

Kidney donor named “ambassador of health”

GILLES GAGNÉ

PASPEBIAC - Andrée D'Amours, a citizen of Paspébiac, received the honour of “health ambassador” by the Canadian Organ Donation Association on October 2021 in Sherbrooke. Ms. D'Amours donated a kidney in September 2020 despite the adverse conditions caused by the COVID 19 pandemic.

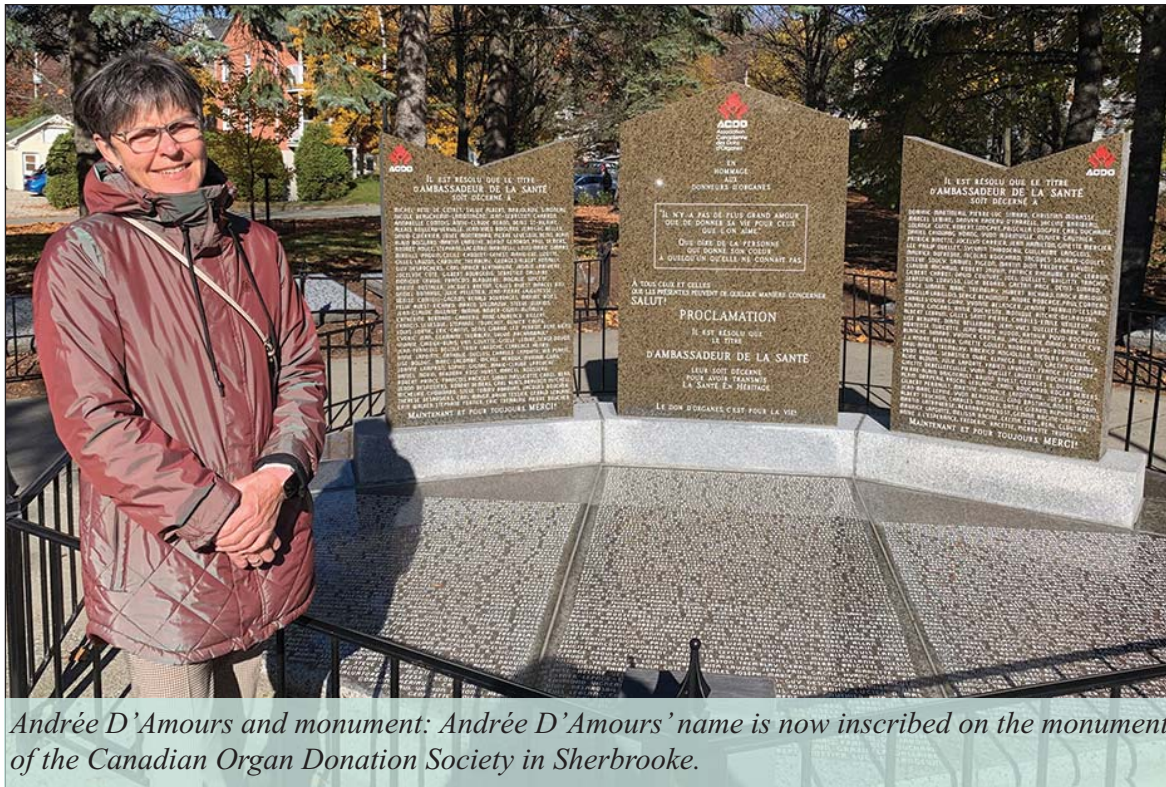
Twelve other Quebecers were honored on this special day, as well as 136 posthumous organ donors. The last ceremony of that kind had been held before the pandemic. Andrée D'Amours' granddaughter, Maëllie, accompanied her to Sherbrooke.

The idea of donating a kidney came after a long period of reflection by Andrée D'Amour.

“Both my parents and their eight children are O negative blood type. So we are all universal donors. When I was young, one morning when I got up before them, we received a call from Maria hospital. They asked my parents to donate blood for a little kid we knew who had hemophilia. He is still alive today. It impressed me a lot that my parents were called,” she says.

A tradition of blood donation has, therefore, developed in the D'Amours family and their descendants.

“I was able to do it but we lived in France for a year, in 1988-1989, when my spouse exchanged his job for the job of a Frenchman. It was during the mad cow years and things like that. Since that time, I can no longer donate blood here. At the beginning of 2018, I saw an advertisement on the internet saying, ‘Mother needs a kidney,’ and inviting people from the O negative group to come forward. It started like that, at the beginning of 2018. When I started, the pandemic was not there. At some point in the process, I met a psychiatrist. My mother was not in agreement with me donating a kidney and she wanted the psychiatrist to convince me to change my mind, but she is very happy now!” she adds.



Andrée D'Amours and monument: Andrée D'Amours' name is now inscribed on the monument of the Canadian Organ Donation Society in Sherbrooke.

Photo: Emilie Provost

A long process

Andrée D'Amours did not know at the outset of her decision to donate a kidney that she had started a rather long process.

“Want to know if you are healthy? Say you want to donate a kidney!” Ms. D'Amours went through rigorous testing, to determine compatibility. After eventually determining she was not compatible with the intended recipient, she was asked if she wanted to continue the process. She answered “Yes, because I had already started it. I realized something important during a lunch for retirees at the CLSC where I worked. I said I wanted to donate a kidney. It's appalling how much conversation it opens up. Just by talking with former colleagues, I could have donated four kidneys! But it's not that simple.”

She entered the pan-Canadian program, since she could give to the first opening. The person identified by the country-wide program had a donor, but it was found that he or she was incompatible with that donor.

“According to the principle, this donor will give to someone else and I will take his place. I was supposed to give in Toronto and since the chain starts in Quebec, the last donation must happen in Quebec.

It's like a domino. At last, I couldn't go to Toronto. I was supposed to give it on March 19, 2020. On March 19, it hit hard, COVID, in Ontario. The ‘domino’ effect happened just in Quebec. I finally gave on September 16 but in Quebec City,” explains Ms. D'Amours, who was born and raised in New Carlisle.

It was fairly complicated to donate a kidney in the middle of a pandemic.

I left here (Paspébiac) after being in total isolation two weeks before. I couldn't go anywhere. In mid-September 2020, COVID was back in force. I had to go up alone to Quebec City, but not by bus. I stopped for a break and a tank of gas on the way; no restaurant, I had brought a lunch, and I had to make as few contacts as possible. I arrived at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital and everyone had to constantly wear masks,” points out Andrée D'Amours.

The recovery is easier nowadays

The surgery took between three and four hours. She assures that the removal of a kidney is far less complicated today than decades ago. The recovery period is also easier. Surgeons use the laparoscopy technique. It is still undertaken using anesthesia.

“Previously, they opened

your back, they cut muscles and it took a long recovery because it was very painful. Surgeons now go through the front. Once the kidney is detached, they make an opening in the abdomen, like a cesarean section. It's not invasive. There are four small holes from the laparoscopy and an opening. It's not a baby coming out, it's a kidney,” reminds Andrée D'Amours.

“The operation took place on a Wednesday and I was discharged from the hospital two days later, on Friday. I asked to stay longer in the hospital because I was going to stay with my daughter Émilie, who was taking me to her home in Quebec City, and there was COVID in her children's school. Everyone eventually tested negative. The following Thursday, I went back to the hospital for a checkup and the next day, I returned to the Gaspé Peninsula. I put the magazine l'Actualité on my belly to reduce the effect of the seat belt and I drove. I had a small pump of morphine in case I felt pain. I was laughing because I react to morphine; I have bad trips. I didn't need to take it, though. I joked that I was going to try this,” she says, laughing.

Her return to Paspébiac was followed by a 10-day isolation, as getting COVID was far from recommended for anyone recovering from a serious type

of surgery. The confinement was not preventing her from going outside if she was alone.

“Once at home, I went out, I did my little walk. I lengthened the walk from one day to the next. My health gradually came back. It is the post anesthesia effect that is the most difficult to deal with. Let's remember that the fall of 2020 was quiet. I continued to walk and do my household routine.

Considering her healthy habits, she doesn't have to follow a special diet even if she has only one kidney now. Medically-speaking, the precautions are relatively simple.

“I do an annual followup. I send my creatinine level once a year. This is what the kidney rejects when it works. The (creatinine) rate is high because I only have one kidney. I can't take anti-inflammatories because it affects the kidneys. I had low blood pressure and it's almost normal now,” she sums up.

Andrée D'Amours wants to be clear on one point. She did not donate a kidney for the glory of it, or the honours that came from the Canadian Organ Donation Association on October 21.

“It was to say that we can give. I was 63 when I gave. During his or her lifetime, one can donate a kidney, part of the liver, bone marrow. If my family had not been there, my gift would have gone unnoticed. It was Émilie, my daughter, who registered me on the Thursday of my postoperative medical followup. She was not there when I came out of this followup, then I saw her arrive with a nurse. That's where it happened,” she explains with a laugh.

Ms. D'Amours marvels at the maturity shown by her granddaughter.

“My granddaughter, Maëllie, has already understood why it is important to donate. Two years ago, when she was 10, she took part in the Défi Tête rasée (Shaved Head Challenge) to donate her hair to someone who was suffering from cancer. That's why I took her with me to Sherbrooke,” she concludes.

PSYCHOLOGICAL HARASSMENT:

Diane Perron challenges the dismissal of her complaint against the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - An application for judicial review has been filed by Diane Perron, who was the Director of Youth Protection for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands in 2017. The application was filed following the dismissal of her complaint of psychological harassment against the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre by the Administrative Labour Tribunal.

The complaint targeted the CISSS' assistant president and Chief Executive Officer, Connie Jacques. On December 13, 2017, Diane Perron filed a complaint of psychological harassment against the CISSS for vexatious conduct on the part of her immediate superior between the fall of 2016 and October 17,



Photo: N. Sergerie

Diane Perron was the Director of Youth Protection in 2017 at the time of the events referred to in the Administrative Labor Court.

2017.

A claim was upheld by the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la

sécurité du travail (CNESST) on August 15, 2018. Challenged by the employer, the

verdict was upheld by decision on January 23, 2019, which was again challenged by the Centre jeunesse Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

The tribunal ordered that the two cases be joined on March 6, 2019.

In her application for judicial review of the decision, which recounts at length the entire conflict between her and Ms. Jacques, Ms. Perron alleges a substantial shortcoming when the CNESST had recognized the harassment and injuries caused, a decision reversed on August 8 by the court, which at the same time rejected the complaint of psychological harassment.

Judge Christian Drolet is of the opinion that the evidence "does not allow for such a conclusion, but rather

that it is a matter of the management's right of the CISSS and its representative and nothing allows for the detection of any intention to harm the plaintiff."

He added that "Ms. Jacques is not attacking the plaintiff personally, but the Director of Youth Protection, who is accountable."

