

## Lightning causes rare November fire

NELSON SERGERIE

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

MONT-SAINT-PIERRE – A rare event occurred on November 7 when lightning ignited a forest fire in Mont-Saint-Pierre.

The final phase of extinction was launched on November 9 while the fire was contained on November 8 at the end of the afternoon.

At the peak of the fire, 28 forest firefighters found themselves on the ground. A helicopter and even a tanker aircraft had been dispatched to fight against the destructive element.

The fire raged about half a

mile south of the hang glider launch site on the mountain.

Forest fires in November are rather unusual.

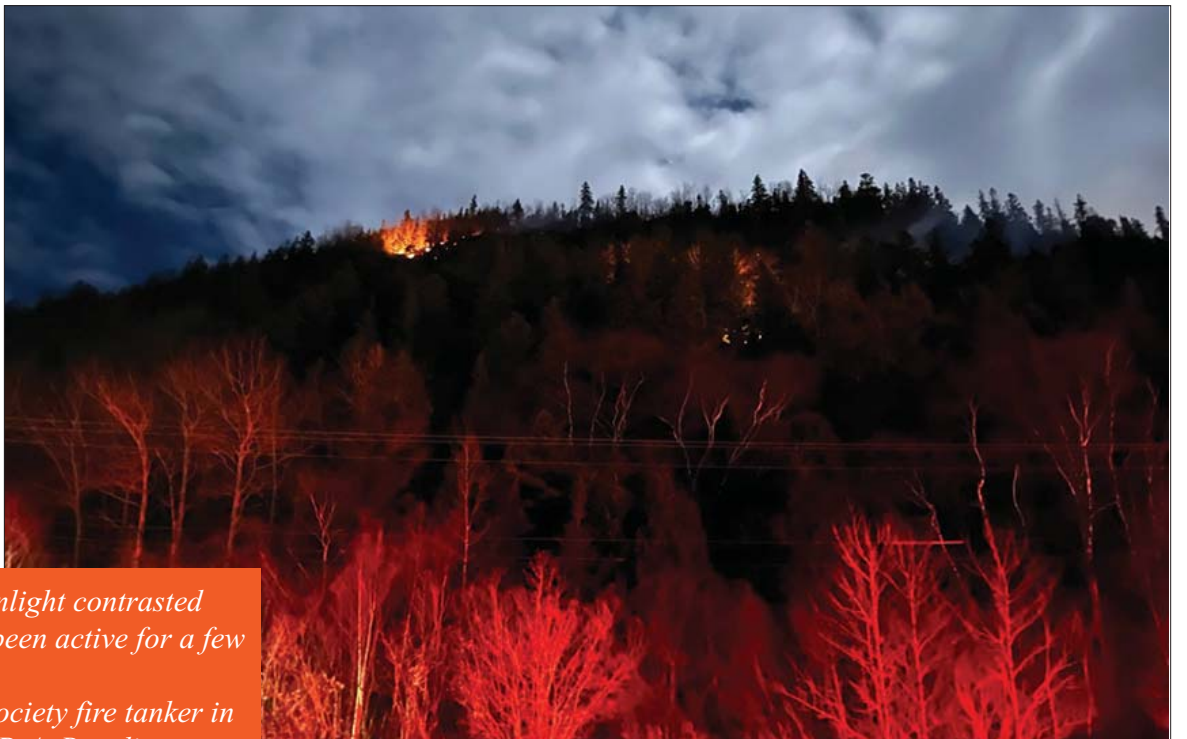
“If we look at the number of fires we have had since the beginning of November, to go to a year where we had a little more, we have to go to the 1980s. It goes back a long way,” recalls Ms. Gariépy.

Hot weather, dried leaves and winds are conducive to forest fires. “It’s like spring,” said the spokesperson.

**Photo 1:** The November 7 moonlight contrasted with the flames as the fire had been active for a few hours. Credit: Guy Bernatchez

**Photo 2:** A Forest Protection Society fire tanker in action on November 8. Credit: P. A. Beaulieu.

**Photo 2:** The flames were already less visible at noon on November 8. Credit: P. A. Beaulieu.



## WASTEWATER SPILLS:

## The Gaspé Peninsula does not rank favourably

NELSON SERGERIE

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Four Gaspesian municipalities are among the 10 Quebec municipalities for release intensity of wastewater discharges per capita in 2021.

Caplan, Chandler and Paspébiac are the top three in Quebec in this category, according to the Fondation Rivières ranking.

Caplan experienced 89 overflows for a per capita release intensity rate of 78.

“In Caplan, if the precipitation of rainwater causes overflows, it is recorded in our registers, whereas other municipalities do not register it,” affirms the Mayor Lise Castiloux.

The same pipe is used for sewers and rainstorm water, which causes overflows during heavy rains. Recognizing all the same that there is a problem, the municipality has been working for several years on the treatment of wastewater with the principle of aerated ponds.

The mayor hopes that the project will unblock (pan out?) in 2023. The latest estimates, which date back a few years, were at \$3 million.

“According to what I have seen in the subsidy programs, to be optimistic, it would be all, but realistically, it would be possibly 80% to 85%,” mentions the mayor.

In second place, Chandler

experienced 715 overflows, but has a discharge intensity rate per inhabitant of 56, while Paspébiac with 200 overflows shows a discharge intensity rate of 45 and is in third place.

The Town of Gaspé ranks seventh in the province. The largest municipality in the region experienced 548 episodes, but the size of its population results in a release intensity rate per inhabitant of 23.

The mayor, Daniel Côté, mentions that work is being done to improve the situation. “Every year, we make major investments in the sewage network to separate the storm pipes from the sanitary sewer pipes. When we separate the

pipes, it means that we can treat more wastewater at the plant. We are getting there gradually, respecting the ability of citizens to pay,” explains the mayor.

The overflow occurs during heavy rains, such as storm Fiona last September. The mayor partly blames Quebec.

“Everything has been authorized by the Ministry of the Environment for a long time. Several municipalities like ours have grid systems to treat wastewater that were recommended by the Ministry of the Environment until the early 2000s before being declared illegal. Today, it is as if it was the worst invention in the

world,” protests the mayor. Rivière-au-Renard has such a system.

“We are in the process of treating wastewater. It’s going to cost a fortune again. We will meet the requirements of the ministry in the hopes that they don’t change their minds in three years,” says Mr. Côté.

All these municipalities show a rate higher than 2020. In total, 15 Gaspesian municipalities discharged wastewater in 2021.

They include Grande-Rivière (intensity of 16.9), New Richmond (5.3), Matapédia (4.1), Bonaventure (2.6), Saint-Alphonse (2.1), Percé (1.1), Saint-Siméon (0.1) and Carleton-sur-Mer (0.02).



# LISTUGUJ ELECTION: Scott Martin defeats Darcy Gray

## Eleven of 12 councillors are re-elected

GILLES GAGNÉ

LISTUGUJ – Defeated by two votes in 2020, Scott Martin won the recent November 5 election in Listuguj, finishing ahead of incumbent Chief Darcy Gray by 20 votes in another hotly contested election. Mr. Martin, who has served terms in each of the previous two decades, received 661 votes, compared to 641 for Darcy Gray, who completed three terms.

Eleven of the 12 outgoing councillors were re-elected, they include: Annette Barnaby, (649 votes), Chad Gedeon (647), Wendell Metallic (593), Gordon Isaac Jr. (554), Cathy Martin (543), Alexander Morrison (489), Sheila Swasson (482), Ali Barnaby (475), Kevin Methot (472), George Martin (468) and Sky Metallic



Photo: Cathy Martin

*Shortly after his victory, elected chief Scott Martin was congratulated by Tribal Council Chief Gary Metallic. The Tribal Council mainly deals with land, Aboriginal titles and governance, the traditional form of governance which existed before the Confederation and treaties. Elected government under the Indian Act is basically an extended arm of the federal government to administer funding. The joining of the two chiefs will strengthen the claims to aboriginal titles, loss of land use and inherent rights to the land, according to re-elected councillor Cathy.*

(462). One new council member was elected. Irwin Peter Molley, received 505 votes.

Thirty-nine people ran for a council position during the election.

Election president Michel Poirier specifies that approximately 360 members of Listuguj who reside outside the community voted. “This figure includes a few people living in Listuguj but who voted by mail for various reasons. There are some members living all over the world, including many in the United States, and a member living in Switzerland voted. There are approximately 1,400 off-reserve members who were eligible to vote,” says Mr. Poirier. Nearly 3,700 names appear on the electoral list.

Finishing with the most votes among councilors, An-

nette Barnaby becomes Chief Councillor, an important leadership role in Listuguj. It was Chad Gedeon who filled this role between 2020 and 2022. Meanwhile, Wendell Metallic adds another term to his impressive record since he has been on the council since the 1990s.

For decades, the Listuguj election was essentially held in June but the postponement until November of the 2020 election due to the pandemic changed the schedule. In 1999, the early summer election was cancelled after a few months because the elected council couldn’t work together. The second election, held over the fall, put in place councillors who were able to collaborate. Allison Metallic was elected chief on both occasions.

# Liberal Christian Cyr deplores Dominique Anglade’s departure

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – Christian Cyr, the Liberal Party of Quebec spokesperson in the Gaspé Peninsula, deplores the November 7 departure of the party leader Dominique Anglade, who announced her resignation in a short speech in her downtown Montreal riding.

Mr. Cyr was the Liberal Party candidate in Bonaventure during the recent electoral campaign. He finished in fourth place. He was expecting the eventual departure of Dominique Anglade but he thought she would stay for six more months.

“I am not surprised, considering the electoral results in Quebec. It was evident that reflection period was needed, when we think of the loss of support in the francophone community. Dominique Anglade didn’t arrive during a sound period for the party. It was soon after the start of the pandemic and the visibility of opposition parties was then very limited. Now, it is difficult to recover from such a defeat,” says Christian Cyr.

