

Last surviving Hong Kong veteran from the Gaspé Peninsula passes away

***Note from the editor:** Shortly before the SPEC's deadline, we learned of the passing of Phil Doddridge, the last surviving Hong Kong War veteran from the Gaspé Peninsula, a man who also had a brilliant career in education and who left a positive and lasting impression in every endeavour he tackled. Tom Eden spent a lot of time with Mr. Doddridge over the years. Mr. Eden accepted a last minute "assignment". He wrote and delivered this article a few hours before the completion of the paper's deadline. There will be a follow up. The SPEC staff wish to thank Tom Eden for accepting the task despite his grief and offer their sympathies to the Doddridge family.*

TOM EDEN

The tone was friendly, yet insistent. "Call me Phil. Everyone else does." By then we had been friends for a few months and had spent many hours together recording interviews about his experience during World War II. "I can't," I answered, explaining that like most people of my generation, I was raised to address my elders by either Mr. or Mrs., he wasn't really satisfied, not being a fan of my continually calling him Mr. Doddridge. I offered a compromise. "How about I call you Mr. Phil?" And thus it was from that day forward, evolving from a sign of respect to a nickname to a term of endearment.

Mr. Phil passed away on the morning of Wednesday, October 4 in the home he loved so much, overlooking the fields of New Richmond West, the Bay of Chaleur, and the hills and mountains of Carleton and beyond. He was 100 years old, and he had packed a whole lot of living into that century.

Born and raised in New Richmond, just steps away from where the Cenotaph stands today, young Phil Doddridge lived through the difficult economic times of the 1930s and the Great Depres-



Phil Doddridge in 2016, during a ceremony held in Quebec City marking the 75th anniversary of the Hong Kong Battle.

Phil Doddridge in January 1946.

Photo: Tom Eden

sion. "There was no money, no jobs, and no real opportunities," he would say. Add to the mix, that on the global stage, the world was rushing headlong into war, and it's safe to say that the future didn't look all that rosy for young Phil and his generation.

War finally did come in September 1939, and the situation in Europe deteriorated quickly. The spring of 1940 saw the British army being pushed off the continent in rather ignominious fashion at Dunkirk, and the Nazis pushed on into Paris, culminating with Adolf Hitler posing for photos up and down the Champs Élysées in June of 1940.

It was against this backdrop that an 18-year-old Phil Doddridge came to join a Quebec City based infantry unit, the Royal Rifles of Canada. As he told the story, he and two of his friends were walking down New Richmond's main street one hot July evening, when he noticed a recruiting poster in a window of the Cascapedia House, situated more or less on the land where the present day post office stands. The poster read *Join The Royal Rifles*. It

was to be a call that would be answered by 203 Gaspesians, 53 of them from New Richmond, Cascapedia-St-Jules and Gessgapegiag.

For most Gaspesians who joined Canada's war effort by volunteering for military service, and for Phil Doddridge and the other young men from the area who enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada, there was an understanding, unwritten but implied, that they would be taking part in the fight to rid Europe of Hitler's murderous Nazi regime. Fate would see them dispatched to a totally different location, one that none of them could ever have suspected: across the Pacific Ocean to the far reaches of the British Empire, Hong Kong.

In the fall of 1941, after having received vaccinations and being fitted with tropical gear, the men of the Royal Rifles boarded a train in Quebec City. "We had no idea where we were headed," Doddridge stated. The mood was almost festive as they slowly made their way across Canada, the train hardly able to contain the energy of 1000 young soldiers, mostly in their teens and early

twenties. When the group finally arrived in Vancouver, they met up with another infantry unit, the Winnipeg Grenadiers, and were quickly boarded on the S.S. Awatea, a ship that had previously served as a ferry between Australia and New Zealand. "As it was a New Zealand ship, we were fed mutton. A friend of mine, Ken Cambon, wrote a short poem about the food. 'Our cheeks were just juttin' with nothin' but mutton!'" It wasn't until they were halfway across the Pacific Ocean that they were told that their destination was Hong Kong, a place that it is safe to say, most of the young soldiers had never even heard of.

For Phil Doddridge, his arrival in Hong Kong was "like landing on the moon. Like nothing I'd ever witnessed." The city was teeming with refugees from China, being pushed southward from the invading Japanese forces. "I saw childbirth on the street," said Mr. Doddridge, the image still vivid, oh so many decades later. "There were dead bodies, human and animal, floating in the bay." The Gaspesian mem-

bers of the Royal Rifles were a long way from the quiet and peaceful life they had known on the Coast.

It would only be a matter of a few days before Mr. Doddridge and his comrades would come face to face with the invading Japanese. On December 8, 1941, the enemy attacked from the north, quickly breaking through the Allied lines. The Canadians were sent to their defensive positions on the island of Hong Kong, the Winnipeg Grenadiers on the west side, and the Royal Rifles of Canada on the east side.

The Royal Rifles were divided into five companies, A, B, C, D, and Headquarters companies. Philip Doddridge was a member of D Company which included many Gaspesians from all over the Coast. Men like Lance Ross, Arley Enright, and Bill MacWhirter from Hope Town; Bob Barter from Cascapedia; Leo and Reynald Murphy from New Richmond; Ray, Ted, and Les Sauson from Shigawake; and Hector and Arnold Hunt from Chandler. Their baptism of fire was particularly brutal.

"We could see the Japanese coming towards us across the Tai Tam Reservoir from our

Bonaventure riding: Catherine Blouin wins for the Coalition avenir Québec

GILLES GAGNÉ

PASPÉBIAC - Catherine Blouin, of the Coalition avenir Québec, won a convincing victory in the riding of Bonaventure on October 3, ousting Parti Québécois candidate Alexis Deschênes by 3,211 votes.

A former radio host who was working until recently for the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre, Ms. Blouin received 9,919 votes, compared to 6,708 for Alexis Deschênes, a former star journalist at TVA and Radio-Canada.

Ms. Blouin was in charge of communications for the Coalition avenir Québec in the Gaspé Peninsula, the Magdalen Islands and the Lower Saint Lawrence region during the last Quebec general election in October 2018.

Catherine Cyr Wright, of Québec solidaire, the only 2018 candidate to try her luck again this year in Bonaventure, finished in third place, with 2,417 votes. Christian Cyr, of the Liberal Party, followed with 1,911 votes, compared to 1,219 for François Therrien, of the Conservative Party, 80 for Anne-Marie Lauzon, of Union fait la force and 57 for Jocelyn Rioux



Catherine Blouin took the lead in the early stage of the ballot counting process and never lost it.



Photos: G. Gagné

Alexis Deschênes thinks the collapse of the Liberal Party vote was one of the main factors that provided the CAQ with a victory margin.

of Climat Québec.

As in several other ridings where the French-speaking vote is strong, the Liberal Party suffered a tumble, having gone from 5,586 votes in 2018, to 1,911 this year. Even in a losing situation in 2014, Damien Arseneau garnered 10,508 ballots.

Bonaventure is a former Liberal stronghold, but the 2022 election was characterized by recruitment difficulties for the party that has long dominated in this riding. Gerard-D. Levesque, between 1956 and 1993, as well as Nathalie Normandeau between 1998 and 2011, represented the con-

stituency.

As a first reaction, Catherine Blouin expressed her joy and gratitude to her team. She “not at all” expected to win by so much, a bit over 3,000 votes.

“We knew it would be a very big challenge, a colossal task. I wanted to do a field campaign, close to the people. I am very happy with the outcome,” she said.

Despite the large number of CAQ Members of the National Assembly elected in Quebec, that is to say 90, she believes “there will be a way to move our files forward.”

Catherine Blouin also believes that she will find a way

to deal with the fact that her spouse, Mathieu Lapointe, is the mayor of Carleton-sur-Mer, prefect of the MRC d'Avignon and president of the Gaspé Peninsula Prefects Table, and that the couple could find themselves in a potential conflict of interest situation.

“In fact, this is the first question we asked ourselves. Can it be done and if so, how? We have a legal opinion on this subject,” she said.

From the Ethics Commissioner, she will wait for another opinion, since this Commissioner does not give an opinion on hypothetical situations. “She (the commissioner) cannot

issue an opinion for a candidate. You have to be elected. This is an opinion that we will obtain over the next few days. It's case by case,” specifies Catherine Blouin.

Her main opponent, Alexis Deschênes, although disappointed, was not devastated, defeated or sad. “I think that there was among many people in Bonaventure and elsewhere in Quebec an expressed desire to reward Mr. Legault (Premier François) for the management of the pandemic. (...) Faced with the collapse of the Liberal vote, many ballots went to the CAQ.”

He believes in the future of the Parti Québécois. “We had an excellent campaign, we received 30% of the vote (in Bonaventure), we have excellent funding and we are anything but a party on the edge of the abyss.”

Bonaventure was represented since 2012 by Sylvain Roy, who is retiring from politics. He was elected under the Parti Québécois banner in 2012, 2014 and 2018, but he sat as an independent for the last 16 months of his term after getting into a few arguments on regional stakes with party leader Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon.

Coalition avenir Québec takes Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – Election night was long in Gaspé as the victory of Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) candidate Stéphane Sainte-Croix was only confirmed at the stroke of midnight. The final results were not released until 1:35 a.m. on October 4.

Caquiste Stéphane Sainte-Croix won the ballot with 710 votes (41.4%) over outgoing Member of the National Assembly, Parti Québécois' Mélanne Perry Mélançon (37.5%). The Québec solidaire candidate Yv Bonnier Viger received 8.97% of the vote while the Liberal candidate Michel Marin garnered 6.89% of the vote. Conservative Pier-Luc Bouchard was credited with 5.25%.

“We will have to analyze the results. We had more support for this 2022 campaign than for that of 2018,” replied the outgoing PQ member, disappointed after delivering a very emotional speech to her supporters, many of whom had



The newly elected MNA awaiting the results with supporters at the Baker Hotel.

tears in their eyes after noting that the victory eluded her.