To overturn the CNESST's decision, the judge wrote that "the analysis of the facts put in evidence in the file concerning psychological harassment as well as the conclusions drawn from it are applicable here as well and lead to the conclusion that the plaintiff was not the victim of an employment injury on October 16 or 17, 2018."

Ms. Perron believes that the court did not assess the facts fairly. The CISSS preferred not to comment.

DAYCARE:

Pilot projects in the works in the Bonaventure MRC

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

BONAVENTURE - A pilot project is being developed to allow family daycare providers to deliver the service outside their home in the Bonaventure MRC.

"The CPE de la Baie coordinating office is working with the MRC and the municipalities to find suitable premises to accommodate six to 12 children," explains project manager Marie-Élyse Gagnon.

The eastern part of the MRC is favoured because there are few in-home daycares.

"We have targeted three locations that meet the requirements," says Gagnon.

Daycare providers find the principle interesting

According to the project manager, there are some people who would like to return to the field of daycare services. She also mentions that there are others that want to do the job but are unable to due to their homes not fitting the requirements. In addition, there are people who want to double up services and allow for 12 children.

New applicants could provide options for parents in this sector of the Bonaventure MRC, and Ms. Gagnon estimates that a dozen providers could be added to the network.

The project is being drafted and should be submitted to the Ministry of Family at the beginning of November and the answers are likely to come quickly.

"If we have the resources to put them in place, we could be ready before the holidays," Ms. Gagnon believes.

Quebec authorized such a pilot project in June for community-based family childcare in Saint-François-d'Assise, near Matapédia and will allow two caregivers to accommodate 12 children in a space that is currently used as the municipal library.

It was one of six projects to be launched in Quebec following announcements made by then Family Minister Mathieu Lacombe in April.



Impact Assessment Agency of Canada / Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia

Comment Period on the Draft Agreements and Draft Terms of Reference

What is happening?

October 12, 2022 — The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is conducting the planning phase for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia.

As part of this work, the Agency is holding a public comment period on the draft Agreements and draft Terms of Reference for the regional assessment. Indigenous Peoples, non-governmental organizations and the public are invited to review and provide feedback on three documents:

- Draft Agreement - Newfoundland and Labrador
- Draft Agreement - Nova Scotia
- Draft Regional Assessment Terms of Reference

The Agency, Natural Resources Canada and the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia worked together to develop the draft Agreements. They describe how the federal and provincial governments will cooperate throughout the regional assessment process.

The parties have also developed a draft Terms of Reference that describes how the process will be conducted in both provinces. It sets out the goal, objectives, activities and planned outcomes of the assessment, as well as key aspects of its governance and administration.

How can I participate?

Comments should be submitted online by visiting the regional assessment's home page on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (reference number 83514). The draft Agreements and associated Terms of Reference can also be found on the Registry.

Written comments in either official language will be accepted **until midnight on November 26, 2022**. All comments received will be published online as part of the regional assessment file.

Participants who wish to ask the Agency a question, or provide their input in a different format, can contact the Agency by writing to OffshoreWind-EolienneExtracotiere@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Will there be more opportunities to participate?

Following the comment period, all feedback received will be considered in developing the final Agreements and Terms of Reference for the regional assessment.

Additional opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and the public to participate in the regional assessment process will be announced in the future.

Stay updated on this regional assessment by following the Agency on Twitter: @IAAC_AEIC #OffshoreWind

For media inquiries, contact the Agency's media relations team by writing to media@iaac-aeic.gc.ca, or by calling 343-549-3870.

Canada

Police report



Photo: Facebook, Chantal Mercier

Bears roaming in Chandler

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - Residents of Chandler are fearful as bears have been sighted in various locations across the town, prompting authorities to ask them to be vigilant.

The first bear was seen on October 23 by a citizen in the Bourg de Pabos sector, near the footbridge. Another sighting was made on October 24.

It could be a mother and her calf who are in this place. A family of four - a male, a female and two cubs - were seen on Cyr Road in the Newport neighborhood.

"The wildlife officers tell me that they are looking for food," according to the explanations received by the mayor, Gilles Daraïche.

The agents told people to close their garbage bins tightly and ask hunters to pick up the remains of the slaughtered animals.

"In Chandler, officers set up a cage to try to catch one, either mother or cub, in the channel area. They will come back to us with results," says the mayor.

As for those in Newport, the bears are more in their natural element.

"According to them, the bears can come and go and we never see them again. On the other hand, if there are other reports, the agents will also intervene," concludes the mayor.

In an email, the Ministry of Wildlife confirms that the SOS Poaching-Emergency Wildlife Centre has received reports to this effect. The ministry says wildlife officers assess reports and intervene if necessary.

Awareness is raised with citizens, reminding them never to feed bears and to manage important food sources such as fruit trees, bird feeders, garbage cans and compost.

For more problematic cases, the installation of a bear cage by wildlife protection officers is recommended.

The ministry adds that the number of reports is similar to that of 2021.

Looting at Château Dubuc

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER: - Looting has taken place at Château Dubuc in recent days.

Chateau Dubuc, the last remnant of Chandler's industrial era, was washed away by the sea on September 24 during the Fiona storm.

Looting has taken place there in recent days. "It's a bit discouraging. What I learned and saw from the photos is that there are plenty of people who go there to break, steal, and destroy. It's a bit incomprehensible," says the owner, Michel Saint-Pierre.

The Sûreté du Québec has been informed of the situation. "It's quite difficult to stop people from accessing it because it's open 360 degrees. We try to block the cars (from entering). There is a container blocking access and concrete blocks," says Mr. Saint-Pierre, who has already been given formal notice by the town to clean up the land. Two fines were also served.

"It's not that easy to clean up. The beach belongs to the federal government, and to the provincial (government). The environment is involved in this. It's not that simple," defends the owner.

A buyer had approached the town to acquire the land and the buildings when they were still standing. The owner, however, mentions having been contacted in the last five years, but nothing had materialized.



The Sûreté du Québec Major Crimes Investigation Squad in Chandler, police officers from the Rocher-Percé MRC detachment and various specialized units of that police force are trying to identify the debris of an airplane discovered over the summer in the backcountry of Grand River, close to 40 kilometres from Highway 132. The debris was found by a member of a tree-planting crew, most likely in June, but the date hasn't been confirmed.

Teams of police officers have covered the area over the last months in an attempt to find as many parts of the aircraft as possible, says Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron. "We remained very discreet about the investigation over the last weeks because the place is far in the woods. We cannot post police officers there on a permanent basis to protect the location. For the investigation, we have to make sure that we will gather as much evidence as possible. We have reasons to think that the remains of the plane crash victims could potentially still be there as well. We didn't want people to go there and find debris or bodies," says Sgt. Doiron.

The SQ hasn't revealed the model of the aircraft. According to Gaston Langlais, a retired commercial pilot and teacher from Gaspé, the plane found over the summer probably left Newfoundland in April 1953 for Ottawa. "I remember a missing plane that year. I was a kid but I was already quite interested in aerial transport," he points out.

On April 20, 1953, the Montreal Gazette reported a missing aircraft that was supposed to link Gander, Newfoundland, and Ottawa on April 18, which was a Saturday. The aircraft was a Lockheed Ventura L37, built in 1943. The owner was Spartan Air Services. The plane registry was CF-FAW and its serial number was 5487. Four people were on board when it took off. According to the Aviation Safety Network website, the aircraft "went missing during a ferry flight from Gander to Ottawa. The aircraft had operated on a survey mission in Liberia and was returning back to Canada. It is presumed to have crashed at sea."

The Sûreté du Québec is deploying specialized equipment in order to facilitate the work of expertise and can count on the laboratory of forensic sciences and forensic medicine, and the office of the coroner in order to determine and carry out, if necessary, the identification of potential victims.

At first, it was believed that the debris could have come from a DC-3 aircraft that crashed in the backcountry of Chandler on March 22, 1952. That Maritime Central Airways plane had left Saint John, New Brunswick, and was bound for Goose Bay, Labrador. The last radio contact from the crew occurred at 14:34 near Chatham, estimated to pass over Sept-Îles at 15:44. "The aircraft was flying at an altitude of 7,000 feet when it disappeared off radar screens. The wreckage was found (on) August 27, 1953," reports Aviation Safety Network. Four people died in the crash as well.

The debris of that specific plane was found by another Gaspesian pilot, Michel Pouliot. He flew over the wreckage during a flight between Gaspé and an American destination. The airport of Gaspé bears the name of Michel Pouliot.

Karine Rioux, 34, faces two criminal charges following the December 16 accident that claimed the life of Patrick Donovan, 63, from Gaspé. Karine Rioux will undergo her preliminary hearing on December 19 and 20 at the Percé Courthouse. She is charged with one count of impaired driving causing death and one count of driving with more than 80 milligrams of alcohol in her blood. The accident occurred on Gaspé Boulevard at the end of the day on December 16. The accused was released the following day under several conditions including a ban on driving and consuming alcohol. The date of the preliminary hearing was set on September 6.

Lisette Hautcoeur, 58, from Gaspé, who was formally charged on August 12 with the non-premeditated murder of Richard Allard, 64, will return to the Percé courthouse on December 12 for a pro forma hearing, a procedural step preceding her eventual preliminary hearing. The victim, who was living in the same apartment building as the accused, was found dead on July 16 in his home. The exact nature of the relationship between the accused and the victim remains unknown. Both resided on Mgr-Ross Street East in downtown Chandler and they were 'acquaintances' according to the Sûreté du Québec upon the conclusion of the investigation that led to Ms. Hautcoeur's arrest. From the outset, the death of Richard Allard was considered suspicious and the possibility of a homicide was put forward by the police a few days after the discovery of the body. In 2019, Lisette Hautcoeur was convicted of extortion. The court waived a sentence and placed the woman on probation for two years, along with community work and receiving a fine. A person found guilty of non-premeditated murder faces a life sentence, with eligibility for parole at any time between 10 and 25 years. Lisette Hautcoeur last appeared in court on October 14.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Qatar shouldn't have been chosen to organize soccer's World Cup

Starting on November 20, Qatar, a small and deserts country of the Arabic Peninsula, will host soccer's World Cup, the second biggest sports event on the planet after the Olympic Games. The choice to organize that event in a country that presents one of the world's worst human rights records goes back to 2010.

Twelve years ago, nothing was qualifying the Qatar bid to host the World Cup. The small country of 2.9 million people had no soccer tradition, no infrastructure, not a very strong national team, and was certainly not endowed with the kind of weather facilitating the practice of what is arguably considered the toughest team sport.

The only factor rooting for Qatar was money. That money comes from the country's huge reserves of oil and gas. The high brass of FIFA, the international federation ruling over football, the word commonly used outside North America, has proven in recent decades, like the International Olympic Committee, that money is much more important than sports.

