Mathieu, the victim of the tragedy, specifies that it is time for the file to move, which explains the recourse of his small group to the GoFundMe platform. The former mayor of Nouvelle, Richard Saint-Laurent, and a town councillor of Carleton, Alain Turcotte, are the other members of the group.

"I don't know a lot of people who would have done what Stéphane did, in extreme conditions. I do not understand that no organization, political or otherwise, has taken the responsibility of reimbursing, after the efforts Stéphane and Catherine made. Kelly-Ann (Dickie) could have died. Stéphane and Catherine could also have died there. They maneuvered



Credit: Christian Boudreau

The rescue operation took place at the bottom of this cliff in very windy conditions.

in waves of 10 to 12 feet. I find it terrible (that Stéphane Boudreau has not been paid yet)," states Pierre Bélanger, a well-known businessman.

He believes that not intervening to reimburse rescuers like Catherine Audet and Stéphane Boudreau would be sending a very bad message to potential good Samaritans.

"What is needed, beyond collecting money, is to raise awareness of the fact that we were lucky that someone like him intervened. No one could have arrived faster than Stéphane that day. Even if the municipalities buy lifeboats, it could take much longer before an intervention, if we cannot count on individuals. It could still happen. We must not discourage people like Stéphane, a man with a big heart. He didn't want us to raise money for him at first. We convinced him by telling him that it is a form of thanks," adds Pierre Bélanger, who also owns a boat and who can assess the effort deployed by the couple.

Catherine Audet and Stéphane Boudreau received the Medal of the National Assembly a few weeks after their act of bravery in June 2021. They also received messages of congratulations from the Sûreté du Québec and the Canadian Coast Guard.

As he decided to pay an installment of \$10,000 as a "personal contribution to the rescue," Mr. Boudreau sent an invoice for \$32,945.46 to the Municipality of Nouvelle in the fall of 2021.

His claim was justified by the Fire Act, which stipulates that a citizen engaging his equipment in a rescue operation must be compensated if this equipment is damaged during the intervention. Mr. Boudreau affirms without

hesitation that his boat was requisitioned by the emergency services.

The Municipality of Nouvelle offered only \$3,400 to Stéphane Boudreau at the beginning of 2022, alleging that the reimbursement had to come from the Canadian Coast Guard since the boat was in waters under federal jurisdiction. The survivors were, however, on a big rock out of the water from which they could only get out and reach the boat by jumping into the water.

The Good Samaritan law provides for compensation of \$1,000 for this type of action. Pierre Bélanger believes that a dusting off of certain laws would be in order in similar matters. Without wanting to go into details on questions of jurisdiction, "I would have liked to see the MRC (of Avignon) make a strong statement through reimbursing Stéphane's expenses."

Two days after the start of the fundraising campaign, launched on October 17, donations of \$3,400 have been pledged. "We have big (local) firms and committees that will contribute. We are confident of reaching the goal," concludes Mr. Bélanger.

In April, Stéphane Boudreau was toying with the idea of suing the Municipality of Nouvelle, not for the money, but to set an example, as he fears that some people will back down from undertaking search and rescue operations if they are bound to pay for the damage of their boats.

It was not his only case as he also saved a group of five people off the coast of Heron Island, in front of Carleton, but on the New Brunswick side, in July 2021. He arrived faster there than the rescue people from that side of the Bay of Chaleur.

Police report

A 35-year-old man living in Port Daniel who was charged with multiple counts of sexual crimes at the New Carlisle Courthouse on October 5 will undergo his bail hearing on November 15. The man faces 11 criminal counts, including human trafficking, sexual assault and bestiality. The man first appeared in court shortly after his arrest, following an investigation that had started in September 2022. He came back to court on October 7.

Some of the 11 crimes took place in the Gaspé Peninsula while others were committed in Bedford in the Eastern Townships, where the man was residing two years ago. Criminal prosecutor Maxime Rocheville-Paradis points out that some of the crimes might have been committed in other parts of the province. The criminal prosecutor has already confirmed that he will oppose the release of the man, whose identity will not be published by the SPEC for now in order to protect the identity of the alleged victim, a woman. The tribunal has not imposed a publication ban on the accused's name so far.

Most of the charges were allegedly committed over a lengthy period. The human trafficking charge took place between September 1, 2018, and September 21, 2022, the same period during which the charges of sexual assault, assault with a weapon, forcing someone to commit an act of bestiality and simple assault allegedly took place. The period between September 1, 2018, and December 31, 2021, applies to the charges of pimping, of having benefitted from a pecuniary advantage knowing that it was coming from pimping, and having participated in sexual assault with another person at the expense of the same victim. Those charges are related to events that took place in Bedford. All the crimes were committed in a marital context.

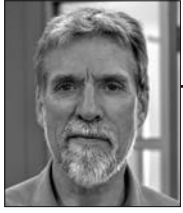
The man is also charged with sexual assault by choking, suffocating or strangling the complainant between September 19, 2019, and September 21, 2022, as well as assault by suffocating a person during the same period.

Sûreté du Québec investigators are trying to shed light on the October 15-16 fire that destroyed Percé's Gargantua restaurant and inn. "We weren't called. Only ashes remained when the firefighters showed up after receiving a call at daylight. We will see what we can do under the circumstances. It is an isolated place and it was not connected to the electrical grid. It is needless to say a total loss. It is considered a fire of suspicious origin because the place was unoccupied and it was known that squatters occasionally stay there. We are trying to know more. Sometimes, we get more information once the investigation is underway in an odd case like this," explains Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Claude Doiron.

No traces of fuel were noticed by the investigators who intervened on the premises. "An accelerant (fuel) is not easy to find when everything is charred like it was. It can be located when the firefighters are called early enough to put down the blaze but not when there are only ashes. It was unfortunately a place destined to be destroyed," concludes Sergeant Doiron.

Kayden Trey Condo, 21, of Listuguj, was recently fined close to \$52,000 for tobacco contraband. Two searches carried out by the Sûreté du Québec on November 26, 2019, led to the seizure of a total of 174,200 cigarettes. The bust was conducted in the vehicle driven by the man and in a warehouse at the Expédibus terminal in Montreal. The penalty was handed down on September 12 in penal court. Revenue Québec reminds the public that consumers who buy contraband tobacco for their personal consumption are liable to a minimum fine of \$350.

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Gilles Gagné

Commentary

New Quebec government cabinet: many people under scrutiny

On October 20, Quebec Premier François Legault enlarged his new cabinet to 30 members. Working with a caucus of 90 Members of the National Assembly instead of 74 like during the last term, he had little choice but to expand the cabinet in order to keep the highest proportion of his team members happy.

The big winner of the new cabinet is Pierre Fitzgibbon. He remains Minister of the Economy and Innovation and he now inherits additional responsibilities, namely energy, and regional economic development. He will also be the minister responsible for Montreal.

It is a huge task for a man who showed very little respect for ethical rules during the first term of the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) government. The Ethics Commissioner intervened twice about his case and both times, Mr. Fitzgibbon waved his recommendations without hesitation.

The fact that Premier Legault is adding the energy portfolio to his workload looks like a clear indication that Pierre Fitzgibbon will tackle the power dams file and impose certain orientations, notably new power dams to Hydro-Québec, the utility that is in principle supposed to be relatively independent from the government.

With a clear mandate given by Quebecers to 90 Members of the National Assembly from the CAQ, François Legault probably feels that it is now or never the time to fulfill a commitment, new power dams, he made during the campaign, even if it seemed to come from nowhere and despite the fact that it sounded like a gaffe at the time.

Mr. Fitzgibbon will likely have a run for his money with the power dams. The best rivers have already been harnessed in Quebec. Moreover, the environmental rules now make it hard to land a major power dam, a good thing considering the major impact it has on any ecosystem. It likely takes 15 years nowadays between the idea of building a power dam and the production of electricity. We must expect the First Nations, who have not often been consulted soundly before those types of ventures, to raise objections if Minister Fitzgibbon uses his bulldozer-like manners.