Ms. Mélançon has difficulty explaining her defeat.

“I have always been confident. The satisfaction of my work does not translate into the result. The CAQ wave was everywhere in Quebec, which was not the case in 2018,” she says, noting in passing the victory of her PQ colleague from the Magdalen Islands, Joël Arseneau.

Ms. Perry Mélançon does not want to comment on a possible candidacy in four years. “My political career was just beginning. I hope it will con-

tinue for the next few years. We will see how it will translate,” says the defeated MNA.

A comparative analysis of the results of 2018 and 2022 shows that Liberal supporters have slipped towards the CAQ. In fact, the Liberal Party lost 4,707 votes at the ballot box this year, while the Coalition avenir Québec filled up 4,021 ballots.

The winner waited until the stroke of midnight before giving a victory speech, while for more than an hour at the end of the evening, no updates of the results were transmitted by Elections Quebec.



The outgoing MNA defeated with supporters at the Gaspé concert hall.

Photos: N. Sergerie

“We felt that there was an interest in change in the last few days,” says Stéphane Sainte-Croix, who believes that people have been receptive to his message over the past few days.

The issue of transportation will be his priority.

“We are very lucky to have assets that are close to being level. We have a duty to make efficient use of our assets. We also talked about shoreline erosion and the last few weeks (following storms) have reminded us that we must look at our ways of doing things and review predictability. The con-

nectivity of the territory where there are large gaps at this level,” mentions Mr. Sainte-Croix in his priorities at the start of his mandate.

The MNA is leaving the choice of who will occupy the function of the regional minister of the Gaspé Peninsula to the premier, remaining cautious on the evocation of a preference.

The outgoing Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Jonatan Julien, re-elected in Charlesbourg, has held the position since February 2021.

The participation rate was 60.96% for the riding.

Police report

A 35 year-old man residing in Port Daniel was charged with 11 criminal counts on October 5 at the New Carlisle Courthouse. The charges include human trafficking, sexual assault and bestiality. The man appeared in court a few hours after his arrest, and following an investigation that had started in September 2022. Some of the crimes were committed in the Gaspé Peninsula and some are in Bedford, Eastern Townships, where the man lived two or three years ago. The police investigation is still ongoing regarding the places where he has resided.

Although there is no ban on the publication of his name, the SPEC will not release it for now, considering that revealing any of the details that could lead to the identification of the female victim, is prohibited.

“The pro forma bail hearing was scheduled for October 7 but it will be postponed. I will object to the release of the accused,” says Criminal Prosecutor Maxime Rocheville-Paradis.

Most of the charges were allegedly committed over a long period of time. The human trafficking charge took place between September 1, 2018, and Sept. 21, 2022. The same period is allegedly valid for the charges of sexual assault, assault with a weapon, forcing someone to commit an act of bestiality and assault. The period between September 1, 2018, and December 31, 2021, is slightly different with charges of pimping, of having benefited 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. The last charges allegedly took place in Port Daniel or elsewhere in the province of Quebec. Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida presided over the case on October 5. The accused has met a lawyer following the laying of charges but he was still not officially represented as of October 6.

Richard Arsenault, 72, from Saint-Siméon, died in the crash of his small aircraft, likely on October 6, the day a Maria farmer, Éric Guité, found the aircraft in his field, located near Des Hérons Street. After noticing the presence of the plane at about 4:10 p.m., Mr. Guité saw the inanimate body of the victim inside and contacted the emergency services. The Sûreté du Québec investigators rushed to the scene in order to shed light on the circumstances of the crash. The Transportation Safety Board was notified of the situation. The death of the pilot was confirmed at 6:30 p.m.. “The investigation was conducted over a good part of the night. The cause of the crash remains unknown and we have not met any witnesses. No hypothesis has been confirmed about the cause of the crash, which could have been caused by a mechanical failure or an error of the pilot. He might also have fainted,” explains Hélène Saint-Pierre, spokesperson of the SQ. More details will be revealed once the investigation is completed.

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Sunny Bank: Judgment granting compensation goes uncontested



Photo: N. Sergerie

The road rebuilt in 1977 will be the subject of work in the coming years.


NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – The decision handed down on June 29 granting compensation to citizens of the Sunny Bank sector of Gaspé who were victims of numerous floods since 1977 was not contested in the Court of Appeal.

The appeal period for members of a class action is 60 days unlike other court cases, where it is 30 days.

The deadline has now passed, opening the way to measure the amounts that the members of this lawsuit can hope to receive from the Quebec Transport Ministry (MTQ).

Cont'd on page 8



PUBLIC NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION

School Board:	Poll of:
EASTERN SHORES	27 11 2022
	Day month year

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

- The following position is open for nominations:
Commissioner: Ward 3 Which Includes the Town of Maria to La Pocatière and Metis Beach
- Nomination papers for this position must be filed at the office of the Returning Officer or at those of the Assistants authorized to receive nomination papers on the following dates and time:

From	18	10	2022	To	23	10	2022
Dates:	Tuesday, October 18, 2022	from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.					
	Wednesday, October 19, 2022	from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.					
	Thursday, October 20, 2022	from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.					
	Friday, October 21, 2022	from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. (Escuminac and Metis only)					
	Saturday October 22, 2022	from 10:00 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (Metis Beach only)					

NOTE: Sunday, October 23, 2022 the office will be open from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. (Metis Beach only)
- If two or more candidates are nominated for the same position

A poll will be held on:	And an advance poll will be held on:
November 27, 2022	November 20, 2022
From 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	From 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- I nominate as assistant(s) authorized to receive nomination papers:

Ward 3:	Julie McGrath, 9, rue de l'École, Escuminac, QC	418-788-5549
Ward 3:	Tracy Sim, 468 Rue Beach, Métis-sur-Mer, QC	418-936-3288
Ward 3:	June Main, 40 rue Mountsorrel, New Carlisle, QC	418-752-2247 ext. 257
- An elector who does not have a child admitted to educational services in the English language school board or a French language Service Centre which covers their home address may choose to exercise or revoke their right to vote at an English language school board. This choice is made by sending a notice in writing to the returning officer of the English language school board

(44th day before polling day)		(19th day before polling day)		
14	10	2022		
	to	8	11	2022
- You can reach me or one of my assistants authorized to receive nomination papers. Address and telephone number of the Returning Officer of the English School Board.

June Main
40, Mountsorrel Street, New Carlisle, G0C 1Z0
Téléphone : (418) 752-2247 extension 257

Signature

Issued in :
Municipality

October 10th, 2022

Returning Officer



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Major challenges await the new Gaspesian MNAs

We witnessed a change in the two ridings covering the Gaspé Peninsula territory following the October 3 election, as the electors of the Bonaventure and Gaspé constituencies opted for the Coalition avenir Québec representatives, Catherine Blouin and Stéphane Sainte-Croix, respectively.

It was a premiere for the Coalition avenir Québec in the region in four elections. The determining factors of those wins are not numerous. Over the last days of the campaign, some people were saying that opting for the “power edge” could be beneficial, after eight-and-a-half years in the opposition.

The other determining factor, related to the first one, was the massive transfer of votes from the Liberal Party to the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ). Transfers were much more modest from the Parti Québécois to the CAQ and Québec solidaire this time, unlike the 2018 election, which was still won by the Parti Québécois in both ridings.

Saying that the Liberal Party has lost contact with the rural regions over recent years is an understatement. First, the riding organizations were almost extinct at the beginning of the summer when the election was looming.

Secondly, a lot of people are still reeling from the major cuts imposed on the regions by the Philippe Couillard government between 2014 and 2018.

In Bonaventure, a Liberal stronghold for decades, the number of ballots gathered by the Liberal Party candidate fell from 10,508 in 2014 for Damien Arsenault to 5,586 for François Whittom in 2018, and to 1,911 for Christian Cyr on October 3. That’s almost three times less than in 2018, and more than five times less than in 2014. It has nothing to do with the energy deployed by Mr. Cyr, who conducted a vigorous campaign.

A similar drop is also observed in the Gaspé riding, at least between 2018 and 2022. Four years ago, Alexandre Boulay lost by only 41 votes. This year, Michel Marin finished fourth.

The day following the election, Catherine Blouin said that people had decided to “be part of the right team,” since she represents the CAQ.

She is entitled to say that but it is a bit awkward, democracy-wise. It means that a riding opting for an opposition Member of the National Assembly would be disadvantaged compared to the representative of the reigning party. History has proven otherwise.

For example, between 2018 and 2022, despite being in the opposition, Parti Québécois Member of the National Assembly Méganne Perry Mélanon, who lost in the last election, regularly reminded the CAQ government of the gravity of the situation regarding day care places, housing, manpower shortages and transportation. Although the progress was slow, the Gaspé riding area has made forward strides in all those fields, sometimes with government support. Theoretically, a government is supposed to take care of all the members of its population.

Putting pressure on the government when you are an opposition representative can, therefore, be fruitful, when you know how to do it. It can, in fact, be more fruitful than sitting in the caucus of the government party and being too shy to talk, or big-eyed because you are impressed by having reached that step. A silent Member of the National Assembly will likely never reach great results for her or his constituents.

Breaking the silence the right way is the biggest chal-

lenge awaiting Catherine Blouin and Stéphane Sainte-Croix. They now join a caucus of 90 Members of the National Assembly (MNA).

That caucus was already made of 76 MNAs before the election. Some of those MNAs are now expecting to be nominated to the cabinet by Premier François Legault. He will try to satisfy the most experienced members of his team, because they might be impatient, before doing the same with the newcomers. It is a significant challenge.

Catherine Blouin and Stéphane Sainte-Croix are newcomers. They will have to deal with that reality; patience will be required. However, the region’s population has already shown a lot of patience towards the CAQ government, which expressed denial regarding many important issues for the Gaspé Peninsula population during most of the last term. Shortages in day care places, housing and manpower were waived until the last year of the term by Premier Legault and other cabinet members. The calls for tenders pertaining to the railway were published at a very slow pace until March 2022 and the adoption of a regional aerial policy has yielded very few results in four months.