The Qatar government has invested \$220 billion in the organization of the World Cup. Let's consider that in 2014, Russia was heavily criticized for organizing the winter Olympic Games in Sochi at a cost of \$50 billion, a crazy

amount boosted by the fact that there is practically no cold season in that town. The last World Cup was held in Brazil in 2018 and its cost reached \$15 billion, almost 15 times less than in Qatar and it, nevertheless, raised criticism for unbridled spendings in the preceding decade.

The World Cup is usually organized in June and July, when the major international leagues are taking a break. In November, a fair number of major leagues are still active. In 2010, when the time came to select the World Cup choice for 2022, the FIFA brass waived those disruptive factors and opted for Qatar's proposal to organize the event in the late part of the fall, because holding soccer games in June or July in the middle of the desert would have been about impossible due to the heat.

Even in November, the eight stadiums built to host the World Cup will be climatized because of that heat. It is pure ecological nonsense, just like holding the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, China, where there is just about no winter.

Money, nothing but money

However, the power of money and FIFA people's love for it prevailed. FIFA has in fact been marred by scandals over the best part of the last two decades, as corruption, fraud, blackmail, organized crime and money laundering have made headlines repeatedly. Some FIFA administrators have even swallowed the Qatar authorities' pretense to the effect that they care about the carbon neutrality of the World Cup.

Truth be told, Qatar presently shows the worst carbon emission record in the world, population-wise. A touch of greenwashing to complement sport washing seems like the recipe to succeed as sport washing consists of a method of building an image using sport events just like Russia and China did over recent years. Sport washing makes people forget about many forms of abuse through allowing some

countries to disguise the way they look.

The biggest scandal of late, though, is the way the Qatar authorities have been treating the foreign workers that were and are still needed to build the infrastructure on which the World Cup depends.

Various inquiries prove that up to 6,500 foreign workers have died while building stadiums, hotels, freeways and restaurants over the last decade.

Those workers labour in miserable conditions, under unbearable heat and without proper safety rules. They have to feed themselves in garbage containers most of the time and they are housed in poorly maintained shanties. There is practically no room for leisure except a place they jokingly call "California," where an undrinkable plonk (moonshine) is offered in the middle of the night to make them forget about their misery.

Amnesty International is watching that situation closely. Many people think that such an organization, which advocates for the protection of human rights, should have called a boycott of the coming World Cup. The situation in Qatar certainly deserves this kind of action.

However, the Amnesty International leaders have something else in mind. They are trying to convince the FIFA brass to take \$440 million and create a compensation fund for the workers and their families. FIFA will receive \$6 billion of the \$220 billion spent by the Qatar government in the World Cup.

The compensation fund sought by Amnesty International therefore represents 7.3% of what FIFA will directly collect from the event. It is petty cash in a way but it might provide families from India, Bangladesh and many African countries, where most workers come from, a bit of relief. Because labouring in Qatar, probably the richest country in the world on a per capita basis, is not what will make foreign workers *Continued on page 12...*



Fred Kirch

Guest Commentary

The Midterms: an important test for the United States democracy

In a few days, there will be a national election in the United States in which one-third of the seats in the Senate - Senators serve six-year terms - and all of the seats in the House of Representatives - Representatives serve two-year terms - will be up for election. At issue will be control of the Congress of the United States, one of the three branches of the American government, the other two being the Executive and Judicial.

This is described as a Midterm Election or simply "Midterm" because such elections occur midway between presidential elections which take place every four years.

Presently, the Democrats control both houses of the Congress. Polls suggest, however, that while the Democrats will continue to control the Senate after the election, the Republicans will gain control of the House. A divided Congress will be a problem for the Biden administration.

Typically, voters pay less attention to Midterms than they do to presidential elections. This year, however, it appears that there is much more interest, ostensibly because the election will probably be one of the most consequential elections in American history and will, in many ways, begin to decide the future of American democracy, which has been under attack for the past two years.

The attack on the Capitol Building on January 6, 2021, was the culmination of a deliberate campaign to discredit the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. When Donald Trump, who was up for re-election, concluded that he might lose the election, he began to attack the election process even before the election was held by declaring that the only way he could lose would be if the election was stolen. This is, of course, nonsense, but it is nonsense that many people accepted as truth, despite the absence of any evidence to support his claim.

Immediately after the election, which Trump lost by over 7 million votes, he began to exhort his followers to "Stop the Steal" by disrupting the counting of the votes.

Although American elections are national, the execution of the elections and the counting of votes afterward are done locally under rules adopted either locally or by the states. Trump's followers began to attack the process locally.

At the same time, Trump went to Court in an effort to stop the counting. Sixty cases were filed, four of which went to the Supreme Court of the United States, and all of which were lost for exactly the same reason. There was no evidence at all to support Trump's claims.

In fact, key members of his own administration, including Department of Homeland Security officials appointed by Trump and the Attorney General of the United States, all said that there was no fraud undermining the election result. They said that it was the safest, most secure election ever.

When physical disruption of the process and spurious legal challenges failed to succeed, Trump and his followers schemed to disrupt the formal counting of the vote which is done by the Vice President during a session of Congress convened specifically for that purpose.

They demanded that the Vice President suspend the count and send everything back to the states, where Trump's followers could again attack the process. This, the Vice President could not do, even if he wanted to.

What followed was the spectacle of the physical attack on the Capitol Building to disrupt the counting and transfer of power with some demanding that the Vice President be killed because he wouldn't do what Trump wanted. They had been urged on by Trump to go to the Capitol Building where he, reportedly, watched the attack on television and did nothing to stop it.

There was never any evidence that the voting and counting had not been done honestly. Yet, to this day without any evidence, Trump continues to insist that the election was stolen as do his followers. Ironically, he does this while devising ways to steal the next election.

A committee of the House of Representatives known as the January 6 Committee was established to investigate the attack on the Capitol and what led up to it. Through several public hearings, the Committee documented a carefully orchestrated scheme to disrupt the election and the peaceful

transfer of power and have, to the satisfaction of legal experts, established a prima facie (a legal term meaning strong) case that Trump is guilty of sedition and defrauding the government.

The Committee cannot prosecute Trump, only the Department of Justice can and it is doing its own investigation. It seems certain, however, that Trump will be prosecuted and face the prospect of being sent to prison if convicted. At the same time, he faces other serious civil and criminal charges, including the mishandling of classified documents.

The Republicans have already declared that their first act when they take over the House will be to dismantle the January 6 Committee. The only possible motive for doing that would be to cover up crimes that had taken place. They also plan to harass the president and his officials with spurious investigations.

As a result, the Committee has had to rush its work in order to get it completed, prepare a report, and refer the matter to the Department of Justice before the Republicans take over the House in January.

Tragically, the movement to discredit the 2020 election continues and most likely what took place during that election will happen again during this one. This time, however, *Continued on page 12...*

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SADC Baie-des-Chaleurs to hold 11th Human resources seminar on November 16

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - The Société d'aide au développement de la collectivité (SADC) of the Baie-des-Chaleurs region will hold its 11th Human Resources Seminar on November 16, 2022. This event, which is organized thanks to the financial participation of Economic Development Canada for the Quebec regions and of the government of Quebec, will be held in person at the Gaspé Peninsula Convention Centre in Carleton.

Under the theme *Engage Your Team. Be an Employer of Choice!* the seminar will feature time to think and strategies for managers, team heads, directors, supervisors as well as for professional resources and staff of businesses and organizations based in the Bay of Chaleur area.

"In a context of scarcity of available labour, our businesses and organizations must be outstanding as employers of choice and this," says Lyne Lebrasseur, the director general of the SADC Baie-des-Chaleurs, "is ensured by team engagement. The conferences and workshops at the seminar will give our organizations the tools required to attract and retain labour. The subjects dealt



with will include human resources marketing, generic skills for organizational succession, innovation, emotional commitment of employees and human skills."

Program overview

The purpose of the *HR marketing: why?* conference given by the Human Resources (HR) Marketing and Digital HR Solutions strategist, Didier Dubois from the HRM Group, is to show organizations how HR marketing can help them recruit and retain their workforces. Mr. Dubois will present the processes and tools to

be implemented to succeed. He will also urge participants to think about the experiences they want their candidates and staff to have.

The workshop entitled *Organizational Succession: Think about Generic Skills*, given by Marie-Laure Eude-Le Dorze, a consultant for ELD Gestion des ressources humaines, is based on a concrete and personalized approach. This workshop will allow participants to explore the means to enhance individual and group learning, to increase the feeling of competency, of satisfaction and accomplishment by staff regarding their contri-

bution to the business, and to capitalize individual and group skills to ensure business continuity.

The workshop entitled *Emotional Commitment: A Lever for Loyalty*, given by Marielle Bourguignon-Cyr, a consultant for ALIA Conseil, will deal with the distinction between engagement and mobilization, the importance of engagement and evolution of the concept since the pandemic, the nature of engagement (rational or emotional), the fundamental pillars of emotional engagement, management strategies which encourage engagement and mobilization.

Luc Sirois, Head Innovator and Director General of the Conseil de l'innovation du Québec (Innovation Board of Québec) will give an address entitled *The Revolution of Innovation for the Future of the Region*. He will share his thoughts about the means to benefit from innovation in a period in which employers will have to act quickly to meet major challenges such as the scarcity of labour.

The Human Skills: A Key for Success in Business component given by Benoit Chalifoux, an international speaker and professor at the

UQAM École des sciences de la gestion [School of Management] will allow participants to be better equipped to increase their motivation and performance to attain their personal and professional goals. The objectives of the learning session in question are to allow employers to have awareness of their emotional intelligence at work and their decision making. Team supervision skills, priority and conflict management and managerial courage are also dealt with.

People interested in attending the seminar must register on-line before November 11, 2022, on the SADC website at sadcbaie.ca.

Organized yearly by the SADC Baie-des-Chaleurs since 2011 in collaboration with Services Québec, the Baie-des-Chaleurs Human resources seminar features conferences and workshops in addition to facilitating networking among managers and business persons in the region. The SADC Baie-des-Chaleurs now has 214 members. For 38 years, the organization has invested more than \$30.5 million in the regional economy, creating economic spin-offs of more than \$209 million in the community.

Six priorities for the new minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The three main regional priorities of the Gaspé Peninsula, housing, daycare spaces and the workforce, are being prioritized by the new minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

The Member of the National Assembly for Rimouski, Maïté Blanchette-Vézina, is adding three additional priorities: transportation, health and climate change, bringing the total to six.

The new MNA believes that her wealth of various experiences as a business law lawyer, director of Centraide Lower Saint Lawrence and mayor of Sainte-Luce, near Rimouski, will enable her to face the mandate that Premier François Legault entrusted her with.

