

Herring fishermen and processors experience a rocky season

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI - Gaspeian herring fishermen experienced a rocky season in August and September 2022, in particular due to a 20% reduction in the quota compared to that of 2021 and weather conditions that were far from ideal. This fishery followed a controversial suspension of the spring herring season.

The fall herring quota was also announced on August 19, late Friday afternoon, in anticipation of the fishery starting four days later, which left fishermen and processors very little preparation time. This quota, valid for the entire southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, was cut from 12,500 to 10,000 metric tons between 2021 and 2022.

Fisherman Jeffrey Vautier of Shigawake was unimpressed with the way the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans went about announcing the start of the season on August 19.

"To begin with, it was a disappointing start. The ministry gave the quotas on Friday, and we started on Tuesday. This is disappointing for fishermen and processing plants. It's not business-like, no way to do things, managing a fishery like that," says Mr. Vautier.

His season was cut short by health problems but the three nights during which he fished on the Miscou Island bank were fruitful, especially after having lost two days preparing for his outings.

"I had good catches on two outings. Everyone who was in the Miscou sector those evenings did well. The catches were less constant during the second week," notes Jeffrey Vautier.

The massive presence of gray seals on the Miscou bank was one of the characteristics of the herring fishery. Exchanges with other fishermen indicate that the same phenomenon was observed on the Pabos bank, says Mr. Vautier, who also noticed the abun-



Shigawake fisherman Jeffrey Vautier says seals are often present around herring boats.

dance of bluefin tuna in Miscou.

"A big problem with pelagic fishing is that there is a lot of predation. The gray seals concentrate on the bigger fish and it is the small fish that end up in the nets. They do not have a chance to grow up," analyzes the fisherman from Shigawake.

Jeffrey Vautier has been criticizing, for a quarter of a century, the immobility of Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding the seal population in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

"It is very disappointing how we are managed. For more than 25 years, we have been asking the department to do something about the predation of pelagic species by seals. Nothing is done. We're going to ask our colleagues to take matters into their own hands and capture gray seals. We have a market for meat and skins. The department is responsible for protecting the resource and it is not doing it. We will do it," he assures.

Mr. Vautier received a price of 40 cents a pound for his herring, delivered to Lelièvre, Lelièvre and Lemoignan, in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé.

For his part, Gilles Duguay, from Chandler, had very variable results during his weeks of catching herring.

"It's a tough season. The water is very hot. It remained warm until last week, between

18 and 20 degrees. It was very hot for mid-September. We had a gale and the water dropped to 16 degrees. We went out after that, and there were eggs in the (female) fish," explains Mr. Duguay, referring to the week ending September 17.

Until the mid-September winds, the herring were not carrying eggs, he says about a by-product that is coveted by processing plants.

"The other years, I always fished seven nights, and I always caught herring. This year, I had evenings without herring. Years before, when the water was at 15 degrees, it was difficult. We used to find it too hot," notes the fisherman, active in catching pelagic fish since 1987.

"This year, I've been out more than seven times and it's one of my smallest seasons. There are seals, it's amazing, and it scares the herring. The seals come when you turn on the lights. They know we are fishing. I caught 85,000 pounds (this year). I caught 350,000 pounds in my best years. It was still worth going out because the price was good, at 40 cents a pound, and it helped the guys (his crew) finish the season," he explains.

His catch of 85,000 pounds was spread over three weeks of fishing. "One good trip at the start of the season, two trips the following week and one good trip in week three. Usually

there are two good trips a week," says Mr. Duguay.

He sold his catches to Poisson salé gaspésien, in Grande-Rivière, a plant that uses its fish supplies for bait only. They no longer extract roe from female fish.

On the processing side, Roch Lelièvre, president of the firm Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan, of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, specifies that he succeeded in 2022 in buying almost the same volume of herring as in 2021.

"It was good at first then, with the bad weather, we lost two or three days a week for two weeks. The herring was fine... I managed to buy 1.7 million pounds of herring. That's almost as much as last year. I might buy a bit more, from Newfoundland," Mr. Lelièvre says.

Like the fishermen, he far from appreciates the late announcement of the season opening, on August 19, by DFO.

"It's crazy. It doesn't make sense. It's taking people for fools. Are we preparing, are we not preparing the plant? I was still working lobster from Anticosti, a volume of 125,000 pounds. I had some frozen claws left. We were left with lobster products because the market is slow to take it," explains Roch Lelièvre, who consequently had to juggle with little leeway in his cold rooms.

About 60 of the 72 foreign workers hired by his company were still there when the herring fishery began. This activity mobilized around 110 workers at Lelièvre, Lelièvre and Lemoignan, slightly fewer than in 2021.

This year, roe production, exported only to Japan, was limited to the first two and a half weeks of the herring catch. These fish are sent to the Fumoirs Gaspé Cured, in Cap d'Espoir, a big smoke house owned by Lelièvre, Lelièvre and Lemoignan and Poisson salé Gaspésien.

"There were too many nights without catches. We were skipping too many production evenings and it was getting complicated for the workforce. It was still good for two weeks. We sent 550 bins full of fish to the smokehouses last year. It will be less this year, with 340 bins. Each bin holds 1800 pounds of fish (...) We have fish for five to seven weeks. It's less than usual. It will depend on Newfoundland. If we can buy some there, we can stretch the season. But the fish (from the Gulf of St. Lawrence) that have entered since the third week are going to the bait reserve. They are frozen whole," says Roch Lelièvre.

Smoked fish quickly finds takers. "We sell in the West Indies and on the American market. There is not enough volume to go to Europe this year," he says.

The price paid to fishermen has increased by 25% in 2022. "It was 32 cents in 2021 and it is 40 cents this year. Bait prices and smokehouse prices explain the rise. Shortage of bait drives prices up. I have to buy some in Europe to feed the fishermen. It is certain that I will not have the choice to buy imported mackerel before next spring," says Mr. Lelièvre.

"We also got a good price for the roe. It was the same price as last year. It was more the lack of bait that allowed us to get a better price for the fisherman," he concludes.

Château Dubuc lost to the winds of Hurricane Fiona

Nelson **Sergerie**

CHANDLER - Hurricane Fiona destroyed what was the last remnant of Chandler's industrial era. Château Dubuc was swallowed up by the choppy waves of the Bay of Chaleur on September 24.

By the endless heaving of the waves during the storm surge that hit the area, Chateau Dubuc slid into the bay.

Dozens of curious onlookers came to see the extent of the damage once the information began to circulate. It was a scene of desolation.

The east and central pavilion slid towards the sea in a scissoring motion, while the west wing only descended a few metres on the shore.

The storms of the past 18 months undermined the land while the protective wall for the building had already been fairly ravaged by erosion.

Consequence: the water could easily enter under the building and undermine the ground until the sea gives the final blow to the building.

"It's 25 years of my life that I put there. I don't have a penny anymore. So, I asked for help," says the owner, Michel Saint-Pierre, who went there on September 25 to see the sad fate of the "château."

He says the governments let him down. "All the ministries, both provincial and federal, did



Only a pile of wood remains of the "Château" after the storm Fiona washed away the building.

Photo: Courtesy of Michel Saint-Pierre

nothing. I see our supposed honourable member (of Parliament) for Gaspé (the minister for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouthillier) who even had a program precisely for the Château Dubuc and who went into hiding in Ottawa. That's what I find hard," says Mr. Saint-Pierre.

His harshest words go to the outgoing government of the Coalition avenir Québec.

"I was insulted in the National Assembly by the Minister of Culture, Ms. Nathalie Roy. I find it hard to see the premier of the outgoing government who is for global warming who does not do much. I find that the Town has

done nothing... I don't fit into the standards... We don't believe in heritage," says Mr. Saint-Pierre, visibly shaken by the fate of the building.

The Minister of Culture gives a completely different version of the story.

"I disagree with what the opposition says. Unfortunately, we can't save everything," says Ms. Roy in an interview with CHNC.

As early as the spring of 2018, the owner and the Town of Chandler received word from the government in which it was written that the building was in an erosion zone and a flood zone and that anything was imminent.

"In 2021, the owner made a

request to me so that we can help him. It was the first time that the Ministry of Culture had heard of this building. We realized that the building had suffered very heavy damage, had experienced high tides and was in such a condition that it was no longer salvageable," says the Minister, who mentions a \$40,000 offer conditional on the addition of local and regional partners.

"On October 4, 2021, the Chandler municipal council refused assistance of \$56,000 to secure the building, which jeopardized assistance of \$25,000 from the MRC (of Rocher-Percé) and a conditional loan of \$100,000 with the help of the Town," added the Minister.

"When the government wants to help, it still has to know what it is investing in and that the owner comes to us with a realistic solution, which was not the case," continues Ms. Roy.

"No one is bound to do the impossible. It was too late, unfortunately. We had proof of this with Fiona," she continues. Patrimoine Gaspésie has sounded several alarm bells about the historical importance of the building.

Just recently, its president, Jean-Marie Fallu, recalled the lack of consideration of candidates in the provincial election on October 3.

"It's very sad. It is the loss of an important heritage asset. It was the last physical vestige of Chandler's great industrial epic," says Mr. Fallu from the outset.

"It is a symbol of govern-

ment inertia. The outgoing CAQ government injected \$22 million to save Villa James (in Percé, the building designated Espace bleu for the Gaspé Peninsula), but here, the people were laughed at by offering \$40,000 to save this villa which was of great importance. It's a shame," says the historian.