The Coalition avenir Québec's honeymoon is over. Catherine Blouin and Stéphane Sainte-Croix will not benefit from a honeymoon, or very little.

They will have to quickly make their cabinet colleagues aware of the region’s issues. It will happen in a context where Montreal, where only two CAQ members were elected, will cry out for the attention of this government. They will need a touch of diplomacy and some luck.

Second terms are always difficult for a party in power. A certain degree of wear and tear slowly erupts, sometimes not that slowly. In 1973, Premier Robert Bourassa government won a landslide of 102 seats out of 110. The following term was plagued by scandals.

The Parti Québécois won the 1981 poll with a bigger

majority than in 1976. That second mandate was hit hard by a recession, but also by internal divisions on the constitutional debate. It was a nightmare.

People expect better from an experienced government but it doesn’t always materialize.

Meanwhile, the mere 35 seats shared by the three opposition parties now, the Liberal Party with 21, Québec solidaire with 11 and the Parti Québécois with 3, will force their leaders to collaborate if they are to strong pressure the CAQ government.

That fragmented opposition will have to create alliances to stand up. Québec solidaire and the Parti Québécois can undoubtedly work together on environmental issues, given that it is a weak point of the CAQ. It is in the best interest of democracy, as people like to see the leaders collaborate.

François Legault gave the appearance of an aging leader during the campaign, sometimes disconnected from contemporary realities. His positions on immigration and the environment must be adjusted quickly.

He will also have to deal with the issue of his own succession, despite committing to stay until the end of the term. There are many people in the CAQ who see themselves as future leaders. If the premier fails to look as strong as he was during the first term, his presence will soon be questioned internally by the CAQ.

One good way to recover would be to fix, as soon as possible, some difficult problems. For example, the Third Link project in Quebec City is a lame venture. It has to be abandoned. Mr. Legault has to make his priorities the lack of housing, labor, day care places, and absolutely inadequate transport systems in a modern society.

He must stop operating in denial concerning issues of modernity and the importance of regional stakes.

François Legault was lucky to benefit from the solidarity of the population, which rallied behind him during the COVID crisis. There won't always be a pandemic to distract the population from other fundamental issues.

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Page 4, October 12, 2022 - Spec

Processed snow crab and lobster sales stalled and then prices fell

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC - The year 2022 was to be the year of all records in the snow crab sector, a banner year announced months in advance. The prices offered to the fishermen were to reach unprecedented levels, and since the quotas were high in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence, it was predicted that overall revenues would hit record numbers.

The prices of \$8.25 and \$8.75 per pound offered at the start of the season, depending on whether the boats were equipped with ice or water holds, lasted only a week before losing a dollar a pound; and a few days later those prices were close to \$6, which remained a good price, compared to the average of \$7.40 per pound in 2021.

However, this decline broke with the long tradition that the starting price was generally adjusted upwards, sometimes during the season, often only at the end of the year.

Snow crab has sold slowly since April, to such an extent that processing plants in the east of the country, including plants in the Gaspé Peninsula, sometimes had large inventories to sell at the start of fall. American buyers, who dominate purchases of frozen Canadian shellfish, were clearly not as eager to acquire products as the situation suggested at the beginning of spring.

"This is the information that we did not have either, at the Boston (Seafood) Show in March. There was more stock in inventory than people were saying. The boycott of Russian products, decreed after the start of the war in Ukraine, caused crab prices to fall. The Russians dumped as much of it as possible on the American market before the June 23 deadline and, to sell it, they offered it cheaper to get rid of their products. We have to admit that the prices were a bit high until then for consumers," analyzes Bill Sheehan, vice-president of E. Gagnon et Fils, the largest shellfish processor in the Gaspé Peninsula.

"We are coming to the end of that: inventories of Russian products stored during the three months preceding June 23. We are still far from the price levels of last year. By comparison, we are back in 2020, the first year of the pandemic and, maybe worse, because when we started that season, there were



Photo: G. Gagné

Snow crab fishing and processing went smoothly for most of the 2022 season. In the sales department, it was more complicated, as the buyers are not acquiring big quantities.

no hotels, casinos and restaurants open. It's more or less the same players, the same buyers, and the same producers who negotiate. For lack of capital, processing companies sold products, or to make space, because there was a lack of space in warehouses. This year represents a storage challenge for producers. (...) What we have in space is taken. We had to look in Ontario, Quebec and the United States to find some space. We have good spaces at our Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé plant, but far from our needs this year," explains Mr. Sheehan.

The same slow flow of processed lobster sales is noticeable at E. Gagnon et Fils, he says.

"Lobster is complementary. It is found a lot in the same distributors, in the same section at the supermarket. In crab, this is the first time since 2010 that we have seen this: a context where there are no buyers rushing to the products. We had no choice but to sell at a loss sometimes. We paid a high price to the fishermen and the market price fell faster than we managed to sell it," says Bill Sheehan.

Apart from the processing aspect of marine products, "which went well," he still sees another positive element in the progress of spring and summer sales in the lobster sector.

"The sales of live lobster in Quebec were good. The supermarket banners did well. It is the export that causes problems. Companies that process both species (crab and lobster) often have either no more warehouse space or a capital shortage, and they charge 25 or

50 cents less to sell. American buyers took advantage of this. They buy by the week, knowing that the price will not be very different the following week, or that it will be cheaper," insists Bill Sheehan. "The exchange rate, inflation, the war in Ukraine, the closure of areas because of (right) whales, we do not control much of that in the end. All proteins increased, chicken, meats and we had a big drop in price. We may be able to regain our place when people compare. It's not a disaster but it's a year to forget. The days of the calendar are numbered so that the year ends. We can't wait to turn the page on this year," describes Mr. Sheehan.

Times are tough for quite a few processors across eastern Canada, but Bill Sheehan assures that for E. Gagnon et Fils, "there is nothing to worry about. We'll be there next year." Will the tough time shellfish processors are going through stretch into the coming winter? "We hope not. For the past two weeks, the market has been on the rise. It's nothing to write in green the results of the year (ensure the profitability of 2022) but the exchange rate is favourable to us. It is at \$1.37 (Canadian dollar for one US dollar) and the rate was at \$1.30 not so long ago. The market is on an upward slope. In crab, borders are closed for Russian imports. The US market will be short of 28 million pounds of crab this year. Everything will depend on inflation and what will remain available in the pockets of Americans. It is necessary to regain the clientele of grocery stores and the

menus of the restaurants. Starting the next season without an inventory would be a feat," describes Bill Sheehan.


Expectations remain modest for the financial results of 2022. "We will hope to cover our costs. There are two months left to get there. It will remain a difficult year but there may be no fishing this winter in Alaska. In theory, the Russian crab should not enter the American market in 2023. We thought we would have a great year in 2022 and it is a difficult year. We anticipate a difficult year in 2023, but maybe it will be really better," wishes Bill Sheehan.

At Lelièvre, Lelièvre and Lemoignan, of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, the president, Roch Lelièvre, also notes that the difference between 2021 and 2022 is resolutely sharp. The company processes a few million pounds of lobster per year. "Frozen products come out slowly. The live lobster came out fine. It is on the American side that it is more difficult. There are no inventories, in my opinion, in the US market. We have to cope with inventories.

They order as they go. Prices have come down a lot in the market. It's like a big correction. Buyers are working to keep the price low. They buy what they can sell quickly. We have seen something like this before. It depends on the year. I call that phenomenon 'years of correction' when I see it, but 2022 was a very big 'correction,' " explains Mr. Lelièvre.

In short, American buyers, instead of taking responsibility for inventories south of the border, let Canadian processing plants manage unsold volumes, knowing that they will be able to find product somewhere, he summarizes. "We are lucky it was good in Europe this year," he adds.

When the SPEC asked him if 2022 will be profitable in lobster processing, he hesitated. "It's tight. With the price that is on the market, we could sell at a loss. Between last year and this year, it's day and night. Last year, we hadn't finished packing and it was off to customers. This year, companies are waiting until the last minute before ordering," concludes Roch Lelièvre.



PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF TIME


PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the meetings of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS of Eastern Shores School Board will be held on October 24, 2022 at the following times:

- The EXECUTIVE COUNCIL will meet at **4:45 P.M.**;
- The COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS will meet at **5:00 P.M.**

The meetings will be held in Gaspé at Hotel Baker, situated at 178, rue de la Reine, Gaspé, Quebec.

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

Denis Gauthier
Secretary General



PUBLIC NOTICE
ADOPTION OF THE 2022-2023 BUDGET

Pursuant to article 278 of the *Education Act*, public notice is hereby given that Eastern Shores School Board intends to adopt its budget for the 2022-2023 school year at its meeting of the COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS on October 24, 2022, at the hour of 5:00 p.m. in Gaspé at Hotel Baker, situated at 178, rue de la Reine, Gaspé, Quebec.

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

Denis Gauthier
Secretary General

Gaspé experiences exceptional salmon runs

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - Two of Gaspé's three salmon rivers have experienced runs described as exceptional by the Gaspé Rivers Society.

"We had very, very good runs. On the Saint-Jean River, it was exceptional. It's a run we haven't seen since 1994, before the days of the big declines. It's really very, very encouraging," says the director of the Society, Rémi Lesmerises.

The end-of-season tally was 1,239 large salmon, 346 grilse and 361 anadromous brook trout on the Saint-Jean River.

On the York River, the results are even more impressive with 1,312 large salmon, 339 grilse and 71 anadromous brook trout. "The last time we saw that was in the early 2000s," comments the director.

The Dartmouth River is an exception with 669 large salmon, 240 grilse and nine anadromous brook trout.