"I decided to use all of these strengths and experiences to put them at the service of the community because I have al-

ways been a woman who wants to develop the regions with an environmental and social consciousness, but also an economic development consciousness. This is how I will approach my role as minister," said the new regional minister in an interview.

She had the opportunity to speak with local elected officials to discuss major concerns. "I am prioritizing. I will have discussions with MNAs in your area to make sure I prioritize the right thing. I will also have meetings with the prefects and elected officials to ensure that in the prioritizations, they too are heard," says the minister who will visit the region in the coming weeks to understand the territorial realities.

Even if she represents the Lower Saint Lawrence riding as their MNA, she is confident that she will know how to have a presence in the entirety of the Gaspé Peninsula.

"There are Members of the

National Assembly in place. I want to work with them. They are experts in their field. I intend to involve them in the role that I will play to ensure that I have a collaborative dynamic in which the reality on the ground is taken into account. I contacted those from my political party and those from other parties to make sure I work with them and so that the issues raised in their constituency are heard," says the MNA who will keep Rachel Leblanc as political attaché for the Gaspé Peninsula.

"We decided to continue with her because she was doing a very good job. She was known to everyone. She is competent. She knows the issues. She is on the ground. I wanted there to be someone known to people in the Gaspé because it is a priority that the reality on the ground be heard. She will bridge the gap with local MNAs and community stakeholders," explains the

elected official.

Ms. Leblanc, who took office as political attaché with Jonatan Julien in February 2021, will see her mandate extended to the Lower Saint Lawrence, but the minister affirms that the work of Ms. Leblanc will be just as effective.

"In eastern Quebec, until re-

cently, there were few members of the Coalition avenir Québec who were elected. We want to involve the local teams to properly distribute the files so that they are involved in their constituency files. It is a dynamic that we want to put in place, which exists elsewhere and which works well," says Ms. Blanchette-Vézina.



Photo: Facebook

The new regional minister, Maïté Blanchette-Vézina.

Gaspésie Wood Producers Syndicate

Director General expects tougher year in 2022

● GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – The new director general of the Gaspésie Wood Producers Syndicate, Guylaine Fournier, expects a tough year for the organization in 2022, mainly due to the shortage of truckers and tough market conditions.

Ms. Fournier replaced Katherine Court in September. Ms. Court, a forestry engineer, retired after close to 10 years at the helm of the Gaspésie Wood Producers Syndicate and more than 30 years of work in the industry.

The current year follows a stretch that didn't allow the region's private wood producers to fully benefit from the high prices of 2021, when some types of lumber sold for as much as \$2,000 per 1,000 board feet. As of mid-October, the average price was down to about \$520.

"Realistically, between now and the end of the year, we will not be able to improve our results enough to call it a good year, especially because there is a shortage of truckers. It takes experience to drive along forestry roads. Insurance companies require a trucker to have five years of

experience before driving on those roads," points out Guylaine Fournier.

"However, it is not the only factor. We are caught in the middle of vicious circles here and there in the production chain. We have some producers who are shy to deliver a good volume because they don't want to see their wood stay along the roads for a long time and, at the other end, an industry that wants guaranteed volumes. I have worked in this field for 23 years and I have talked to old timers recently and they have never seen such a tough context. In all of that, we see shortcomings in transport and human resources. The shortage of truckers is, therefore, the worst problem," insists Ms. Fournier.

She admits that normally the results of 2021 shouldn't be too hard to match this year, considering that last year's results were average.

"The year went well, sales-wise, for the initial two-thirds of it until the fall. Then, some elements made our sales difficult. The weather and the negotiations with the truckers were those elements. A promising year finished on a falling



The new director general of the Gaspésie Wood Producers Syndicate, Guylaine Fournier, says that for a variety of reasons it will be difficult to match the results of 2021.

Photo: Courtesy of the Gaspésie Wood Producers Syndicate

note," explains the director general.

The Wood Producers Syndicate sold a total of 345,335 cubic metres of wood last year, for revenues of \$14.6 million, which include \$3.1 million in hauling fees. While the volume was comparable to the results of the two previous years (see chart), the revenues were up by \$1.1 million

in 2021, for an 8.15% increase compared to 2020. However, the price increase on the market was far better at times.

Finding a fair price for wood producers is difficult

The prices of lumber went from \$400 to \$2,000 per 1,000 board feet during the pandemic, especially in 2021 and it unfortunately doesn't show much in the Gaspésie Wood Producers Syndicate results.

"The woodlot owners didn't benefit much from that wealth. It was a general phenomenon that did not affect only the Gaspé Peninsula. The (lumber) industry did not share those high revenues. They explained that the market was highly volatile and they didn't know how long

they (high prices) would last. They say that, yes, the price was high but there is a delay between the acquisition of logs and the processing stage. We see that, overall, the price index is interpreted to the advantage of the industry. We kept our producers informed. We understand the bitterness of woodlot owners," further explains Ms. Fournier.

"When we see a price of \$1,850 (per 1,000 board feet), it pertains to prime quality. We must think in terms of a basket of different lumber grades. At the same time (as prime quality sells for record prices), other lumber grades will sell for \$700. Somehow, we get the results of both realities (...) In November, the price may be \$1,850 and two months later, it is down to \$900," she adds, insisting on the volatility of the markets.

She sees consolation regarding the big profits cashed in by the owners of the sawmills.

"The industry was able to endow its banking account and modernize the sawmills. For us, sellers of logs, it is helpful that we are dealing with more modern plants. Collectively, we win as well," concludes Guylaine Fournier.

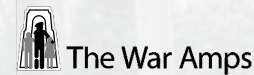
During the pandemic, the Association coopérative forestière of Saint-Elzéar, Damaboïs in Cap-Chat, Groupe G.D.S in Marsoui, Grande-Vallée and Pointe-à-la-Croix, Rosario Poirier in Saint-Alphonse and Groupe Lebel in Nouvelle, formerly known as Temrex, invested a total of close to \$80 million in the modernization of the seven Gaspé Peninsula-based sawmills they own.

Annual sales

Year	Total sum	Value of wood	Hauling	Hauling %
2018	\$14.4M	\$10.3M	\$3.6M	25%
2019	\$13.3M	\$9.5M	\$3.2M	24%
2020	\$13.5M	\$9.6M	\$3.2M	23.7%
2021	\$14.6M	\$11M	\$3.1M	21.2%

Main buyers (in cubic metres)

Buyer	2018	2019	2020	2021
Scierie Saint-Elzéar	56 090	69 277	68 513	83 563
Groupe Lebel (Nouvelle)	0	8 410	34 486	54 325
SAPI (Matane)	23 268	26 034	45 716	33 815
Uniboard (Sayabec)	34 354	13 895	26 538	30 485
Rosario Poirier	25 701	30 240	34 964	20 167
Groupe GDS (3 plants)	137 465	61 392	56 264	78 410
Chaleurs Sawmill (NB)	18 577	48 824	27 792	530
Damaboïs (Cap-Chat)	24 337	9 498	7 562	5 334
NAFP (St-Quentin, NB)	24 288	33 860	23 773	14 155



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Saint-Elzéar Cooperative invests over \$21.4M in sawmill modernization

GILLES GAGNÉ

SAINT-ELZÉAR – Started a year ago, the \$21.4 million modernization project of the Association coopérative forestière of Saint-Elzéar sawmill is now completed, as the equipment was installed over the last months, a new planer, is undergoing the final trials.

The lion's share of the venture, a sum of \$17.4 million, was earmarked for that planer. The project also included the modernization of a part of the sawing equipment, the addition of drying units at the plant's kiln, a device to separate spruce and fir and the addition of a garage.

The cooperative's director general, Mario Pouliot, says that the schedule of the project was respected, despite problems in the delivery of equipment, but the \$21.4 million was surpassed. It is probably more accurate to talk about a \$23 million initiative.

"We probably surpassed the budget by 7 or 8%. My final calculation is not made. With the equipment, we experienced the COVID phenomenon. Some parts were not coming in and we had to deal with other suppliers, not tied to the cost we had expected. The construction part is over now and we are running tests. It is a matter of days now before we can shut down the old planer," explains Mario Pouliot.

Gaspesian contractor LFG Construction was the firm selected to erect the new buildings and delivered them within the expected schedule. The new equipment came from a set of specialized suppliers.

The new facility will enable the cooperative to plane 100% of its lumber production, roughly 68 million

board feet of wood, instead of 35 million board feet. It will allow the firm to get better prices for its wood. It will also significantly increase the productivity of the plant. "We had 16 employees to plane 35 million board feet of wood. Now we will do the same work with seven employees. The nine people freed at the planer are all relocated to the sawing operations where we need people," says Mr. Pouliot.

The Saint-Elzéar cooperative is always looking for new staff, he assures. "We are in a constant recruiting mode. We are always trying to hire people. Some people leave for another job, some people come back after a while. We have employees who are retiring and others who have also reached 65 years of age who want to work three days a week, sometimes four instead of fulltime. We need to keep experienced people," stresses Mr. Pouliot.

The price of wood skyrocketed from \$400 at the beginning of 2020 to as much as \$2,000 per 1,000 board feet between the beginning of the pandemic and the summer of 2021, which greatly benefitted the lumber industry.

The average price is now down with no sudden improvement in sight, except for the consumers buying building materials.

"The prices are now down to the level of 2019, which is about \$520 to \$525. However the operating costs have exploded, whether we are talking about the equipment parts, manpower, cutting rights or fuel. People must understand that from a previous floor price of \$400 to be profitable, the floor price is now \$500 to reach minimal



Photo: G. Gagné

Mario Pouliot thinks his cooperative will be in a position to make another important investment soon, and it could be announced in January.

profitability. We will never see a floor price of \$400 again. If the price goes down to \$400 again, I will stop production at the sawmill and I don't think I will be the only one to do so," he analyzes.

Can prices pick up because of Fiona?

Will Fiona, the gigantic storm that hit the United States and Canada's Atlantic Coast between September 23 and 25, trigger a rising price for lumber?

"For Fiona, people are currently fighting with the insurance companies. When Andrew ravaged the United States (in 1992), people of the lumber industry thought that it would be good but the insurance companies went bankrupt. That said, I think 2023 will be a good year," points out Mario Pouliot.

Speaking of a good year, the Association coopérative forestière of Saint-Elzéar had

a banner year in 2021. Last spring, the members of the coop opted for a \$2 million redistribution of the surplus, whose amount is not revealed publicly by the board. The total revenues are not divulged either but Mario Pouliot admits that they reached "tens of millions of dollars."

The 80 members of the cooperative each received an average of \$25,000 of surplus following their annual general meeting. It represented 47% of their annual base salary.

The firm hires 120 people directly, in the woods, in wood measurement, transport and at the sawmill but some of the workers are not members of the cooperative.