He was close to her, being regularly consulted on regional issues, notably in the relevance of establishing a charter of regions.

“She had said that the current situation at the Liberal Party couldn’t last a year. However, her position was not clear. She hadn’t closed the door on

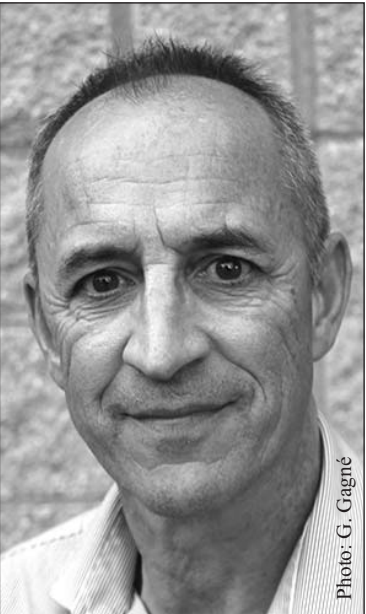


Photo: G. Gagné

*Christian Cyr states that it will take better teamwork if the Liberal Party wants to access power again.*

staying longer. I think that five or six months of tension at the head of the party would have been sufficient. However, just before her departure, it had become unbearable,” explains Mr. Cyr.

“We had a (Liberal Party) meeting 10 days ago, attended by 90 people. There was no attack against Dominique, more a questioning of the party. Germain Chevarie, the former Member of the National Assembly for the Magdalen Islands, pointed out that the party had always been nationalist in its way, and we must come back to that. The support is very weak in the francophone community,” he adds.

“Dominique worked a lot, a lot, especially for the regions,

developing the Charter of the Regions. She is a francophile, and her position on Bill 96 with regards to education in French was questioned. It became a sort of trap, not popular with the anglophone community and the ethnic minorities. It was perceived as an abandonment of support for them. The francization of immigrants is questioned by some members of the anglophone community and on the other hand, I know that some anglophones in Montreal love Quebec and the distinct character of Quebec. This (francization) should not be seen as an attack. It takes a well-worked approach and pedagogy to present it the right way,” underlines Mr. Cyr.

He will miss the straightforward exchanges he entertained with the former Liberal Party leader, who personally asked him to run in Bonaventure.

“I had a very good, constant bond for three years with Dominique Anglade. I was disappointed with the election results. I did not expect a victory, but better results. My disappointment had already passed when she and Marie-Claude Nichols (Vaudreuil riding MNA) were involved in a controversy. The mounting pressure that followed was unbearable for her (Anglade). She has a family. She came to her conclusion faster than she thought. She wanted to prepare the near future of the party but

that pressure accelerated and it became evident that things were to move pretty quickly,” further explains Christian Cyr. He admits that the Liberal Party should have reflected on its orientations a long time ago.

“Almost all the parties are centralized in Quebec City and Montreal. It goes from there. In the past, the Liberal Party was deployed in almost all regions with a militant base. We have to go back there. I had discussions with several Members of the National Assembly during the recent Liberal Party meeting and they are aware that they were in their bubble, alternating between the National Assembly and their Montreal riding, without regional links. During that meeting, we saw suggestions from the Lower Saint Lawrence and the Magdalen Islands. However, their ideas did not stick. At the party, it (decision-making) was too often up to Quebec City and Montreal. It takes more than willpower to rebuild the party. It takes action,” says Mr. Cyr.

Only a few over 5% of Quebec’s francophones voted for the Liberal Party at the last election, a proportion that is clearly insufficient to ever dream of forming another government one day, he assures.

“After 2018, there was an attempt to reconnect with the French-speaking population but there were shortcomings in other fields too. Political activism is based on volunteer-

ing. There are few people available for several hours a week to do activism. The volunteers’ reward is to see the party leader once in a while and, here, we had not seen an elected Liberal Party official in three or four years before the spring, in fact between May 2019 and June 2022. There was the pandemic. I am aware of that but we need more. Our 21 elected Members of the National Assembly are now the Liberal Party bearers of the message. We have to see them sometimes,” adds Christian Cyr.

He stresses that it is much too early to determine if he will run again in 2026. He hopes that the next leader will be a team person.

“Right now, nobody is registered in the race. The person could come from outside our ranks. There is plenty of criteria that will be put on the table. Do we need a superstar? I don’t necessarily believe that. It takes a skilled communicator and someone able to stimulate people’s emotions. It takes a good program that meets the needs of Quebec and the regions. It takes someone who will develop a good team. You cannot seek power without a team and try to surf on some kind of individual wave to reach power. I will not favour that. Politics is a means, and it takes several talented people to reach power,” concludes Mr. Cyr.



# Daniel Côté plays hero in France

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - While in France for political and economic reasons, the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, played the hero by subduing an individual who was out of control while riding in a high-speed train between Paris and Saint-Malo.

The incident occurred on November 2 when a man attracted attention by being ram-bunctious and talking very loudly, but without causing concern to passengers.

The individual was seated behind Daniel Côté.

A controller asked for the man's ticket and since the individual did not have one, the situation worsened and he started screaming before attacking a high speed train employee.

"Nobody was doing anything. I don't know by what force or in what way, but I intervened to try to save the controller from the grip of the aggressor. I mastered it with strength, under adrenaline," says Daniel Côté.

Subsequently, the turbulent passenger calmed down after this intervention and at the next station, the man was arrested by French officers, following a



Daniel Côté was in France to forge political and economic ties as mayor of Gaspé and president of the Union of Quebec Municipalities.

Photo: Facebook

complaint from the controller.

"It was from that moment that the information became public. I didn't want it to be public. For me, it is a civic act that has no connection with my function. Every time I go out as a volunteer firefighter in Gaspé, I don't want it to make the media. Nevertheless, it took on media coverage," says the mayor humbly.

His marshall arts training may have helped him. "Probably a few judo lessons helped, because that's how I instinctively overcame the person. It certainly didn't hurt," says the mayor.

He was in France to relaunch the twinning agreements between Gaspé and Saint-Malo but also to promote the twinning of cities in Quebec and France as part of his function as president of the Union of Quebec municipalities.

In particular, he took part in the general assembly of the international network *If all the ports of the world* on November 3 in Saint-Malo. Previously, he travelled to Paris and Bordeaux.

He was back in Gaspé to preside over the November 7 municipal council meeting.

## New Richmond updates 2022-2025 strategic plan

NELSON SERGERIE

NEW RICHMOND - New Richmond is updating its strategic plan following the November 2021 general election and new councillors being elected to the municipal council.

Two main items are being prioritized in this edition of the strategic plan, in the continuity of what already existed.

"The biggest project we want to work on in the next few years is a new municipal garage. There is also everything related to residential, commercial and industrial development. We have put in incentives for that component," notes the mayor, Éric Dubé.

### Housing projects

"We are embarking on a new development to accommodate housing. As far as incentives are concerned, we are keeping the existing programs: \$15,000 per door, plus \$10,000 at the regional level. We hope that in 2023, we will see our first homes raised from this financial aid," wishes the mayor.

The municipal garage



The municipal administration stresses that housing will be an important priority in the years to come.

Photo: G. Gagné

project is a long-term one as the council has been working on this file for several years now, but the priorities have been the swimming pool, the community centre, the Camp à Jos and the arena.

"The next step is the municipal garage," says the mayor, who will rely on government aid to make the project happen.

Coastal erosion is an issue, while the protection of the bridge that crosses the mouth of the Little Cascapédia River will have to be carried out.

Citizens will also have to make adjustments regarding their properties.

The mayor believes that in the long term, some residences could be moved.

"It is too early and we are not advanced enough to say which ones will have to be moved. It is not the municipality that does it, but Public Security. We are working with Public Security to try to adapt to climate change and predict the blows. We see more and more violent extremes. We saw it with Fiona in the Magdalen Islands. One

## Police report



Douglas Quirion 2010



Douglas Quirion 2022

Sûreté du Québec investigators from the Rocher-Percé MRC detachment proceeded on the morning of November 9 to arrest Douglas Quirion, a 60-year-old man from Gaspé, in relation to sexual offences.

Douglas Quirion appeared in court the same day by video-conference to face 13 charges of sexual assault, sexual contact and invitation to sexual contact. The events allegedly occurred between March 9, 1978, and April 17, 2011, in the municipality of Percé. "The accusations were laid following an investigation that involved five potential victims, four minors and an adult, when the crimes were perpetrated. We are not ruling out the possibility that the suspect may have had other victims, not identified at this time," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec.

The accused was allegedly active in the Percé sectors of Bridgeville, Barachois and Belle Anse. The victims were identified after an intervention by the investigators working for the department of serial crimes, a unit deployed and coordinated by the Sûreté du Québec.

This department works according to a unified command structure within which Quebec police services work in partnership to quickly identify crimes committed by predators in order to arrest them. Douglas Quirion was freed following his video court appearance, pending a set of conditions. He will be back at the Percé Courthouse on December 14. The Sûreté du Québec reminds the public, that at any time, they can also transmit information confidentially to the criminal information centre of the Sûreté du Québec at 1 800-659-4264.

According to the Coroner's Office report, released on November 9, an illegal manoeuvre, namely an attempt to pass another vehicle in a prohibited zone, claimed the life of Johanne Woods, 60, residing in Hope Town on June 21. The accident occurred on Highway 132 after the victim's vehicle collided with a minibus carrying 14 schoolchildren. Despite the impact, the children were not injured but the bus driver sustained a serious leg injury. One of the children was also sent to the hospital as a preventive measure.