In recent months, the Town of Chandler has tried everything, with a last ditch effort in a rescue operation with the Quebec government, without success.

"We made a last effort by agreeing to take charge of Château Dubuc, conditional on a government grant. The Department of Culture still stuck with \$40,000, which didn't even pay the architects' fees for the relocation. They're laughing at us," says the mayor, Gilles Daraïche.

To save the building, it was necessary to invest between \$2.5 and \$3 million. "It took \$400,000 to \$500,000 just to set the Chateau back. We were talking about \$1 million for a rockfill to protect it for forty years, in addition to redoing the land and renovating it," says the mayor.

At the location, the one person responsible for the maintenance of the building for twenty years, looked on as the building slipped out on the beach.

"It's sad. 10 years ago, we could have saved it, but with the governments, it's too heavy (the cost). It's part of Chandler's story that is gone," says Michel Rehel.

"We could have moved it a month or two ago for maybe \$125,000," says the owner.

Witness to more than 100 years of history, the building expresses the presence of the newsprint industry in Eastern Quebec.

J. Alfred Dubuc invited American and European personalities there at the beginning of the last century.

Nicknamed the "King of Pulp," he ran a multinational business that had plants in Chandler, Val-Jalbert, Chicoutimi and Port-Alfred, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Brooklyn in the United States. Admitted to the upper classes of American finance, he ended his career as a member of the House of Commons.

UMQ helps Town of Percé

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ: - As previously mentioned in June, the president of the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) confirms that the group will provide up to \$10,000 in aid to Percé to defend the principle of tourist fees in court.

On June 3, the opponents of the principle served the town with a motion for nullity after sending a formal notice which remained unanswered.

In the original application for nullity, counsel for the opponents alleged that the fee is unconstitutional, illegal and abusive, unreasonable and intrusive.

The UMQ selection committee accepted the application made by the Town to the Municipal Legal Action Fund.

"Percé's file fell within the selection criteria. Among the criteria is the fact that it is a new right. In this case, it is a new law that gives new powers to municipalities. These



Percé has the support of the UMQ as it defends its tourist fee in court.

Photo: N. Sergerie

powers are disputed. We received a positive recommendation to the board of directors, which is acting on it," says the president and mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté.

"This regulation is tested in court and it interests the UMQ legal team and since Percé is a member, we support it," adds Mr. Côté.

New provisions included

in Bill 122 allow the diversification of municipal revenues.

It is on this principle that Percé adopted the idea of the tourist tax. It allows the collection of \$1 on purchases of goods and services over \$20, with some exceptions, and \$1 per night for accommodations. The fee has been in effect since May 1.

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Inflation will be a top priority for Diane Lebouthillier

Nelson **Sergerie**
Local Journalism Initiative

OTTAWA - The difficulties encountered by Canadians and the citizens of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands due to the marked increase in the cost of living is the priority of Member of Parliament Diane Lebouthillier as Parliament resumed its activities on September 20.

“There is no doubt that inflation remains a major concern and that confirms the interactions we had this summer in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands,” said Ms. Lebouthillier, in a press briefing from Ottawa on September 23. The consequence of the disruption of supply chains and the effects of the war in Ukraine also has an impact on people.

The MP mentions the affordability plan tabled on September 20 to mitigate inflationary pressures. In this plan, the Canadian dental benefit is included and offers \$650 for dental care for children under 12 for families with incomes below \$90,000. “It is a first phase,” notes the elected official.

A top-up of \$500 for housing and the GST credit will be doubled for the next six months.

Gun control, modernizing the Official Languages Act and Indigenous reconciliation are also in the government's plans.

Regarding the end of the temporary measures to ease employment insurance in times of a pandemic, the deputy minister remains firm. There’s no question of extending the programs, considering that Gaspesian companies are short of workers.

“My goal is for people to work, not that people are on Employment (Insurance). We need workers. The future of the region depends on it,” says Ms. Lebouthillier.

Consultations on the reform are almost complete. The revision will take into account seasonal work in re-



Photo: N. Sergerie

Inflation is Diane Lebouthillier's top priority this fall in Ottawa.

gions such as the Gaspé Peninsula, according to the MP.

On the subject of electoral map reform, like several elected officials in the region, Ms. Lebouthillier advocates for the status quo. “It is important for the population to have access to their elected officials. There are particularities in the territory. The Magdalen Islands have nothing to do with what is happening in the north of the Gaspé Peninsula or the south of the Gaspé Peninsula,” says the MP, who will present her point of view before the commission on electoral representativeness on October 13.

Following the issue of the Town of Gaspé in the absence of night weather observers at the airport, Diane Lebouthillier says she is trying to find a solution. The service is being suspended until October 28 due to a staffing shortage.

The MP spoke with the Department of Transport about the issue. For her, it is a matter of security. “I spoke with the parliamentary secretary to prioritize this file. For me, it is important to have security for air transport,” she explains. Pilots only have access to computerized weather data rather than real-

time airport status as they approach the runway.

Police report

A September 22 fire destroyed a commercial building on Perron Boulevard in New Richmond. The fire broke out at the end of the afternoon in the Ordinapro business building at 178 Perron. The blaze started around 5:30 p.m. Flames were already coming out of the windows before the arrival of emergency vehicles. New Richmond and Caplan firefighters battled the blaze until late in the evening. No one was injured.

A September 23 fire completely destroyed an abandoned house and farm located on Perron Boulevard in the Oak Bay area of Pointe-à-la-Croix. The fire is considered suspicious by that municipality’s fire department. At around 8:20 p.m. a passerby informed firefighters of the situation. Over twenty firefighters from Pointe-à-la-Croix, assisted by their colleagues from Escuminac and Nouvelle, went to the site and remained there until 1 a.m.

The two buildings that were not connected to the electricity grid are a total loss. They were located on the south side of Highway 132, near the railway crossing. They had been abandoned for years, apparently amidst renovations. The file was transferred to the Sûreté du Québec. “A fire scene technician did not go to the scene, but we will proceed by investigation,” explains Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Béatrice Dorsainville.

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Expression of interest Forillon National Park

The Parks Canada Agency is committed to the values of transparency, respect and fairness in the development of its concessions and visitor services. We wish to inform the public that in order to enrich the activities and experiences available to visitors, we intend to carry out two winter accommodation pilot projects in Forillon National Park during the 2023 winter season:

- Tiny house accommodation at the Des-Rosiers campground.
- Yurt accommodation near Le Portage trail.

The term of the occupancy permits for these pilot projects is one (1) winter season with two (2) optional extension seasons at Parks Canada’s discretion.

Parks Canada is interested in hearing from other proponents who would like to submit a winter accommodation project for a comparative evaluation. Any proponent wishing to submit a proposal will be required to demonstrate the ability to deliver the accommodation for some or all of the stated duration. Parks Canada will begin by evaluating the skills and qualifications to carry out such projects.

For information on how to submit your proposal visit www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/qc/forillon/gestion/avis-notice or contact Émilie Desbois at emilie.desbois@pc.gc.ca. You have until October 14 at noon to submit your final proposal.


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Commentary

The electoral campaign that just ended was characterized by a number of interventions regarding the eventual return of train services between Caplan and Gaspé. On many occasions references were made about the resumption of VIA Rail's service in the Gaspé Peninsula.

It was a Quebec election and VIA Rail is a public corporation owned by the Canadian government, however, Quebecers pay taxes in Ottawa and putting our nose in VIA Rail affairs is minding our own business since we, citizens living in rural regions, are paying taxes and getting shortchanged in that category of transport service.

Overall, the management of VIA Rail has been so lame, so negligent and so disconnected from the reality of Gaspesians that it is permitted to think of another way of getting passenger rail services. It is also true that the federal government's ignorance and lack of vision pertaining to transport issues in Canada, notably through failing to give VIA Rail proper funding, has all but hampered the potential to move people between the country's areas.

The huge service cuts applied by VIA Rail in January 1990 have deprived many areas of passenger trains. In the Gaspé Peninsula, we were able to keep our train three times per week instead of a daily service.

If Canada's deficit was a big cause of worry around the beginning of the 1990s and for a few years after that the last 25 years have provided a much brighter picture, budgetwise.

So why are rural regions not getting better service from VIA Rail? Why isn't the federal government taking the measures to propel Canada into modernity, transport-wise?

The passenger train service has been suspended since September 2013 between New Carlisle and Matapédia, and since December 2011 between New Carlisle and Gaspé. It was not abolished. It was suspended, officially, because of the state of the tracks and bridges. The Lac-Mégantic tragedy instilled a lot of fear in the transportation world and the state of the Gaspé Peninsula railway provided a good excuse to the people who were expressing bad faith about the relevance of our service.

Normally, the budget earmarked for the Gaspé Peninsula service was not phased out. It was probably used somewhere else, but there is still an item somewhere in VIA Rail's spreadsheet that reads "Montreal-Gaspé train" without an amount in it.

Wouldn't it be normal, considering the savings that VIA Rail made through not offering a service east of Matapedia for nine years, to get at least the passenger train back to New Richmond now, and New Carlisle as soon as the line is fit there.

The VIA Rail management has sent confusing messages regarding the Gaspé Peninsula over re-

cent years. The former chief executive officer, Yves Desjardins-Siciliano, was open to bringing the train back in phases, New Carlisle being phase 1, and to Gaspé next. His replacement, Cynthia Garneau, was imposing another constraint the train will only be back once the line is fit in Gaspé. That option is like abandoning the mandate that is written in the law that was approved to create VIA Rail.