"The Dartmouth (River) is stagnating. We have a little concern. It's nothing catastrophic, but we will have to look to find out why its numbers increase less than the others. It could have more fish and (we must) see what can explain it," says Mr. Lesmerises.

In fact, in the Gaspé Peninsula, only the Dartmouth River experienced a mediocre run this summer.

In the analysis, the Society points out that the data is at a minimum because, at the time of the count, the visibility was not ideal.

It is difficult to explain this upward trend over the past three or four years, but hypotheses have been put forward.

"There is less commercial fishing in Greenland. There are more large salmon that can come up the river. There is also the new Atlantic Salmon Management Plan at the provincial level where the number of large salmon that can be kept

by sport fishing has been reduced, which left more spawners in the rivers," analyzes the manager.

All the data regarding the Gaspesian rivers are encouraging in light of the measures taken in recent years.

However, this upstream success is reduced by the lack of water in the rivers during August, when precipitation was much lower in the Gaspé area than in other areas of the region.

"We were largely under the precipitation (average) for July and August. Fishermen have simply moved to other rivers in the Gaspé because of this, but we are not in financial difficulty," says Mr. Lesmerises.

Thus, the number of fishing days in sectors 1 and 2 on the Saint-Jean reached 749 this year compared to 799 last year. On the York River, there were 4,743 fishing days compared to 5,328 in 2021. The Dartmouth River is doing a little better with 1449 this year compared to 1504 last year.

In addition, 125 large salmon were released, 29 grilse kept and three large salmon kept in sectors 1 and 2 of the Saint-Jean River.

On the York, the Society counted 596 releases and 122 grilse retained. On the Dartmouth, 207 releases were made, and 61 grilse and 11 large salmon retained.

Operations were carried out this summer at the mouth of the Saint John River to clear it of dead wood.

A major flood that occurred last December brought down a lot of material and a secondary channel accumulated 400 metres of logs. With the spring flood, the main channel became somewhat clogged.

"What could happen with the next floods is that all the trees that will come down would be taken and we would have ended up with a very difficult situation to manage in the

coming years. We took the initiative and cleared the trees that were blocking the passage in the main channel so that the floating trees next spring could make it to the sea," explains the director.

In 2015, a log jam of more than 1.5 kilometre accumu-

lated over 20 years was dismantled, which was described at the time as "the largest dead-wood jam in the world" with between 3,000 and 5,000 cubic metres.

"We are not immune to this happening again. All it took was an exceptional flood and

we couldn't escape it," says the director.

A study is underway to determine the amount of dead-wood upstream that may come down over the next few years. The goal is to find a way to retrieve it before it descends the river to its mouth.

WE ARE HIRING PROJECT MANAGER



Mobile Reading Unit project
for the MRC of Bonaventure



PROJECT MANAGER

Mobile Reading Unit project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The MRC of Bonaventure, in collaboration with the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA), is currently developing a Mobile Reading Unit (Bookmobile) project. This project is the result of consultation and a need identified by the community and is part of the Community Plan for Social Development 2021-2024 and the Cultural Action Plan 2021-2023.

**Funding for this mandate comes from a cultural development agreement between the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications (MCC) and the Regional County Municipality of Bonaventure (RCM).*

ROLE

In close collaboration with the steering committee, the Manager will be responsible for organizing the implementation of the MRC Bonaventure Mobile Reading Unit pilot project.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Consultation, Partnership and Sustainability Component;
 - Meet with the Mobile Reading Unit committee to understand needs and gather all existing information;
 - Establish a project timeline;
 - Initiate collaboration between the various stakeholders and establish an action plan;
 - Determine organizational structure and establish the operation of the mobile unit;
 - Establish a development plan for the management and financing of the mobile unit.
 - Research sources of funding for operations;
 - Engage in partnerships with organizations, businesses, municipalities, etc;
 - Work in collaboration with the steering committee;
 - Make the implementation of a mobile unit in the MRC a reality for the summer of 2023;
 - Following the year 1 pilot project, proceed with its evaluation and recommendations;
 - Establish a commitment protocol for partners to support the continuation of the operation.
2. Design component (consistent with the Consultation, Partnership and Sustainability component);
 - Determine the best option in terms of vehicle and design for a long-term mobile unit.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Autonomy, creativity, leadership, sense of organization and priorities
- Thoroughness, attention to detail and quality, methodology and work ethic
- Judgment, diplomacy and interpersonal skills
- Excellent command of French and English
- Writing skills
- Ability to work alone or in a team
- Ability to work under pressure
- Ability to communicate with the public
- Interest in the cultural field and literacy, an asset
- Familiarity with the community environment and the consultative process is an asset

DURATION OF THE MANDATE:

Fall 2022 to Fall 2023

WORK LOCATION:

Travel throughout the MRC, telecommuting, possibility of working in CASA offices.

Submission deadline: 2022-10-14

Expected start date: 2022-10-31

To submit your offer of services (number of hours and hourly rate), along with your resume and cover letter, or for any additional information, please contact:



Shannon Day, Program and Activity Coordinator CASA,
168, Boulevard Gérard-D-Levésque, New Carlisle, QC G0C 1Z0
T. 418.752.5995, ext.115
shannonday@casa-gaspe.com



Photo: Courtesy Société \gestion des rivières

The runs were very strong on the Saint-Jean and York Rivers in Gaspé.

Gaspe Peninsula CISSS: Worker fatigue is palpable

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

SAINTE-ANNE-DESMONTS - The President and chief executive officer of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre notes that workers want to provide the best service to users.

This is what Martin Pelletier says in his report on the first 100 days in office. He took over the helm of the organization on May 30.

“There is a lot of willingness to act, of confidence in the organization despite the upheavals of recent years, among other things with COVID and Bill 10 of 2015, where there are still small consequences,” notes Martin Pelletier.

“But there is a desire to do quality work, to have the assurance that what they do is recognized both internally and by the population,” he adds.

The lack of stability in the teams and overtime leads to fatigue among the personnel.

“We have people who said yes to everything we asked for, who still have the will, but you have to be careful with the workforce and that’s the mes-

sage I’m getting from the ground up. We need oxygen. I’m paying particular attention to this,” says the CEO.

Everything will be done in collaboration with the unions. “We have one thing in common, which is to take care of people. After that, we each have our delimited management frameworks. When we explain our issues on both sides, we get to the point now and as much as possible to keep the corridor of good relations,” says Mr. Pelletier.

Another phenomenon is new doctors taking on fewer patients than their predecessors, which leads to the addition of medical resources to meet new needs. “Knowing that they cannot meet all needs influences our thinking. We need to add doctors and we are working on recruitment and trying to be more attractive,” says Mr Pelletier.

Currently, 18 positions are available, according to the CISSS medical staffing plan.

Severely blamed by the Auditor General on May 11 on the management and governance of the CISSS, the administration tabled its game plan to correct the situation.

The auditor's report spoke of a lack of rigor in hiring and the inadequate management of service contracts, work climate issues, poorly protected personal information and lack of respect for governance rules.

“We had many discussions. The auditor has made recommendations and we have an improvement plan to put in place. This is what we deposit. There will be an evaluation of our plan and they will then judge whether the actions included in the plan materialize,” says the President and CEO.

Strategies have been put in place for internal auditing to enable continuous improvement of practices. “We are at about 38% progress in all our actions out of the 65 detailed in the plan. By Christmas, we will have another 20 to 25%. In one year, we will be very advanced. What will remain afterwards will be the validation of the effects of the actions that we will have put in place,” comments Mr. Pelletier.

In addition, the CISSS would like the future emergency room at Maria Hospital to be integrated into any new construction.

The current emergency

room was outfitted in 1972 and no longer suits today's practices.

The emergency and intensive care project has obtained the status of clinical relevance, that is to say that Quebec recognizes the need.

“We are going to fall into a technical mode. It is the Quebec Infrastructure Society that will arrive with the professionals who will bring solutions that will allow us to facilitate the future growth of the hospital,” underlines Mr. Pelletier.

“We want to do something for the future where we won't have to take over or demolish and instead continue to develop in terms of real estate. There is a great receptivity,” says Mr. Pelletier.

In April, estimates were \$390 million for a new hospital that would take eight years to build. Renovating the current building, built in 1954, would cost \$330 million and take 15 years.

Pregnant women in the Chandler area had to deal with a rupture of services between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. from September 28 to October 3. They had been informed of the situation and if they had to give

birth, they were redirected to Gaspé.

This rupture of services occurred during the weekend of September 24 and 25. The service was precarious at the hospitals of Chandler, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Maria.

At Maria hospital, two nurses worked 24 hours on 48, along with agency employees who kept the service going.

“It just takes a nurse calling in sick to mess up our schedules. Sometimes we succeed. Sometimes, we don't succeed and, at that moment, we organize ourselves to create corridors of care,” explains Mr. Pelletier, who points out that even if nurses have past experience in obstetrics, they must be retrained before they can practice in this department.

“Restructure and increase the budget for obstetrics in Gaspé Peninsula to attract and retain staff” is the solution put forward by the president of the Union of Nurses, Auxiliaries and Respiratory Therapists of Eastern Quebec, Pier-Luc Bujold, throwing the ball to the Quebec government. He says that the situation has been going on for several years now.