He will also have, in all his responsibilities, to pay attention to regional development, not his forte over the last term. He has shown on some occasions a complete disregard for wind energy but over the last year, he has been catching up on forest products processing. Ethics will likely remain an issue in his case. He takes advice from almost nobody, François Legault being the exception.

The nomination of Deputy Premier Geneviève Guilbault to manage transport could have been good news if she was not representing a Quebec City riding. Her main

mission will be to land the Third link between the capital and Lévis, a project she has firmly defended since 2018. In the transport file, she will likely be more efficient than François Bonnardel. However, she might be so busy that regional stakes like the work necessary to complete the refurbishment of the railway to Gaspé or aerial transport in the regions will become negligible.

Keeping Benoit Charette at the helm of the environment and fight against climate change is far from good news. His record over the last four years is very weak and it is hard to imagine how it can improve at the dawn of the second term. Mr. Charette is a nice guy but the environment files need stronger people if they are to succeed. Mr. Charette considers, or was told to consider, the Third link project as a "green" venture, which is completely ridiculous despite the slight changes brought to the initiative.

To reassure some ecologists, Premier Legault decided to create a "green task force" but, for now, it looks like a smoke screen, a mirage attempting to calm down the cross section of the population that really cares about the environment.

Benoit Charette also gets the responsibilities of Wildlife and Parks. At first glance, it is a good thing that the sector of wildlife and parks is now separated from forests, where the arbitration was about always giving the edge to the forestry industry. However, the protection of wildlife and parks requires a strong grip, something Mr. Charette doesn't have.

Speaking of forests, this field is now integrated into the Ministry of Natural Resources, which makes sense. Those responsibilities now rest with a new minister, Maité Blanchette Vézina, who represents the riding of Rimouski. She also inherits the duties of regional minister for the Lower Saint Lawrence, Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands regions. It is a huge task for anybody with no experience at the National Assembly, although she is receiving praise for the working capacity she has shown so far in her career.

Ms. Blanchette Vézina, as a newcomer, might feel the pressure from veterans like Pierre Fitzgibbon, who favours unbridled development and who cares very little for the environment. In mining and forestry, this reality might place the new minister in an uncomfortable position.

The fact that she will also have to take care of two regions provides her with another uneasy challenge. Although there are similarities shared by the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence, they also have different priorities, spread over a huge territory. In that, the Coalition avenir Québec government should have chosen a minister specific to the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands and a resident of the area, something the region has not counted on since the short term of the Parti Québécois between September 2012 and April 2014, as Gaétan Lelièvre was tackling those responsibilities.

Municipal Affairs Minister Andrée Laforest is no longer responsible for housing. It is a good thing. Like Premier Legault, she failed to recognize the shortage of housing in Quebec, including in the Gaspé Peninsula, until the last months of the CAQ's first term. A new minister, France-Élaine Duranceau, a former real estate agent with international experience, is appointed specifically for the housing file. Will she be strong enough to hold her own against her cabinet colleagues who might still be slow in

giving that field the priority it deserves? We will soon see.

Ian Lafrenière remains minister responsible for Native Affairs. The nomination of the former police officer at that position during the second half of the first CAQ term was not well-received by a lot of Aboriginal leaders. However, he has demonstrated a desire to learn and he has so far spent a lot of time meeting with Natives. The jury is still out regarding his performance but at least, his return provides stability at his position, something that has often been lacking in First Nations affairs.

The nomination of Katery Champagne Jourdain, a Native from the North Shore, comes like a breeze of fresh air. The new minister of Labour is the first Aboriginal woman ever appointed to the cabinet in Quebec. It is permitted to believe that her presence will increase the degree of respect expressed by some other members of the government on Native issues.

Suzanne Roy, a former president of the Quebec Union of Municipalities, is the new Minister of Family, where she replaces Mathieu Lacombe, now Minister of Culture. Mr. Lacombe was appreciated in his former duties but he was slow in delivering, probably because of his lack of influence on François Legault's supporting cast. Ms. Roy has a lot of experience and she might be able to accelerate the delivery of the 50,000 new day care places that Quebec needs as soon as possible.

Christian Dubé will fill again the big shoes required to run the Health and Social Service ministry. It was expected. Very few people really want that job. The health sector is in bad shape in Quebec. Mr. Dubé's record remains questionable in certain aspects of the job but he is genuinely involved in improving the quality of services and he respects the employees of the system. He deserves another shot at it.

Bernard Drainville is the new Minister of Education. One of his main responsibilities will be to retain teachers. About 25% of them give up on the profession less than five years after joining it. Their working conditions have greatly deteriorated over the years. It is a huge waste of talent and money, considering what it costs to train them. Mr. Drainville replaced Jean-François Roberge, who started his term with a rare degree of arrogance. The new minister is also renowned for his arrogance, notably as a radio show host. He recently said that he doesn't care for greenhouse effect gases, which doesn't spell vision when you are supposed to lead hundreds of thousands of students into the learning process.

André Lamontagne will keep running the Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Department. He sounds like a gentleman but it takes some resolve to deal with federal authorities, especially in commercial fisheries. He has not shown that in four years and there are very few reasons allowing us to believe that it will change soon.

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RéGÎM aims to have an electric fleet within the next three years

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The electrification of the buses used by the sub-contractors of the Gaspé Peninsula intermunicipal transport board (RéGÎM) could be the fuel needed to increase the services offered in the regional public transport

network.

Under consideration for the past three years, the Board would like the Quebec government to grant it the same financial benefits as school transporters or large public transport companies in major centres.

Currently, private carriers

who provide the buses for the RéGÎM routes are not eligible for government assistance to electrify their fleets. Electrifying the buses would lower operating costs and the money saved could be invested in the service.

"We're tied to price-per-kilometre clauses because it's tied to fuel consumption. If you're in electric transportation, those clauses don't exist. We could run them much more, so more frequency, more trips. That would change the whole picture. I hope that we will be able to untangle the knots we have with the Ministry of Transport," explains the president of the RéGÎM, Daniel Côté.

However, the electrification of transportation in general over the next few years will have a significant impact on the board. Almost half of the revenues come from the one cent gas tax on a budget of just over \$3 million. Quebec has been holding public con-



Photo: N. Sergerie

RéGÎM is still working to electrify the bus fleet.

sultations to look at this issue across the province. "Gas tax revenues are still relatively stable. Progressive electrification has little impact for the moment on the RéGÎM's revenues, but it will surely come," says Mr. Côté.

Rather than relying on the private sector for buses, the organization could own its own fleet. However, there are

important issues such as garages to maintain them, hiring mechanics over a large territory or maintaining an inventory of parts to make repairs on the buses. "This has been put on the table at the Board of Directors. It's being considered or it's one of the options being considered, but option A is to work with the private sector," says Mr. Côté.

Use of brown bin over 10 years diverts 24,000 tonnes of material from landfill

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - The arrival of the brown bin in the Rocher-Percé MRC in September 2012 made it possible to divert 24,000 tonnes of organic matter from the sanitary landfill site, the equivalent of one year's worth of garbage.

The director of the Intermunicipal Residual Materials Processing Board of the Gaspé Peninsula, Nathalie Drapeau, points out that the project was revolutionary 10 years ago.

"I remember that when the decision was made, some elected officials thought we were over-zealous. We carefully thought about the positive impacts in the short and long term. We had to get started and the elected officials said to go for this challenge at the time," says Ms. Drapeau.

Gaspé joined the group in 2018, which has increased the volume of compostable material that is returned to citizens each year.

Ten years after the start of the program, it is time for the first analysis.