Ms. Woods was driving a Ford Focus and she was alone in her vehicle when she made the decision to pass a car along a double line, while an oncoming minibus approached. The accident occurred around 3:45 p.m., near the end of the school year. According to the coroner's report, the victim was returning from seeing a friend in Grand River, had stopped at the Chandler hospital for an examination and had sent a relative a text message informing him that she had to change a flat tire. Later, she called him back to say that the tire had been changed and that she was coming home.

A driver travelling in the same direction as the victim mentions in the report having seen a white vehicle coming up behind him, trying to pass seven times before doing so, even though he was going at about 98 kilometres per hour. Witnessing the head-on collision, he turned around to assist those involved. Seriously injured, Johanne Woods was taken to the hospital in cardiopulmonary arrest. She was pronounced dead at 5:12 p.m. the same day. The accident occurred along a straight stretch of road, just west of the Fipec fishing gear fabrication plant.

day it will happen to us. We will have to make sure we are ready," says Mr. Dubé.

Other items included in the plan are the cultural component, sports and recreation, communications and human

resources.

Each sector has a priority list of interventions.

Mr. Dubé calculates that the Town's strategic plan amounts to about \$10 million.





Gilles Gagné

Commentary

It looks like climate issues are far from really urgent

The COP27, the 27th Conference of Parties on climate change, kicked off on November 6 in the Egyptian city of Sharm el-Sheikh with a few ambitious goals, notably to prove to the world’s population that the exercise is useful and can lead to an acceleration of the means deployed to slow down the occurrence pace of weather-related catastrophes.

Before the start of the two-week meeting and, for various reasons, a lot of observers and analysts expressed skepticism about the legitimacy and relevance of such an event. There are many reasons for that.

Such conferences have failed over the last 30 years at making countries respect their objectives. Pollution under many forms and greenhouse effect gas emissions, in particular, have increased in most industrialized countries. Very few of them have been able to either lower their emissions or respect their targets.

Well-intended resolutions are adopted during COPs but there are major shortcomings in actions that must then be undertaken to reach the necessary target of nullifying our carbon emissions as soon as possible.

Leaders of 196 countries have been meeting since November 6. Well, some countries are not represented by their president, prime minister, king, queen or any other type of top leaders. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, for instance, has decided to attend other forums. Canada is, therefore, represented by its Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault, a man who knows very well the main ecological stakes but whose hands seem tied by the commitment the country has recently made in oil and gas development.

There are two main types of meetings at COP27, and that reality is valid for previous and future such conferences.

On the one hand, the representatives of 196 countries, essentially top government people including civil servants, discuss their obligations, the efforts that must be deployed to reach those obligations and the support they must give to poorer countries that are not responsible for the disasters caused by the industrialized nations.

On the other hand, in other rooms, representatives of civil society movements, ecological groups, community-oriented organizations and a certain number of climate experts, share knowledge about what to do to lower the effects of climate change and make governments move faster.

That civil society side doesn’t often trust governmental people. For example, the organizers of COP27 accepted the sponsorship of Coca Cola, one of the least environmentally friendly companies in the world since switching from glass to plastic bottles. The firm produces tens of billions of such bottles annually, much to the detriment of the earth’s ecosystems. Coca Cola has also bought important sources of drinkable water in many parts of the world. It bottles that water and sells it at a higher price than... Coca Cola! Egypt is located in Africa, by the way, a continent where that company is increasingly strong.

The COP27 organizers have also accepted the participation of up to 600 oil lobbyists, who will attend the Conference. Officially, these lobbyists are there to exchange knowledge about carbon capture but let’s not be naive, they are present to influence people, and to slow down the hydrocarbons’ transition process. They are green-washing experts.

As mentioned above, Justin Trudeau is not even going to Sharm el-Sheikh! It might be to escape embarrassment, as the country invited representatives of six oil companies to take a space in one of the country’s booths. It is embar-

assing indeed. Justin Trudeau was claiming at the COP 21 in Paris that Canada is back. Back to do what? Promote oil? The main factor with the consumption of coal explains the rise in greenhouse gas emissions in the world!

They are the same oil companies that increase prices together at gas stations, the firms that have, therefore, demonstrated collusion schemes since the oil shock of 1973. The Canada-based oil companies attending COP27 are responsible for 95% of the polluting emissions stemming from Alberta’s tar sands.

Canada shows one of the worst records of greenhouse gas emissions in the world, along with the United States, Australia, the United Arab Emirates and Luxembourg, each generating 20 tonnes per capita or more.

The Government of Canada handed out \$11.5 billion in direct grants to the country’s oil companies in 2021. None of the 20 most industrialized countries, except for Japan, is supporting its oil industry. Canada was supposed to phase out grants to oil firms by the beginning of 2023, according to a commitment made by the Liberal Party government. This is in month-and-a-half! At the same time, oil companies based in Canada have doubled or tripled their profits over the third quarter of 2022.

All those factors undoubtedly prompted Justin Trudeau to miss COP27! This sad reality brings us to a relevant question? Should world countries still organize and attend the COPs?

COPs have the advantage of bringing the spotlight towards environmental stakes, however stupid the position of some countries remain. Such conferences have a catalyst on some firms, individuals, banks and countries.

How can we go faster? There is no magic solution. For now, we see an unbelievably slow policy of small steps.

It contrasts with the fact that almost all resolutions are adopted unanimously during COPs. The follow-up is painful though because most countries don’t respect the resolution content. Canada is a champion in that regard. So, people caring about the environment must adjust their expectations even if we face an emergency. The reality of the latest weather events is a merciless reminder.

In addition to that, we are far from the worst victims of our neglect, since the countries located in the southern hemisphere suffer much more than us, despite their low responsibility in that mess.

Is it necessary to create another forum than the COPs? For now, we can’t scrap COPs because the G7 and the G20, the world’s seven and twenty most industrialized countries, as well as the International Monetary Fund, are not holding specific reflections about climate-change issues. In the mind of the people running those organizations, there are unfortunately more urgent topics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Accommodation for First Nations

In October, we were invited to a meeting at the Ministry of Natural Resources which was a first in many, many years. Getting such an invitation would leave one to believe that maybe they are finally going to have some good news for us. NOT!

What we got is a “song and dance” about how Quebec’s Ministry of Natural Resources has come up with this new formula, this new approach for the distribution of volumes of wood. All was very colourful and interesting but it produced the same results for us, which means nothing.

Considering that the Migmaw people have never ceded title to their land, we obviously feel unjustly treated to say the very least. We continue to watch truckload after truckload of wood being taken from our territory, year after year, decade after decade, and year after year we continue to ask for an increase in the volume of wood for our community of Gesgapegiag.

We continue to get the same answer which is “NO, we have nothing for YOU.”

What is crazy is that the mills would not even lose wood by providing us with additional volumes of wood because, at the end of the day, the wood would still go to their

mills anyway. Receiving our rightful share would provide us, the Gesgapegiag Migmaw the opportunity to create jobs and revenue for our people.

There is something immoral about preventing us from contributing to the development of the regions. We do not want to be just a cultural phenomenon. We want to be active partners and contributors to the development of the region. It is becoming very clear that we will not receive anything unless we resort to more aggressive and disruptive strategies.

When is Quebec and its Ministry of Natural Resources going to treat First Nations with some dignity and respect for who we are? The Migmaw signed Treaties of Peace and Friendship with the intent of sharing what we have. We didn’t sign these treaties so we could watch you extract everything you can from our lands while we get denied fair access to our own resources.

Thank you for nothing, Quebec!  
Chief John Martin

We love wild birds and enjoy watching them be wild. We attract them with what they need in nature. Hummingbirds need nectar from lilies, bluebells, fireweed, daffodils, apple and pea blossoms, monkshood, as well as sap from woodpecker holes in poplar, birch or maple and insects, including mosquitoes, who are also pollinators. Others need chokecherries, pimbins, mountain ash fruit, elderberries, rosehips and insects. Bird feeders prevent them from playing their important ecological roles and from being self-sufficient, as is the case for any birds, any season.

«Biodiversity may be reduced where a subset of species becomes dominant...there may be negative effects, for example, increased disease transmission and malnutrition... and the zoonotic (animal to human diseases) risks to people. Aggressive encounters can increase within or between species...» PNAS

Avian flu is spreading to marine mammals in the St. Lawrence River and to bears in the Gaspé. A first human case of avian flu has been detected, and the virus could mutate and more easily infect people. -Radio-Canada

«Feeding birds can increase the spread of disease in three ways: by causing them to come in closer contact, by causing increased defecation that harbors bacteria that are responsible for numerous diseases, and moldy bread can cause a fatal lung infection...» Google Salmonella occurs too. -BC SPCA; www.aarp.org 6 Reasons to Think Twice Before Getting a Bird Feeder Ticks become a big problem also. www.aarp.org

Bears, raccoons, squirrels, other rodents and raptors are attracted to bird feeders, creating conflicts and putting birds and people in danger with «unnatural congregations of birds» BC SPCA «Bird feeders can...alter migratory behavior, help invasive species out-compete natives and give predators...easy access to birds and their nestlings.» PBS Nature

Upsetting the balance of nature is always bad. Let’s love wild birds naturally!

Margret Grenier, Noël Grenier  
Douglastown, Qc

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# VIA Rail adds buffer cars to each end of its trains due to structural damage to stainless steel cars

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - Some VIA Rail passenger trains have become longer in the last month. However these trains are not carrying more people. They are longer because a structural failure detected on some stainless steel cars has prompted the public carrier to place empty buffer cars at the ends of the trains!

The problem, likely a consequence of wear and tear rather than a manufacturing defect, was detected prior to the pandemic, but VIA Rail's communications department refuses to say when and who identified it. The federal corporation also refuses to say why it did not clearly inform the public of this way of operating a significant portion of its trains. According to information gathered by the SPEC, the structural failure takes the form of a crack of a few centimetres very close to the bogies of the cars, at a place where the stainless steel was welded to the regular steel covering the upper part of these bogies, above the wheels. The problem affects sleeping cars, coaches, dining cars and baggage cars.