Another important investment expected

Mario Pouliot hopes to announce another important round of investments be-

tween now and January.

"We are producing commodities at the sawmill but when we invested in the modernization of the plant last year, we wanted to prepare the ground for other types of productions, namely specialties. It is coming but I can't give details for now," he says.

The cooperative will likely make that move single handedly instead of realizing a venture with other partners, he simply says. Mario Pouliot is not commenting for now on a future partnership to supply the Port Daniel cement plant with wood residues, a project that has been talked about for five years. It has been progressing very slow for the sawmills of the Gaspé Peninsula.

In the meantime, the Saint-Elzéar cooperative wants to protect and, in fact, increase its annual supply of 240,000 cubic metres of wood, which includes around 80,000 cubic metres from private woodlot owners, a volume negotiated with the Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers Syndicate.

"We are now the most important wood buyer of the Wood Producers Syndicate," points out Mr. Pouliot.

In fact, the Saint-Elzéar cooperative bought 83,563 cubic metres of wood from the Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers Syndicate in 2021, ahead of Groupe G.D.S., which bought 78,410 cubic metres of logs during the same year. Groupe G.D.S. sends that wood to three sawmills, located in Pointe-à-la-Croix, Marsoui and Grande-Vallée, the last two villages being located on the north side of the peninsula.

Notice of Application for Dissolution

TAKE NOTICE that the organization **Le Club de l'Âge d'Or de New Carlisle**, having its head office at 114B, Gérard D. Levesque Blvd in New Carlisle, will ask the Registraire des Entreprises Québec for permission to dissolve.

In New Carlisle, this 25th day of October 2022.

Jacqueline Bourdages, Mandatory Treasurer of the organization

Avis de demande de dissolution

PRENEZ AVIS que l'organisme **Le Club de l'Âge d'Or de New Carlisle**, ayant son siège social au 114B, Boul. Gérard-D. Levesque à New Carlisle, demandera au Registraire des Entreprises Québec, la permission de se dissoudre.

À New Carlisle, ce 25^e jour d'octobre 2022.

Jacqueline Bourdages, Trésorière mandataire de l'organisme



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Rhéal Pitre Sport invests \$5.5 million in major expansion

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – The owners of Rhéal Pitre Sport are currently investing \$5.5 million in a brand new store located along Highway 132, in the west part of New Richmond. Construction started in May and the store will open in April 2023.

Majority owner, Alain Pitre, was thinking of expanding the current store in 2019 and opted for the current spot a year later. He delayed starting construction because of the pandemic.

“I launched the project a year-and-a-half after opting for the current spot but knowing now what I didn’t know in 2020, I should have started back then. I would be running a new store and I could have avoided inflation. The cost of the project went from \$4 million-\$4.5 million in 2020 to \$5.5 million now. The cost of building material just exploded,” points out Alain Pitre.

The proximity of the Little Cascapedia River and four floods experienced since moving to their current location in 2009 “were the last factors that convinced me of moving to another location because we are now well protected. The hassle of moving, dealing with the distances (town planning rules), and the lack of parking space were important factors in the decision. The fishing and hunting side of the store is older and would have had to be replaced. Running a store in the middle of renovations, with dust, managing a temporary move and coping with 15 to 24 months of refurbishment here didn’t make sense. At the new location, there will be ample room for parking. The construction of the new building has no impact on the operations of the current store. In fact, the new construction has a positive effect on our current



Photo: G. Gagné

Work is progressing fast at the new Rhéal Pitre Sport store

operations. People come here because it is going well at Pitre’s. It is unconscious but proven, marketing-wise,” analyzes Alain Pitre.

The new building will cover a surface of 28,000 square feet, compared to 11,000 at the present time. An elevator will be available to reach the second floor.

The staff will increase from 32 employees to an interval between 40 and 45 at the new store. Alain Pitre is confident about recruiting enough people. “It is part of our planning, as of now. We are preparing a recruitment blitz for January but we already see people who want to come and work for us. For now, there is no shortage of manpower expected at our store,” explains Mr. Pitre, the son of founder Rhéal, who opened the first store in 1979 in the downtown area of New Richmond.

Alain Pitre regularly speaks in terms of “us” because he has three associates in the ownership of the store, namely his wife Nancy Lamontagne and two younger shareholders, Véronique Nolin and Étienne Bélanger.

“Véronique and Étienne own their shares through a management company they have. I would never have

launched such a project without that good relief,” he stresses.

Carleton-based Constructions scandinaves is the contractor erecting the building.

“They are going really

fast. Our goal is to have the whole exterior of the building ready before the first snow. The landscaping will also be carried out this fall, with the asphalt laid in the parking lot. We don’t want to

deal with the early spring mud when we open the new store. The asphalt would only be available in June, when the plant reopens. As we say in English, you don’t have a second chance to make a first good impression,” declares Alain Pitre, who will sell the building housing the current store.

“It is a prime spot. The next company settling here will have an upswing. It is not sold yet. We will need it for the next 15 to 25 months. We will need it because, upon opening, the new store will be in a spring-summer mode and we will need the storage space for the unsold winter items. I have ideas about the future of the building,” concludes Alain Pitre, thinking of potential buyers.

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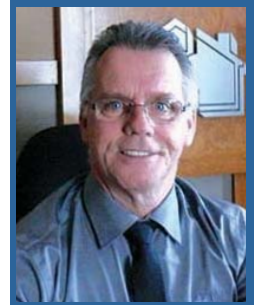
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New Carlisle's "Haunted House" raises an amazing \$2334 to benefit CLC Summer Day Camp

DIANE SKINNER

NEW CARLISLE: This year's "Haunted House" spooky activity at New Carlisle High School on Saturday, October 22, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. was an amazingly successful evening, not only for the money raised (\$2234) for the C.L.C. Day Camp but for the excitement that it offered the community. Over 35 volunteers, kickstarted by Shannon Day and Shannon Marsh, worked tirelessly, creatively and quickly to set up seven differently themed scary rooms at the school that people could walk through.

Planning began about a month ahead of the special and much anticipated evening. First, we had a meeting with the principal of N.C.H.S., Nathalie Ross, and our request to use the school was graciously granted. Next, we approached the town of New Carlisle at a town meeting and requested financial support, which was agreed to. Then the next steps included shopping for supplies, recruiting volunteers (which was very successful) and planning the details such as who was using which space, what scary themes

would be used in each of seven rooms, what additional supplies would be needed and timing. A lot of this was accomplished through Facebook group chats.

The setting up for the Saturday night event began on Friday evening and continued on Saturday before the haunted house could be opened. Most people did the majority of disassembling and cleaning on the same evening and then returned on Sunday morning to finish up. Shannon adds, "Scaring people for three hours and role playing is so much fun, but many of us were tired at the end, and enjoyed coming the next day to clean up. It really is a weekend affair!"

The lineup to get into the Haunted House started well before the opening at 7 p.m. Over 450 people who paid \$5 to enter walked through the rooms in those three hours. In fact, this year there was an opportunity for participants to vote for their favourite rooms and because there were more people than anticipated the organizers ran out of papers for people to cast their votes on. Participants were six years and older with many different age groups participating.

The decision was made to give the proceeds to the Community Learning Centres Summer Day Camp which serves children aged 3 to 12 years of age. On average, 45 children per day attend the camp. Parents in the community appreciate this opportunity for their children.

Shannon Day says that everyone had such a great time, including older ladies who would scream and clutch their husband's shirts! Shannon recounts, "One particularly funny incident happened in the second room, called the Church of the Damned, where two volunteers were dressed up like evil dead nuns, while the other volunteers hid under white sheets on benches. The participants couldn't tell what lumps under the white sheets would jump at them, because some were fake and some were people. A woman and her three friends came through, and they got scared by a volunteer under the white sheet jumping at them, and one of the women had an evil nun walking behind her (played by Amy Day). She grabbed the evil nun by the arm, looking for comfort, thinking it was one of her friends, and ran

out of the room, and when she realized it wasn't her friend who she was grasping to, and it was in fact an evil nun, she let go so fast and jumped into the air! It was great fun!"

History of the Haunted House

The N.C. Haunted House has been going on since 2013 and was first started by Trevor Buttle. The first few years the Halloween activity was offered at the New Carlisle Arena and

behind the Kempffer House. The activity was paused for two years during the pandemic so everyone was excited to have the chance to be "frightened" this year!

Many of the participants, some who came from as far away as Carleton, mentioned that they cannot wait until next year's Haunted House. With the continued support of the community, volunteers, the town and NCHS, next year promises to be bigger, better and spookier!



Photo: Shannon Day

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No date for employment insurance reform

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

OTTAWA - The disappointment is deep for the Interprovincial Alliance, which has returned empty-handed from a trip to Ottawa to urge Justin Trudeau's Liberal Government to finally keep its 2015 promise to reform the employment insurance program.

The Alliance travelled to Ottawa on October 25 to meet with the leaders of the Bloc Québécois, the New Democratic Party and Senator Pierrette Ringuette to discuss the problems and possible solutions related to the reform of employment insurance.

However, the group was unable to meet with ministers or even Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to voice their demands.

Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament Louise Chabot questioned the Trudeau government during question period in the House of Commons and asked for a date for the promised reform.

"I know there are a lot of great ideas on both sides of this room. On this side, we know that it is something important to do. I know that the government is in the process of consulting to ensure that employers and employees have access to a quality system for Canadians today and in the future," responded the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Karine Gould, on behalf of the Minister for Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla

Qualtrough, who was absent from the Commons.

The minister never mentioned a schedule for announcing a reform of the regime.

During the pandemic, the federal government adopted temporary measures that ended on September 24.

Since September 26, 2021, the number of hours to qualify was 420 hours, which gave a maximum of 45 weeks of benefits. The temporary measure also provided for a minimum of 26 weeks in employment insurance economic regions where the unemployment rate was higher.

Since September 24, the impact of the end of these measures has been significant.

"For our unemployed people in the Gaspé, those in seasonal industries, most will experience a black hole this year because even if the five weeks of the black hole (an additional five weeks that some seasonal workers receive) have been renewed, it's not everyone who will be able to benefit from it because not everyone qualifies but, in addition, the five weeks will not be enough. We are talking about nine weeks without income," says the coordinator of the Pabok Unemployment Action Movement, Nadia Mongeon.

In addition, with the drop in the unemployment rate in the region, it now takes 525 hours of work for a Gaspesian to qualify for Employment Insurance premiums.

Ms. Mongeon mentions that the pressure will only increase on the government in



The Interprovincial Alliance was in Ottawa on October 25.

Photo: Facebook

the coming weeks, refraining for the moment from discussing the strategies that will be undertaken.

The Bloc member for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia regrets that Ottawa is still not moving after meeting with the Alliance.