PRICES IN EFFECT UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 2022

22 VERSA

FINANCE
from **2.99%**



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Versa S MT	Rate	5.99%	6.39%
	Payment	\$ 278	\$ 282

22 SENTRA

FINANCE
from **2.99%**



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Sentra S CVT	Rate	5.74%	6.39%
	Payment	\$ 341	\$ 348

23 KICKS

FINANCE
from **3.74%**



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Kicks S	Rate	5.74%	6.39%
	Payment	\$ 331	\$ 338

22 QASHQAI

LEASE
from **3.49%**



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Qashqai SV FWD CVT	Rate	5.24%	6.39%
	Payment	\$ 422	\$ 438

23 ROGUE

LEASE
from **4.99%**



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Rogue SV AWD	Rate	5.74%	6.39%
	Payment	\$ 558	\$ 570

23 MURANO

FINANCE
from **4.99%**



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Murano S	Rate	5.74%	6.39%
	Payment	\$ 571	\$ 583

22 FRONTIER

CC SV 4WD

\$585 MONTHLY | **60 MOS.** LEASE
\$995 DOWN



60m Finance		NCF	Banks
Frontier CC SV	Rate	5.49%	6.39%
	Payment	\$ 897	\$ 917

22 ARMADA

SL

\$413 BI-WEEKLY | **48 MOS.** LEASE
\$4,999 DOWN



60m Finance		NCF	Banks
Armada SL	Rate	6.24%	6.39%
	Payment	\$ 1,410	\$ 1,415



ROY NISSAN

158, boulevard Gaspé, Gaspé, Quebec
Tel.: (418) 368-6226 Fax.: (418) 368-1221
E-mail: roynissanventes@cgocable.ca

DODDRIDGE:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

position on Obelisk Hill. They fired everything they had at us. At one point even firing mortars point blank. A bunch of our guys were killed there,” Doddridge remembered decades later. Among those killed that day was Reynald Murphy from New Richmond, as his brother Leo looked helplessly, hopelessly, on. “We were just overwhelmed. We fought back as best we could, but we had no artillery or air support, and they had superior numbers and superior firepower.”

The fighting went on for days, the men from D Company eventually finding themselves pinned in the southeast corner of Hong Kong Island, near the village of Stanley. It was there, on Christmas Day, 1945, that D Company of the Royal Rifles of Canada was ordered to attack the Japanese in one last desperate attempt to push back the enemy. “We were told that there were 15 Japanese in a bungalow and we had to go and root them out. There were a hell of a lot more than 15. I can tell you that.”

The men of D Company were initially able to secure the building from the Japanese and push them back, but the enemy, with its numerical advantage, was able to launch an effective counterattack. The result was disastrous for the Canadians. “Of the 110 or so of us that took part in the attack, only 45 of us came back...”

Unbeknownst to the men of D Company was the fact that, almost at the same time as the fighting in Stanley was taking place, the British Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Mark Young, was surrendering to the Japanese. “All those lives just wasted,” lamented Mr. Doddridge.

In all, 290 of the 1976 Canadians who took part in the Battle of Hong Kong were killed. The survivors would not have time to mourn as another terrible chapter in their story was about to begin on that Christmas Day of 1941. They were now prisoners of war.

SUNNY BANK:

▶ *Cont'd from page 3*

damages since less than 99 buildings were targeted in the decision. Victims will now have to file property damages in a hearing to be set by the court.

From December 13 to 15, 2010, some 246 millimetres of rain fell on Gaspé. The

road rebuilt in 1977 that connects the Sunny Bank and Wakeham sectors slows down the flow of the York River. Previously, it (the road) was a path at water level and when it overflowed, the river came over the roadway.

Raised by 1.5 metres in 1952, the road was recognized as partially blocking the flow of the river. In 1977,

the road was raised by two metres, making water assessment even more difficult.

The 2010 flood was “the straw that broke the camel's back.” The citizens filed their class action in 2013 and the court authorized it in 2015.

The court also ordered the MTQ to redo the road within six years. The department already made a commitment to

improve the situation during the pleadings to carry out work valued at \$8 million.

The Ministry of Transport has indicated that it will not comment on the case since it is still before the courts.

Since its reconstruction in 1977, floods have occurred in 1977, 1980, twice in 1981, 1983, 1997, 1998, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2017.

*Desjardins,
the best team to get through rough times!*

In these volatile times, the Caisse Desjardins Baie-des-Chaleurs is inviting you to an evening held exclusively in English and where a dozen of local and regional Desjardins experts will be answering questions and offering solutions in the fields of:

- Specialized/tailored banking
- Tax optimization
- Business solutions and business transfer
- Intergenerational wealth transfer
- Portfolio management
- Philanthropy
- Insurance and protection, and more!

The event will consist of short presentations by our experts followed by a cocktail/mixer where all will be invited to mingle and exchange.

Of note, this event is opened to members and non-members of the Caisse alike to ensure most can benefit from this event!

To help us prepare, we kindly request that you confirm your attendance by October 21st, to Mr. Jean-David Cyr, Director of Market Development:

- @ via email at Jean-David.Cyr@desjardins.com or
- ☎ by phone at 418-759-3456, poste 7131125

Would you not be able to part take but would nevertheless be interested in the above mentioned topics, please do not hesitate to contact us.



We hope to see there!

Jean-David Cyr, Director of Market Development:

**Thursday
October 27th, 2022,
at 18h30**

**Hotel Francis
210 Chemin Pardiac,
New Richmond**



Register now!
cegepgim.ca/english-section



Chandler to submit priorities to the new Bonaventure MNA

NELSON SERGERIE

CHANDLER - The water treatment project for the Newport district of Chandler is the priority of the municipal council to submit to the new Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure.

The project estimated at \$12 million could reach \$15 million, taking into account inflation in the construction industry.

The realization was planned in the three-year capital plan for 2023 and the Town hoped for an 80% subsidy.

Chandler mayor, Gilles

Daraïche, recalls that the lack of adequate infrastructure is a barrier for Newport. "The network can no longer take more. It takes it to be able to build houses and rentals," says the elected official.

The mayor believes that there are valid arguments for asking for more help from Quebec.

"We can't be the only ones paying this bill. The government has added elements in the past. The changes they want to make have to do with that. We have good arguments to increase the subsidy," believes the mayor.

The town council has begun work on the 2023

budget. "We are still planning a tight budget. For us, as I have said, our big thing is the winter. It's the roads. This is what takes up a good portion of our budget. We have to tighten and manage in a way so as not to mortgage the tax bill of citizens," explains the mayor.

The council bought a blower, an essential expense because the Town was not able to keep up with the task of keeping the roads clean last year with only one blower.

"There are compulsory expenses and others a little less (compulsory). We are paying attention to what we buy right now," says the mayor.



Photo: N. Sergerie

The rally was very impressive a few moments before the start of the march in front of the Luc-Germain Civic Centre in Gaspé.

Rally for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - About 300 people, including several English-speaking students from the greater Gaspé region, took part in a march on September 30 in downtown Gaspé to mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in downtown Gaspé.

The rally took place at 9 a.m. the Luc-Germain Arena. A march followed, ending at the Birthplace of Canada site, and a few words to mark the day.

"For me, this is a start towards change. It is important to see that the public takes the time and supports us this morning, on this day. It's important," says the Chief of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg, Terry Shaw.

Justin Trudeau's Liberal government places great emphasis on reconciliation, a position reaffirmed by Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, who made it one of the key elements of her priorities for the fall session of Parliament in Ottawa.

Chief Shaw insists that the commitments must materialize.

"The interest is there, but we have to see the action. We have to see changes in the communities, not only in visibility and discourse," says the Chief.

"It is also a day of healing, of recognizing those who have returned from residential schools, but especially those who have not returned," adds Mr. Shaw, who recalls that the

last Indian residential school closed its doors in 1996.

He points out that young children have been traumatized during all these years in residential schools.

Several students from Gaspé Elementary School, Gaspé Polyvalent School and Belle-Anse were present at the march.

"It's to give the children the chance to get to know the Aboriginal community of Gaspé and to educate them about everything that happened and to let them know the real story," mentions the principal of Gaspé Elementary and Belle-Anse, Beryl Boyle, explaining the importance of their participation in the march.

Members of the Listuguj community travelled to Gaspé for the event.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Two companies interested in restoring Villa James

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ - The renovations to the Villa Frederick-James in Percé will cost between \$13.4 million and \$16.4 million, according to the two proposals received by the Quebec Society of Infrastructure.

The lowest bid was filed by a numbered company in Saint-Arsène, near Rivière-du-Loup, for \$13,368,000. The other, submitted by Maçonnerie Rainville et Frères de Chambly, was \$16,355,000.

The Quebec Society of Infrastructure (SQI) modified the expected duration of the contract twice, once on July 14 and again on August 11.

The SQI asks contractors to carry out the work within 52 weeks from the date of authorization to begin work. In addition, the company estimates that the site must be launched between October 3 and 31, 2022.

Officially announced on April 8, the Villa project will be part of the Espaces bleus network that Quebec is to set up across the province. The villa is the third Espace bleu in Quebec.

In total, nearly \$21 million will be invested in the site, which was chosen in particular for its emblematic architecture, its cultural history and the heritage value of the landscape of the declared site in Percé.

Percé is an important tourist hub in the region, which is a major asset in the choice of this Espace bleu, indicated in April by the Minister of Culture, Nathalie Roy, who was in Percé to make the announcement.

Heritage restoration work, expansion in the basement and upgrading to standards are to be carried out, while ensuring perfect integration of the elements into the protected landscape of the site and in full respect of the heritage.

The building has already been moved approximately 19 metres from where it was located, ensuring its long-term safeguard.

A phase 2 of the project provides for the acquisition of land for parking. In April the minister mentioned that there would also be additional arrangements. The phase two contract was not awarded on September 28.



CALL FOR TENDERS
Contractor for Snow Removal

NOVEMBER 1, 2022-APRIL 30, 2023
This contract will be for the CASA office:
168, Gérard D Levesque
New Carlisle, QC, G0C 1Z0 (Old Laurentian Bank)



The contractor will be responsible for the following: snow removal and salting of:

- Main entrance (including sidewalk)
- Side entrance
- Back deck upstairs (weekly)

The snow must be removed no later than 7:30 a.m. and when required at lunch. The salt is provided by CASA.

All sealed tenders must be clearly marked as to the contents and submitted to:
Ashley Renouf
CASA, 168 Boulevard Gérard D Levesque,
New Carlisle, QC, G0C 1Z0
ashley@casa-gaspe.com

Tenders will be received until **Friday, October 28, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

The lowest or any quotation will not necessarily be accepted. CASA reserves the right to award the contract in any manner it may choose.