"24,000 tonnes is huge. It's a full year of burying. It energizes us to relaunch the message to citizens who aren't yet participating in the brown bin (service), especially since it is mandatory in relation to the regulations. We are at that point," says Ms. Drapeau.

According to statistics, 30% of citizens participate on a regular basis. Another 30% participate, depending on the period, especially avoiding it in winter because they find the material sticky or in summer because of flies and worms.

"When people apply the right tricks, we can solve these problems," says the director. There is still 30% of the population that does not participate in composting at all.

"They may have done it once, but they had a bad experience and stopped. This 30%, we have to get in the next year

because this contribution is important to the composting site, but has an effect equivalent to the landfill," says Ms. Drapeau.

Over 10 years, an additional participation rate of 30% represents perhaps 8,000 tonnes of materials.

According to the director, some 40% of what is produced as waste at home is made up of compostable material.

The quality of the material that ends up in the brown bin can be improved and awareness will continue through the management's green agents.

"When we say, it doesn't matter to put a can in the brown bin, the workers must remove these irritants so that the compost is of high quality," recalls Ms. Drapeau.

The institutional sector was involved from the start, and it is not a big issue now. "There are still a few left and we are working hard. It requires a personalized approach because the challenges are not the same for everyone. But we are lucky to have this membership because it can represent up to 15% of arrivals at the sorting centre."

Multi-housing is one of the priorities next year to better serve them.

Ultimately, composting can help reduce the costs of waste management because it costs up to two times less to compost than to bury, especially since the landfill fee paid to Quebec is expected to increase significantly in the coming years.

According to Recyc-Québec, in 2022, more than half of the municipalities in Quebec, i.e. 660, have implemented the collection of organic materials compared to only a hundred, ten years ago, which translates into a ratio of 75% of the Quebec population living in a municipality served by organic waste collection in 2020, whereas the figure was only 7% in 2009.



PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE REVISION OF THE LIST OF SCHOOL ELECTORS

School Board:

EASTERN SHORES

Poll of:

2022 11 27

year month day

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to electors of the Eastern Shores School Board by June Main, returning officer that:

- The list of electors of the school board was deposited at the head office of the school board on October 20, 2022
- The list of electors of **Ward 3 will only be revised should there be an election.**
- Only a person who, on polling day, satisfies the following conditions can be an elector and have the right to be entered on the list of electors are as follows:
 - has attained eighteen years of age;
 - is a Canadian citizen;
 - is domiciled in the territory of the English-Language school board and has been domiciled in Quebec for at least six months;
 - is not under curatorship, and
 - has not been convicted within the last five (5) years of an offence that is a corrupt electoral or referendum practice under this Act

and

 - has a child admitted to the educational services of the English-language school board serving his domicile.

or

 - does not have a child admitted to the educational services of the English-language school board or the French school service centre serving his domicile. That person has the right to choose to be registered on the list of electors of the English-language school board or revoke that choice.
- The list of electors may be consulted via a board of revisors, a person designated for this purpose of the returning officer.
- Applications for registration, removal and correction as well as notices of a choice to exercise the right to vote in an English-language school board may be made before a board of revisors, a person designated for this purpose or the returning officer.
- When applying for registration, the previous address of the person concerned must be indicated. In addition, two documents must be submitted: one mentioning the name and date of birth and the other, the name and address of domicile.
- The places where the list of electors can be consulted and where applications can be presented are: **Ward 3**

Escuminac Int. School

9, rue de l'école
Escuminac, Qc

Designated Person: Julie Mcgrath

Office of the Returning Officer

40 Mountsorrel Street
New Carlisle, QC
June Main

At the following dates and times:

Thursday, November 3, 2022
Friday, November 4, 2022

November 1st to November 4, 2022
November 7, 2022

from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m.
from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m.

from 9:30 to 12:00 p.m.
from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
from 9:30 to 12:00 p.m.
from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

June Main

Issued in New Carlisle, Quebec on October 21st, 2022

June Main, Returning Officer.

A seventh regional minister for the Gaspé in a decade

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - The Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine is seeing ministerial instability continue with the arrival in office of a seventh regional minister in a decade, something that doesn't really concern regional players.

Premier François Legault has chosen the Member of the National Assembly for Rimouski, Maïté Blanchette Vézina, as regional minister who will also be in charge of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region while she is Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The regional stakeholders want to give her some time and the chance to make a good impression.

"I think we are heading for a certain stability in the coming years. For me, there is no issue at this level and we will move forward in a beautiful way with the new minister," said the president of the Table of Prefects of the Gaspé

Peninsula, Mathieu Lapointe. He says he is enthusiastic about working with her, being a former mayor of Sainte-Luce, near Rimouski.

"She knows the reality of the regions. She already knows several elected officials in the Gaspé region. The channels of communication will be easy to establish," believes the president.

The former Parti Québécois representative for the riding of Gaspé, Gaétan Lelièvre, was the last minister responsible for the Gaspé to live in the region. He would have liked to have a minister responsible for the Gaspé.

But after the experience of a minister with three regions under Marie-Eve Proulx, and then ministers responsible for two regions under Jonatan Julien, the Gaspé has become accustomed to this way of doing things.

"This is not a surprise. We'll give the runner a chance. The new minister has a good track record and



Photo: Facebook

Maïté Blanchette Vézina is the new minister responsible for Gaspésie.

knows the reality of the regions. I think we will be better served with a minister who is in Lower St.

Lawrence, rather than a minister based in Quebec City or elsewhere," said the former minister of the region who is

more or less formalized by the fact that she is the seventh minister in 10 years.

"We must admit that we have had ministers who have given good results," says Lelièvre.

The outgoing Parti Québécois MNA for Gaspé, Mélanne Perry Mélançon, sounded a discordant note on Twitter, writing that "the Gaspé region trusted the CAQ. How does the government thank them? By not even offering them their own minister responsible for the region," commented Ms. Perry Mélançon.

However, on Facebook, she made a point of congratulating Maïté Blanchette Vézina, adding that "past experiences have already proven more than once that entrusting the responsibility of several large regions to a single minister has always put Gaspésians at a disadvantage in relation to the size of the territory and the realities that are very specific to our region."

The two Gaspé Members of the National Assembly take their first steps in Quebec City

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The two Coalition avenir Québec Members of the National Assembly elected on October 3, were sworn in on October 18 at the National Assembly. Catherine Blouin in Bonaventure and Stéphane Sainte-Croix in Gaspé are excited as they take their first steps in the National Assembly.

"It's an incredible experience, both personally and professionally," says the new MNA for Gaspé.

"I am proud. It's quite an experience to set foot in the Salon Rouge and to find oneself in a place rich in history," said his colleague from Bonaventure.

During the swearing in ceremony, Premier François Legault, launched a "Vive la Gaspésie," when each of them was officially confirmed as a member of the National Assembly.

Even for Mr. Sainte-Croix, the Premier added "Mr. Tourism" to signify his

knowledge of the industry. The elected official responded with a resounding, "Yes, Sir!"

The two MNAs received several crash courses on parliamentary life, the duties of MNAs, the functioning of the National Assembly or the establishment of constituency offices or budgets.

The hiring of political staff is also a priority in order to establish a link between the citizens and them.

Within the first few hours of their election, elected officials have already been challenged.

"Citizen case requests are starting to come in, as are invitations to participate in citizen events. But it's hard to confirm attendance, since we don't know the times," says Blouin.

"We take them one at a time. We introduce them and we make people understand that we are still in the preamble but, very soon, we will be able to be in service to the citizens," mentions Mr. Sainte-Croix.

Both of them assure that



Photo: N. Sergerie

Gaspé MNA Stéphane Sainte-Croix, Premier François Legault and Bonaventure MNA Catherine Blouin during the premier's election campaign visit on September 27

they have the collaboration of the outgoing MNAs for the transmission of the files.

Several commitments were made during the campaign.