Technically, it is possible to send a train to New Richmond even if we can't turn it there. First, it wouldn't be too complicated to build a wye somewhere in the vicinity, with a bit of willingness.

Secondly, a turntable could also be built. That technology was working 150 years ago. It could still work today. Thirdly, a train with two locomotives placed back-to-back could be used. It wouldn't be optimal, fuel consumption-wise, such a short train but who knows what the train will be like when services resume? Gaspesians have always been loyal to their passenger train.

We know that the Matapedia-New Richmond link would only be the first leg of a phase 2 service, as the line to New Carlisle could be repaired before the end of 2023. So why not give the potential clientele a possibility to travel as soon as possible, in an attempt to bolster the ridership before better days?

VIA Rail's bad faith is such that when the office of Member of Parliament Kristina Michaud met with officials of the transporter, the only option offered to Gaspesians was detouring the Halifax-Montreal train to New Richmond, which would, according to them, add six hours to the trip.

It was proof of VIA Rail's carelessness and negligence regarding the calling of the public corporation, however, the transporter's officials admitted, probably without realizing it, that technically, the service could resume to New Richmond. Using another train is the solution though.

The temporary use of Budd automotive cars is another solution that seems ruled out by VIA Rail, although it would be perfectly feasible. Collaboration with the Gaspésie Railway Society could also yield results, as the locomotives of that municipal entity could bring VIA Rail's train back to Matapédia, from New Richmond.

Nowadays, passenger trains are never profitable, overall. They might be on a daily basis between some huge cities but, where it works, they are mainly run by government-related bodies, and modern countries' governments understand that it can't be profitable. It is socially and economically beneficial for society though.

In Japan, the Shinkansen, or Bullet train, and in France, the TGV, are either unprofitable or marginally profitable. However, if the SNCF decides tomorrow to add to the TGV ticket price the cost of the infrastructure, nobody will take the train. There is an understanding in some countries that moving people must be affordable and efficient.

It hasn't been the case in Canada for at least 50 years. VIA Rail was created because Canadian National and Canadian Pacific wanted to get rid of money-losing passenger trains at a time everybody's dream was to buy a car.

At the time, the creation of VIA Rail was sort of botched instead of well-planned and a correction of the situation has never really happened. It leaves us with a public corporation with a significant administrative staff running a few trains. Those administrators take people living in rural regions for fools or

fourth-class citizens, or both.

How can they justify that the Maritime people are not getting at least a daily service? Who is deciding that people cannot travel by train four days out of seven?

If VIA Rail and the Canadian government don't express better collaboration with Gaspesians and the people from other regions like the Lower Saint Lawrence, Abitibi and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, pressures should be made to implement a Quebec-based public rail transporter and take over most of VIA Rail's trains in the province.

It would require a fair amount of investment but daily and reliable trains would be an advantage for the whole province. It would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It would allow people from all walks of life to access parts of Quebec that are currently under-served, shortcomings that generate significant social and economic costs. Lastly, it would allow rural citizens to take advantage of transportation means that are available in most modern countries.

The initiative would require uneasy negotiations between the Canadian and Quebec governments but maybe VIA Rail's management would be relieved through getting rid of something considered a load. It would also mean hard negotiations with CN for right of ways, but not trying is not a solution.

The stakeholders could benefit from an “opting out” clause, which means that the VIA Rail budget going to regional services would be handed out to an entity that we could call for now Quebec Rail.

The current VIA Rail context is no longer acceptable, business-wise, society-wise and environmentally speaking.

In the early-1960, Gaspésians could count on two trains making daily round-trips between Matapédia and Gaspé. A daily train is reasonable, 60 years later, and it can start with a service on one part of our line.

We have endured so many blows from VIA Rail's management that we have come to accept abnormal situations. Our patience should be running thin by now.

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Listuguj's fall lobster fishing started September 26

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The fall lobster fishing carried out by the community fishermen of Listuguj started on September 26 at the Carleton wharf. This year, for the first time, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has agreed to an enforcement protocol that acknowledges the role of the Listuguj's Mi'gmaq Rangers in governing the fishery.

The Mi'gmaq Rangers form a community enforcement agency that derives its authority entirely from Indigenous law instead of using the federal government's Fisheries Act. The fall lobster fishery is an exercise of the community's rights under the Peace and Friendship Treaties.

"Recognition of the Mi'gmaq Rangers and the laws we use to govern our fishery is an important step towards reconciliation," says Darcy Gray, Chief of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government.

"Canada is finally starting to recognize that the best way to ensure our fishery is safe and sustainable is to get out of the way and let us govern ourselves," he adds.

After attempts that go as far back as 1996, Listuguj has



Photo: G. Gagné

In 2021, the fall fishery was monitored regularly by Fisheries and Oceans Canada employees, a role that will be limited this year.

fished for lobster every fall for the past 20 years in the Baie des Chaleurs, within its traditional territory of Gespe'gewa'gi. Most lobster is distributed to community members for food. Some are sold to cover the costs or invested in the community.

For years, Canada denied Listuguj's treaty rights and banned the sale of fall lobster. Last year, however, Listuguj and Canada signed a rights reconciliation agreement that requires the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to respect Listuguj's treaty rights and ac-

knowledge Listuguj's Indigenous laws in fisheries. As a result, the ministry has changed course and now allows Listuguj to sell its fall catch.

Listuguj created the Mi'gmaq Rangers after violence erupted in June 1981 when Sûreté du Québec officers stormed the reserve to destroy and seize equipment and suppress Listuguj's salmon fishery. In response, Listuguj set up the Rangers to enforce the community's salmon law and protect its fishermen. The Rangers are not sworn in by either Quebec or Canada.

They derive their authority from Indigenous law.

"We realized that the only way to fulfill our responsibilities to the fish in our waters and the members of our community was to pass our own law and take control for ourselves," explains Chief Gray.

"That meant we needed our own enforcement agency. The DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) is still out there, but now our Rangers are out there too," he adds.

Violence erupted again in 2020 when non-Indigenous

fishermen in Nova Scotia reacted to the Sipekne'katik First Nation launching their own self-regulated fishery. In response, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans recommended the Mi'gmaq Rangers as an alternative enforcement model that could keep peace on the water.

Now, Listuguj and Canada have signed a protocol that seeks to coordinate the enforcement activities of the Mi'gmaq Rangers under the Listuguj Lobster Law and of DFO officers under the Fisheries Act. The goal is to align efforts to ensure a safe and sustainable fishery, while being respectful of both Mi'gmaq and Canadian law. The protocol requires any enforcement action to reflect Mi'gmaq values and acknowledge the impact and history of discrimination against Indigenous peoples by Canada.

Listuguj's fall lobster fishery will run from September 26 to October 10, 2022. The fall fishing effort has a greater effect on the resource and the quantity of traps used between those dates is multiplied by a factor of seven, and subtracted from the spring and early summer fishery effort.

Lobster in the Gaspé Peninsula: a very strong end to the season compensates for a slow start

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC - The start of the 2022 lobster season in the Gaspé Peninsula raised fears of a fairly sharp drop in catches. Several of the first 10 days of fishing were cancelled due to bad weather, but the fishermen eventually ended the season with only a slight drop of 2.43% in catches and 7.15% in total revenues, compared to 2021, the year of all records.

Gaspé lobster boats landed 3,706.2 metric tonnes of shellfish this year, compared to 3,798.4 tonnes in 2021, roughly a drop of 92 metric tonnes. Landing revenues from these catches reached \$64.9 million in 2022, which is \$5 million less than the \$69.9 million in 2021.

The revenues of Gaspesian fishermen who fish off of Anticosti Island are not included in the statistics released recently by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. In 2021, the revenues made by



Photo: G. Gagné

While the catches were abundant overall, the fishermen dealt with the rough weather by going to sea very early, as winds get stronger around mid-morning.

Gaspesians fishing in the Anticosti sector hovered around \$15 million.

The surprise stemming from the 2022 statistics is significant for O'Neil Cloutier, Director General of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, which represents lobster license holders.

"It's still a very, very good season, the second best ever for Gaspé Peninsula lobster boats. Considering the very slow start, that means only 200,000 pounds less, for 160 license holders. Catches total 8,170,000 pounds. It's four times more than in 2010. I don't think there is much more

to say about the 2022 season global results," explains Mr. Cloutier.

The increase in catches has not manifested itself in all of the sub-zones bordering the Gaspé Coast, he notes.

"It was the centre, the big Zone 20, that generated the losses and it was the ends that

made up for those losses. The reductions in catches were concentrated in Zone 20, which covers the coast from Gaspé to Bonaventure East, mainly due to the terrible start to the season, especially the first 10 days," says O'Neil Cloutier.

According to data provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, catches fell from 3,090.8 metric tonnes in 2021 to 2,868.4 in 2022 in Zone 20. This is a drop of 222.4 tonnes more than the decline in the four Gaspé zones. The 2022 numbers usually remain preliminary until the beginning of the following year.

The catches were so good in the extremities, Zones 19 and 21, that these two sectors quite clearly set records in 2022. It is true that fishing started there at least a week later and, sometimes more, which allowed the lobster fishermen in these areas to escape the worst weather elements.