Eric Gagnon, an author and blogger with a passion for rail transportation, says there are currently six stainless steel train sets operating in the Quebec City-Windsor corridor on varying routes. About the same number of trains also feature the addition of buffer cars elsewhere in the country.

"In the Quebec City-Windsor corridor, you're going to see these trains between Quebec City and Montreal, Montreal and Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, and then between Ottawa and Toronto. They're also on the routes between Toronto and Windsor," says Mr. Gagnon, who has written four books on VIA Rail, "but I'm not connected to VIA, I assure you."

Trains between Montreal and Abitibi, Montreal and the Saguenay, Montreal and Halifax, Toronto and Vancouver, Prince George and Prince Rupert, as well as the train between Winnipeg and Churchill, are notably affected by the inclusion of buffer cars. The Montreal to Gaspé train was also using the same type of stainless steel cars before the service was suspended in September 2013.

## Old rolling stock

Almost all of VIA Rail's

stainless steel cars were built in the 1950s. They make up roughly one-third of VIA Rail's fleet of about 500 passenger cars, between 175 and 180 units, plus a few automotive cars. The main manufacturer of all these stainless steel units is Budd, an American company.

The directive to use the buffer cars was issued on October 12, two days after Thanksgiving, even though VIA Rail has known about the structural problem for at least three years. Trains using Renaissance and LRC cars are not affected by the requirement to add buffer cars, as no structural cracks have been found in these cars.

VIA Rail has not issued a press release outlining its new operating procedures. To the SPEC, the company responds in general terms that "based on the results of an external engineering report, which confirms that our stainless steel cars can be safely used under normal operating conditions, VIA Rail has implemented a plan to proactively address structural issues with its aging stainless steel car fleet and ensure continued safe rail operations."

Eric Gagnon comments almost daily on the issue on his blog, *Trackside Treasure*, followed mostly by other rail enthusiasts in Canada. It was through contacts in the railroad community and observations by him and these enthusiasts about structural problems with some of the carriers' cars that he was able to document the details.

"It's certainly not from VIA Rail, which is keeping a lid on the matter. What I find frustrating is that nothing clear has been communicated by VIA Rail about this. We pay for VIA Rail, as taxpayers or users. It's a safety issue for the passengers and we don't see anything published about it," says Eric Gagnon who lives in Kingston, Ontario.

"I started talking about it more openly on my blog (on Oct. 13) and that may have been what prompted VIA Rail to consult with Transport Canada about what needed to be done publicly to talk about the buffer cars," Mr. Gagnon says.

Transport Canada, which has a division that deals with rail safety, issued a ministerial order on October 19 that went almost completely unnoticed.

This order provides some guidance on how to place buffer cars in a train to minimize the impact on passenger cars in the event of a collision.

The document recommends that crash simulations be conducted by experts and that stress tests be conducted on four cars with cracks to see if they expand. A preliminary report on these tests is due January 31, 2023.

Experts are also to perform compression tests on two cars with cracks to see if they meet the requirements of the Association of American Railroads, a regulatory authority. Here, a preliminary report must also be prepared by January 31 and a final report must be submitted for both types of testing by March 31, 2023.

The ministerial order states that VIA Rail and the experts retained for the tests will have to compression-test at least one repaired stainless steel car, validate the methodology used and determine a course of action for all cars to be repaired by December 31, 2023, which is 13.5 months away.

## Uncertainty and secrecy worse than danger

VIA Rail's guidelines communicated only to its customers have "temporarily" prohibited pets from entering the baggage car since October 12. The baggage car serves as a buffer car when there is one in the train and, as a result, it is not accessible to any passenger or VIA Rail employee while the train is in motion. Passengers carrying their medication and usually placing it in a suitcase in the baggage car are asked to keep their medication with them.

## What VIA Rail refuses to answer

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - When it comes to the use of buffer cars, VIA Rail refuses to answer simple, fairly basic questions that are in the public interest, says Eric Gagnon.

VIA more often than not operates on the basis of answering questions in writing, which leaves some latitude in terms of whether or not they are willing to answer. In fact, VIA Rail has responded to only one of the 11 questions sent in an email by SPEC.

It is, therefore, not possible to know when this problem was detected, how many cars are characterized by this problem and, consequently, what is the proportion of 180 or 185 stainless steel cars with cracks.

VIA Rail does not further answer questions as to the cause of the problem, and



Photo: Eric Gagnon

*Trains with buffer cars generally have the same profile as a regular train, except that these empty buffer cars make the train longer.*

Eric Gagnon would be surprised if the cracks on some of the cars are a real danger to passengers, but he is not sure. He notes that an engineering firm, Hatch, was commissioned by VIA Rail to study the issue, and it was this firm that suggested the guidelines in effect since October 12.

"What is troubling is VIA Rail's silence on an issue that remains important to the safety of riders until the Hatch report is available," he said.

Observers reporting on his *Trackside Treasure* blog have expressed seeing buffer cars being directed to Ottawa for testing, which will take place at the National Research Council. VIA Rail's public relations department does not indicate why the issue of cracks in the stainless steel cars has not been made public.

In writing, the carrier states that "the deployment of this safety plan is already underway. Beforehand, VIA Rail

shared this plan and agreed on its direction with the Canadian rail safety regulator, with whom VIA Rail has communicated on a regular basis, as reflected in the Transport Canada order. The company has also proactively shared this plan with its health and safety policy committees and union leaders," the carrier added by email.

Finally, VIA Rail says it has "also established a joint technical working group composed of current and former VIA Rail employees, union representatives and Hatch representatives. This group will assist the company in analyzing and implementing the engineering firm's recommendations, including overseeing the measurements, interpreting the results of the comprehensive inspection process, and participating in the development of a potential repair program."

The SPEC has learned that some of the stainless steel cars are already repaired.

whether it is known. It is also not possible to know how many cars have been repaired so far and to have an idea of the time frame needed to fix them.

The Gaspé SPEC has asked VIA Rail, without any success, to clarify whether any cars have been permanently removed from service in connection with the cracks.

The newspaper consulted the *Trackside Treasure* blog in which it is mentioned, with a photo, that the CAD workshops in Montreal were chosen to repair some of the damaged cars but VIA Rail does not specify if other workshops were selected to do this work, when asked about it.

VIA Rail communication department also would not say how long it plans to keep the cars in daily service. With the busy holiday season approach-

ing, VIA Rail is also refusing to say whether all these empty buffer cars will create a shortage of rolling stock.

**Unacceptable neglect**  
Jacques Vandersleyen, a lecturer in project management at the Université du Québec à Rimouski and a seasoned observer of the rail transportation scene, deplores VIA Rail's continued silence in this matter and does not believe that the use of buffer cars will profoundly change the outcome of a potential collision.

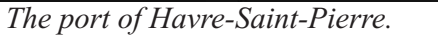
"In the case of a head-on collision, it will be fine, but in the case of a side impact, the buffer car will be useless. Overall, I don't understand why VIA Rail has reached such a

Cont'd on page 7



**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

“This is a project that calls for the contribution of the private sector. We are very happy to count on the expertise of the Groupe Océan as an advisory partner in this project,” says the



“Imagine the tourist loop with Forillon, Mingan, Anticosti Island, Bonaventure Island-Percé and the Parc de la Gaspésie. Imagine the potential for attractiveness, retention,

“We are presenting a shuttle project and the way of operating will be at the choice of the

The project had a first

The infrastructure costs

The potential customers had been estimated at nearly 33,000 on an annual basis for the period 2025-2030.

The objection must be in writing, specify the interest of the objector and contain all the reasons on which it is made. It must be served in accordance with the Code de procedure civil (Chapter C-25.01) on the proponent of the work before December 24th, 2022 5:00PM (Atlantic time) and forwarded to the Minister of Transportation with proof of service.



# Family Ties

## Golden Games Afternoons

### *Activities for Seniors*

Family Ties is pleased to present monthly  
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Please join us:

**Wednesday, November 23rd, 2022**

**1:30-3:30 PM**

**Online by Zoom**  **zoom**

**Tablets & all materials will be delivered**



\*Space is limited. Please RSVP by  
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Melissa Mercier at 418-752-8891  
or by private message to the Family Ties  
Facebook page.



This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's  
New Horizons for Seniors Program





# 2022 season not as bad as predicted financially for shrimp fishermen

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – Lower fuel costs during the height of the fishing season will have averted a financial catastrophe for shrimp fishermen this year.

“If we talk about profitability, it is sure that it will not be a good year. On the other hand, it was not as catastrophic as we feared at the beginning of the year,” says the director of the Office of Shrimp Fishermen of Quebec, Patrice Element.

Two main factors explain this situation: a better agreement for the landed price with processors and the price of fuel, which fell during the summer contrary to what was expected.

“Overall, without having seen the numbers for each of the fishing companies, I expect that we will achieve marginal profitability or, in others, a manageable deficit. There is no one who will get rich, but there is no one who will go bankrupt either,” illustrates Mr. Element.



Photo: N. Sergerie

*2022 shrimp season was not as bad as anticipated.*

In the Estuary zone, the fishing was excellent. In the Sept-Îles zone, catches lived up to expectations.

In Anticosti, it was variable, but the last few weeks were interesting. “The shrimp that normally are relatively small in this area seem to be a bit better in terms of size,” says Element.

The quota which was lowered to 15,812 tonnes this year, down 12% from last year,

should be wholly caught.

Next year, a further drop of 8% has already been announced for a total of 14,524 tonnes.

“We would like to be able to convince Fisheries and Oceans (Canada) that the reduction for next year is not justified. But as it was announced in a clear way, I don't know if we will be able to make changes at this level,” says Mr. Element realistically.

# Seabiosis chosen among 200 companies to enter IGAs

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - A Carleton-sur-Mer company has been chosen from among 18 Quebec companies to join the IGA grocery store chain as part of its Local Accelerator program.