Gaspé Cancer Foundation offers financial assistance

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ: The Gaspé Cancer Foundation was founded in 2003 and the initial idea came from Noreen Hackett. At the time her father was travelling to Montreal for medical care and Noreen noticed that there were a lot of people in the waiting room by themselves. She asked a few of them why they were not accompanied by a friend or relative and the answer was because of money. At the time the Rimouski Oncology Department was not yet open.

Noreen knew about the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation and along with the help of family and friends, the Gaspé Cancer Foundation was launched. The first few weeks and months were challenging. The focus was on signing up new members, fundraising and looking for other available assistance.

The Foundation is 100% staffed by volunteers and the Foundation receives no government assistance. None of the directors or volunteers receive any remuneration. The only expenses other than travel assistance are office supplies and postal expenses.

Presently the Gaspé Foundation has 1,500 members. Tony C. Patterson has been in the role of president for over six years; Beatrice Coffin, Vice President; Ron Mundle, Treasurer (since 2003); and Debbie Sams (Savidant), Secretary



Photo: Gaspé Cancer Foundation

Gaspé Cancer Foundation President Tony C. Patterson (left), Deborah Touzel and Carolyn Devouge accepting a cheque payable to the Foundation.

(since 2003). Directors are Patricia St. Croix, Nancy Briand, Carol Coull, Elaine Mullin and Réal Côté.

The Foundation offers support for members from Grande Vallée to Coin du banc, including Murdochville. Support is available to members in good standing and no financial questions are asked. Patients receive financial assistance for travel to Chandler, Maria, Rimouski, Québec City, Rivière du Loup, Sherbrooke and Montreal. All information and support is 100% confidential.

Since the beginning of COVID-19, the office which was at the Gaspé hospital has been closed. All request forms, donations and memberships can be sent to Gaspé Cancer

Foundation, Gaspé Post Office, C.P. 6078, Gaspé, Quebec G4X 2R6.

A number of very successful fundraising events have been held this year including a “Suitcase Draw” where 120 tickets were sold at \$25 per ticket. The fundraiser was organized by Debbie Touzel and Carolyn Devouge. A hair shaving event that raised \$2,335 was organized by Anne Francoeur. A partnership with the Gaspé Hospital Foundation (along with the Eastern Quebec Cancer Foundation) for the sale of lottery tickets raised \$5,515. The citizens of Barachois and surrounding area sold raffle tickets with 30 prizes and that raised \$9,120. A Pot Luck supper hosted by

Debbie and Carolyn Touzel, along with their friends raised \$2,014. Therefore, it was a very good year for fundraising which netted \$18,924 in total.

Who can become a member? Any resident 18 years of age or older who lives in the areas mentioned can join. To become a member, purchase an annual membership for \$12, with renewals due in March. If the patient is under 18 years of age, they are covered by their parents’ membership. A small increase \$15 per individual or \$25 per couple will be in effect for 2023.

If members need assistance, they can request the necessary forms and then send the completed forms to Gaspé Cancer Foundation, Gaspé Post Office, C.P. 6078, Gaspé, Quebec G4X 2R6. Donations, in memoriams, new memberships and renewals can also be paid using Paypal on their webpage or by e-transfer by contacting Tony C. Patterson at 418-368-3276.

All memberships must be purchased at least 30 days prior to being eligible to receive assistance. A maximum of \$2,000 can be claimed per year. Additional information and forms are available on the Facebook site or on the Gaspé Cancer Foundation web page, www.fcg/gcf.com Contacts include Beatrice Coffin, 418-368-1566 or Tony C. Patterson 418-368-3276.

President

Tony C. Patterson

President of the Foundation, Tony C. Patterson joined the Foundation in 2012 after he had completed his first cancer

treatments that year. He tells SPEC, “I wanted to be able to give back to the Foundation for the assistance that I was given. After becoming vice president and then president I became more dedicated to our mission and to both increase the number of members and the amount given out to those requiring travel assistance. An example is: in 2011 we were giving \$90 for assistance to Rimouski and we are now giving \$190. We have been very fortunate during the past few years with fundraising, both by the Foundation and by private individuals for the Foundation. I take the position as president very seriously and want to make sure that we have the same minded members on the board of directors and in our volunteers. Cancer is a word that most of us fear the most and those of us that have had the luck of being able to become survivors are very fortunate.”

He states that it is very fortunate to have a large number of what he terms “hidden” volunteers. These are people who work behind the scenes performing important tasks such as computer entries, memberships, receipts, opening mail, and completing all the new membership cards. Others sell cards and renewals to friends and families annually. Another volunteer gathers all necessary information when travel forms are submitted and writes the cheques.

Tony stresses how important the kindness and hard work of all the volunteers is to make the Foundation work efficiently since 2003.



Still Standing crew finally film in NR

Cynthia Dow

NEW RICHMOND: - CBC comedian Jonny Harris and the Still Standing crew finally made it to New Richmond in early October to film a program that will be part of their 8th season lineup. The show sheds a compassionate light on smalltown Canada. The stand-up comedy show filmed its final episode for the upcoming season on October 6 at the Adrien Gauvreau Community Centre in New Richmond, with about 200 in the audience. Mr. Harris focussed on some of the highlights of the up-coming show: the closure of the town’s linerboard mill in 2005, the development of companies like GD Rail to take up the slack in employment, fishing the “giant” salmon on the Cascapedia River, the traditional basket weaving of Steven Jerome, and the Rallye de la Baie des Chaleurs. He also alluded to the beautiful weather they were fortunate enough to have during their visit: “This must be the best season to visit this place. The colours are just spectacular!” The eighth season will be aired on CBC Television starting January 4, but the exact date that the New Richmond episode will be aired is not yet known.

Double the amount of rain in September in the Gaspé region

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The passage of tropical storm Fiona on September 23 and 24 inflated the rain statistics for the Gaspé region in September.

According to Environment Canada, in September there was more than double the normal rainfall.

At the Michel-Pouliot Airport in Gaspé, 169 millimetres of rain was measured, while the normal amount is 82 millimetres.

Fiona dumped a third of the precipitation on September 23 and 24 for a total of about 65 millimetres.

Just before the devastating storm that also hit the Maritimes and the Magdalen Islands, the Gaspé area was hit by 22.9 millimetres of rainfall. This means that between September 22 and 24, 87 of the 169 millimetres fell in just three days.

September was, however, within the norm in terms of temperature. The average temperature was 12.5 degrees. That's 0.9 degrees above the norm of 11.6 degrees.

The federal agency forecasts that October will also fall within the norm for temperature.

On average Gaspé accumulates four centimetres of snow in October.

Community snapshot: Escuminac

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

The municipality of Escuminac, which includes Pointe-à-la-Garde and Pointe Fleurant has a rich tricultural blend of history. Aboriginal people from the Mi'gmaq community, Francophones from Acadia, English-speaking settlers predominantly of Scottish and Irish heritage, and the Loyalists escaping the U.S. after the American Revolution are reflected in Escuminac's history and inhabitants today. The early settlers were mainly farmers and loggers.

Escuminac was incorporated in 1907 and at that time was known by the name Nouvelle-et-Shoolbred-Partie-Sud-Ouest. In 1912 the community changed its name to Escuminac. There are varying translations of the town's Mi'gmaq name. Some sources say it translates as "small fruits" and other sources report that it means "observation post or meeting place".

Over the years the spelling of Escuminac has gone through a number of permutations including: Semenac, Scaumenac, Escouminac, and Scouminac,

The municipality is located on the north shore of the Restigouche River and includes Pointe-à-la-Garde which is located about six km. west of Es-



Photo: Diane Labreche
Escuminac is a municipality that includes Pointe Fleurant and Pointe-à-la-Garde.

cuminac. That village takes its name from an officer who fought at the Battle of Restigouche by the name of Donat de la Garde.

There is a small river that flows into the Restigouche River also named Escuminac. In close proximity to the municipality are the famous cliffs of Miguasha, known as the Parc national de Miguasha. The fossils found there are famous for originating in the Devonian Period, and are part of the Escuminac Formation.

Located in the town is Escuminac Intermediate School

and the United Church of Canada Escuminac Church. La Savonnerie du Village, a family-owned business, sells locally made soaps. High quality maple syrup is made at Escuminac Maple Syrup.

The municipality has, according to the Canada census of 2021, 575 residents and an area of over 100 sq. km. The median age of the inhabitants is 52 years. There are 270 private dwellings in Escuminac. About 40% of the citizens report English as their first language and 60% have French as their mother tongue.

Give your garden some T.L.C. now

DIANE SKINNER

"A garden requires patient labour and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them."

If you think gardening season is done you are wrong. Give some attention to your

garden that has provided you with beauty and food this summer and fall. It still needs you.

Any work that you put into your garden now will be its own reward come planting time. Cleaning, pruning, tending to the soil and even planting are still important.

Start by looking over your garden and imagining it in bloom or vegetables and fruit

growing again next spring. What needs to be changed? The fall is the best time to plant spring bulbs. Daffodils, crocus and tulips are available and are easy and quick to plant.

If you want to transplant perennials, the fall is a better time in most cases to do this. Peonies and bleeding hearts will do better if transplanted now. Shrubs that flower, however, do better if transplanted in the springtime.

Fall is the perfect time to prune away diseased or dead branches. If you have an overgrown hedge of deciduous trees, be brave and cut them right down to about 10 – 15 cm tall. This will grow back in the spring months thicker and healthier. Warning: Do not prune lilacs in the fall. Best to do that in the spring.

Fertilize lawns in fall and you will be rewarded in the spring with a lawn that is greener and lusher. Add organic material to your garden



Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers

It's definitely autumn!

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers"
- L. M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

October makes it clear that summer is over and the chill in the air tells us to get to business: wood to be piled and thrown in the basement, the cleaning out of gardens, getting cozy sweaters out of storage and the countdown to Christmas has begun.