For Stéphane Sainte-Croix, who has prioritized transportation, cell phones, coastal erosion, housing and inflation, the preparation is underway.

"We will unveil our agenda. We are already moving forward on some issues. We are ready to address each of our issues one by one," said the elected official.

The Musée de la Gaspésie has big plans for the next 10 years

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The Musée de la Gaspésie wants to become more accessible by setting up "satellite museums" throughout the Gaspé Peninsula to get closer to the Gaspesian population.

Over the last few months, a vast consultation was carried out with the various stakeholders to put in place a strategic plan that will stretch over 10 years.

"What we want to do is to get closer to the people. What we want is for the local people to use the Musée de la Gaspésie, which is their regional museum, and to come and visit us. We are full of tourists, we have visitors, it's incredible, but we are missing this part and this is the museum's next challenge," notes its director, Martin Roussy.

To do this, the museum will go to the population via this pilot project that is being done in Rivière-Madeleine, in Haute-Gaspésie.

"One of the flagship projects is the unique pilot project in Quebec "in situ" and the place of diffusion "in situ." With the municipality, we will develop this project. The 900 or so objects acquired are currently in

Madeleine in a temporary reserve. We are going to update these objects and there is a project with the lighthouse to diffuse them. We are going to create a sort of small museum of the Gaspé so that people can have their own heritage onsite and offer it to tourists. It's useless to keep all the objects in the reserve in the basement. They have to live," says the director general of this unique approach in Quebec.

Similar work will be done in the Bay of Chaleur in collaboration with CHNC. When the radio station moved from New Carlisle to Paspébiac, the museum went there to see the station's archives, acquire them and preserve them.

"We're not going to keep them at home. Why not create something on-site? There was talk of building a display case for studio visitors to see these objects," Mr. Roussy adds.

The museum's expertise will be used to properly preserve them in a controlled environment.

In addition to these more physical elements, the museum has set up the project *Un musée dans ma valise*, (a museum in my suitcase) an interactive game that will



Credit: Nelson Sergerie

The surroundings of the Musée de la Gaspésie could change within 10 years, according to the strategic plan.

travel to all the elementary schools in the Gaspé.

The Magazine Gaspésie has already been doing the work of connecting people for almost 60 years.

In addition, the museum's exhibits such as La Bolduc or Cher Léo will become interactive. "La Bolduc is already on tour in three provinces. It is mobile and can be toured in the Gaspésie," says Mr. Roussy. "The idea is that people who can't come here, well, the museum will go to your place," says the director.

The Museum of Gaspésie also dreams of developing its premise with the help of the people of the Métis Gardens. "This is a big project. We imagine that it could happen within the next 10 years. We have a huge piece of land. We would like to develop it so that it is representative of the entire Gaspé Peninsula at the floral, artistic, and historical levels, that it is a playful place, a gathering place with observation towers so that tourists or local people can observe the magnificent view

that we have because it is a unique site on which the museum is built," says Mr. Roussy.

The museum also wants to be inclusive, by thinking about the French, English and Mi'kmaq clientele.

The fee schedule has been revised to make the facility more accessible.

The entire strategic plan has required an investment of half a million dollars over the past three years, without any subsidy, the director is careful to mention.

Diane Lebouthillier is still critical of air travel in the region

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - The numerous failures of the last few months in air transport are irritating the users from the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, first and foremost the Member of Parliament and minister of Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Diane Lebouthillier.

Delayed or cancelled flights, last minute reservation changes made by email by the carriers or the inability to get a seat on the airplane are some of the complaints reported by users who sometimes choose to forgo the airplane in favour of their personal vehicle to avoid unpleasant surprises.

Diane Lebouthillier has experienced two mishaps in the last weeks.

On October 7, the Member of Parliament was in the Magdalen Islands. She went to the airport ahead of time



Credit: Nelson Sergerie

Pascan co-owner Yani Gagnon understands the dissatisfaction of air travelers.

as required by procedure and was informed by Pal Airlines that the flight was cancelled one hour before takeoff due to operational problems.

On October 13, at 7:22

a.m., she received a notice from Pascan that her flight that day from Gaspé was cancelled again due to operational problems.

"It disrupts a schedule, but

I was thinking of the population that has medical appointments, travel, and business people. For me, the situation has deteriorated so much that it penalizes both the population and the economic development of the region. For me, this is unacceptable," says Ms. Lebouthillier.

According to her, the municipal, provincial and federal governments must talk to each other to find a solution.

"This has become too frequent. I am traumatized by air travel. Each time, very negative adventures happen," adds the elected official who wants to know if there is really a lack of personnel or aircraft.

"The public deserves to know what is going on and to be able to explain it. It is unacceptable, inadmissible for a region like ours," adds the Member of Parliament who believes that the Magdalen Islands are better served than Gaspé in this regard.

Pascan understands the

dissatisfaction related to logistical problems in the air transport sector.

"It has been a challenge since the beginning of the pandemic," says the company's co-owner, Yani Gagnon.

He explains that the carrier had a game plan to change the aircraft fleet to increase capacity.

Due to problems in the supply chain, these aircrafts are being delivered a year late.

The first one that was supposed to arrive this past summer has just arrived and another one is due in a month.

"We understand the complaints. The only thing we can say is that we are putting the game plan in motion and we think that within a few weeks, we will be able to readjust," says Mr. Gagnon, who is aiming for a normal resumption of service and the number of flights by the end of October.

The rise of female fishing guide Sarah Nellis

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: Sarah Nellis has been fishing since she was 17 years old and has now established herself as a skilled angler and guide. When she was in high school, she had a summer job with the Cascapedia Society with an interest in getting into the sport of fishing. She started off slowly, introduced to fishing by her colleagues. Sarah also mentions her grandfather who was a fly fisherman who passed away when she was 11 years of age.

In 2022, and with plans to continue next season, Sarah worked as an independent guide and as a guide for Camp Brûlé on the Petite Cascapedia where she had her very first fishing guiding experience in 2019. In 2021 she spent a season guiding at a private camp on the Grand Cascapedia River. Prior to that Sarah worked for three years at Sexton & Sexton Fly Shop in Cascapedia. All these experiences have helped her to gain the experience and confidence to become an independent guide, a role she loves!

Sarah grew up in Cascapedia-St-Jules and attended Bonaventure Polyvalent School. She studied Tourism Management in Montreal, a three-year program and made the decision to complement that degree by relocating to Squamish, British Columbia, and studying Advanced Wilderness Leadership at Capilano University in 2015 and 2016. She lived in Chile as a seakayak and trekking guide and has been back home ever since.

Sarah is not the only female fishing guide on the Gaspé, but she reflects, "There aren't as many as one would hope to see as of yet. Off the top of my head, I can count three on the Gaspé Coast, but there are a lot of female anglers on the rivers, which leads me to believe that there will be more guides moving forward. As of yet, it is still a male-dominated industry, but the females of the industry, including myself, are working towards shifting that to a more level playing field."

How can this be achieved? Sarah has some concrete plans including making work in the fly fishing industry to be more accessible to women through "representation, mentorship and general involvement in the world of fly fishing."

Sarah truly enjoys guiding and says that there is nothing better than having somebody land and release their first Atlantic salmon with her help. It is, she says, "A memory that can't be forgotten. Even days that fish are not caught, it is a special thing to provide an experience that leaves lasting, positive memories. Creating connections with people from all walks of life and sharing my knowledge with them is a great part of my job. Leading by example in being an ambassador for the natural environment is important to me and I hope the people who fish with me leave wanting to do their best to do the same."

