

Jenn Harrison files a complaint with the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS

She wishes to receive hemodialysis services closer to home

● GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – Jenn Harrison, who wants to receive hemodialysis treatments since May without spending eight to twelve hours a week on the road, has filed a complaint with the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre of the Gaspé Peninsula. She expresses her dissatisfaction at not knowing when she will receive her treatment at a closer hospital.

Ms. Harrison has been receiving hemodialysis treatments since May 14. Between that date and mid-July, she received them in Rimouski, three-and-a-half hours, 310 kilometres, one way, from her home in New Richmond. This distance has prompted her to spend five days a week in Rimouski and to rely on family members and friends in order to take care of her eight-year-old daughter while she was away.

In July, she obtained a transfer of her treatments to Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, 150 kilometres from her home. Instead of spending the week in the northern Gaspé town, about an hour and forty-five minutes away from her apartment, she goes there three times a week with the help of volunteers, her car not being reliable enough for the trip.

Following the publication of an article in the SPEC in September, a write-up presenting her situation, she was informed that a transfer of her treatments would eventually be possible, to Chandler, a town 120 kilometres from New Richmond, or ideally Maria, 30 kilometres away.

“It’s not working. I had a meeting with my social worker. I’m first on the waiting list at Chandler and fifth in Maria. I don’t know when



Photo: G. Gagné

Carolyn Taylor, coordinator of the Family Ties Parent Support Service, supports Jenn Harrison in her efforts, particularly with health authorities.

it will change. For Chandler, will I have the space when someone moves out, or gets a new kidney, or gets hemodialysis at home, or passes away? I am not wishing anything bad for the people. I am not this type of person. It (getting a place) could take a month, or six months, or a year or a few years,” Ms Harrison says.

Maria hospital, 15 minutes from her home, is of course her first choice, especially considering winter driving conditions.

“There are people ahead of me on the waiting list. I don’t know how the places are allocated. When one becomes available in hemodialysis, what is the order of priority? There is a contradiction in the priority order,” notes the 32-year-old mother, who worries about the effects of her situation on her daughter.

Carolyn Taylor, coordinator of the Family Ties Parent Support Service, supports Jenn Harrison in her efforts, especially since she suffered

two small heart attacks in August that required a quadruple coronary bypass.

“I wonder if health authorities just go down the waiting list, with no other criteria. This is why we filed a formal complaint on November 15. We ask the health authorities to consider Jenn’s health, since she will also eventually have to return to Quebec City for a follow-up on her heart condition, to consider the stress she is experiencing, and the fact that she does not have a reliable vehicle and she is relying on volunteers to drive her in winter conditions now. Also, she is the mother of a young child. We have received an acknowledgment of the complaint. The authorities have 45 days to respond to us. It is a long time for someone waiting for something like this,” says Ms Taylor.

“My anxiety fuels my depression. I am scared to go through the Park (de la Gaspésie) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to

receive my treatments. On Friday (November 25), we hit an ice patch and the driver lost control. We almost hit the guardrail. I have already missed some appointments because of the road conditions. I have a plan B, but it is not as efficient. I take power supplements. I have to take them between treatments when I miss an appointment. I had to miss yesterday (November 28) as well,” says Jenn Harrison.

At the end of the summer, the volunteers driving her to Sainte-Anne-des-Monts informed her that with the onset of winter, they would not risk their lives, and hers, on Road 299 crossing the Gaspé Peninsula between New Richmond and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

“So far, so good, but we are just starting the winter. They keep going out of the goodness of their heart but at one point they might not go because it is too dangerous and we are not taking that chance. The winter condi-

tions are here. At the end of summer, it looked far. Now we are in it. It still feels hopeless,” Ms Harrison reveals.

She has had Type 1 diabetes since she was eight years old. It is a type that does not arise from bad lifestyle habits but from natural conditions. The insulin injection worked for her for 24 years, until this past spring. Since 2016, she has been blind in her left eye due to retinal detachment. Diabetes also causes nerve problems in both feet, which hampers her capacity to walk over long distances.

The bypass surgery Jenn Harrison received in August disqualifies her from having a home hemodialysis machine, at least for the foreseeable future.

“The pill I am on for my heart requires medical supervision when I receive hemodialysis. We need to make sure my heart functions well. I can’t get hemodialysis at home. They can’t install the machine before a year following the operation (she received) in August. It will be re-evaluated next summer,” she specifies.

One of her sources of stress stems from the potential effects of her condition on her daughter Dezirea. “It is still hard on her. She worries about me. Her teacher wrote a letter to tell me that she is still good in school and that she is still well behaved, but that she is worried about me. She is sad that mommy had to go through all that. That’s a lot for an eight-year-old girl to worry about,” concludes Jenn Harrison.