Seabiosis has been selected out of nearly 200 applications for the promotion of Gaspé seaweed as an eco-responsible sea vegetable. The company has been active in that field since 2016.

Its product line includes pesto, marinades and seaweed salad, among other things.

“I never let a great opportunity slip away. I looked at that and I said to myself that it is really perfect for our business projects to be able to enter into a banner but also with support and to improve our product proposal,” says the director general, Élisabeth Varennes.

“What really is a plus for us with our Gaspesian seaweed products is really the Gaspé and Quebec signature. It is a mixture of these aspects that got us selected,” adds Ms. Varennes.



Photo: Courtesy of Seabiosis

*Seabiosis products will gradually be on the shelves of IGA grocery stores over the next year.*

Entering a chain that has hundreds of branches is no small feat.

“It's not going to happen overnight. It's perfect for us because it will allow us to get there gradually and, if necessary, to perhaps adapt our products for the chain.

That's what we're going to work on. We have growth projects that are perfectly in line with this program,” says the general manager.

The past has shown that it was very difficult for a small local business to enter supermarkets, but the pandemic and the openness towards local consumption may have allowed this opening.

For the moment, Seabiosis does not know when its products will hit IGA shelves.

“We are really at the begin-

ning. We just got the news. It's a brand new program. There are 18 companies. I understand they have multiple companies to sit down with and make custom game plans. We are ready to take the time to do things well so that it works and that it lasts,” says Ms. Varennes.

“This is really where we are. We seem to be going. We are solid. It will help accelerate the growth curve,” hopes the young entrepreneur.

IGA launched the Local Accelerator program in March 2022 in a desire to promote local products.

The grocery chain will make use of its human, material and financial resources to support the companies chosen in the various stages surrounding the development and marketing of their product.

# October weather was spectacular once again

Nelson Sergerie, LJI  
GASPÉ - The month of October was simply exceptional in Gaspé according to Environment Canada, the average temperature recorded at the Gaspé airport was 8.8°C, while the normal is 5.6°C. The 3.2 degree difference is considered exceptional by the federal agency. In fact, only the Mont-Joli region recorded a higher deviation with 4 degrees above normal for October in Quebec.

Unsurprisingly, three temperature records were set during the month: on October 22, the mercury posted 20.0°C beating the 18.9°C record of 1979; on October 23, the 1957 mark of 20.0°C was matched; on October 26, the thermometer reached 24.3°C surpassing the 22.6°C record of 1991 and, on October 27, it was 22°C exceeding the 18.6°C record set in 2000.

In terms of precipitation, Gaspé received only 76% of the normal precipitation total for the month with 93 millimetres rather than the usual 121 millimetres.

Note: Gaspé receives an average of four centimetres of snow in October. No flurries were seen at Michel-Pouliot airport last month.

October 2022 followed the same tangent as October 2021 when the monthly average was 8.5°C and only 79.6 millimetres of rain fell.

## VIA RAIL: Cont'd from page 5

critical point. We have outdated, obsolete rolling stock that no longer meets standards. We are witnessing a total neglect in the planning and renewal of the VIA Rail fleet, even with the recent arrival of new units delivered by Siemens. We saw it more than 20 years ago with the Renaissance cars that were rejected for the Night Star service in England but that we bought here,” says Mr. Vandersleyen.

He sees it as a common route taken by the Canadian and Quebec Departments of Transport, or the Department of National Defence.

“We see it for icebreakers,

ferries, Navy ships and Canadian Forces aircraft. We always wait not until the last minute, but until it's too late. It's the same thing, the same pattern as for submarines. We bought four piles of scrap, not operational,” says Jacques Vandersleyen.

Returning to VIA Rail, he adds that this piecemeal approach to management also has a profound effect on service in rural areas.

“VIA Rail is not interested in returning to the regions such as the Gaspé Peninsula. Except for the corridor (Quebec City-Windsor), they are not interested in serving areas where the profit/loss ratio would be less advantageous, even if it (the service) is useful,” he concludes.

# A Quiet Summer for Wildfires

Nelson Sergerie, LJI  
BAIE-COMEAU - The area devastated by forest fires on the Gaspé Peninsula will be much smaller in 2022.

This is indicated in the Society for the Protection of Forests against Fire (SOPFEU) report which was unveiled on November 3.

Thus, 14 fires were reported this summer which burned four hectares of forest while the norm is 13 fires for an area of 13.4 hectares. “It was the weather that helped us mainly. We had a start to the season with little heat in May, but then it was a summer where we had a lot of rain. It was very humid. Mother Nature was on our side,” states Sopfeu spokesperson Isabelle Gariépy.

Most fires were started by humans. “People are going to do burns. They think they will be able to control it. A gust of wind arrives and, unfortunately, it goes towards the forest. Recreational fires still make up a good portion of the percentages of human-caused fires. When it comes to recreational fires, we think of the infamous campfire that was poorly extinguished. There was just a little smoke coming out and we thought everything was fine. We forgot to water it. The wind has arrived, the embers have dispersed and, unfortunately, this is what causes human-caused fires,” illustrates the spokesperson.

With this relatively quiet summer, forest firefighters, especially those in Bonaventure, have lent a hand to their colleagues during fires in Western Canada and also after the passage of Hurricane Fiona.

“There have been needs in the Maritimes, in Nova Scotia, where we have sent firefighters who do cutting in their work. They went to help cut down the trees that had fallen and make sure to do a good job of cleaning up,” says Ms. Gariépy.



# 10% of CISSS workers absent for health reasons

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PASPÉBIAC – Even if the absence rate of workers from the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre exceeds 10%, the health network has managed to keep open the 186 beds distributed in the region's four hospital centres.

The absence rate for health reasons reached 10.3% of the 3,953 employees, which represents precisely 407 workers.

Since the creation of the CISSS on April 1, 2015, the absenteeism rate of staff members, if we obviously exclude the more active period of the pandemic, has always been higher than the provincial average.

The figure of 10.3% seems high but the Ministry of Health has added elements to take into account to establish the calculation.

According to data compiled by the organization at the request of SPEC, the salary insurance rate is 6.9%, which is slightly higher than the target set by the Ministry of Health at 6%. This rate was 8% in October 2016, which is an improvement in this regard.

On the other hand, the department has added to the calculation workers who are withdrawn from work due to a disability covered by the insurance plan of the Standards,

Equity and Occupational Health and Safety Commission. (CNESST) and maternity leave.

Thus, 2.2% of personnel are on the CNESST plan while 1.3% of workers are on maternity-related leave for a total of 3.5%, whereas the standard established by Quebec for these two absence categories is 2%.

In the data transmitted, the CISSS notes an increase of 20 maternity leaves this year compared to last year, which the organization doesn't perceive as a negative factor.

From an overall perspective, the department is aiming for a rate of 8% for all reasons for absence.

Despite these 407 absent workers, no beds are closed for this reason in the hospitals of the region.

In large centres, some establishments have to close beds due to the scarcity of

labour, but the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS mentions that the 186 beds are available.

The only exception is obstetrics in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, which has been

experiencing a break in service since October 12, but we are not talking about closed beds as such.

No other service is experiencing a reduction in pace,

even if the situation is fragile. There is a lack not only of nursing staff, but also of social workers, specialized educators, and occupational therapists, for example.



Photo: Anne Audet

New Richmond's Christmas activities begin on November 19 and will extend until January 1, 2023 inclusively.

## New Richmond's Noël in Gaspésie event back for the 20th time

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The Town of New Richmond will hold, for the 20th time, its "Noël en Gaspésie" activities between November 19 and January 1, inclusively. The program for that "Christmas in the Gaspé Peninsula" event was recently unveiled and it will kickoff on November 19 at 4 p.m. with the traditional lighting of the tree at the New Richmond town hall.

Many cultural, sporting, outdoor and even culinary activities will be offered to entertain young and old alike throughout the festivities. The exciting Santa Claus Parade, the Christmas Market and Disco on Ice are back for the pleasure of attendees. There are several new features this year, including a laser tag activity with the "Anim'action" group at the Bois-Vivant school gymnasium, a "Diamond painting" activity with the Cercle de fermières as well as an introduction to a newly popular sport, pickleball.

The diverse and colourful Christmas program in Gaspésie can be consulted at [noelengaspesie.com](http://noelengaspesie.com) and [villenewrichmond.com](http://villenewrichmond.com) as well as at the respective social networks.



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# A national award for a producer from Gaspé

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Producer and director Dasha Vymetalova received an award of excellence from the Quebec Religious Heritage Council in the Enhancement category for her documentary *D'hier à demain – nos églises* (From yesterday to tomorrow – our churches).

With her production company *Dá Média*, Ms. Vymetalova presents, through 10 episodes, the problem of the transformation and the future of places of worship on the tip of the Gaspé, from Grande-Vallée to Grande-Rivière.

The many specialists in different fields and the integration of striking images of buildings of great value constitute a great initiative for this broadcasting network.

“I was touched by several interviews at the time when we really heard a heartfelt cry. I thought it would be interesting to share their opinions and thoughts with the general public. That's why I thought it would be interesting to make this series of documentaries,”



Photo: Igor Nérissou

*Dasha Vymetalova poses with the president of Patrimoine Gaspésien, Jean-Marie Fallu.*

explains Ms. Vymetalova.

The limited production budget led Ms. Vymetalova to choose to focus on the tip of the Gaspé by presenting nine churches and a presbytery.

“I wanted to demonstrate the difficulties at the beginning when the communities are in reflection, but I also wanted to show the possibili-

ties of reconversion. This is why we show the Anse-au-Griffon church where the project is advanced or the churches that are already transformed. I wanted to show the light at the end of the tunnel,” says the director.