Cont'd on page 6

Sea Watch pressures could have effects on American lobster imports

Gilles Gagné

CHANDLER - Aside from global stability, the threat of trade barriers by the United States regarding the entry of shellfish is the other unknown factor that currently makes Gaspé lobster fishermen insecure.

The pressure by the American environmental group Sea Watch during the first half of September is fueling this insecurity. This group argues that Canada is not doing enough to protect right whales.

“These are ultra powerful groups, these environmentalists. Sea Watch is based in California. They finance the two major American parties. They have managed a feat, being heard and demanding, then obtaining potential measures that could have serious consequences on the entry of Canadian lobster and snow crab into the American market. The last time, they acted against Mexico and its groundfish in-

dustry, to save an endangered species of dolphin. The American market is not yet open to Mexican products,” says Mr. Cloutier.

“The problem at Sea Watch is that we don't make the distinction between a midshore lobster fishery, which almost takes place at high sea, the one practiced in Nova Scotia, in the part of New Brunswick located in the Bay of Fundy, and in Maine as well, and the fact that we have here, in the Gaspé Peninsula, the most coastal inshore fishery there is. It has been shown that there are no whales in our space,” he adds. “In the logic of Sea Watch, all fishermen are targeted. If a whale is caught there (in the Bay of Fundy midshore fishery) in crab, lobster or groundfish gear, everyone is penalized. The export is stopped and it affects us,” he says.

O'Neil Cloutier reiterates his support for the protection of the right whale.



O'Neil Cloutier fears the implementation of trade barriers by the American government pertaining to the protection of right whales.

“There must be environmental groups that bring back the pendulum but there is not enough nuance in the negotiation. We have been in the groups of fishermen who participated as early as 2018, a year after the 2017 right whale crisis, in the

first tests on gear that would protect them, even if we have never seen any (right whale) along our coasts,” he explains.

He fears that the American government will cede to the pressure applied by Sea Watch, which requires the im-

plementation of new fishing gear across Eastern Canada.

“The weak link mechanism is being tested on 30% of our trap lines. In 2023, this will be tested on 50% of our lines. You have to proceed step by step. The federal government must negotiate greater flexibility in the rules. At 50%, if we demonstrate that there is no impact on our trap lines, it will be easier to go to 100%. Organizations were strongly encouraged to get involved. We did it to match the American measure but some groups didn't. We do not see why we would be penalized like those who have done nothing,” he concludes.

The weak link will give if there is a pressure applied that surpasses 1,700 pounds, which is less than the pulling effort of a right whale entangled in fishing ropes. The trap, or the line of traps, would then disentangle the sea mammal and fall back to the bottom of the sea.

LOBSTER:

Cont'd from page 5

In Zone 19, which covers the north side of the Peninsula, catches increased from 417.2 to 470.1 metric tonnes, a rise of 12.7%. In Zone 21, the westernmost point of the Chaleur Bay, catches rose from 290.5 to 367.7 metric tons, a sharp increase of 26.6%.

O'Neil Cloutier specifies that fishermen must make a sort of arbitration in the spring when the time comes to decide on the relevance of starting the season early or not.

“You have to remember that in winters with a lot of snow, there's no point in starting very early, unless March shows signs of good weather,” he says, noting that 2022 was a snowy winter and that snow fell at the end of April and even the beginning of May. The fishery was launched on Monday, April 25, with the first landings the following day.

Putting the traps in the water a week later would risk causing the lobster from the Gaspé Peninsula to lose the edge it has on the markets, since it is regularly the first lobster to reach the major centres, with the advantage of a higher price due to consumer excitement.

“It's always the challenge, the edge. I think we have to

deal with that. Every other year, you have to learn to adapt. One year out of two, we may not be the first on the market. Either that or we always start on the same date. With right whales, you never know if one will be tempted to approach the Coast, even if it has never happened here,” remarks Mr. Cloutier.

The year 2022 suggests a reassuring abundance of resources, he remarks. “The resource is healthy but due to the weather, the last week of fishing was better than the first two weeks together. The first few weeks are usually the best. It's very surprising (what happened this year) but that's good,” he says.

Brilliant Cove based lobster fisherman, Travis Henry, calls the 2022 lobster run a “special season... because we started in normal time but the weather was cold and the water was cold too. The stock was there but they were not moving.”

Some lobster fishermen want an early season start because they fear that the arrival of capelan will diminish their catches. Mr. Henry thinks otherwise.

“There were capelin this year. It brings them (lobsters) closer to the beach. It doesn't cut down on catches. It was just a trying season. We had to use our skills. The volume of catches was like a surprise basket. We could catch 1,000

pounds a day and then 500 pounds the next, instead of constant catches of 1,000 pounds, as it happens sometimes. The tides were bigger this year; it makes stronger currents and they don't move as much. The catches were still good in the last days though, with 800-900 pounds per day. It would have been good to start a bit later. Overall, it was good, not exceptional like the year before, but a fair season with catches of over 40,000 pounds,” sums up Travis Henry.

He talked to Mitch Girard, another fisherman from the same area, hired to carry out a fall assessment of the resource. “The assessment was low in 2022. Mitch Girard told me that it seems to be better. It is a good sign for next year. We have to start at the right time,” says Mr. Henry.

Prices almost reached \$8 per pound

The average price reached a very advantageous threshold for fishermen in 2022. The abundance of catches at the end of the season was therefore a major contribution especially since, at the end of June and the beginning of July, the holding of several celebrations tends to inflate the price on Canadian and American markets.


“The price went up a bit at

the end of the season. We ended up at \$7.95 on average, compared to \$8.35 last year. We have, therefore, not broken the 2021 record but we are at the top of the historical average. The (2022) price is close to \$8. It followed a record, that of 2021, when there was a lot of money in the pockets of consumers because of all the aid programs against the pandemic set up by the Canadian government and by the American government,” analyzes O'Neil Cloutier.


For the moment, he does not dare to make a forecast for 2023, limiting himself to de-

scribing the phenomena which could change the situation.

“Next year, we could have a completely different scenario. If the war escalates in Europe, if it spills over into bigger issues, and we enter a climate of more extensive war and recession, it will be more difficult. You have to be aware of that. This year, the two variables are optimal for the fishermen, the price and the quantities. It is very difficult to ask for better. To have a good price, you need predictability. You need consumers to know if they will be able to get the product,” he says.

**CALL FOR TENDERS**
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NOVEMBER 1, 2022-APRIL 30, 2023
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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.

\$4 million for municipalities, thanks to wind power

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

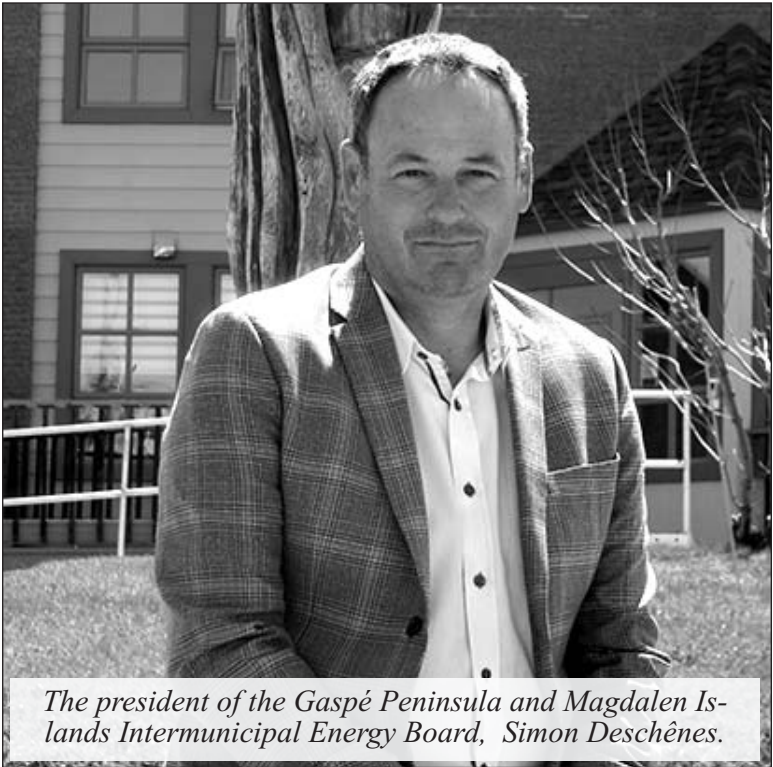
SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS – The member municipalities of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Intermunicipal Energy Board are receiving royalties of \$4 million out of the \$4.5 million planned for the year 2022.

The president of the organization, Simon Deschênes, is proud to provide municipalities with this amount to ensure revenue for various projects.

It's not over. There's more to come.

"September, October, November and December are left to reap profits. In December, we should issue the residual to reach the budget," asserts Mr. Deschênes with confidence.

The total amount of \$4.5



The president of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Intermunicipal Energy Board, Simon Deschênes.

Photo: N. Sergerie

million is similar to that of 2021 and 2020.

In 2019, the board had paid \$6 million because it had benefited from an inter-

est break on the commissioning of the Nicolas-Rioux Park, in the region of Trois-Pistoles, in the Lower Saint Lawrence.

Prudence guides the Board of Directors

"For the next few years, we will have stability in the royalties to be redistributed.

It will be between \$4.5 to \$5 million per year," explains Mr. Deschênes.

The board is awaiting the results of the call for tenders launched by Hydro-Québec.