"These people were asking for reform maybe with a little more hope because of the pandemic situation. The government created a new temporary employment insurance system that allowed you to accumulate fewer hours to qualify. Finally, at the end of September, we said we are withdrawing this program and going back to the old program, instead of taking this opportunity to say we are offering you a new universal program," says Kristina Michaud.

She deplors the fact that Minister Diane LeBouthillier and Minister Carla Qualtrough did not deign to meet with representatives of the alliance when the groups interested in the reform participated in all the consultations conducted by Ottawa.

"I don't know what is delay-

ing this reform, which is demanded as much by workers and more and more by employers who understand the situation of their employees and who want to keep them," says the Bloc MP.

Recently, in the context of a labour shortage, Minister LeBouthillier told citizens to "go to work."

"Seasonal industry is different from year-round work. It is not a seasonal worker who is seasonal. It's the industry itself that is. We cannot

send our fishermen to work at Pop Shoes during the winter. That's not how it works. It is normal that there is a system in place to support them. It's insulting to hear that from a regional minister who could change things, and who is at the decision-making table as she often says. It is insensitive on the part of Ms. LeBouthillier to say this kind of thing," says Kristina Michaud, who hopes to see a reform project be tabled in the coming months.



The authorities made sure that the hunters respected the safety rules in the forest.

Photo: Courtesy of Sûreté du Québec

Hunters monitored in Rocher-Percé

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER – Surveillance operations were held during the moose hunting season in the Rocher-Percé MRC in order to carry out prevention to ensure that the sport is practiced safely.

From October 15 to 23, the Sûreté du Québec, Quebec Road Control and wildlife officers joined forces to enforce various laws.

No less than 450 vehicles were checked and only one was impounded. Six statements of offences and six notices of mechanical safeties were served as well as a hundred warnings for various mechanical defects. The agents also visited about fifteen groups of hunters and provided safety and prevention advice.

No arrests for impaired driving or any other Criminal Code offence were reported.

The officers ensured, among other things, compliance with the application of the Firearms Act, the law concerning off-road vehicles and the law on wildlife.

During their interventions, they paid particular attention to the securing of campers and trailers, to the mechanical aspect of the vehicles, to the transport of dangerous materials such as gasoline and propane, but also to driving while impaired by alcohol and drugs. Another operation of this kind was held on Route 198 at the exit of Gaspé during the period.

The SQ had indicated that it would carry out this type of operation during the moose hunt.

Jérôme Tardif leaves the Town of Gaspé to work with Stéphane Sainte-Croix

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

GASPÉ - The director of communications for the Town of Gaspé, Jérôme Tardif, is leaving his position to work with the Coalition Avenir Québec Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé.

Mr. Tardif has worked for the town since 2014. He was recruited by newly elected MNA Stéphane Sainte-Croix to become the director of the constituency offices.

Mr. Tardif is not a "newbie" in the matter, having been press attaché and political adviser to the former MNA of Gaspé, Gaétan Lelièvre, between 2012 and 2014. Previously, he was parliamentary assistant to the Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament, Raynald Blais, from 2008 to 2011.

Revenue Québec recruits

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Quebec's Ministry of Revenue, which operates an important service centre in Chandler, is currently amidst an intensive recruitment period as hundreds of positions are available in many sectors of activity, including customer service, information technology, accounting, law and other fields. The regionalization of jobs allows Revenue Québec to hire people throughout the province, according to the communication branch of the ministry. Moreover, thanks to the possibility of working from home or from a regional office, depending on the job, all future candidates can access various positions, regardless of the place where they live. According to a recent update, Revenue Québec now has just over 1,600 jobs in Quebec's regions and plans to increase this number by 2028. The organization is already well represented throughout Quebec since it currently has offices in 13 of the 17 administrative regions. The Chandler office was one of the first decentralized offices, having opened close to 20 years ago. More than 100 people work there. Revenue Québec often offers flexible working conditions.

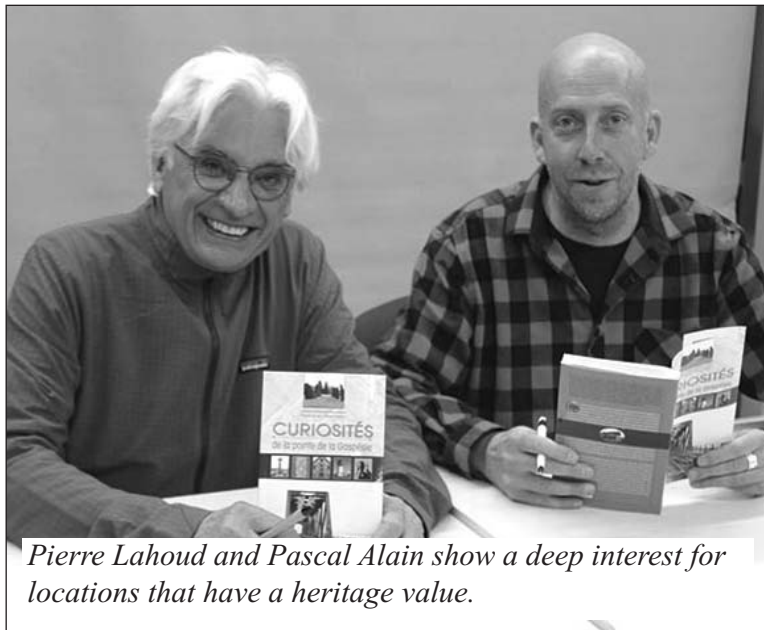
New book presents 100 interesting Gaspé Peninsula locations

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – The book is published in French but a lot of anglophones who can read French might find a deep interest in some of the Gaspé Peninsula locations presented by historians Pascal Alain and Pierre Lahoud in their new book, *Curiosités de la pointe de la Gaspésie*, released on October 12 and 13 in Carleton and Percé, respectively.

Carleton's Pascal Alain, who has authored or co-authored four books so far, and Pierre Lahoud, who lives on Île d'Orléans but who has a keen interest in the Gaspé Peninsula, identified 100 sites between Fontenelle, a part of the town of Gaspé, and Chandler, including the Newport area.

It was their second book together, after publishing three years ago, *Curiosités de la Baie-des-Chaleurs*.



Pierre Lahoud and Pascal Alain show a deep interest for locations that have a heritage value.

Photo: G. Gagné

“We choose locations on the basis of a physical presence. There has to be, or there has been, a physical proof of the locations, and some originality attached to it,” explain Pascal Alain and Pierre Lahoud.

“In Chandler, the Gaspesia mill is no longer there, but we kept it on our list because it was

very important at one point. It was the livelihood of the town for a long time and the former location is now a magnificent place, used profusely by the citizens,” adds Pierre Lahoud, who directs the publication of the *Curiosités* series of books. The recent launch was the 14th of the collection.

The O'Hara Cemetery in downtown Gaspé is one of the 100 locations presented in the book. The cemetery is hardly noticeable, a characteristic that probably raised the interest of the two historians.

“It is somewhere between the Caisse (Desjardins) and the Dixie Lee (restaurant). Since it is now mentioned in a book, I hope that the place will be enhanced,” points out Mr. Lahoud, who has participated as a photographer or author in 45 books during his career.

The Mi'gmaq of Gespeg Interpretation Centre, the Anse aux Cousins former lumber production site, the In Memory of She monument, the Musée de la Gaspésie, the archives of Charles Robin at that museum, the John Carter house, the former consulates of Gaspé, the Ash Inn, Canada's Birthplace, St. Paul's Church in Wakeham, the tombstone of Wilbert Cof-

fin, the War Veterans' monument, Fort Ramsay, Boom Defence, the Irish settlement in Douglastown, Seal Cove, Brilliant Cove, Fort Prevel, the Legros house, Thompson's general store in Barachois, the Corner of the Beach Inn, St. Luke's Church, the Bell House, Bonaventure Island, St. James Church and Cave Cove as seen by Thomas Pye represent some of the subjects of interest in the book.

The book can be found in the bookstores in Gaspé, Percé and New Richmond.

Pascal Alain and Pierre Lahoud, who is also a talented photographer, renowned for his aerial shots, are preparing a third *Curiosités* book about the Gaspé Peninsula. It will cover the Matane to Gaspé area, the part of the town of Gaspé not covered in their latest release, including the Forillon peninsula.

Gaspé water and sewer capacity under study

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Gaspé is commissioning a study to determine if its wastewater treatment capacity and its drinking water wells are able to meet the future development of the town. Housing needs were estimated at 400 units, according to a study released last March, but the document did not take into account needs related to the expansion of the LM Wind Power wind turbine blade plant, which is targeting 1,000 employees once the expansion is completed.

Already 200 of the 400 accommodations have been announced. About a hundred units are under construction this year, to which must be added the hundred from last year.

“What is already carried out, the infrastructure can suffice. Gaspé's growth phase is far from over. We are analyzing whether we will have to increase the capacity of the water treatment plant, the capacity of the water and sewer pipes, and whether we will also have to increase the supply of drinking water. Gaspé is experiencing unbridled and unprecedented growth and we want to support this growth,” says Mayor Daniel Côté.

It is difficult to have an accurate portrait of current capacities, hence the need for the study.

“The margin to get to 400

(housing units) is not clearly established because it depends on the sectors of the town where we are building. At the wastewater treatment plant, there is still room for maneuvering, but how much? Once the 200 are built, do we have room for maneuver of 200, 300 or 400, this is what must be assessed,” adds the mayor.

“We will document that this fall and see how far we can go and how much it would cost to increase capacity to support growth,” adds Mr. Côté.

Once the picture has been analyzed, government assistance will be needed to increase the capacity of the water and sewer networks.

“When we know the real needs, we will be able to quantify it and register in government programs,” calculates the mayor.

Promoters are increasingly interested in the Gaspé market. “We have other big promoters where discussions are advanced. We can't make an announcement, but we have big promoters from outside who are interested in the Gaspé market, after a lot of effort. Finally, we have major promoters who are interested in building here,” says the mayor.

Bills still hard to swallow

The two invoices totaling \$390,000 from the Department of Energy and Natural Resources to enable the transaction between Gaspé and the developers of 144 housing

units and the construction of an 80-place childcare centre near Carrefour Gaspé are still hard to swallow for Mayor Côté.

He hopes that the new government elected on October 3 will resolve this issue.

“We still have it in our hearts. Our MNA, Mr. Sainte-Croix, is aware of the file. During the election campaign, he showed a lot of openness to help us solve this problem. From there, we'll go to the Ministry of Natural Resources. The good news is that it's the second time our regional minister is also the Minister of Natural Resources. We'll give them (the new government) time to settle and the first files that we will address will be this compensation,” says the mayor.

In an interview during the campaign, candidate Stéphane Sainte-Croix said he had “met Daniel Côté and the council. Communication channels are open. Solutions are emerging between the main parties concerned and we will move forward, have no fear,” he said before being elected on October 3.