“I am extremely moved to receive this national award. It is a great honour. I would like

to offer it to all the communities and parishes that are looking for the solution for the reconversion of their churches,” she explained while receiving her prize on November 6 at the church of Anse-au-Griffon, which will be transformed into a community centre.

For Patrimoine Gaspésien, this is an opportunity to reflect on the fate of religious temples that have been beacons for communities.

“But we know that we cannot keep them all. The best way to preserve them is to give them a second life. Some will maintain it as a place of worship. It is still necessary despite the desacralization of a church to keep a duty of memory so that we remember that these buildings have served for generations as a place of worship,” justifies its president, Jean-Marie Fallu.

The example of Anse-au-Griffon is a good one for the future, says Mr. Fallu.

The protection of heritage must be supported by the municipalities in the first instance. He feels that they are

cautious in these files.

“Each town, like the Town of Gaspé, should have a heritage development plan. We never had that. In the years to come, there will be elements of the built heritage to be preserved. Already upstream, set up a plan to better preserve and enhance, with the communities, elements of our built heritage. Otherwise, we react rather than act,” says Mr. Fallu.

“The church will change its model. It will become different. We are in a building that will become different. It will be able to continue to be welcoming to the parishioners, but as another vocation. We have to arrive at this almost everywhere throughout the diocese. It's even everywhere in Quebec. We must seek to ensure that our buildings built by the local population can be preserved as far as possible or become something else, but at least that it is of use to the population,” mentions Bishop Gaétan Proulx who was on site at the Heritage Council award ceremony.

## CASA continues to support anglo-Gaspésians

**DIANE SKINNER**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

ESCUMINAC: CASA's Annual General Meeting and Cultural Showcase took place on Wednesday, September 21, at Fleurant Point Hall in Escuminac. At 4 p.m., family activities were offered along with a wine and cheese reception. The business portion of the meeting was held from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.. This was followed by a BBQ and live music, a cultural showcase and, at 9 p.m., a Campfire Jam Session which rounded out a full evening of events.

President of the Board of CASA, Fred Kirch, mentioned the impact of working through COVID and how the staff, management and Board of Directors adapted to ensure that the English-speaking community continued to be effectively supported. The Board continued to meet via Zoom. Management and staff worked from home when required and devised new ways to communicate with community members while continuing to deliver services.

A positive “side effect” meant that with fewer people in the office it was possible to complete planned renovations and construction of a new mul-

tifunctional space and sound studio for community use in the New Carlisle offices.

President Fred Kirsch pointed out that many hours were dedicated to updating CASA's strategic plan which will guide the organization for the next three years.

Executive Director Allen Richards pointed out that the year 2021-2022 saw a great deal of change at CASA, including a new Executive Director. Allen Richards stated that it was a “challenge to start in my role during the last stages of the pandemic. With evolving rules about in-person work and activities, it seemed like new things were popping up daily. Over the year, however, CASA's team continued to meet each challenge and obstacle with the resolve and professionalism that has made this organization what it is.” Over the past 12 months, 34 funding agreements were signed, an increase to 24 employees, and activities and meetings held throughout the region and province.

### Year in Review

CASA's Financial Report reports a 10% increase in budget, with 24 employees and two offices (New Carlisle and



Photo: Courtesy of CASA

*Fred Kirch is the president of CASA.*

Escuminac). Program and project revenue was \$1,627,887 and the fiduciary revenue \$2,001,550. Greater organizational capacity was aided by building renovations, new office space in Escuminac, HR development and improved technology.

Over 50 activities for pre-K and kindergarten students (Early Childhood) in five schools, 15 partnerships and collaboration with organizations and over 400 participants in 24 community-based activities and events were offered

through the Bright Beginnings programs. In the area of Arts, Culture and Heritage, 18 bilingual heritage videos were created, 17 art workshops held and 113 artists and artisans were supported.

Support for Seniors was held in nine municipalities with 185 participants. An outreach worker had 33 regular clients and over 2,000 requests for information. Telephone support was available through the Forget Me Not initiative. Eighteen volunteers were trained, 22 seniors were contacted on a

regular basis and almost 700 telephone calls were made to support seniors who may be socially isolated.

In the area of Employment and Training, 208 youth were supported in their job searches and 54 workshops were offered to youth.

The Health and Social Services area provided support to 32 health professionals, 53 community members directly supported through patient navigation and liaison services, and seven new partnerships were established.

The Gaspesian Way offered over 30 tourism events that were held to promote the English-speaking community and almost 3,000 followers are informed by the Gaspesian Way through social media.

The current Board of Directors is Fred Kirch (President), Stella Kennedy (Vice President), David Douesnard (Treasurer), Carl Garrett (Secretary), Douglas Hunt, Tony Conoley, Carissa Dempsey and Nancy Doddridge.

Guided by their strategic plan and supported by many partnerships developed over the years, CASA is in a strong position to continue to address the needs of English-speaking Gaspésians.



# Vision Gaspé-Percé Now AGM

● **DIANE SKINNER**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

DOUGLASTOWN: The AGM for Vision Gaspé-Percé Now was held on Thursday, September 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Douglastown Community Centre. It was ‘in person’ only and approximately 40 people attended. During Vision’s AGMs, an award is presented to a community volunteer who is nominated by the community. This year’s recipient was Janet Harvey.

VGPN is a strong advocate for the English-speaking community, working with local and regional partners to ensure access to equitable services, while generating opportunities to promote the social, economic and cultural vitality of the community. They serve all ages from Gaspé to Corner of the Beach, including Murdochville.

**As an organization they are committed to:**

- Developing and providing complementary health and social services to the community;
- Provide information regarding existing health and social services;
- Bringing together the English-speaking people of the area in order to preserve their history, protect their rights, promote their economic development and preserve their access to health and social services;
- Fostering collaboration between the English-speaking community and their francophone and Mi’gmaq neighbours, advancing common causes and to carry out common projects;
- Communicating the overriding needs of the community to health and social service providers;
- Promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the English-speaking communities present within the territory.

Their current financial position is very positive. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Vision received two new major sources of funding: Canadian Heritage Program Funding and program funding from the Secretariat for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers under the Enhancing Regional Community Capacity. Our total revenues were \$668,000, up from \$515,000, which is mainly due to the two new funding sources.

**The programs they offer include:**

- Bright Beginnings: activities, workshops, services and information for 0-17 and their families.
- Early Childhood/Family/



Photo: Courtesy of VGPN

*At the AGM, Executive Director of Vision, Jessica Synott (right), was awarded a 10-year recognition of her time with Vision; and volunteer, Janet Harvey (left), was recognized as Volunteer of the Year, highlighting her dedication and passion in working towards the vitality of her community.*

- Youth (15-29) activities: prenatal information and services for women/spouses/family.
- Wellness Centres for Seniors (50+) in different parts of our territories: Barachois Wellness Centre, Gaspé Wellness Centre, Murdochville Wellness Centre.
  - Caregiver support/workshops.
  - DADventures – workshops, activities and events for dads/parental figures and their children
  - Digital Literacy – helps people understand and get comfortable with new technology.
  - Arts & Culture – promote and collaborate with the community to support its art and culture.
  - Men’s Outreach - This project is intended to make sure that the needs of men in our community are heard, assessed, and compiled and to encourage men to participate in community activities (particularly anglophones). From this, Vision intends to develop programming to meet these needs. Although this project began just as COVID restrictions began to tighten, and we were limited in the number and nature of activities we can offer, we can see some momentum building.
  - McGill Program – Retention Bursary for students going into or currently studying in health-care or social services inside or outside the region. They must return to the region to work for a year after school (CEGEP,

- university and vocational studies).
- CHSSN Travel4Health - Partnership with CASA for Patient Navigator project: act as a resource for anglophones who are required to travel for health-care.
  - Gaspesian Voices project – Tom Eden hosted/created a podcast series that features different community members who share their Gaspesian stories.
  - EDUCALOI - Éducaloi provides legal information on topics of interest to community members. The goal of this partnership is to ensure that people are aware of the specifics of the law and how it affects individual circumstances.
  - Frozen meals – provide support to our partners who run the program.

Vision has 12 staff members under the leadership of Executive Director Jessica Synott. Their board of directors includes Tony Conoley, Cheryl Henry, Larry English, Nancy Briand, Debra Adams, Richard Jalbert, Jonathan Côté, Jonathan Jean, Carla Shaw, Carmen Coulombe and Diane Kennedy.

Future goals include development of a communication strategy, working on internal structure, getting the community volunteers more involved in activities and promoting community consultations.

## Reflections

by

**Diane Skinner Flowers**



## Too much stuff

Have you ever remarked, “We have too much stuff” or “The children have way too much stuff.” It is that time of the year when plans are taking shape for buying Christmas gifts. With rising inflation, while heading into the economic unknown perhaps this is the year to cut way back on buying gifts.

Consider a few options that mean buying less – but could mean a whole lot more. Fewer gifts mean less packaging and the planet thanks you for that.

Perhaps giving the gift of experiences, gift cards, homemade items, baking, babysitting or dog sitting would fill the requirements of giving a gift. Gifts for children could lean more towards “doing” gifts, such as crafts, Lego or sports equipment.

Some out of the box ideas for Christmas:

Hire a photographer to take family or group photos.

Chemistry kits, Lego, arts and crafts kits.

Plan a trip.

Cross country skis

Snowshoes

Nordic Walking Poles

Gift card for a restaurant or coffee shop

Gift card for a manicure/pedicure or a haircut and style

Baking

Home made soup or jam

Hand knitted mitts, scarves or socks.

(Or quilts, embroidery or sewing.)

Gift card for groceries or gas.

Gift card for a massage.

A great new book or The Farmer’s Almanac.

Donating to a charity in the other person’s name.

“Care” packages in a theme such as Hot Chocolate, including chocolate mix, a cute mug, marshmallows and some cookies.