"We have small (monetary) cushions to do the development in which we embarked on last year. It brings us a form of expense. It is important to meet our payment obligations and to distribute the sums of money to the participating municipalities," explains Mr. Deschênes.

After commissioning the Dune-du-Nord Wind Park in the Magdalen Islands, the board could add a few additional wind turbines.

The name has already been chosen: the Grosse Île Wind Farm

"We haven't made any progress. We have nothing concrete. We have ongoing procedures and representations with Hydro-Québec. The discussions are going quite well," says the mayor of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts cautiously.

The liaison committee is still active to ensure the social acceptability of the project.

"We have nothing concrete ahead of us, but we firmly believe that, by the end of 2022, we will be able to know if we are going ahead with the islands or if the file is closed," emphasizes the president with cautious optimism, while the Quebec Energy Board has rejected the idea of an underwater electric cable between Anse-à-Beaufils and the Magdalen Islands in order to supply it with electricity from the mainland.

The constitution of the legal entity to develop this wind farm is not a guarantee of obtaining the mandate.

"Instead of planning and planning a few weeks or a few months of work to set up the entity, we did that upstream, which means that if we have the ok, we will be in development and construction mode from day one. It really is a form of foresight and sound management," concludes Mr. Deschênes.

Legault makes a quick stop in Gaspé before the election



CAQ leader François Legault in Gaspé with Gaspé candidate, Stéphane Sainte-Croix and Bonaventure candidate, Catherine Blouin.

Photo: N. Sergerie

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The leader of the Coalition avenir Québec is hopeful that Gaspésians would send a representative of his political party to the National Assembly.

During a lightning fast visit to Gaspé on September 27, François Legault was careful not to be triumphant in the face of polls that still show a majority government.

Accompanied by candidates Catherine Blouin in Bonaventure, and Stéphane Sainte-Croix in Gaspé,

François Legault indicated that he would take nothing for granted.

He mentioned the following themes: the decentralization of public services, a willingness to complete the repair of the railroad but he did not give any hints of a schedule or an erosion budget, where an inventory must be made before intervening, and the fisheries sector.

He promised, if he was returned to power, he would invest \$26.8 million to enhance the sports of hunting and fishing.

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- Answer, screen and forward incoming phone calls
- Ensure reception area is tidy and presentable, with all necessary stationery and material (e.g. pens, forms and brochures)
- Provide basic and accurate information both in-person and via phone/email concerning CASA's programs and activities
- Receive, sort and distribute daily mail/deliveries
- Maintain office security by following safety procedures and controlling access via the reception desk
- Maintain inventory of office supplies
- Perform other clerical receptionist duties such as photocopying and faxing as required

REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS:

- Proven work experience as a Receptionist, Front Office Representative or similar role
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite
- Hands-on experience with office equipment (e.g. fax machines and printers)
- Professional attitude and appearance
- Solid written and verbal communication skills (French skills a plus)
- Excellent organizational skills
- Multitasking and time-management skills, with the ability to prioritize tasks
- Customer service attitude
- High school degree; additional certification in Office Management is a plus

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by 4:00pm Friday, October 7, 2022

Wejgwapniag School holds a Truth and Reconciliation March

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG – About 100 people attended the Truth and Reconciliation March on September 29 in Gesgapegiag, an event organized by the Wejgwapniag School to honour the children abused and killed in residential schools over more than 125 years in Canada. The activity was part of the Every Child Matters movement.

The attendees first walked in the streets of Gesgapegiag before meeting at the Margaret Jerome Memorial softball field. There, William Jerome made the opening prayer in Mi'gmaq, with kindergarten children repeating it. Mr. Jerome also conducted the pipe ceremony.

He explained the importance of providing education in the community and of honouring “the children that never went back home. Because they are attending Wejgwapniag, our children will come back home.”

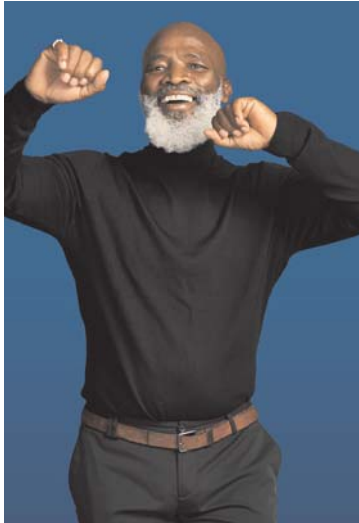
Pointing at the children who took part in the march, Chief John Martin added that “today is a day of commemoration of the children who came before them. They were denied the love and the kindness of their parents. As parents and grandparents, we have big responsibilities to give them the kindness that the other children didn’t get. Do not judge the children. Everybody has their faults.”

Chief Martin concluded by saying that “if we are to have a good future, we need to care for them now.”

Photo 1: The march was attended by local elders, children, and parents, as well as by some citizens from outside Gesgapegiag.

Photo 2: Chief John Martin and William Jerome talked about conviction to the attendees.

Photo Credit: G. Gagné



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Fall events to attend during the Thanksgiving weekend

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The coming Thanksgiving weekend will be marked by two interesting events in the Bay of Chaleur area: the Fall Fest in Cascapedia-Saint-Jules and the Virée Trad in Carleton. The Fall Fest is not always held on Thanksgiving weekend. It is the case when that weekend comes relatively early in October, which happens this year.

As always, the Fall Fest will feature a lot of music and activities for the family. A dart tournament and music with Johnny and Marie are scheduled for the evening of October 7.

The traditional Soapbox

Derby will take a big part of Saturday, mid-day. The competition is regrouping participants in two age groups, 12-49 and 50 and over. Sale of local products, mainly food and crafts, is also organized for Saturday morning. Cropdustuse and the Garage Band will take care of the music that day. Washers and darts competitions will also take place on Saturday.

A brunch organized by the Rotary Club will start activities on Sunday. It will be followed by the popular fishing guide competition. A music show featuring the Triculturals is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sunday. Numerous activities for children are organized for Sunday as well.

The whole program of the Fall Fest appears on the website of the Municipality of Cascapedia-Saint-Jules.

As for the Virée Trad, the 2022 event is the 21st in the history of the event, an occasion to discover or rediscover the importance of traditional and folk music, storytelling, dance and local food, among other things.

The biggest local food market of the year in the Gaspé Peninsula will take place under a big top on Saturday, October 8, and Sunday, October 9. This year, at least 56 food producers, farmers and craft artists have confirmed their presence under the big top, located next to the Carleton Cégep.

Next door, the Quai des arts's concert hall and its adjacent facilities remain the main location of the Virée Trad. However, some shows are also organized in a tent near the public market. The



Photo: La Virée Trad

Nicolas Pellerin and his band, les Grands hurleurs, will play at the Virée Trad.

convention centre, located next to the Baie Bleue Inn and the Naufrageur microbrewery, are also places where some shows will be held.

The Virée Trad holds, every Sunday afternoon, a folkloric gathering at 1 p.m.

in the concert hall of the Quai des arts. Musicians from everywhere can come and play in front of a crowd. Jam sessions are also on the program of the Virée Trad.

About 7,500 people attend the Virée Trad every year.

Grande-Rivière is hopeful it will obtain its Blue Economy Zone

Nelson Sergerie

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - The Blue Economy Zone for marine innovation seems within reach for Grande-Rivière, which could generate half a billion dollars in investment.

On September 20 and 21, a delegation from Investissement Québec and the Ministry of Economy and Innovation travelled to the MRC of Rocher-Percé to visit businesses in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, Grande Rivière and Newport and validate potential in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, blue food processing and technology, marine biotechnology, smart navigation and marine technology.

“It allowed people to visit on site and to discuss with the promoters to look at all the potential linked to the blue economy,” explains the mayor of Grande-Rivière, Gino Cyr.

The delegation also went to Rimouski, which is a partner in the Blue Economy Zone with its maritime Technopole.

“The potential is enormous. All the projects are worth around \$500 million. I think people were able to perceive on the ground what we had exposed in the documents,” says the mayor.

The next step will be to present the file to the government for a recommendation to the Council of Ministers.

“They understood that the Blue Economy is happening here,” believes Mr. Cyr.

When the mayor is asked his level of confidence, he notes that eight serious Economy Zone files have been submitted in Quebec.

“I think we are very well positioned. At the administrative level, we have done our homework and with the \$1 billion fisheries impact study, including \$329 million in Rocher-Percé, when it comes to innovation, we are very well positioned,” he said.

Passing through Gaspé on September 27, the outgoing premier and CAQ leader, François Legault, isn't closing the door. “The government is ready to invest, among other things, in education and research but, also, we want private partners because we don't want to manage it,” says Mr. Legault.

“In the financial structure for the next five years, we already have \$70 million in private investments planned for the realization of the projects,” says Mr. Cyr.

An announcement may be made following the Oct. 3 election.

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**Representative
Robert Bilodeau**



Gaspé airport deprived of weather observer at night

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Michel-Pouliot airport has no night weather observer for six weeks, a situation denounced by the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté. The service suspension went into effect on September 14 and will remain in effect until October 28 between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m.