Inflation will hit taxpayers if Quebec does not help

Galloping inflation has had an impact of about \$1 billion on the finances of Quebec municipalities in 2022, estimates the president of the Union of Quebec municipalities.

For his town, Mr. Côté notes that the end of the 2022 fiscal year is tighter, but the balance sheet should be balanced.

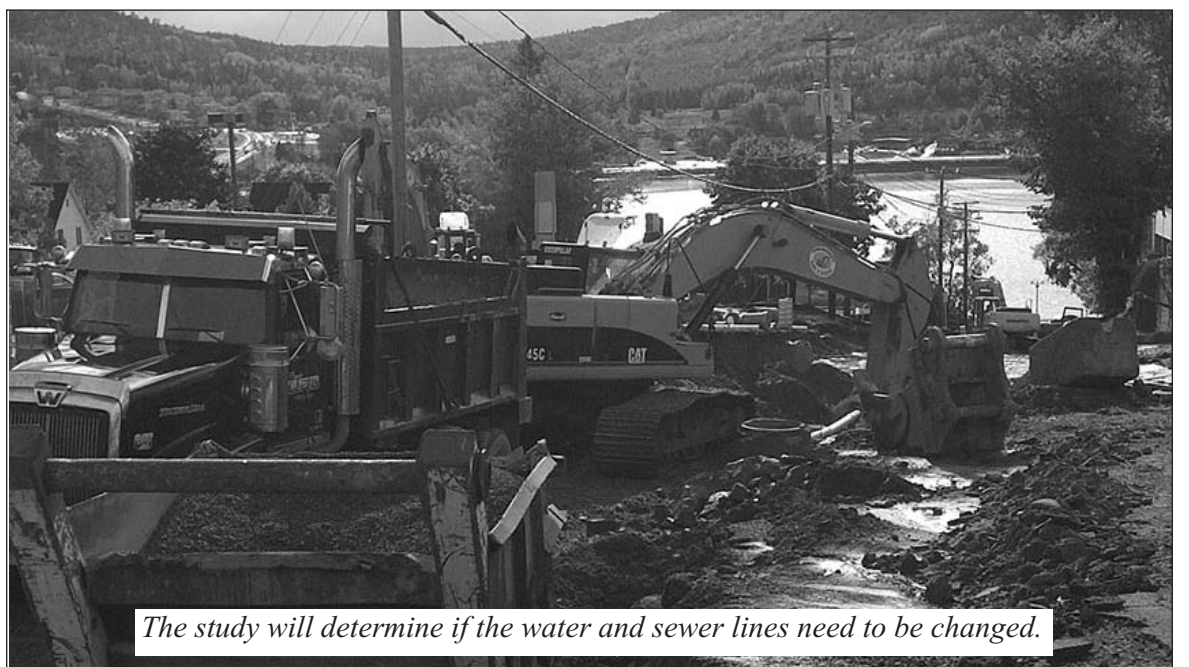
For 2023, the mayor hopes

for help from Quebec.

“Tax increases are inevitable unless the Quebec government does as it did at the start of the pandemic and injects a lump sum into the municipalities,” suggests Mr. Côté.

The president of the UMQ hopes to meet the Minister of Municipal Affairs quickly to discuss the issue.

“Can we find a form of compensation so as not to take the citizens by the throat, as they are struggling with inflation? We don't want to pass on the municipal bill to them when we know that in Quebec City, there is room for maneuver in terms of the budget,” adds Mr. Côté, who does not want to comment on a funding request for 2023 for the moment.



The study will determine if the water and sewer lines need to be changed.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Model railway looking for crew members!

CYNTHIA DOW

NEW RICHMOND: - "People here are proud and capable and some people have time on their hands, especially during the winter. I am sure we can find a few more volunteers," Ira Gladstone told SPEC.

Mr. Gladstone, first introduced to SPEC readers as Mr. Fix-It, is a Montrealer who relocated to the Gaspé a few years ago. When his repair shop in Montreal was expropriated for a development project, he had about 40 boxes of miniature railway equipment to be moved and he brought it all down here with him.



Photo: C. Dow

Ira Gladstone places the miniature steam engine on the track. It puffs out smoke when it's running.

"It's 1/64th scale, S-gauge American Flyer brand, with metal cars and tracks. It reproduces trains from 1944 to the 1960s and it was all packed away for about 30 years, and has suffered some flood damage," Mr. Gladstone explained.

Now that the trains are out of the box, he has a dream and that is to reproduce the Gaspesian railway, or at least priority parts of it, in the Almond Barn at Duthie's Point. "I just fell in love with that barn. I love the way it was saved, moved here, its architecture is preserved." He thinks it's a perfect place to recreate, in miniature, the amazing rail trip from Matapedia to

Gaspé.

"I never got the chance to take the train all the way to Gaspé, but I know the views are incredible and there are amazing trestle bridges to be reproduced."

The rail fan already has a few people signed up to help throughout the winter months. They will be working in the Gendron Store in the winter since it is heated, and Mr. Gladstone noted that some of the work can certainly be done at home. The last meeting in September attracted twelve people interested in helping out, but it was held in the barn and it was too cold to work properly.

"I will be holding workshops in the Gendron Store throughout the winter, and for some of the stations I have kits people could use to build them." He said he can work with people at all different levels of knowledge. "There is no end to what we can tackle over the years, as we can always add detail. The sky is the limit."

He noted, for instance, that the rail cars could be repainted in the colours of the former railway companies (CN, VIA) and that thousands of little trees will have to be made. "Maybe we could involve schoolchildren in that."

The miniature train buff is thinking of focussing on certain priority areas along the Coast for the model train landscapes, including the fossilbearing cliffs at Miguasha, the bridges at St-Jules, the Port Daniel tunnel, the Percé area and the trestle at Brilliant Cove.

Anyone interested in getting involved in this project can contact Ira on his cell at 514-594-0701 and check out the group's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cf-bdcr>.

Commentary Continued from page 4...

wealthy. The minimum wage for them hovers around \$280 per month. When we think that this workforce converged to Qatar in the hope of improving its situation and sending some of the money back home, there is enough to get quite disillusioned for a while.

To put it short, a boycott of the World Cup at this stage would ruin any chance for Amnesty International to reach an agreement with FIFA.

What about Canada?

Where does Canada stand in all this mess? The country has adopted a weak position. The 2022 World Cup will be the men's team's first participation in 36 years. Our women's team is stronger. So the country's soccer federation, just like our government, has been mostly silent. The enthusiasm generated by the qualification of our men's team makes people turn their heads and look somewhere else. We collectively forget to concentrate on the human rights issue. In fact, some Canadian companies were likely involved as contractors in Qatar over the last decade.

Like other countries, Canada asked nothing of the Qatar government. The situation of foreign workers was never raised. Following various media reports (risky reports because they were made in a situation that rules out freedom of the press) explaining the situation, the Qatar regime assured that safety measures were tightened up. However, this is only on paper because, on the ground, working conditions remain terrible.

In December, once the World Cup is over, the press coverage will become harder than ever in Qatar, and the conditions of foreign workers will likely worsen. The sport washing strategy of Qatar will have worked.

Politics and sports have always been intermingled. Politicians are poor at admitting it. They are much better at avoiding tricky topics like the relevance of putting pressure on Qatar and other countries using bribery, fraud, corruption and other unpleasant means to perform sport washing. The leadership has to come from the public, as today's politicians are often poor leaders. They are mainly followers. Sensitizing federal politicians to what is going on in Qatar might look like a drop in the bucket but showing apathy is certainly not a solution.

Guest Commentary Continued from page 4...

with lessons learned and changes that are taking place, they can be more effective.

And, this election will be a dress rehearsal for the 2024 presidential election.

In anticipation of the 2024 election, the Republicans are working to put people in key positions in the voting and counting process across the United States and to amend rules that govern the process to favour their side. These rules would allow state and local governments to simply abandon the votes cast, based on nothing more than unsupported claims of misconduct and substitute the votes of Republican controlled legislative bodies. It would be possible for a state to simply cast aside the votes of millions of citizens without evidence and substitute their own.

Should they succeed in capturing the presidency in 2024 under these circumstances, persons in power can remain in power indefinitely and American democracy will fail.

JOBEL expands in Canada

NELSON SERGERIE

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER - The JOBEL electronic logbook of the Southern Gaspésie Professional Fishermen's Association has received certification from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which allows it to be extended across Canada for lobster fishing.

Created in 2018 by the Gaspesian group, the software replaces the written documentation for declaring the catches of the crustacean and is used by fishermen on the Gaspé Peninsula, which makes it possible to more adequately assess the fishery.

"We are very happy. It was a lot of work for the whole team to provide a solution that continues to be simple for fishermen while meeting the specifications of Fisheries and Oceans," explains the group's project manager, Claire Canet. The software is used not only by lobster fishermen, but also by crab, shrimp and herring fishermen in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

To date, 135,000 landings have been made via JOBEL in the Gulf.

"All lobster fisheries will be able to use JOBEL developed by fishermen for fishermen," says Ms. Canet.

Electronic catch declarations will be mandatory as of 2024 for the lobster fishery in Canada. 2023 will be a year of transition.

"We are starting this work in the next few weeks for fishermen to help them with this transition. It is not necessarily easy to change catch declaration methods and to become familiar. Field training will be done in small groups towards this transition," says Ms. Canet.

According to the project manager, the use of the electronic logbook has an advantage in keeping international fisheries certifications.

"Fishermen have the possibility through JOBEL to declare their accidental catches, the types of bait used. This is important information for the Marine Stewardship Council as an organization goes through the certification process. The group has obtained certification for spring lobster fishing in the Gaspé thanks to the ability to show

with objective data their impacts on other species and the use of bait," underlines Ms. Canet.

The group is targeting more than lobster for national certification. "We are being developed to meet national specifications for crab, shrimp, pelagic fish, salmon, tuna and swordfish. Possibly also for groundfish when the specifications will be issued by DFO. The objective is that all these fisheries, by the end of the first quarter of 2023, can begin the transition to electronic logbooks with JOBEL," says Ms. Canet.

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The Gaspé Spec. Good luck photographers!
Deadline: November 5!

Gaspésie Literacy Council holds 2021-2022 AGM

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

DOUGLASTOWN: The Annual General Meeting for the Gaspésie Literacy Council (GLC) was held on September 29 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was a hybrid of both in-person and virtual participation with more than 30 people attending.

Board President Jessica Synnott pointed out that there has been a return to regular activities. She shared that growth is coming from new partnerships, new activities and community involvement. In addition, several online events were held in order to reach people who live outside the community and might not be able to travel to the offices of the GLC. Further, President Synnott thanked the staff for developing new partnerships and strengthening the ties with the community.