Canadian Ladies National Fly Fishing Contest 2022

Competitive fly fishing is new for Sarah and she says she was introduced to this sport, and mentored by a close friend



Photo courtesy of Sarah Nellis

Sarah recently competed in the 2022 Canadian Ladies National Fly Fishing Championships in Kamloops, B.C., and achieved silver. Based on her success, she has been invited to be a member of Team Canada for the 2023 Ladies World Championships in 2023!

for her first event. She recently travelled to Kamloops, British Columbia, for the competition. It was the first year of competition for lady anglers and there were eight competitors. All of the participants, except for Sarah, were from British Columbia and Alberta.

Although Sarah states that her recent achievement of silver in the competition may have been "beginner's luck," it was surely her experience and skill that took her to the winners' podium! She was required to participate in four sessions on four different lakes in the Kamloops area. It was the qualifier for the Ladies World Fly Fishing Championships in 2023 and Sarah has just been chosen

for this honour!

These competitions are opportunities to create networks of contacts and friends throughout Canada and the world. Meeting people who share the same passions create a strong bond. Sarah adds, "As somebody who grew up playing sports and enjoys competition, adding a competitive aspect to a generally non-competitive sport such as fly fishing really adds a whole new layer to my fly fishing journey. It allows me to expand my knowledge and competencies, which I am very excited about."

Being a female guide in a sport that is male-dominated can present an extra challenge.

Sarah feels that she has to "prove herself." Time and experience have helped her to overcome those fears. She now feels comfortable and confident fishing in front of anybody and in any environment.

Sarah's future? She will continue to pursue her guiding career and eventually take on more entrepreneurial projects with her partner, who also works in the industry. She plans to continue with competitive fly fishing and to travel the world as far and wide "as the fish call her."

Sarah closes by stating, "Keep the waters clean, protect the forested headwaters and respect the fish."



Photo courtesy of Sarah Nellis

Fishing guide Sarah Nellis, holding one of her record fish, cautions us to "Keep the waters clean, protect the forested headwaters and respect the fish."



Halloween at Duthie's Point to feature new attractions

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The Town of New Richmond, assisted by the Gaspé Peninsula Club de courses d'aventures et d'orientation (orienteering) are organizing a day of Halloween activities on Sunday, October 30 at Duthie's Point. The activities will start at 9:30 a.m. with two orienteering races, with a registration time scheduled for 8:45 a.m. One race will cover 4 kilometres for the intermediate caliber participants, and six kilometres for the advanced ones. A candy hunt is also scheduled between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the site buildings. This year, Ira Gladstone (in photo), who spearheads an interesting model train project in the Almond Barn of Duthie's Point, will show some of his small trains in the Gendron Store building during the Halloween activities.

Steady season for local artisan

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CASCADEPEDIA-ST-JULES: Caitlyn Barter, owner and designer of Tippy Canoe has had a steady season of sales both in person at her store in Cascapedia-St-Jules and for online orders. Sales did not increase a great deal this season and Caitlyn believes this is because people are travelling more and spending less. In addition, people are experiencing the effects of the rising costs within the economy.



Credit: Hooké

Caitlyn Barter, owner and designer at Tippy Canoe creates beautiful and unique paddles, axes and clothing.

Her beautiful handmade, never mass produced, paddles and axes are made from real Gaspesian wood. Her sales continue to be strong for hoodies and other clothing, for both adults and children, that are designed with unique Gaspesian logos. Paddles are always Caitlyn's top seller and, as we get close to Christmas, custom paddles are a popular choice for gifts.

Because Caitlyn teaches high school fulltime in Es-

cuminac, she does not have the opportunity to open up her shop for walk-ins as much as she would like. She does open on weekends and evenings. Otherwise, most of her communication and ordering happens online since that's the easiest way to contact her.

Caitlyn just confirmed her largest order ever for paddles and Caitlyn comments, "It's especially exciting because it's for a local organization but I can't give more details right

now."

She recently completed a set for Pub Bayou at Hotel Francis in New Richmond. If you are in the area, go in and have a look!

Caitlyn is taking orders for paddles and axes until November 15. Custom orders for hoodies are available until November 10. Christmas is approaching quickly.

If you wish to see more paddles check out Caitlyn's website: tipsycanoedesigns.com

Easiest Pumpkin Spiced Latte ever!

Maybe you are craving an "oh so sweet" and trendy pumpkin spice latte. You could drive to the nearest coffee shop or café and buy one. There is an appeal about sitting inside and sipping on your warm and tasty seasonal beverage, but that's not always possible. Making your own at home is quick, easy and budget-friendly.

It will take just 5 minutes to prep and make and there is no need to use pumpkin puree. The flavour in this recipe comes from the lovely spices.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of strong coffee
- 1/4 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 2 tsp. white sugar or maple syrup
- 2 tbsp. coffee cream
- Whipped cream

Directions:

1. Mix the cream, sugar and pumpkin pie spice in a large mug. Add fresh, strong hot coffee. Stir.
2. Heat in microwave about 15 seconds. Repeat if not hot enough.
3. Top with whipped cream.



What is pumpkin spice?

Pumpkin spice is a blend of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger. You can add allspice as well. You can buy this blend at the store, but if it is out of stock, just make your own. It can also be used in homemade pumpkin pie, soft sugar cookies and muffins.

Ingredients:

- 1/4 tsp. ground cloves
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon

- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. ground ginger

Directions: Mix well in a small bowl and store in a small glass bottle. Will last up to three years.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Girls do not have to be nice

*Be kind whenever possible.
It is always possible. Dalai Lama*

Girls and women are often taught that they should be "nice." Let's change that because being nice implies doing things that benefit others but may take away from our happiness and even affect our safety. Kindness? That is something entirely different. Kindness comes from inside us, from a place of compassion. The subtle, but important difference is that being nice at times means sacrificing our dignity and can put girls (and boys who choose to be nice) in situations that are demeaning and uncomfortable.

Being nice is motivated by trying to please others, even if there is a price to pay for that choice. Being nice is often-times a way of keeping "the peace." It is perfectly okay to speak up when you need to and always critically important to maintain boundaries. Nowhere is it written that you have to be nice, at the expense of yourself.

Imagine this scenario: Your daughter or granddaughter is walking to school and a man in a vehicle calls her over to ask directions. Should she choose to be nice and approach that car? Does she have to be nice and put herself in danger? Absolutely not! What should she do? Get out of there and yell and find a safe place. Practice this scenario with your child – males too!

Niceness does not keep anybody safe.

Teach your child to be safe and that instincts often prove correct. If it does not feel right, it's likely not. Teach them to be alert and brave, not nice. This will build their confidence and they will know that they have the power to navigate the world. We don't want to make our children scared to go out in the world, and they need to know that the overwhelming majority of people are good.

Don't be nice when...

The difficulty with the word 'nice' is that it has become gendered – that is, females are supposed to be nice. Being nice relinquishes your power. The opposite of nice is not rude or selfish, but rather being empowered to make decisions that make you feel comfortable while being kind both to yourself and the other person. Kind is good. Feeling good about your choices is good.

Phrases to practice:

- I don't feel comfortable with that.
- It's okay if you don't like it.
- No, thank you.
- Please respect my boundaries.
- No. Just no.
- Get back.

It's hard to say these things because we don't say them very often. But remember that if you need to use them, it's perfectly acceptable to do so.



Register now!

cegepgim.ca/english-section





Photo: Jewell Allen Roy

From left to right: Rose played the piano and violin, Linda the piano, Bethany the piano and flute, Solomon the piano and classical guitar, and Joshua the viola.

Paetkau family holds musical recital

JEWELL ALLEN ROY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

On Saturday, October 15, at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, the Paetkau family (the Reverend Joshua, his wife Bethany, daughter Rose, son Solomon, and Bethany's mother Linda Nielson Plikat) entertained many local citizens with their various musical instruments.

All those in attendance were very impressed with the Paetkau musical talent.

(The Reverend Joshua Paetkau is the minister of the parishes of New Carlisle and Chaleur Bay.)