This means that there is no longer anyone who can inform the pilots of the weather conditions in the airport sector

during this period. “The downside is that pilots have to take on more risk and rely on NAV Canada’s automated system. Quite honestly, I don’t like it and quite honestly, I want NAV Canada and its subcontractor Aéropro to bring people back at night,” says the mayor. According to the elected official, a staff shortage is the cause of the suspension, a first at the airport. In addition, he adds that NAV Canada has not trained enough personnel and, more-

over, those interested must pay for their training, which is given only in English in Cornwall, Ontario. “If they want people to work in our terminals, let them start by improving the conditions of training and treatment of the workforce in

general and there may be people who want to work. The blame, I blame it entirely on NAV Canada,” says Mayor Côté who will raise awareness with the member of parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouthillier.

“We will not put the safety of air users at stake,” says Mr. Côté, noting that the geography and topography of the terrain lead to complex weather conditions for users. The unpredictable weather of the airport is known to pilots who have to land in Gaspé.



Photo: N. Sergerie

No one is transmitting weather data to pilots at night until October 28.

Gasoline: unacceptable profit margins in the eyes of Lebouthillier

Nelson Sergerie, LJI
OTTAWA - The Federal Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouthillier, finds it unacceptable that gasoline retailers are making huge profits on the backs of Gaspesian motorists. According to CAA-Quebec, gas stations have obtained a profit margin of 15.9 cents per litre in the last year in the region, the highest margin in Quebec. Other remote regions such as Côte-Nord or Abitibi-Témiscamingue have a retail margin of 14.3 cents. “I don’t consider what is happening normal. In rural areas where you have to cover long distances, where you must have a vehicle, you have no choice like in cities. We don’t necessarily have public transport. This is nonsense. This is something that we must denounce,” answered Ms. Lebouthillier when questioned on this subject on the sidelines of a press briefing on her priorities before returning to the fall session of parliament. The Town of Gaspé filed a complaint with the Competition Bureau in 2019 and according to the mayor, Daniel Côté, the investigation is still ongoing. Ms. Lebouthillier will not intervene in the process. By pure chance, the price of gasoline was down on September 26 in Gaspé. Being virtually the only area in the Gaspé Peninsula to post \$1.664 at the start of the day, regular gasoline declined first to \$1.644 and \$1.624 after lunch. Based on data from the Energy Board, the price should have been around \$1.61 per litre on September 28. CAA-Quebec instead established it at \$1.641.



Gas stations lowered their price to \$1.624 on September 26 in Gaspé.

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

René-Lévesque House protected for the winter

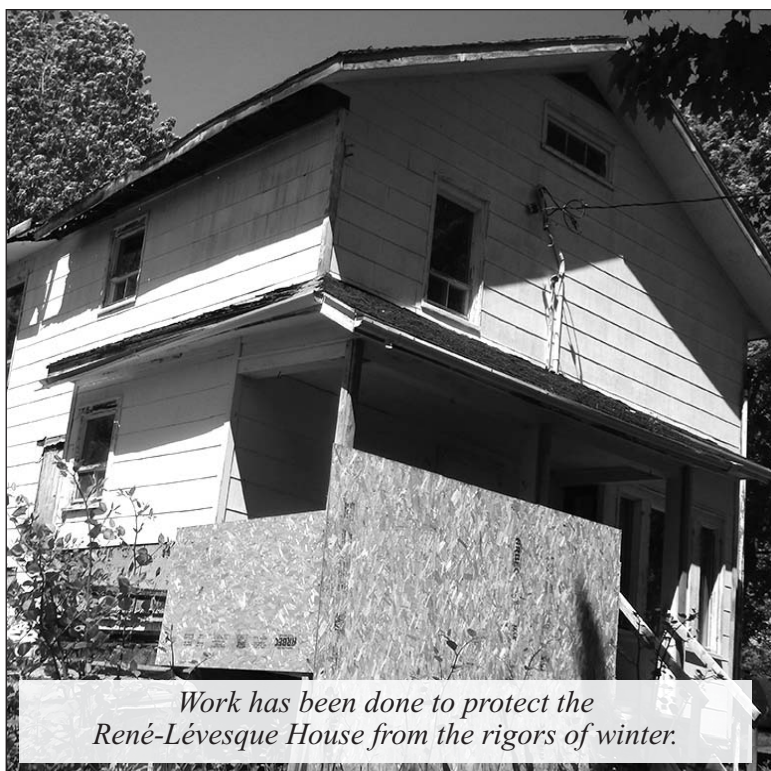
Nelson **Sergerie**

NEW CARLISLE - The Ministry of Culture and Communications ensures that the René-Lévesque House in New Carlisle is protected for the winter.

In a request for information sent in order to know the evolution of the file since the report on the state of the house last spring, the ministry writes that since taking possession of the property in September 2021, several emergency works have been carried out to prevent the building from further deterioration.

In addition to the emergency work that will protect the house for the coming winter, other interventions are planned for the next year.

This work is aimed, in particular, at the selective demo-



Work has been done to protect the René-Lévesque House from the rigors of winter.

Photo: N. Sergerie

lition and restoration of the heritage building, both inside and outside.

This will make it possible to revalue the characteristic elements of the house.

Anse-au-Griffon Community Centre Committee disappointed with mayor

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The president of the Committee for the implementation of a Community Centre in the Anse-au-Griffon church is accusing the mayor of Gaspé of lacking leadership after receiving a final offer from the town.

On September 6, the mayor, Daniel Côté, indicated that an offer would be made to the committee, but the letter received was not satisfactory to the committee.

"We expected a substantial offer as has been done with other communities in the Greater Gaspé in the past and we ended up with an annual offer of \$22,000 for the next five years. We are not thrilled with this offer," says the president, Mireille Bilodeau.

During discussions, the Town had launched the option "everything that costs nothing" as a form of municipal assistance.

"And this option was chosen by the Town, taking it as an end, whereas for us, it was an element that we put on the table to initiate exchanges," says the president who is displeased with Mayor Daniel Côté's lack of leadership in this file.

"Mr. Mayor, this is the key to the solution. When you believe in the project, when you have touted it for seven years in public speeches, you are able to get your new team of elected officials to consider its merits and vote accordingly. He did



The Anse-au-Griffon church will become a community centre, despite the absence of involvement from the Town of Gaspé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

not show that leadership, otherwise, we would not have had this result," says Ms. Bilodeau.

In the letter sent to the committee, the Town writes that during a meeting on September 2, "Council explained the reasons why it refused to pay a contribution of \$450,000 and to commit to financially supporting the centre for an amount of \$60,000 per year. Thus, you have been able to observe that the notions of fairness towards other community centres, the prioritization of municipal files in each district, the dangers linked to the explosion of construction costs as well as the uncertainty linked to the amount that the council should disburse to the various organizations to assume their rent and to the community centre to make it work were raised."

The submitted proposal waived certain revenues by the Town, including municipal

taxes, subject to the acceptance of the Commission municipale du Québec, and to pay the equivalent of various aids to other organizations for a total amount of \$120,000 over five years.

Despite this offer being deemed unacceptable, the committee will go ahead with the realization of the project, having already \$2 million in the bank from the federal and provincial governments.

"This is a paramunicipal, community project requested by the population of Anse-au-Griffon that meets a real need. We will proceed," says Ms. Bilodeau.

The Town writes that it has a duty to remind administrators of their personal accountability in the event of a contract award whose expenses exceed revenues, adding that ministerial envelopes rarely follow to adjust to cost overruns.

The necessary works to make the house safe and limit damage are in progress while the restoration works are in preparation.

New interventions, more specifically aimed at restoring the building's foundation, are planned for the spring of 2023.

The report on the state of the house estimated that restoring the René-Lévesque House in New Carlisle to its original state will cost about \$800,000.

The detailed 83-page document mentioned that the building, built in 1905, needed an investment of \$131,000 quickly for major work and upgrading.

The report noted significant mold, heavy interior de-

terioration due to water infiltration and degraded exterior cladding and roofing. The building may also contain asbestos and lead.

The document specified that the decontamination work must be done before launching its restoration, based on the period from 1922 to 1939, when the premier (René Lévesque) spent his childhood there.

The René-Lévesque House obtained recognition status on June 24, 1995, and was classified as a heritage building on October 19, 2012.

The year 2022 marks the 100th birthday of Rene Levesque who was the premier of Quebec from 1976 to 1985.



The Mayor of Gaspé was able to exchange a few words with Premier François Legault on September 27 in Gaspé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Premier Legault does not commit to a return date for Gaspé train

Nelson **Sergerie**, LJI

GASPÉ - The mayor of Gaspé is not taking offense at the fact that outgoing Premier François Legault isn't promising a return date for the train to Gaspé.

During a quick stop on September 27, in Gaspé, the head of the CAQ indicated that a labour issue meant that he could not decide on a timetable for Gaspé.

Daniel Côté agrees with the premier on the lack of resources to accelerate the pace.

"The political commitment is still the same. They want to settle the file, but we agree that there is an explosion of costs that must be quantified. The real issue, I do not think it is money or political commitment. The sinews of war is the lack of railway engineers in Quebec and there is an even greater shortage in the Ministry of Transport. If we are able to have more railway engineers, the file will move much more quickly," says the mayor.

In the current situation, a cost of \$500 million for rail rehabilitation could become realistic. "If we look at the last number that came through our hands it was just over \$200 million. We have seen the increase in construction costs by 30 to 40% in recent years. It is perhaps realistic that we have reached that point. The longer we wait, the worse it gets. The more it deteriorates, the more it costs and construction costs will not decrease as much. It's possible that it will end at \$400 million or \$500 million. I am not a specialist, but it is possible," admits Mr. Côté.