Fall on the Gaspé is gorgeous: cool, crisp nights and warm sunny days. The rich and vibrant colours of the leaves are yellow, red and orange and all the shades in between. Red, yellow and orange are just the tip of the colour iceberg. Search a little deeper for words to describe the colours of leaves including scarlet, maroon, cinnamon, coral, peach, mustard, flax and gold!

The official beginning of the autumn equinox, when day and night are both just about 12 hours long here in the Northern Hemisphere, occurred on Thursday, September 22, 2022. On this day, the sun rose directly in the east and set directly in the west. This is referred to as the Autumnal Equinox which literally means *equal night*. Temperatures have begun to change as the hours of daylight decrease and the first frosts have already occurred. We have noticed that the hours of daylight are shorter and night falls sooner.

Leaves need to be raked and children love an opportunity to jump in leaf piles! Creatures of the woods and fields, such as squirrels and chipmunks, are stashing away food for the long, frigid days and nights ahead. Canada Geese are preparing to fly south and the hummingbirds and monarch butterflies have already departed for warmer climates. Gaspesians are checking their wood and generators and glancing, with a sigh, at snow shovels, winter boots and winter jackets. Now enthusiasts are preparing their snowmobiles for the beautiful rides to come. Skates are being sharpened. Of all the seasons, winter is the one that demands the most preparation, not just for the animals.

We can see the changes in the trees, however, another powerful sign of autumn is the smells of the new season. The smell of leaves: wet, dry or burning; fruit that has fallen on the ground and has started to rot; and the crisp and chilly days - these all combine to evoke the undeniable truth that fall has arrived. The earth smells different in the fall - damp, earthy and cool. Wood stacked inside the basement or woodshed emits a smell that is wonderful and comforting. This wood will keep us warm. We can spot smoke curling from chimneys and that is a definite sign that autumn has taken hold.

People bake more in the fall, and maybe that's our nesting instinct at work. The smell of applesauce cooking is a familiar scent of fall and the added cinnamon creates a delicious aroma. Simmering cinnamon sticks in a pot of water on the stove fills the house with a beautiful fragrance.

Autumn smells like leaves, apples, wood smoke, and damp earth. So get outside and breathe in the beautiful smells and enjoy the colourful sights of autumn. Winter is just around the corner.

"October is crisp days and cool nights, a time to curl up around the dancing flames and sink into a good book."



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Announcements



Obituary



BISSON: Eubulus (Euby)
September 21, 1921 - September 25, 2022
Eubulus Bisson of Campbellton, New Brunswick, passed away peacefully at the Veterans Unit of Campbellton Regional Hospital, on September 25, 2022. He was 101.
Euby was born in Port Daniel, Quebec, on September 21, 1921 to the late Milton Bisson and the late Irene MacCallum. He is survived by his daughter Geraldine (Geri) of Fredericton, New Brunswick, and sisters Joan Dow of New Richmond, Quebec, and Audrey Warder of Nanaimo, British Columbia. He was predeceased by his wife, Evelyn, as well as three brothers, Herbert, Orley and Robert, and two sisters, Alma and Luena. He will be sadly missed

and lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews.
Euby owned and operated his own artesian water well drilling business until retirement. He was a Veteran of the 2nd World War, where he received the Defence Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. In 2002, he received the Dutch Medal of Remembrance, from the Government of Holland, for his role in the Liberation of Holland, 1944-45. His many interests included hockey, curling, gardening and his love of woodworking and oil painting. His artwork lives on, in Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Switzerland.
His Memorial Service was held on October 5 at St. James Anglican Church, Port Daniel, with the Reverend Joshua Paektau officiating. Interment was at St. James cemetery in Port Daniel, beside his beloved wife. Funeral arrangements were entrusted in the care of Maher's Funeral Home, in Campbellton. For those who wish, donations can be made in memory of Euby to a charity of your choice.



In Memory

RENOUF:
In loving memory of the Renouf family, father: Bert (1983); mother: Sarah Annie (2006); sisters: Nellie (1975) and Ida (2006); brothers: Lloyd (2009), Bill (2010), Aubrey (2012) and Lester (2014).
*The rolling stream of life goes on,
But still the vacant chairs.
Recalls the love, the voices, the smiles,
We shared of ones who once were there.*
Lovingly remembered by Mary and family. xoxo

RENOUF: Charlene
November 19 1978 - October 12, 2008
BENWELL: Rebekah
October 4, 2001 - October 12, 2008
*If tears could build a stairway
And memories a lane
We would walk right up to Heaven
And bring them back again.
No farewell words were spoken
No time to say our goodbyes
They were gone before we knew it
And only God knows why.
Our hearts still ache in sadness
And secret tears will flow
What it meant to love you both
No one can ever know.*
Always loved and will never be forgotten, Aunt Brenda, Uncle Donald, Steven, Gregory and families.



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COAST ROUND-UP

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

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.

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.

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.

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**
Please be advised that Legion memberships are available for \$45. Returning and new members welcome.
Saturdays: Open at 1 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.

NEW CARLISLE:
**St. Andrew's
Anglican Church**
Due to Covid-19, St. Andrew's Anglican Church, New Carlisle is holding a Harvest Supper Fundraiser Campaign for 2022. Please bring your donations to St. Andrew's Sunday Church Service in an envelope with your name (and church envelope number if applicable) marked "Harvest Supper Donation". You can also give your donations to Norma Chedore (418-752-6214) or Chris Fraser-Ward (418-752-6837). Thank you in advance for your continued support.

NEW RICHMOND:
United Church
St. Andrew's United Church in New Richmond will be holding a Turkey Takeaway Supper on **October 22**. We are offering a full turkey dinner with vegetables, stuffing, coleslaw, gravy, and cranberry sauce, with a slice of pie for dessert for the bargain price of \$15. You can pick up your meal(s) at the church between 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. We hope

most people will pre-order their meals to speed up our delivery process. For information on how to pre-order, please contact st.andrew-suc@telus.net, 418-392-4274, Alice Campbell Dell acampbelldell@gmail.com, or Kathleen Paquet 418-392-4896. Pre-order forms are available at church, on request, or on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070381687360>. If you are not interested in a dinner but would still like to make a donation to our church, we would sincerely appreciate it

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 September 25 are: Maryse Boudreau, Sabrina Leblanc, Amy Appleby, Andrée Pardiach, Eric Dion, Micheline Turcotte and Claude Cyr.

The winners for the week of October 2 are: Danny Dea, Rita Bélanger, Gilbert Meredith, Francois Paquet, Victoire Arbour, Ginette Leblanc and Josée Leblanc.

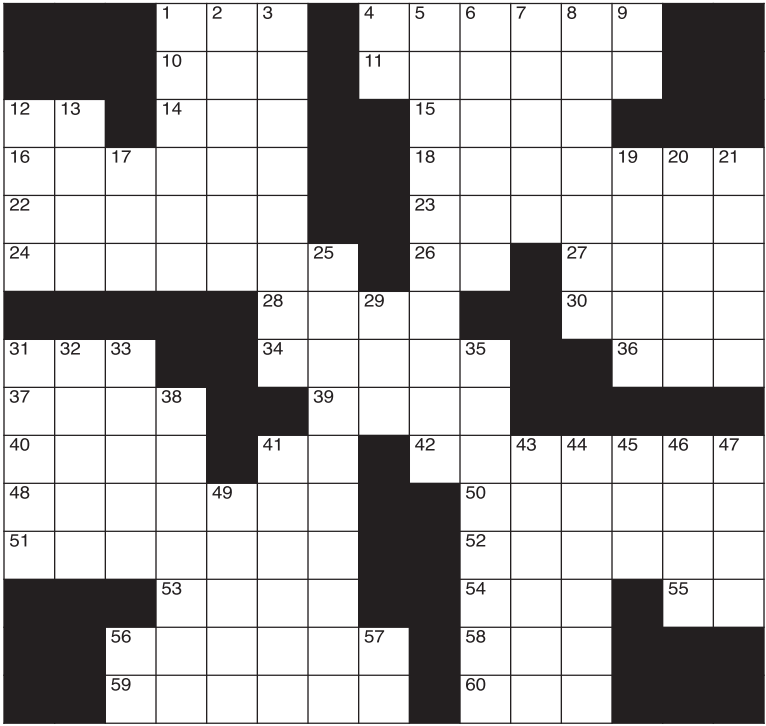
**UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND**
Sunday, October 16
10 a.m. Service

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN**
Sunday, October 16
2 p.m. Communion

**ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF CANADA**
Sunday, October 16
NEW CARLISLE
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist
HOPE TOWN
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
PORT DANIEL
2 p.m. Holy Eucharist
PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, October 16
St. Matthew's Peninsula
9 a.m. Morning Prayer