New addition for the midwifery team in the Baie-des-Chaleurs

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CAPLAN - The deployment of the midwifery service in the Baie-des-Chaleurs continues with the addition of a new person to the team, which will allow for continuous service.

A scholarship holder who had done part of her internship at the CISSS de la Gaspésie joined the team during the week of October 17.

"This scholarship holder was authorized by the Ministry [of Health and Social Services] to join our team. We are beginning to have a

consolidation of our team of midwives in the Baie-des-Chaleurs. Our coverage will be seven days a week and 24 hours a day and this addition will allow us to start a service offer further away from Caplan's head office," mentions the assistant president and director general, Connie Jacques. The team will now include four midwives and a birth assistant.

The CISSS has no plans to establish a birthing centre in the Baie-des-Chaleurs

"It is not in our project, nor in the ministerial action

plan in the project submitted by the CISSS to the Ministry. The volume to have a birthing centre was not present in our region," justifies Ms. Jacques, which does not prevent the group Accès sages-femmes Baie-des-Chaleurs from studying the issue.

The group recently hired a project manager to document this possible implementation. Currently, women can give birth at the hospital or at home, in addition to various services following a pregnancy.

The service is also available in Gesgapegiag "and we are starting in November to deploy a consultation service in Listuguj," adds Ms. Jacques.

Since its implementation in the fall of 2019, 62 prenatal, delivery and postnatal follow-ups have been completed in addition to 18 others that were not completed due to factors such as a miscarriage, an early pregnancy transfer to another service, moving or a withdrawal.

In addition, 17 follow-ups for breastfeeding consultations by the lactation consultant midwife were completed and 24 are ongoing.

Recently, the Accès sages-



Photo: Yves Bernatchez

The Gargantua, as photographed by Yves Bernatchez last week, before the fire.

GARGANTUA FIRE

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

developers to showcase their site, the elected official, nevertheless, steps forward somewhat.

"A developer acquired the site last year and wants to build a four-season hotel. It's no secret that a developer wants to do something on this extraordinary and magnificent site," says Ms. Poirier.

Zoning changes are re-

quired to allow the project to proceed.

Le Gargantua was located at the top of the Route des failles which offers a breathtaking view of the string of mountain peaks and valleys. It was opened in 1959 by a couple from Bretagne, France, Pierre and Ginette Péresse. The last meals were served in the summer of 2011. Since then, the site had been left abandoned and the victim of squatters.

femmes de la Côte-de-Gaspé group took a step forward when the CISSS de la Gaspésie submitted a phased project for the tip of the Gaspé to the ministry. But nothing is planned for the Rocher-Percé and Haute-Gaspésie MRCs.

"Our objective is to completely consolidate the Baie-des-Chaleurs and go to the Côte-de-Gaspé. We do not have a project for Rocher-Percé or the Haute-Gaspésie. The number of midwives available means that we must go in phases. We had an interest in the Côte-de-Gaspé,"

explains Ms. Jacques.

"The concern everywhere in Quebec is not to start a service and end up with service interruptions. There is work being done throughout Quebec to ensure that we have coverage in the points of service already open before adding others. The number of midwives leaving school every year is a real problem," notes Ms. Jacques.

Funding for the service is provided entirely by the Ministry of Health and Social Services. The funding envelopes take into account rural areas.



Photo: N. Sergerie

A new person is added to the Bay of Chaleur midwifery group

Page 10, October 26, 2022 - Spec



Autumn is a season filled with russet colours and gusty winds from the north leaving the leaves flying everywhere. October is a month filled with beauty and that cool crisp autumn air. Shorter days make us think of the next season ahead but October has that autumn touch of colours and falling leaves.

New Carlisle is a town filled with enormous old trees and its colours shows us how rich in beauty this little town is.

Slowly, but surely, cool temperatures are blending in and soon we will see the bare branches everywhere.

Ken Ross

Bill to renovate Carleton-sur-Mer's arena is now \$5.6 million

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - The Carleton-sur-Mer municipal council is resigning itself to paying an additional \$600,000 to renovate the Léopold-Leclerc Civic Centre.

On October 17, elected officials accepted the lowest proposal, that of the local firm LFG, for \$5.6 million, guaranteed for 90 days, even though the town had changed the project to reduce the bill from \$6.5 million to \$5 million.

"It's been a lot of discussion, but given the situation, the price is good if you analyze the market. We expect construction costs to continue to rise. We need to redo our arena and we cut everything we could to bring it back to basics. It is for these reasons that we decided to go ahead," explains Mayor Mathieu Lapointe.

Acceptance is conditional on obtaining financing, as the

town must amend its borrowing bylaw from \$5 million to \$6.5 million.

"When we add the new bid to \$5.6 million, and if we add the engineering, architectural and interest costs of the temporary financing, we arrive at a cost of \$6.5 million," says the mayor, who wants to ensure that the bylaw is adopted quickly so that he is not obliged to put it up for bids once again.

"We will make sure that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs understands our situation and is diligent in analyzing this request," Lapointe hopes. A registry will have to be kept before final adoption, but the mayor is confident that the project will be accepted by the citizens.

"We thought it was a \$3 million project at the outset. We're up to \$6.5 million and it's smaller than what we initially planned. That's the reality today. If we want to maintain our arena, we have no choice but to go ahead with



Photo: Town of Carleton-sur-Mer website

The bill will ultimately be \$5.6 million to renovate Carleton-sur-Mer's arena.

these changes and I think that the population will understand this difficult choice," adds the mayor.

The contractor is scheduled to do the work between January 1 and September 30.

The town will be meeting with the builder shortly to es-

tablish a schedule.

The work involves improving the building's insulation, redesigning the water and electrical systems, and bringing it up to universal standards.

The tower and cooling equipment were also in the

project as they are at the end of their life.

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

Feeding wild birds: Go ahead despite avian flu, says famous ornithologist

CYNTHIA DOW

There is nothing I love better in the winter than to watch the wild birds at my feeders. It's a real course in ornithology and it's fun to try to figure out the pecking order in each flock. On average, between 12 and 15 different species come to my feeders every year, as well as a few rare visitors.

I picked up this obsession from my paternal grandmother, Olive Skene, from whom I inherited an Audubon Society handbook to help me identify the many species around my home.

But this year avian flu is wreaking havoc on wild bird populations, and some organizations are advocating against feeding birds at communal feeders for fear of spreading the disease.

SPEC got in touch with Dr. David Bird – that's right, that's his real name! He is one of Canada's most honoured ornithologists, having been awarded the Society of Canadian Ornithologists' most prestigious award, the Doris H.



Photo: C. Dow

Pine grosbeaks are rare visitors to my feeders.

Speirs Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Canadian Ornithology in 2017.

This is what Dr. Bird told us in an email response to our query: "Probably one of the most vexing challenges faced by those of us is whether to take feeders down when faced

with the presence of a bird-killing disease in the locale. Avian flu is one of the more dangerous diseases threatening our birds. This nasty pathogen has now shown up in North America and confirmed cases of wild birds being affected by it are certainly out there.

"But does that mean that

we must take down our feeders as recommended by organizations concerned about animal welfare? First of all, avian flu usually affects poultry flocks. Because these domestic birds do occasionally come into contact with waterfowl like ducks and geese, which in turn are preyed upon by raptorial birds like bald eagles and peregrine falcons, avian flu can certainly enter wild bird populations.

"But the odds of the disease affecting those songbirds visiting our feeders is exceedingly unlikely. And that is exactly why the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the American Bird Conservancy and Birds Canada are NOT recommending that we take down our feeders."

Dr. Bird also strongly recommends the public keep cats indoors. Domestic cats kill "some 2 billion birds every year in the US alone." Several years ago I decided to let my cats out only on my deck. I have noticed a slight increase in the bird population immediately around my house since

then.