Do an ornament gift exchange.

Draw names. Rather than buying for everybody in a group, have a random name draw.

A board game for a family.

Don’t forget that one of the cheapest, yet meaningful things to do at Christmas is to exchange Christmas cards. Everyone loves to be remembered. For the price of a card and a stamp, you can brighten someone’s Christmas season.



## Are you Moving?

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# Unemployment rate up 1.2% in October

*Nelson Sergerie, LJI*  
GASPÉ - The loss of 1,100 jobs last month and the abandonment of the labour market by 700 people caused the unemployment rate to increase by 1.2% to 8.2% in October on the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

According to Statistics Canada, 1,300 full-time jobs disappeared last month, barely offset by 300 part-time jobs.

A total of 33,700 people were working last month compared to 34,800 in September. This is a marked drop from the 36,900 positions occupied in October 2021.

As there were 4,600 additional active people on the labour market a year ago, the unemployment rate was 10.7%.



Photo: Courtesy of the Kidney Foundation

*The objective of the Gaspé Kidney Walk was largely exceeded*

## Over \$36,000 raised by the Gaspé Kidney Walk

*Nelson Sergerie, LJI*  
GASPÉ - The Kidney Walk held on September 10 in Gaspé raised \$36,280 surpassing the target set of \$25,000. This was mentioned by the Kidney Foundation in the full review of the event.

The honorary president of the fifth edition was Jean Lapointe, an ardent activist for the development of the hemodialysis service in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Over the past five years, the Gaspé Kidney Walk has collected nearly \$145,000 for the Kidney Foundation.

The sums raised help people with kidney failure and their loved ones by investing in adapted services, research and awareness of organ donation.

# Organic vegetables for the community

## Combatting inflation and promoting food security

● **DIANE SKINNER**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

**GESGAPEGIAG:** Organic vegetables have been distributed biweekly from June until October to residents of Gesgapegiag through the Gesgapegiag Human Resource Development Commission. (GHRDC)

Funded through the Social Assistance Department, manager of the department Sue Helen Caplin, says that all community members are welcome to come and pick up vegetables at no charge. The intent of the program is to promote food security, provide healthy food choices and to give community members an opportunity to try some “new” vegetables that they may not have tried before. This innovative program hits all those targets.

Sue Helen Caplin explains

that Amanda Crozier, Career Counsellor at GHRDC, initiated the idea and the next step was to secure funds (Sue Helen’s role) and then a connection was made with Jardin du Villages in Caplan by Amanda Crozier who provided the fresh vegetables bi-weekly.

Every second Friday from 10 until 12 community members could come with their own bags and choose their vegetables. Often, a platter

would be available with sliced vegetables so that people could taste test before choosing. Sue Helen Caplin mentions that yellow watermelon was a hit. Many people chose ingredients to make their own salsa, including tomatoes, onions and hot peppers.

What about next year? Sue says that the plan is to continue the program next year as long as funding can be secured.



Photo: GHRDC

*Free organic vegetables were distributed biweekly from June until October in Gesgapegiag.*

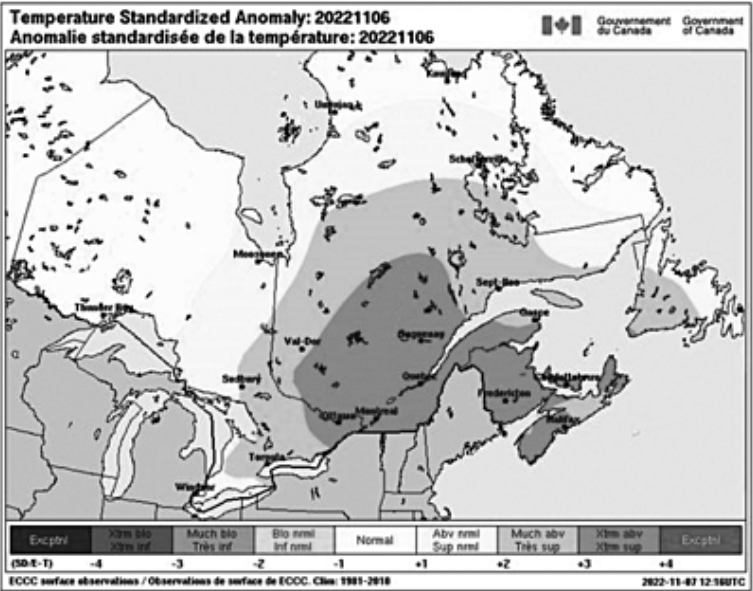


Photo: Environment Canada

*This vignette from Environment Canada shows the anomalies for the period between November 3 and 7.*

## The summer that wouldn't end

● **NELSON SERGERIE**

GASPÉ - Environment Canada says that the weather experienced in the Gaspé Peninsula between November 3 and 7 is “very or extremely above normal.” The temperatures exceeded this normal by more than 15 degrees.

Again, on November 5 and 6, records were set everywhere in the Gaspé Peninsula. On November 5, the hottest spot was Gaspé with 22.2°C, erasing the record of 19.8°C established in 1982.

Carleton-sur-Mer followed with 21.8°C, beating the 19°C of 2008. The highest minimum temperature there for November 5 was beaten with 11.5°C (7.5°C in 1982). Bonaventure and New Carlisle measured 19.4 degrees (17.5°C in 1982); and Chandler recorded 14.3°C (13.0°C in 1982). Percé had the hottest night with 6.9°C (6.1°C in 1967) and even the Parc de la Gaspésie set a new record for the highest low with 6.2°C (4.8°C in 2008).

On Sunday, November 6, another set of records fell. Bonaventure saw 18.6°C (18.2°C in 2008), Cap-Chat measured 21.6°C (19.4°C in 1938) and Chandler recorded 14.1°C (12.7°C in 2017). It was 21.6 degrees in the Parc de la Gaspésie (16.5°C in 2015), 22.2°C at Grande-Val-ée (17.8°C in 1969), 18.6°C in New Carlisle (18.2°C in 2008), and 21.6°C in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (19.4°C in 1938).

Several minimum temperatures were also recorded in Bonaventure (11.6/10.0 degrees in 1969), Cap-Chat (5.8/4.8°C in 2008), Carleton-sur-Mer (7.6/5.0°C in 1910), Chandler (8.7/6.1°C in 1969), Parc de la Gaspésie (5.8/5.6°C in 1969), Grande-Vallée

(8.8/5.2°C in 2008), New Carlisle (11.6/10.0°C in 1969), Percé (8.7/5.6°C in 1938), and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (5.8/4.8°C in 2008).

“We had a first heat wave at the end of October, from the 22 to the 27 and then, we had another one from November 3 to 7. The mild weather is stretching out and we have temperatures that are very or extremely above normal, to quote my colleagues in climatology,” says meteorologist Marie-Ève Giguère.

As the world looks to climate change in Egypt, it is too early to link this heat to the phenomenon.

“We are in autumn. In Quebec, variations and episodes of mild weather are expected. We have seen some in comparable years: they were 1938, 1982, 2008 which were very mild; and 2020 at select locations. We have already seen episodes of mild weather at the end of October and beginning of November. This time, what is special is that we have several in a row,” notes Ms. Giguère.

The science studies this phenomenon is referred to as attribution. “The climate lasts for an average of 30 years. It will be interesting to see what people in the science of climate change attributions can tell us. But they will not be able to do it immediately because it takes several years before attributing an event to climate change,” explains the meteorologist.

In addition, another heat record was broken in Gaspé on November 7. Environment Canada data shows the mercury soared to 18.8°C, eclipsing the 17.2°C mark of 1938. On the other hand, the passage of a vigorous cold front caused the thermometer to drop nine degrees between 2 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.



# Business & Professional DIRECTORY

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# Cascapedia Fall Fest hosts exciting washer tournament

Jenna Boudreau, Washer Tournament Committee

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - The Cascapedia-St-Jules Fall Festival was back in full swing after a two-year hiatus. The weekend was filled with events, entertainment, and smiles. That's how happy everyone was to have this occasion back in their lives.

As in previous years, the washer tournament was a huge success. This year's Fall Fest had up to 40 teams participating, more for bragging rights than the actual cash prizes in the three categories.

The tournament began on the afternoon of Saturday, October 8. The committee consisting of Yves Bujold, Jenna Boudreau, Josh Willett and Robert Jerome were pleased with the great turnout and eager participants. Great organization and team work made the dream work. The games ran smoothly and effortlessly (or so was the case for certain teams over others). Every team of two was guaranteed to play three games. A few teams were eliminated within the first afternoon (and there's no need to mention names here), whereas others made it into the final rounds, scheduled for Sunday after-



Category A winners Darlene Sexton and Emily Coull with washer organizer Yves Bujold



Runners up in Category A: Franklin Condo and Nelson Martin

Photos: Jenna Boudreau

noon.

The finals led to some intense games that had fans engaged and cheering. In the C category, the one that most people feel isn't really an actual category, being "last" and all, the match-up was between partners Yves Bujold and Dany Sexton, against Shannon Gedeon and Amber Jerome. The ladies gave it a solid effort, and were quite pleased with their overall performance during the tournament. Yves still stands by his statement in beating them "31 to 1," though the games only go to 21 points.

In the finals for the B category, Gerry Dort and Billy Harrison came out with the win over Steve Gedeon and Tony Jerome. A solid effort was given by both teams. It's safe to say that they all had a good time.

Finally, in the "most important category there is," the match came down to partners Nelson Martin and Franklin Condo, going against Darlene Sexton and Emily Coull. The ladies had a fair advantage, being excellent players and all, plus their own personal band of cheerleaders to add that extra

power into their washer throws. When Emily sank all four of her washers into the box in one round, there wasn't much chance left for Nelly and Franky. The mother and daughter team took the victory gracefully and deservedly. It didn't look like it was an overall difficult loss for the two former champions from Gesgapegiag, but their Facebook pages were a little extra quiet the next day. Congratulations to all of the winners!