CROSSWORD



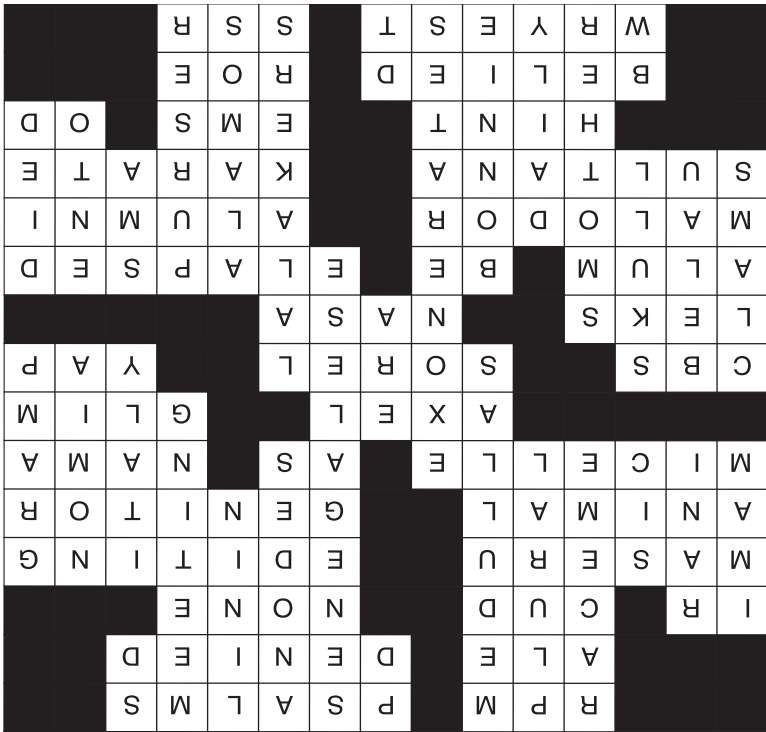
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Revolutions per minute
- 4. Hymns
- 10. Brew
- 11. Did not acknowledge
- 12. Atomic #77
- 14. Partly digested food
- 15. Not one
- 16. Lesotho capital
- 18. Copyreading
- 22. Living organism that feeds on organic matter
- 23. One’s biological father
- 24. An aggregate of molecules
- 26. Equally
- 27. Khoikhoi people
- 28. Jump in figure skating
- 30. Lantern
- 31. TV network
- 34. Georges __, French philosopher
- 36. Sharp, shrill bark
- 37. Albanian monetary units
- 39. Launched Apollo
- 40. One who graduated
- 41. Exist
- 42. Passed by
- 48. Very unpleasant smell
- 50. Graduates
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Self-protection
- 53. Clue
- 54. Life-savers
- 55. Ingest too much
- 56. Misrepresented
- 58. Small Eurasian deer

- 59. Most mocking
- 60. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Flower cluster
- 2. A form
- 3. Inner organ regions
- 4. Local law enforcement
- 5. A citizen of Senegal
- 6. Positively charged electrodes
- 7. Connects granules
- 8. Business practice
- 9. The Mount Rushmore State
- 12. Leader
- 13. Hindu queen
- 17. Proofreading mark
- 19. European country
- 20. Greek mythological nymph
- 21. Grandfather
- 25. Clears
- 29. Amount of time
- 31. Mollusks
- 32. German municipality
- 33. Body part
- 35. City of Angels hoopsters
- 38. Suffocate
- 41. Pleasing to the eye
- 43. Poplar trees (Spanish)
- 44. Ship officer
- 45. Individual investment account (abbr.)
- 46. Prefix meaning within
- 47. Ceased to live
- 49. Day by day
- 56. Not color
- 57. Condition of withdrawal (abbr.)



Pasta Primavera

Makes about 8 cups

- Seasoning Mix:
- 2 1/2 teaspoon dried sweet basil leaves
 - 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
 - 3/4 teaspoon white pepper
 - 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
-
- 2 teaspoon olive oil
 - 1 cup thin strips prosciutto
 - 2 cups cauliflower florets
 - 2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms
 - 1/2 cup sliced carrots (cut on the diagonal)
 - 2 cups sliced zucchini
 - 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
 - 1 teaspoon minced fresh garlic
 - 1 cup asparagus tips or 3/4 cups snow peas
 - 1 cup chopped green onions
 - 2 cups heavy cream
 - 9 ounces of your favorite pasta



Combine the seasoning mix ingredients thoroughly in a small bowl. Heat olive oil in a 12-inch skillet over high heat. When oil is very hot, add the prosciutto, cauliflower, mushrooms, carrots, and zucchini. Add the butter and, as it melts, stir in the garlic and the seasoning mix. Stir in asparagus tips or snow peas and green onions. Stir well and cook just until the vegetables are crisp-tender, about 4 to 5 minutes. Stir in the cream and bring to a boil. Lower the heat to medium and cook until the sauce has thickened a bit, about 3 minutes. Cook the pasta according to package directions; drain. Add the cooked pasta to the skillet, toss well and remove from the heat. Serve immediately.

Why do they say ... by Gary Briand

Today I will deal with "eavesdropper" a universal word to describe a person who likes to listen to intimate and personal conversations of other people. We all know that the eaves of a house are simply the edge of the roof that overhang the upright side walls. In the fifteenth century, English law forbade the building of a structure fewer than two feet from an adjacent building because rainwater falling from the eaves might do damage to the neighbour's property. In time, the space under the eaves of a house and about two feet out from the wall came to be called the "eavesdrop." About 1470, persons standing on the eavesdrop near a window and trying to hear the conversation from within the neighbouring house were called "eavesdroppers." From the noun of the English verb, to "eavesdrop" evolved. In 1587, an English writer warned of "eavesdroppers" with pen and ink standing outside the walls of a house copying the conversations of the inhabitants. Eavesdroppers still exist, but they are rarely found in 2022 beneath the eaves of your house.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
It may be tempting to throw your weight around and assert power in a situation, Aries but this may backfire in the long run. Try to be a team player.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, someone close to you may be driving you crazy, and you're tempted to let them know. However, go with the flow instead and enjoy this calmer approach.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, an important decision must be made in the days ahead. Take a calm approach and do your best to keep your emotions out of this discussion.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Once you involve others in a situation, it can be difficult to dial back their involvement, Cancer. Consider whether you should ask for input or go it alone this week.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, rather than shouting from the rooftops how much you love a person, it may be better to take a more subtle approach. Reel in your excitement for the time being.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Keeping secrets is not the way to go, Virgo, especially when they are kept from someone close to you. Why all the smoke and mirrors? Be open and honest with yourself and others.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
A financial situation may be worked out this week or even inflamed, Libra. The only way to stay ahead is to keep careful track of your expenditures.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Be honest with yourself about your needs, Scorpio. If you don't feel like socializing in a loud and public manner, organize a group to come over for some more quiet R&R.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Getting involved with chores and other tasks can occupy your mind with some busy work, Sagittarius. After a brief mental break, you can return to more serious tasks.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Finances may get a boost this week as

a new income stream falls into your lap, Capricorn. Investigate it fully before getting deeply involved.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Opening up about your personal life may relieve some pressure and stress that you have been feeling, Aquarius. Find someone who doesn't have a close stake.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Don't spread the word about a big idea until you are sure about it and ready to move, Pisces. Don't let others steal your thunder.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
OCTOBER 9
Bella Hadid, Model (26)
OCTOBER 10
Mya, Singer (43)
OCTOBER 11
Cardi B, Rapper (30)
OCTOBER 12
Hugh Jackman, Actor (54)
OCTOBER 13
Paul Simon, Singer (81)
OCTOBER 14
Rowan Blanchard, Actress (21)
OCTOBER 15
Bailee Madison, Actress (23)

Graphic designer and illustrator: Jessica Jerome

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GESGAPEGIAG, QC and BRIDGEWATER, N.S.: The Newly published book *Sweetgrass*, is a modern story about traditional Indigenous knowledge that follows a young boy and his Auntie as they gather and braid sweetgrass, one of the four sacred medicines. The

beautiful illustrations have been created by artist Jessica Jerome and they complement the book's text perfectly.

Jessica was found by Nimbus Publishing who saw her artwork page on Facebook, loved her style and asked if she would be interested in illustrating the book, *Sweetgrass*.

The book has 18 of Jes-

sica's original illustrations which she created after receiving the text. She read the text of the book and was inspired by her own upbringing, as well as author Theresa Meuse's story to create the illustrations.

The process of creating the book took months and within those months Jessica created "thumbnails" (reduced-size versions of pictures used to help in organizing them for the book) and from there she created nine by eight sketches from each thumbnail. The final step in the process was to create digital versions of the sketches. This step takes longer than drawing the sketches.

Jessica recalls picking sweetgrass as a child in Gesgapegiag, where she was surrounded by her culture, both in family and in school. She proudly states, "Along the banks of the beautiful coast,

we learned as children to pick sweetgrass. In school our elder taught us how to clean and prepare sweetgrass for basket making. She also taught us how to braid sweetgrass."

Are books such as *Sweetgrass* important to Indigenous culture? Jessica believes that, "It's important to keep our culture alive in the youth of today. It's culturally important to pass on our traditions orally to our children through stories. It's important to share our beliefs and show those who are interested in who we are, how beautiful our culture really is."

Jessica began her art journey in 2002 working in oils. This helped her to experience and express "healing ways to deal with my own mental health." She left the community to pursue her education in the Arts in order to become a graphic designer. Today, she continues to create logos, branding and other material

for the community of Gesgapegiag. She is proud to represent the community wherever she goes. She also works freelance for other Indigenous communities.

Jessica adds, "I am two spirited, married my best friend, my wife Diane Rowe. Together we have two wonderful boys who inspire me to continue on my path creating designs which they see when they go to our community. I dedicate everything I do to them, because without that support I don't know where I would be in my career. I am thankful to all the support I received from my family and community. I hope to inspire the Indigenous youth to follow their dreams."

The book, *Sweetgrass*, can be purchased through Nimbus publishing, or in bookstores such as Indigo/Chapters and online through Amazon. (App. \$13.00)



Jessica Jerome is inspired by her culture, as a Mi'kmaq woman and mother. Her artistic style is a mix of realism and Indigenous culture, with a modern look.

Four Sacred Medicines

Diane Skinner

The four sacred medicines can be used in ceremonies and in everyday life. The first is tobacco. Tradition says that offering tobacco is first and opens the door to allow communication to take place. Tobacco is always offered before picking plants.

The second sacred medicine is cedar which purifies and is used for healing. Cedar is used in sweat lodge ceremonies as a form of protection. The branches are placed on the floor of the sweat lodge and surrounding the lodge.

Sage is used for ceremonies and is medicinal. It can be used to ease the troubled mind and spirit. It is used to cleanse homes and sacred items.

The fourth, sweetgrass, is the sacred hair of Mother Earth. Its beautiful sweet aroma reminds people of the love and kindness she has for the people. It has a calming effect and like sage and cedar, is used for purification.

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