The ornithologist notes we should also take steps to minimize bird collisions with windows. Homeowners close to trees and woods can experience a large number of losses due to collisions. I placed random stickers on the outside of my windows last fall, and although birds still occasionally hit the windows, I have noticed a significant decrease in mortality.

There are a number of websites out there with instructions about the steps you can take to reduce mortality of wild bird populations, which are sadly on the decline due to climate change, habitat loss and pollution.

A final note about feeding the birds in the winter: flocks can become dependent on your feeders, so once you start feeding you should continue throughout the winter months.

If you go away for a few weeks, consider asking a neighbour or friend to keep your feeders stocked while you are gone.

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Membership drive on now

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW CARLISLE: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 64, is currently holding a membership drive and there are many reasons to join and support this non-profit organization. A yearly membership costs just \$45 and by supporting the Legion you will become an involved member of your community and have the opportunity to meet new friends. Most importantly, you will be helping to maintain the remembrance of those who gave so much for the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today. The New Carlisle Legion boasts a proud heritage of men and women who served and those who still serve today, from this community.

In February 2022, there were 63 members and as of this week there are 92 members! There is no requirement to attend meetings but becoming actively involved in the branch will give you the opportunity to voice your ideas and opinions.

Fay Gallon, member of the Executive Committee and

membership chairperson, points out some of the advantages of becoming a member.

They include: Social activities such as dances, barbecues, entertainment and a host of other special events, members can enjoy games of shuffleboard and cribbage, weekly dart club with local and regional tournaments, bursaries and scholarships, opportunity to become an involved member or leader in the branch executive, a subscription to the Legion magazine published six times a year, branch discounts on rentals and special occasion meals. Though you do not have to be a member to participate in activities and supporters, being a member strengthens the Legion when it applies for grants.

The New Carlisle Legion recently received their first grant from the MRC of Bonaventure. The \$64,000 they received will be used to upgrade the bar area and the kitchenette with needed appliances and accessories.

Planning is well underway for Remembrance Day, 2022, and Fay comments that



Photo: New Carlisle Legion

Becoming a member of the Legion is the ultimate way to show your gratitude and give your support. You don't have to be a veteran to join and make a difference.

“the new executive is grateful for the guidance from experienced Legion members.

Wreaths are available now and families or businesses who wish to honour a veteran can contact Betty Chedore at 581-233-2063.”

The New Carlisle Legion would like to remind the community that any adult can join and that everyone is welcome to drop in, have a drink and socialize with new or old friends! The Legion would love to see younger community members join.

Look in the Coast Round-

Up section of SPEC or the Legion's Facebook page for information about activities and events. To purchase a membership, you can drop by the branch or join online at <https://portal.legion.ca/join>. You have until November 30 for your name, to be entered in the Early Bird

campaign draw. You could win a prize donated by BMR Paspébiac, The Gaspé Spec, Salon Vanessa or Branch 64 of the Legion.

Your Legion is committed to remembering the men and women who sacrificed for our country. Please support your local Legion!



MOISIE RIVER FISHING CAMP INC.

JOB OFFER

The Moisie River Fishing Camp Inc. is looking for a manager for its properties located on the Moisie River, Sept-Îles, Quebec.

The ideal candidate must have the following qualifications:

- Have a college degree (DEC) or have experience in the day-to-day management of a fishing camp offering lodging, catering and sport fishing for Atlantic salmon.
- Fluent in the English and French languages. A basic knowledge of the Innu language is an advantage.
- The selected candidate has occupied, during several years, a post with responsibilities in the management of human resources; in the planning of the work for a diversified team of employees involved in river boat handling, guiding, catering tasks and in household, buildings and mechanical maintenance.
- He or she could be a retired person with the desire to fill a challenging position during a minimum of years. Work could be offered to the wife or husband.
- The selected candidate should be prepared to reside on the site during the period of operations of the Camp from the end of May, to early September. Lodging is available for a couple.

The campsite is located on the Moisie River approximately 30 kms east of Sept-Îles and is accessible by road and boat.

The employer offers a competitive salary with social benefits.

Interested candidates should send a resume to:
guillaumelapierre@hotmail.com

CAMP DE PÊCHE DE LA RIVIÈRE MOISIE INC.

OFFRE D'EMPLOI

Le poste de Gérant ou Gérante pour le Camp de Pêche de la Rivière Moisie Inc. est présentement disponible.

La personne recherchée doit posséder les qualifications suivantes:

- Être détenteur (trice) d'un diplôme d'études collégiales ou posséder une solide expérience de gestion d'entreprise préférablement dans le secteur de la pourvoirie ou de camps de pêche privés. Être capable de communiquer en Français et en Anglais. La maîtrise de la langue innue est un atout important.
- Idéalement avoir occupé, pendant plusieurs années, un poste comportant des responsabilités dans la gestion du personnel, dans l'organisation du travail d'une équipe formée de guides, de cuisiniers (ères) et de préposés (es) à l'entretien ménager et à l'entretien mécanique et de bâtiments.
- Le candidat ou la candidate idéale pour occuper ce poste, environ 6 mois par année, pourrait être une personne retraitée.
- La personne choisie devra être prête à résider au Camp durant la période d'activités du Camp de la fin de mai au début de septembre. Un logement est disponible pour un couple. Un emploi pourrait être offert au conjoint ou à la conjointe.

Le Camp de Pêche de la Rivière Moisie Inc. offre une rémunération compétitive et les avantages sociaux actuellement en vigueur.

Soumettre votre candidature à:
Guillaumelapierre@hotmail.com

Announcements



Obituary



STEWART: Hartley Alymer

Passed away peacefully with family by his side at Sakura House in Woodstock, Ontario. He is survived by his wife Patricia (Fitzpatrick) of 60 years, Father of Hoyt (predeceased), Darrell (Chris), and Trina. Grandfather of Mitch (Michelle), Courtney, Christina, Brandon (Gabrielle), Great-Pappy to Elliott, who brought him the greatest joy in the past few months. Hartley will also be fondly remembered by his sister Pam (Keith.)

Hartley resided most of his life in Gaspé, Quebec and moved to Ingersoll in his later years to be close to family. When asked how he was doing, everything was always "perfect." Hartley had a great love for life and his family. He persevered through the last few years with many health problems. However, his positive outlook never disappeared.

Friends were received at the McBeath-Dynes Funeral Home at 246 Thames Street South, Ingersoll, on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. with a memorial service at 3:30 p.m.

Memorial donations can be made to VON Sakura House in Woodstock, Ontario, or to The Gaspé Cancer Foundation. Personal condolences can be made to www.mcbeathdynes.ca



In Memory

FRASER: Alfred

In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather who passed away October 30, 1991.

*For yesterday and you
To your resting place we visit,
And tend it with loving care,
But the hardest part is when,
We turn and have to leave you there.
So please, dear God treasure him
In your garden of rest,
For in this world,
He was one of the best.*

Always remembered and sadly missed by your son Jr., daughter-in-law Cheryl, granddaughter Bonnie, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. We miss you and love you Dad. xoxoxo



LEGRESLEY: John

In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather who passed away on October 17, 2020.

*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

Lovingly remembered by your family.

SIMON: Trafford

In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away October 30, 1988.

*Like falling leaves the years go by,
But memories of you will never die.
No longer in our lives to share,
But in our hearts you're always there.*

Always remembered and sadly missed by Dora (Ronnie), Sandra (Ivan), Duane (Hermeline), Laura (Real) and families.

Card of Thanks, Prayer, Birth Announcement, Engagement, Birthday, Anniversary, Memorial Service announcement:
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COAST ROUND-UP

GASPE:

Royal Canadian Legion
Please be advised that Legion memberships are available for \$50. Returning and new members welcome.

October 29: Halloween dance with Tammy Adams beginning at 9 a.m. \$10 entry fee. With or without costume. Door prizes to be won.