The organizers of this year's washer tournament are grateful to all those who joined

in on the fun and had such pleasant and positive attitudes. A great time was had by all. The committee is already looking forward to next year's event. There is no confirmation yet on whether Nelson Martin will be joining us though. With such a tough loss for him and Franklin against our hometown heroes, Darlene and Emily, he still hasn't announced on Gesgapegiag's radio station if he'll be back for Fall Fest 2023. Organizers say they'll have a chair ready at the front of the washer boxes for him though, just in case.

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# Announcements



## Obituary



**MILLER: Brigid (Drody)**  
January 1, 1937 – November 5, 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Brigid on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at the age of 85.

She will be forever missed and lovingly remembered by her husband of 62 years Jimmy (James) Miller who loved and adored her beyond words, as well as her daughters Pearl (Denis) and Maureen, her grandchildren Jamie (François), Emma (Calvin), Joe (Mélie), Nolan and Brigid, along with many very special relatives and dear friends. She was predeceased by her son Richard (Dick) in 2017.

Brigid was born on January 1, 1937, in Douglastown (Gaspé) to the late Joseph and the late Pearl (Grant) Drody and grew up surrounded by love and music. She was the youngest among her late siblings Olga, Gerald, Kathleen, Mary Ellen, Joseph, Anthony and Johnny.

She and Jimmy married in Gaspé in 1960 and moved their young family to Howick in 1967. Like

many of their Gaspesian relatives and friends, they always kept close Gaspé ties, but made their home in Howick, where they made many close friends on Fertile Creek, at the Howick Curling Club, at the Lanterne, as well as with many other fellow music lovers from the Valley.

Brigid excelled at most things she did; she was an extraordinary hostess, cook, seamstress and artist, but her greatest passion was always music. She played numerous musical instruments but her most exceptional gift was that of accompanying old time fiddlers with her amazing talent on guitar. And with her “roadie” Jimmy by her side, she played at endless gatherings; in the Valley, “down home” in Gaspé, and for over 30 years at the annual Pembroke Fiddle Contests.

Up until her final days, she continued to touch the lives of the people around her with her gentle composure and kind soul. She will be sadly missed by us all, but the sorrow of losing her will never take away from the joy of having known and loved her.

Our family would like to extend their most heartfelt thanks to the kind staff of the Centre Hébergement Ormstown who went above and beyond in their care of Brigid during her final years.

A celebration of life and a cemetery burial will take place in Douglastown, Gaspé, in the summer of 2023. Arrangements entrusted to McGerrigle Funeral Home inc., Ormstown, Quebec. [www.mcgerigle.com](http://www.mcgerigle.com)

### Thank You

St. James Anglican Church, Port Daniel, would like to thank all members and non members who prepared or helped with our Tea on October 29. A big thank-you to the joint effort by all.

The door prize was won by former Port Daniel resident, Bill Huntington. The 50/50 for an amount of \$106.50 was won by Barbara Hall and was donated back to the church. A total of \$1091 was raised.

### ST. ANDREW’S ANGLICAN CHURCH 2022 HARVEST SUPPER COLLECTION

On behalf of St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, we would like to thank those from near and far who have very graciously contributed toward our “Harvest Supper Collection,” although, due to Covid-19, we were not collectively able to share this meal together. A total of \$2,880 was collected and was matched by an anonymous donor in the amount of \$3,120 making a grand total of \$6,000.

We sincerely thank those who made a contribution to make the above mentioned collection such a great success.

There are a few minor repairs that require some attention at the church and with the support of the church wardens, part of the funds collected will go toward this endeavour.

*Norma Chedore and  
Christine Fraser-Ward*



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COAST ROUND-UP

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

**YORK:**  
**York ACW Christmas Sale**  
**November 19:** The York ACW will be holding a Christmas Sale beginning at 2 p.m. at the York River Community Hall, 702 Blvd. York West, Gaspé. Baked goods, mystery parcels, white elephant table and used books. It will be followed by afternoon tea \$5 each. Everyone is welcome! See you there!

**YORK:**  
**York River Seniors**  
The York River Seniors Club will be holding their Annual Christmas Supper on **Saturday, December 3, 2022**, at Gaspé Elementary School. Cocktails from 5 p.m to 6 p.m., supper at 6 p.m. with music and dancing to follow. Price \$25 per person with a \$15 rebate given to all York River Seniors Club members at the door. Tickets must be purchased on or before **November 24** by contacting one of the following: Ron Mundle at 418-355-4732, Alfred Cassidy at

418-368-2011, Tony Patterson at 418-368-3276, Clothilda Adams at 418-368-5619 or Debbie Sams at 418-368-2977.

**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.

**HOPE TOWN:**  
**Hope Town Sports Club**  
**November 26:** Gift Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at the Optimist Club in Saint Godefroi.

**HOPE:**  
**Hope Baptist Church**  
**Sundays:** Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. Worship service begining at 11 a.m.  
**November 26:** Bake Sale from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Hope Town Municipal hall. Proceeds will go to the Youth Group and benevolent causes. Lots of tasty treats. Everyone welcome, see you there!

**PASPEBIAC:**  
**Knitters Needed**  
La maille de l’amitié, a group of knitters who are eager to help men, women and children who are receiving chemotherapy at Maria hospital by providing knitted hats, is looking for knitters. If needed, patterns and samples are

available at the library in Paspebiac, which is also where you should drop-off your knitted items. You can also include a short note of encouragement, identified by your name only. For more information contact Claudette Whittom (418) 752-3633 or Doris Chedore (418) 752-5190.

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64**  
Please be advised that Legion memberships are available for \$45. Returning and new members welcome.  
**Wednesdays:** Cribbage beginning at 7 p.m. Bring a partner.  
**Thursdays:** Open from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
**Fridays:** Darts beginning at 6:30 p.m.  
**Saturdays:** Open at 2 p.m. Everyone welcome.  
**December 6:** General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.  
**December 11:** Santa at the Legion from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**LLB Membership**  
Please note that membership renewals for the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation started are now available 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. 2 p.m. Gospel meeting.  
**Thursdays:** 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. Everyone welcome. For more information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**  
**Book Room**  
The book room is open every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone who needs assistance can contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

**ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:**  
**The winners for the week of November 1 are:** Manon Messier, Monique Lévesque, Pierre Gravel, Nicole Beauchemin and Manon Messier.  
**The winners for the week of November 6 are:** Paul-Égide Cyr, Marzelle Connors, Sylvie Cyr, Jean-Paul St-Onge, Édouard Cormier, Daniel Cormier and Raynald Arsenault.


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

**The winners for the week of November 13 are:** Gaspésie Diesel, Jocelyne Boissonnault, Nancy Budd, Hervé Bujold, Jean-Marie Bujold, Sarah Duguay and Louis Cyr.  
**The winners for the week of November 20 are:** Maxime Lambert, Hélène Langis, Diane Imhoff, Monia Bujold, Annie Normandeau, Liette Dufour and Cassandre Ouellet.  
**The winners for the week of November 27 - 30 are:** Jean Bearisto, Adèle Henry, Fern Fairservice and Judith Audet.

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NEW RICHMOND  
Sunday, November 20  
10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH  
HOPE TOWN  
Sunday, November 20  
10 a.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA  
Sunday, November 20  
NEW CARLISLE  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
HOPE TOWN  
10 a.m. Morning Prayer  
PORT DANIEL  
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

  
**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20  
You may become impatient with the slow progress of a project at work, Aries. Before you get your feathers all ruffled, figure out if bringing more people on the team may help.  
**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21  
It may have taken a while, but you’ll start to see some results from actions you initiated weeks ago, Taurus. Your steady pace will pay off in a big way.  
**GEMINI** – May 22/Jun 21  
Lean on all of your social contacts this week, Gemini. If you’re looking to get out of the house and have fun,

they will probably have some ideas on where to go.  
**CANCER** – Jun 22/Jul 22  
Be on guard with issues concerning your love life and relationships, Cancer. Things that were working out smoothly may need a little extra attention for the time being.  
**LEO** – Jul 23/Aug 23  
Luck will manifest itself in some surprising ways over the course of the next few days, Leo. Seemingly out of nowhere you will have a good turn of events that propel you forward.  
**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22  
Negotiations will go in your favour this week, Virgo. Therefore, if you’ve been seeking a raise or a promo-

tion, you may see that the tides have finally shifted in that direction.  
**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23  
Watch out for overspending that can derail the careful budget that you have set in place, Libra. It may be wise to leave a credit card at home for the next few days.  
**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
Brace yourself, Scorpio, as things could get a bit wild this week. Energy levels rise and tempers may flare. Figure out the best way to stay calm amid this confusion.  
**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
Plenty of good vibes are coming your way, Sagittarius. You just need to figure out if you’re going to share

some good fortune with others and when that will occur.  
**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20  
A sweet connection with someone else could happen this week, Capricorn. This may be the start of a lasting relationship, whether it is romantic or platonic.  
**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
Don’t be afraid to showcase your natural talents, Aquarius. Your unique skill set enables you to have a little fun with others and show off a bit at work.  
**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
Figure out ways to connect with the life force that is all around you, Pisces. Try meditation in the outdoors to blend two experiences.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**  
**NOVEMBER 13**  
Julia Michaels, Singer (29)  
**NOVEMBER 14**  
Josh Duhamel, Actor (50)  
**NOVEMBER 15**  
Chad Kroeger, Singer (48)  
**NOVEMBER 16**  
Pete Davidson, Comic (29)  
**NOVEMBER 17**  
Danny DeVito, Actor (78)  
**NOVEMBER 18**  
Owen Wilson, Actor (54)  
**NOVEMBER 19**  
Jodie Foster, Actress (60)





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