MEET THE MAYOR SERIES:

Ashley Milligan, Cascapedia-St-Jules

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

Municipal elections take place every four years in the province of Quebec. These elections are for the positions of mayor and councillors. They were last held on November 7, 2021, throughout the province. Since 2005, all municipalities have held their elections on the first Sunday in November. Between general elections, by-elections may be held when a vacancy occurs. The responsibilities for a municipality are: managing water/sewage systems, local road maintenance, public spaces, recycling/garbage contracts, economic development, general management of municipal affairs, infrastructure maintenance and development.

Mayor Ashley Milligan, current mayor of Cascapedia-St-Jules, was previously a municipal councillor for eight years. She reflects that she found this role interesting and it gave her the opportunity to learn the “ins and outs” of how a municipality functions. As the 2021 elections were approaching, Ms. Milligan began reflecting on what her next step would be and what she could offer to the municipality. She states, “We are a small municipality with great values, we are a community that comes together to help those in need, we are a municipality that is welcoming and always looking to grow in municipal activities as well as services and in 2021 I decided that I wanted to represent those values, to become a person that the population can come to and help our municipality grow.”

One year into her mandate, one of the initiatives of which she is most proud is that a day care (CPE) will be established within the municipality. This is an important step in meeting the needs of young families. Some who must travel a great distance to available day care spots. An additional plus is that the day care will provide jobs.

In December 2021, Cascapedia held its first Christmas Parade and is planned to become an annual event. It was an activity that brought many people out for a happy occasion. Plans are already being made for the 2022 Christmas parade.

A plan is in the works for a housing project for seniors who can live independently and will allow those seniors to remain living within the municipality



Mayor of Cascapedia-St-Jules, Ashley Milligan, and her council are working on plans for a housing project for seniors and establishing a Zone Neutre (Neutral Zone) in the municipality.

after downsizing from their homes.

The mayor and council, along with the SQ, are working on establishing a Zone Neutre in the municipality. This is a project which will provide a safe zone with cameras where people can buy and sell items or for people who have joint custody to bring their children when it’s time for them to go with the other parent.

Mayor Milligan’s future plans also include listening to the needs of the residents of Cascapedia-St-Jules. She says, “I would like to continue to grow in establishing resources and activities for our young families as well as our elders in the municipality. I would like to begin working on more tourism projects. We have a beautiful area that many come to explore.”

The mayor proudly conveys this message: “I am honoured and proud to represent Cascapedia-St-Jules. I have always felt that our municipality allows people to feel a sense of belonging and am proud to be able to bring this feeling to others. I appreciate all the support and encouragement that I have received this year since being

elected.”

Mayor Milligan’s background

The mayor is originally from Ajax, Ontario, but moved to Cascapedia-St-Jules when she was seven years old. Both of her parents are from the area. She is the oldest of five girls. Ashley holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminology and Psychology from St. Thomas University in Fredericton. She also has a certificate from the University of Quebec in Chicoutimi in “intervention aupres des premiers nations.”

Her whole career has been dedicated to working with children and teens. She worked at Walgwan Centre in Gesgapegiag for 16 years, a facility for First Nations children and youth dealing with addictions.

Over the last four years Ashley has worked for the Eastern Shores School Board as a teacher and this year as a Social Services Officer.

Mayor Ashley Milligan adds, “I have a wonderful family, a husband and two children that support me on all my new adventures careerwise. Our family life always comes first.”

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Memories of bread

There is nothing as delicious as a warm slice of home-made bread with a thick pat of butter.

Chatting with a small group of friends recently, the topic turned to food and then to bread. It seemed everyone had childhood memories of homemade bread. The age group was mostly over 65, so we had childhoods that included watching our mothers or grandmothers make the bread.

Although our backgrounds varied, it all came down to a couple of things. The love of the smell of bread baking in the oven and eating the still warm bread slathered with butter seemed to be universal across cultures. One man, who was born in Calabrese, Italy, recalled his nonna (grandmother) and at other times his madre (mother) offering pieces of the still warm hunk of Italian loaf while saying “Mangia, mangia.” His Italian relatives were encouraging him to eat!

Another recalled eating homemade Bermuda Johnny Cake made throughout the Caribbean. Her memories were of arriving home from school and having to wait until the hot bread was cool enough to eat. She shared with us that she used to pick at the bread while waiting, not too patiently.

My memories, while similar, are truly Gaspesian. My grandmother was the master baker. She would rise early, as she always did and get dressed. She always put on her apron because, for certain, there would be cooking and baking throughout her day. Bread making day was the best!

She would light the fire in the wood stove and then set out her huge bowl and her supplies, including the little packets of yeast. The bread pans would be lined up on the top shelf of the stove waiting for the precious dough to be placed inside. I loved to watch her knead the dough, always by hand! No mixer in those days.

The dough was placed in an oiled bowl and covered with a tea towel. This was called “first rise.” If the house is cold, the dough takes longer to rise. On those days she would place the bowl in the warming spot at the top of the stove.

Then when perfectly risen, she would punch down the dough and shape it into balls (oblongs really) and place them into the pans. Tea towels were placed over top. The second rise took about 30 minutes.

The next step was to bake the bread, also for about 30 minutes. Then the bread was cooled for 15 very long minutes and the precious loaves were turned out of the pans. This was an important step, because leave your bread in the pan too long and it could be soggy.

Everyone would grab a small plate and my grandmother would place the loaf on the table along with real butter and Crosby’s Molasses for those who liked to dip the warm bread in the sweet, sticky molasses.

Homemade bread is such a beautiful memory, but it wasn’t just about the food. As we get older, we know that a big part of those special days was the care and love with which our mothers and grandmothers made that bread.

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Announcements



Obituary



GUIGNION: Garth James - 1940 - 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Garth on the afternoon of August 6, 2022, with his sister Sandra and cousin Bonnie Annett Sams at his side, at the CISSS de la Gaspésie, Pavillon MGR. Ross.

Born in Rosebridge, Quebec on November 22, 1940 to Lloyd and Mabel Annett Guignon, Garth grew up helping out on the family farm and cutting wood with his father and brother. He was an accomplished mechanic, welder, and auto body repairman, before following his passion for fishing and the outdoors. He spent his summers on or in the water, whether it be trout fishing in his pond, salmon fishing in the rivers, lobster fishing on the seas or diving (as far as the Great Barrier Reef in Australia). He even designed and built his own commercial fishing boat at around the age of 30, and earned his Captain's license shortly thereafter. Garth was also an avid hunter and trapper. He loved picking berries and apples to make the most delicious jellies.

Garth was always close by to lift someone's spirits or deliver a meal, if need be. He was definitely a Jack of all trades and never hesitated to lend a helping hand whenever his skills were needed. He was always happy to meet a stranger and get to know them. He was known for his sense of humour and getting a laugh from those around him. His love of ice cream was undeniable, and it wasn't unheard of for him to stop in a blizzard to get a cone.

He loved visiting with his brother Daryl and sister Marlene in PEI and was an active spokesperson for the fishermen's association of Quebec, traveling to conferences to help advocate for improvements over the years.

Garth is predeceased by his parents Lloyd and Mabel (Annett), brother Daryl (Rosie), son Leroy (Carmen). He is survived by sisters, Marlene and Sandra (Arden); sons Dane (Jackie) and Lynn (Velma); and daughters Delora and Loretta (Perry). He is also survived by his 13 grandchildren as well as a number of cousins and friends.

The family would like to sincerely acknowledge the exceptional care provided to Garth by the personnel at the Residence du Phare in Cap des Rosiers as well as the Centre d'hébergement Monseigneur Ross. There will be a celebration of life for Garth at a later date to be decided.

**The New Carlisle
Funeral Association**
extends sympathy to the family of
Judy Buttle



In Memory



ASTLES: Mary Beth (née Hocquard)

In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother who passed away on October 11, 2019.
*You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
Although we cannot see you,
You're always at our side.*

Love always: Raymond, Dean, Sandy and families.



In loving memory of those we lost so suddenly fourteen years ago.

RENOUF: Charlene

November 19, 1978 - October 12, 2008

Our daughter, step-daughter and sister, loved and forever in our hearts and on our minds by Mom, Darin, Adam (Melody, Gideon, Sybil, Nathaniel and Caleb) and Christopher (Bethany, Benjamin and Claire).

BENWELL: Rebekah

October 4, 2001 - October 12, 2008

Our granddaughter and niece, cherished and dearly missed by Grandma, Grandpa, Uncle Adam (Melody, Gideon, Sybil, Nathaniel and Caleb) and Uncle Christopher (Bethany, Benjamin and Claire).

*We have beheld our Father's face
And we've touched our Saviour's hand.
All of heaven's angels rejoiced
As we entered the promised land.
Beyond the gates of pearl we've walked
On the golden streets.
We've touched the walls of jasper
And dipped our feet in the Crystal Sea.
The beauty is beyond words
And nothing could compare,
We've even seen your mansion
And someday we'll meet you there.
Let Jesus be your guide
Because His Word will show you the way!
So please don't cry
Because we will meet again someday.*

**RENOUF: Charlene
BENWELL: Rebekah**

Fourteen years ago on October 12, 2008, our hearts were broken with the sudden death of our beloved daughter Charlene and our beloved granddaughter Rebekah who died accidentally. We cherish their memories.