GASPE:

Friends of Saint Paul's
November 12: Annual sale by the friends of Saint Paul's in the church hall beginning at 9 a.m. Everyone welcome.

PORT DANIEL:

St. James Anglican Church Tea

St. James Anglican Church, Port-Daniel, is having afternoon tea at the Three Star Golden Age building, 177 rte 132, Port Daniel on **October 29** from 1 to 4 p.m. Cost: \$8.

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.

October 29: Military Whist beginning at 7:30 p.m.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Town Sports Club
November 3: Crib tournament beginning at 7 p.m. at

the Hope Town Community Centre.

November 12: Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Centre.

November 26: Gift Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at the Optimist Club in Saint Godefroi.

PASPEBIAC:

Knitters Needed

La maille de l'amitié, a group of knitters who are eager to help men, women and children who are receiving chemotherapy at Maria hospital by providing knitted hats, is looking for knitters. If needed, patterns and samples are available at the library in Paspebiac, which is also where you should drop-off your knitted items. You can also include a short note of encouragement, identified by your name only. For more information, contact Claudette Whittom (418) 752-3633 or Doris Chedore (418) 752-5190.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64

Please be advised that Legion memberships are available for \$45. Returning and new members welcome.

Wednesdays: Cribbage beginning at 7 p.m. Bring a partner.

Thursdays: Open from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Fridays: Darts beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays: Open at 2 p.m. Everyone welcome.

October 29: Halloween dance beginning at 9 p.m.

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

November 5: Crafts workshop from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and live music beginning at 8 p.m.

November 11: Remembrance Day Ceremony at the New Carlisle cenotaph to purchase a wreath please contact Betty at 581-233-2068 or Mary at 418-752-2845.

December 11: Santa at the Legion from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

NEW CARLISLE:

LLB Membership

Please note that membership renewals for the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation started 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.

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:

Armistice Wreaths

Family members wishing to buy a wreath can come pick up their wreaths on **November 7 and 8** from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Legion. For more information or to buy a wreath, please call 581-233-2068.

NEW RICHMOND:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #172

Wednesdays: Dame de pique.

Friday Evenings: Darts.

Saturday: To socialize

November 5: Remembrance Day church service will be held at the Tekawitha Mission in Gesgapegiag at 4 p.m.

November 8 - 9: Wreath pick up at the Legion from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please contact Donna Fallow at 418-392-5509 if you wish to purchase a wreath.

November 11: Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Gesgapegiag cenotaph. A small Remembrance Day ceremony will also be held

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

at the New Richmond cenotaph.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: Book Room

The book room is open every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone who needs assistance can contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:

The winners for the week of October 9 are: Claude Allard, Denis Blouin, Francois Boissonneault, Nil Hudon, Henriette Cyr, Tony Constantineau and Marie-Josée Leblanc.

UNITED CHURCH NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, October 30
10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN
Sunday, October 30
10 a.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
Sunday, October 30
NEW CARLISLE
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
PORT DANIEL
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPE
Sunday, October 30
St. James - Wakeham
9 a.m. Morning Prayer



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

This should be a very interesting week, Aries. Money matters will be at the heart of it. Figure out what you want to do with the extra cash that you have accumulated.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Treat everyone with a bit of caution, Taurus. Some person in your circle may need a little extra support this week, and your calm and even approach could be just what's needed.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, this week has the potential for a few bumps in the road that could be avoided if you simply slow

down a bit. Think things through or you could trip yourself up.

CANCER – June 22/July 22
An exciting few days lie ahead, Cancer. You may be tempted to spend much more than you usually would. Have fun, but keep track of your finances.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Leo, even if you have plans to hang out with friends, something at home could crop up that will need your immediate attention. Be flexible and at the ready.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, find balance where you feel out of sync. Maybe you have been having relationship woes or seem out of touch with family. Make an

effort to respond to these feelings.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, even if your best plans do not work out, that doesn't mean you have to scrap everything and sulk. Make the most of what worked and build on that.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you may find yourself in a situation that tests your levelheadedness in a big way this week. It could throw off your equilibrium when your plans go awry.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, focus on communication in the days to come. The ability to communicate effectively will be a true asset as you work more with

others.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

A problem that arises may initially seem insurmountable, Capricorn. But you're more than capable of overcoming this obstacle. Look to Pisces for help.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Are you ready to take action and get to work, Aquarius? An unexpected home project has fallen into your lap, and it will take some effort to get it all done.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
You could wind up learning something simply by letting the wind take you where it will, Pisces. Firm plans are unnecessary this week.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
OCTOBER 23
Ryan Reynolds, Actor (46)
OCTOBER 24
Wayne Rooney, Manager (37)
OCTOBER 25
Nancy Cartwright, Actress (65)
OCTOBER 26
Seth MacFarlane, Actor (49)
OCTOBER 27
Lonzo Ball, Athlete (25)
OCTOBER 28
Brad Mondo, Stylist (28)
OCTOBER 29
Winona Ryder, Actress (51)

Soapbox races are a hit once again

MELISSA HARRISON
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT
CASCAPEDIA: It was nice to see everyone out and about again enjoying the beautiful fall weather, wonderful fall colours and taking part in the Soapbox Races which were back in full force for this year's Cascapedia-St-Jules Fall Festival after a two-year "Covid isolation period."

The races were a success once again this year with the under 50 category seeing Jaden Grenier taking 3rd place, Marie-Soleil Collin Richard taking 2nd place and Christopher Caplin as the 1st place winner for that category.

The 50+ category had 14 competitors which made for an exciting race lineup. The carts were fast and the drivers determined to win the grand prize and all the bragging rights that come along with the victory. We got to see some soapbox veterans test their skills against some new faces as well as some old rivalries play out on the hill.

Even some retired racers were in the pit to help out and impart some of their wisdom to the upcoming generations.

In the quarterfinal we saw a father/son face-off between Art Harrison and Daryl Harrison with Daryl being the first one over the finish line. After 2 hours of races, battling difficult road conditions, mechanical setbacks, screaming fans and fast carts, three competitors made it all the way to the Soapbox podium. For the 3rd place win we had Brendan St-Onge. Coming in 2nd place was Roméo Cormier and the 1st place winner and grand cham-

pion for the second time in a row was Charlie Caplin.

Congratulations to all the winners and a huge thank-you to all the competitors, volunteers and avid fans that came

out to make the 2022 Soapbox Races a success. See you all next year!

P.S. Charlie Caplin don't get too comfortable up there at the top of the podium!



The bouncy castle and face painting were great hits with all the children at this year's fall festival.

Cascapedia-St-Jules Fall Festival is back

Elaine Sexton
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

CASCAPEDIA: After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, the annual Cascapedia-St-Jules fall festival was back during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Friday night was the dart tournament and a full crowd enjoyed the music with Johnny Ana Marie performing.

Saturday afternoon "Crop-dusters" were on stage followed by "The Garage Band."

Sunday afternoon "The Triculturals" entertained the crowd.

The bake and craft sale was held on Saturday, as were the go-kart races, and the popular washer competition.

The silent auction once again had many nice donations entered.

There were canteen services and Abel's Bouncy Castle was present this year much to

the delight of the children. "The Magic Man," David Philippe, made the kids ooh and ah with his many tricks.

The New Richmond Rotary Club once again had the Sunday brunch with many attending.

This was the first festival with new mayor, Ashley Milligan, who was very pleased with all the volunteers and those who attended the weekend.

Linda Martin won the volunteer of the festival for her many years of serving coffee and refreshments to all, and for always being there so bright and early. Congratulations Linda, well deserved.

To see this fun weekend back was so heartwarming as it gave the community a sense of normalcy once again. Seeing friends and family was just what we all needed. Until next year.



The competition was fierce in the 50+ category with 14 competitors battling to be grand champion.

Photos: Donald Caplin

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