A huge thank-you was given to the Board of Directors: Jessica Synnott, Isabelle Martin, Jody Lessard, Amie Chicoine, Robert Wolfe, Sarah Chicoine Lemieux, Helena Burke, Kim Fessenden, Peggy Brimscale and to the GLC staff.

Revenues for the year ending June 30, 2022:

Contributions from the Ministry of Education, Croix-Rouge Canada, Pacte (Covid funding), interest revenue, reimbursed expenses, deferred contributions and sales totalled \$161,609.12. This represented an increase over 2021, when total revenues were \$124,272.00

Expenses for the year ending June 30, 2022:

Expenses, including employee salaries and benefits,



Photo: Darlene Dimock

The staff at the Gaspé Literacy Council has increased from two to five employees in the past two years. From left to right: Tesia Hackett, Crystal Element, Cheryl Henry-Leggero, Chelsea Flowers and Angelina Leggo

professional fees, office supplies, rentals, transportation and insurance totalled \$145,751.53. This was up from 2021 when expenses totalled \$129,440.00

Partners and programs

GLC is continually expanding its services both digitally and in-person to ensure coverage of its huge territory. Over the past several years, services have expanded to include tutor training and tutoring services, literacy-based workshops, and family activities. The council is currently in the second year of its youth-oriented project, Combatting Dropouts and Bridging the Post-Secondary Gap.

Cheryl Henry-Leggero, executive director, shares, “By increasing public awareness of common and invisible literacy

challenges, the GLC identifies and responds to the evolving needs of our community”.

Background of the G.L.C.

The Gaspésie Literacy Council is one of eleven literacy councils in Quebec and has been serving the many communities in its territory since 1984. Throughout most of this history, it has served community groups along the entire Gaspé Coast, the North Shore (Baie Comeau), and the Magdalen Islands by providing financial support and offering book sales through local schools and community centres.

In 2018, the GLC began to completely restructure its approach by expanding its partnerships and taking a more active role within the community.

The region experiences a “Second Summer”

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Gaspé experienced such mild weather between October 22 and 27 that two temperature records were broken during this period. The mercury soared to 19.9°C on October 22, smashing the 18.9°C mark set in 1979, according to Environment Canada data. On October 23, the mercury stopped at 19.5°C, five-tenths off the 1957 record high of 20°C.

On October 26, temperatures hit 23.1°C, wiping out the 22.6°C mark from 1991. The temperature felt around 1 p.m. that day was 28°C with the Humidex factor. These data are far from the seasonal norms of 8°C during the day and -2°C at night. With such data, the region experienced a “Second Summer.”

To meet this designation, four criteria must be met: the mercury must be more than five degrees above normal during the day, good weather for at least three days, less than five millimetres of rain and have experienced a first frost.

The period ended on the night of October 26 to 27 when more than five millimetres of rain was received.

Temperatures around 20°C are not abnormal at this time of the year. From October 24 to 28 in different years, records of over 20°C were set, including 23.9°C on October 25, 1991. The latest 20°C in a year was measured on November 6, 1938 when the mercury stopped at 20°C. Gaspé received 92.7 millimetres of rain between October 1 and October 26. The normal is 121.3 millimetres and four centimetres of snow. The earliest snowfall occurred on October 4, 1989 with 0.4 centimetres.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



“30 Shades of Gray” Days

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds – November.

November has arrived and once the leaves have fallen and before the snow arrives, and it will, this month will reveal many gray days. It is an “in-between” kind of month – the weather is not quite fall and not quite winter. The countdown to Christmas has not begun in earnest but is at the back of our minds. The snow and Christmas will arrive in due time. November, the eleventh month of the year, has 30 days and got its name from the Latin word novem which means nine. In the early Roman calendar, November was the ninth month!

What happens this month, besides gray days?

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 6, 2022, and will begin once more on March 12, 2023.

Remembrance Day is observed on November 11.

November is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and it is regrettable that we need to observe this but awareness and talking about it is imperative. That is how we move towards solutions.

There are some weird and wacky “National” days that are observed in Canada during November including: November 5 (National Doughnut Day), November 14 (National Pickle Day), November 17 (National Take a Hike Day), November 19 (National Play Monopoly Day) and November 21 (National Red Mitten Day). Let’s observe another National Day in November: Buy a Box of Christmas Cards Day!

November’s full moon is traditionally called the Beaver Moon. Why? In mostly bygone times, this was the month to set one’s beaver traps before the swamps froze and beavers retired to their lodges. This ensured a supply of warm winter furs.

In 2022, November’s full moon occurs on Tuesday, November 8.

In the early morning hours of November 8, a total lunar eclipse will be visible from much of eastern Canada. The eclipse begins at 5:16 A.M. EST, reaching total eclipse at 5:59 A.M. EST.

According to folklore, a very heavy November snowfall will mean snow on the ground will last until April.

Other November folklore informs us that:

- Ice in November brings mud in December.
- If there’s ice in November that will hold a duck. There will be nothing after but sludge and muck.
- If trees show buds in November, The winter will last until May.

There is no better month in the year to cut wood than November.

November’s traditional birthstone is the topaz, usually a yellow to amber colour. The ancient Greeks believed that the topaz could make a wearer invisible. A symbol of strength, the topaz was also believed to bring longevity and wisdom. November’s birth flower is the chrysanthemum. November’s signs of the zodiac are Scorpio: October 23 to November 22 and Sagittarius: November 23 to December 21.

Enjoy the quieter days of November because, come December, everybody will be much busier!

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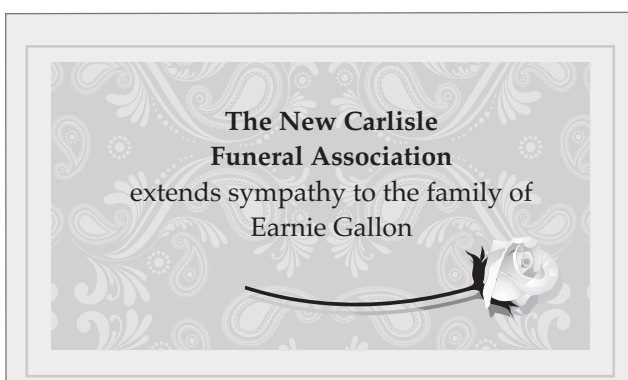
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1 year: Canada \$46 6 months: \$25

COAST ROUND-UP

COAST ROUND-UP: \$5 per week
CLASSIFIED: \$6 per week

COAST ROUND-UP

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

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

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 3: Crib tournament beginning at 7 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Centre.
November 12: Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m.

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

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

NEW CARLISLE:
LLB Membership
Please note that membership renewals for the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation started on **October 15, 2022** for the 2023 year.

You can renew your membership by sending \$20 cash, e-transfer or cheque by mail to: C.P. 219, 168 Gérard D. Levesque, QC G0C 1Z0 or in-person on Tuesdays or Fridays between 9 and 11 a.m. For more information, please call 418-752-7223.

NEW CARLISLE:
Bible Chapel Meetings
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Breaking of Bread for believers. Drive-In Gospel Meetings will be held at Fair Haven Bible Camp in New Carlisle Sundays at 2 p.m. In case of rain, meetings will be held at the Bible Chapel. All are welcome – invite a friend! Sponsored by the New Carlisle Bible Chapel.
Thursdays: 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. For more information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

NEW CARLISLE:
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64
Please be advised that Legion memberships are available for \$45. Return-

ing 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.
November 5: Crafts workshop from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and live music beginning at 8 p.m.
November 11: Remembrance Day Ceremony at the New Carlisle cenotaph to purchase a wreath please contact Betty at 581-233-2068 or Mary at 418-752-2845.
December 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:
Armistice Wreaths
Family members wishing to buy a wreath can come pick up their wreaths on **November 7 and 8** from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Legion. For more information

or to buy a wreath, please call 581-233-2068.

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
NEW RICHMOND**
Sunday, November 6
10 a.m. Service

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN**
Sunday, November 6
2 p.m. Service with Minister

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
Sunday, November 6
NEW CARLISLE
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Special Armistice Day Service

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

Please send your Classified or Coast Round-Up to: holly.smith@globetrotter.net

Forget Me Not Project: Keeping seniors connected

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

MATAPEDIA to PORT DANIEL: An innovative two-year project created by CASA was designed to provide social connections for seniors living from Matapedia to Port Daniel. The Forget Me Not initiative is funded through the Quebec Amis des Aînés program and has been offered since October 2021. This friendship program provides relief for those who find the days long and whose social circle has been reduced by the pandemic.

The project, created during the height of the pandemic, provides a friendship connection for seniors who may be socially isolated and experiencing loneliness. Currently the friendship project will run until March 31, 2023, and participants, both volunteers who are called companions and clients, will stay connected weekly by phone. The companions were first recruited through the CASA Wellness Centres and the first training was held in January 2022. The volunteers were



Front Row: Shirley Campbell, Irene Buttle-Burton, Diane Sawyer
Middle Row: Ethel Bradbury, Marjorie Buttle, Margaret Mauger, Barbara Shearing, Sandra Gregoire
Back Row: Kathy Gallon - CASA, Sharon Leggo, Melda Doucet, Sheila Firlotte Campbell, Douglas Firlotte, Cynthia Dow, Brenda Buttle.
Missing from Photo: Madelyn Hayes - CASA Senior Coordinator, Sally Walker - CASA Senior Outreach Worker, Faye MacNaughton, Lynda MacWhirter, Sandy Mace and Edith Huntington.

trained to provide confidential and caring support and were subsequently matched with clients based on common interests and hobbies. Altogether there are 50 seniors in the program, both volunteers and clients.

Kathy Gallon, Senior Co-

ordinator states, “Strong mental health is very important for both the volunteer calling and the client during the program; therefore, the coordinators (Kathy Gallon and Madelyn Hayes) make regular calls with both volunteers and clients to check that all is

well for both sides. Last year alone, there were two gatherings for the volunteers to get together and meet other volunteers and share their experiences with the program. This is another way of showing the volunteers they are not alone and CASA is here to as-

sist with any challenges that may occur.”

This program has benefits for both the volunteer and client. Volunteers enjoy helping others and helping other seniors feel connected. Many clients have remarked that they enjoy receiving calls from their companions and making new friends, even exchanging new recipes.

The world changed during the COVID pandemic and many seniors were not able to see their families, friends or join in any social gatherings. This caused loneliness, depression and possibly cognitive impairment. Forget Me Not helps to ease those feelings.

Senior Coordinators Kathy Gallon and Madelyn Hayes are very pleased with the growth of the project and commitment of the volunteers who take time out of their day to reach out to another senior. Since both companions and clients are enjoying the program, CASA is currently thinking of ways to extend the program after March, 2023.

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