*Nothing can take away
The love our hearts hold dear.
Fond memories linger every day.
Remembrance keeps them near.
Not dead to us who loved them,
Not lost, but gone before,
They live with us in memory
And will forever more.*

Lovingly remembered, sadly missed, no one can take your place, Da (Billy), stepmom (Micheline) xoxoxox.

**RENOUF, Charlene:
BENWELL, Rebekah:**

In loving memory of two precious girls who left us so suddenly fourteen years ago on Thanksgiving, October, 12, 2008. Granddaughter Charlene Ada, age 29 and great-granddaughter Rebekah Joan, age 7.

*Beautiful memories are wonderful things,
They last till the longest day.
They never wear out; they never get lost
And can never be given away.
To some they may be forgotten
To others a part of the past.
But to us who loved and lost you both
Your memories will always last.*

I will always love and remember you both. Till we meet again. Love, Nana (Pearl)

**RENOUF: Charlene
BENWELL: Rebekah**

In loving memory of my granddaughter Charlene and great-granddaughter Rebekah who died accidentally on October 12, 2008.

Gone but not forgotten.

We will always remember your beautiful smiles. Miss you, Na (Dorais) and family xoxoxo.

Announcements

Deadline: Wednesday at 4 p.m. to appear in following week's issue.

Obituary/ Wedding: \$40 (picture +\$5) for up to 300 words. If it is more, we will give you a quote.

All other announcements: \$30 (picture +\$5) for up to 20 lines. If it is more, we will give you a quote.

Items should be typed and can be submitted by mail or online.

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COAST ROUND-UP

MALBAY:
Harvest Supper
It's back! The Thanksgiving Harvest Supper returns on **October 8** at the St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall in Malbay, Pre-purchased tickets only. Take-outs from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eat-in sittings from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Adults: \$15 and children \$10 (under 12). For tickets, email: allsaintsbythesea.pence@gmail.com or call Janet Harvey at 418-355-4899. E-transfers are available.

PORT DANIEL:
Three Star Golden Age Club
Tuesdays: Pétanque from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday evening to have fun and learn a new game. Cost is \$3.

NEW CARLISLE:
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 Le-

gion memberships are available for \$45. Returning and new members welcome.
Saturdays: Open at 1 p.m. Everyone welcome.
October 7: Music with Tammy Adams beginning at 8:30 p.m.
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

**UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, October 9**
10 a.m. Service

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.

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, October 9**
No Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
Sunday, October 9
NEW CARLISLE
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
HOPE TOWN
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
SHIGAWAKE
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, October 9
St. John and St. Phillips Sandy Beach
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

FARM FINDS WORD SEARCH

M	A	N	U	R	E	W	F	I	R	R	I	G	A	T	I	O	N	H	C
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S	R	E	K	R	O	W	E	K	A	B	S	N	K	Y	W	G	O	R	B

WORDS

Acres	Horse
Agriculture	Irrigation
Barn	Lamb
Bloom	Land
Cat	Manure
Corn	Mule
Cow	Pasture
Crops	Pig
Dairy	Plow
Dog	Pond
Donkey	Process
Duck	Rooster
Farmer	Season
Farmhouse	Silo
Fence	Stable
Fields	Tractor
Grain	Trough
Harvest	Weathervane
Hay	Wheat
Hen	Workers

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.



HOROSCOPES
ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, others are counting on you this week, so you'll need to direct all of your attention toward a special project. Don't let distractions get in the way.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, rather than wishing for something to happen, figure out a plan to make it happen. Before taking action, consult with a few close friends for guidance.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Someone may come to you this week with a problem asking for your advice, Gemini. It's tempting to react right away. However, take a few hours to mull

things over.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Someone at work may not agree with your point of view lately. Rather than cause friction, try to look at things through this person's perspective.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, cooperation could be essential in the days and weeks ahead. This week you will benefit from being more open-minded to other people's suggestions.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
It seems that you have been tasked with moving from one difficult situation into another one, Virgo. Find ways to set aside time strictly to unwind.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Keep careful track of your expenses, Libra. You may find that lately you have been going a bit overboard with expenditures and not bringing in any extra money.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Maintain a positive outlook this week, Scorpio. Things may not go exactly according to plan, but that doesn't make it any less successful and satisfying.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you may have to put others first for the next few days, particularly if you care for an elderly relative or a young child. It's a sacrifice worth mak-

ing.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, let another person lead a team or spearhead a project at work, even if you have an urge to take control. You can use a break from your responsibilities.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, hands-on work not only helps save you some money, but also strengthens your skills. Think about a more DIY approach with your next project.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, if life has been tedious and filled with analytical requirements as of late, take on a creative project that will work

your brain in new ways.
FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
OCTOBER 2
Sting, Singer (71)
OCTOBER 3
Noah Schnapp, Actor (18)
OCTOBER 4
Alicia Silverstone, Actress (46)
OCTOBER 5
Travis Kelce, Athlete (33)
OCTOBER 6
Elisabeth Shue, Actress (59)
OCTOBER 7
Yo-Yo Ma, Cellist (67)
OCTOBER 8
Matt Damon, Actor (52)

March for Climate Justice attracts a hundred people to Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Nearly a hundred people, students and teachers from the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, citizens, some accompanied by their children, participated in the March for Climate Justice on September 23 in downtown Gaspé .

“I am here because there is a lot of pollution that is destroying the earth. We have to change things. Otherwise we won't have a planet to live on soon,” says Evelyn Cloutier, 10, who was walking with her mother and sister.

Signs and megaphones in hand, the participants wanted to bring awareness of the importance of taking concrete action to curb global warming.

Bastien Lye noted that France suffered an intense drought this summer and he sees the effects of climate change on the Gaspé Peninsula.

“We are talking about the caribou which is on the verge of extinction. What is the impact of forestry? How do we proceed? We have milder winters and warmer summers. We have visible effects,” says Mr. Lye, a forestry student from France at the Gaspé Campus.

The challenge of the climate crisis is hitting women

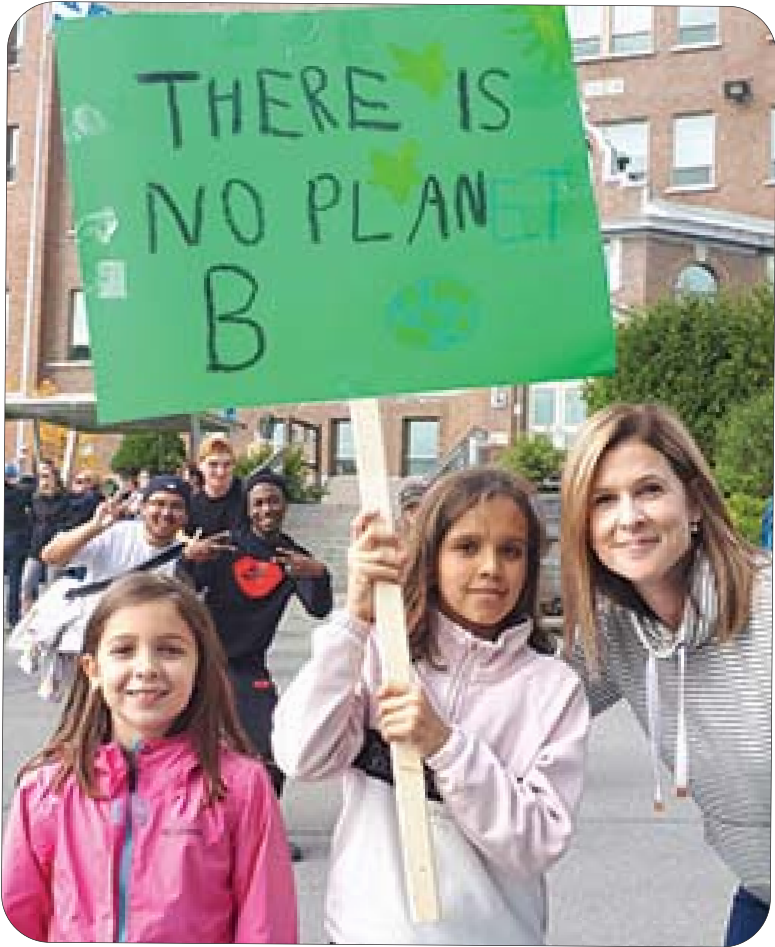


Photo: N. Sergerie

Evelyn Cloutier, 10 years old, centre, her sister Aline and their mother Megan McCallum, wanted to remind us that there is no Planet B for humanity during their participation in the Gaspé demonstration.

harder, according to the Gaspé Peninsula Women's Groups Round Table.

“Often, women generally have less financial autonomy. When a storm floods a dwelling, they have less means to deal with it. That's why we talk about climate justice,” says table coordinator Nastassia Williams.

Classes at the Gaspé Campus were suspended to allow the activity to take place. Students had voted for a strike to reflect on climate change.

“I thought it was important for my students to know that we supported them in this process,” comments campus director Stéphane Côté.

No study on the state of the soil at the MTQ service centre in Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie
GASPÉ - The Quebec Transport Ministry has no recent portrait of the characterization of the soil at the current Gaspé service centre, located in the downtown area.

The Quebec Society of Infrastructure (SQI) indicates that an update will be made once the centre is moved to the Augustine's Industrial Park.

The current property was built in the 1950s and observers believe that the site could be quite contaminated with hydrocarbons after some 70 years of operation.

The SQI ensures that once the update of the study has been completed, soil rehabilitation will be carried out according to the results.

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