Hemodialysis cleans the blood when the kidneys are only partially functioning.

- See page 2 for more on this topic

HEMODIALYSIS:

Shortage of labour remains the main challenge

GILLES GAGNÉ

MARIA – Since Monday, November 28, Jenn Harrison may have moved up two places on the waiting list at Maria's hospital, 15 minutes from her home, since the establishment has one more seat in hemodialysis.

Why only two places, when an extra seat could serve a few more patients per week? Because Maria's hospital can only count on the necessary staff to take two more patients, three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"It is difficult to envisage, in the current labour context, to proceed with the addition of availability (for more than two patients per week)," explains

Lou Landry, spokesperson for the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre of the Gaspé Peninsula (CISSS).

Jenn Harrison could therefore have gained two ranks, mathematically, or more, but it could also be less, if more serious cases than hers are also on the waiting list, although her situation is precarious.

"As for the list, what I'm told is that the prioritization is given by the nephrologists according to the patient's ability to receive hemodialysis, the chronology of arrival on the list, the seriousness of the situation, in short, various factors," adds Mr. Landry, who also specifies that the CISSS does not comment on personal cases.

"Currently, to launch the service, we had to resort to independent labour. However, a CISSS resource should be trained in the coming weeks to join the team. We are talking about a six-week training course," also underlines Lou

Landry.

By independent labour, one must understand personnel coming from private agencies, he says.

Carolyn Taylor, coordinator of the Family Ties parent support service and who helps

Jenn Harrison get hemodialysis treatments 30 kilometres from home, finds it "difficult to understand that extra effort is not being made to increase the use of equipment that sits idle four days a week due to staff shortages."

Citizens deprived of Telus services since November 17

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

SAINT-FRANÇOIS-D'ASSISE - Citizens of Saint-François-d'Assise are fed up with being deprived of telephone, television and internet service since November 17.

Two trees fell and severed Hydro-Québec wires and a Telus fibre optic cable in the Rang Saint-Jean and Chemin de la Chaîne-de-Roches sector.

"We called Telus. Hydro came to fix its wires. Telus came to fix their wires. Another tree fell higher up and it knocked out the power again. Hydro came back to repair its wires and Telus changed a piece of cable,

but since that time, we no longer have TV or internet, and in the rang Saint-Jean, citizens have been without a telephone for 12 days," says Ronald Doucet on November 28.

According to Mr. Doucet, rang Saint-Jean is inhabited by several elderly people who do not have a cell phone to make communications.

Telus told citizens that its technicians could not do the work until Hydro-Québec came to relieve its network.

According to information obtained by Mr. Doucet, Telus did not make a request to Hydro-Québec until November 28. "They told the mayor that the request was made this morning (November 28) and that the work could not be done until the beginning of next week (around December 6). If there is a fire in those (houses) where they do not have a cell phone, they cannot call the firefighters," he criticizes.

He hopes that by contacting the media, repairs will be done more quickly.

"It's not normal that in 2022 we don't have more service than that," says the citizen.

For its part, Telus confirms that trees laden with heavy snow fell on its infrastructure near Chemin de la Chaîne-de-Roches, affecting a dozen customers.

Work will start as soon as possible.

Repairs should be made during a planned power outage. The company is in contact with Hydro-Québec to agree on a time slot.

The government-owned company told Telus that the work is considered a priority, as is the telecommunications company, which apologizes for the inconvenience to its customers.

As SPEC was going to press, Telus had still not communi-



Photo: N. Sergerie



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Notice of Application to Dispose of Dredged Material or Other Matter at Sea, Gaspé Peninsula

Notice is hereby given that Fisheries and Oceans Canada, located at 104 Dalhousie Street, Québec (Quebec), intends on this 7th day of December 2022 to apply to Environment and Climate Change Canada for

FOUR DISPOSAL AT SEA PERMITS under the CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999

to load dredged material in the following harbours in the Gaspé Peninsula for the purpose of Disposal at sea at the sites mentioned below, and by the following method: mechanical excavator and towed scows.

Harbour	Quantity in cubic metres (m ³) place measure	Disposal site	Proposed dates for loading and disposal activities
Port-Daniel (48.18233° N. and 64.96150° W. NAD83)	4 000	PD-6 (48.13500° N. and 64.94167° W. NAD83)	From March 15, 2023 to March 14, 2024
Anse-à-Brillant (48.72117° N. and 64.28950° W. NAD83)	4 000	ABR-1 (48.73200° N. and 64.28200° W. NAD83)	From March 15, 2023 to March 14, 2024
Anse-à-Beaufils (48.47200° N. and 64.30607° W. NAD83)	6 000	AB-5 (48.45000° N. and 64.25000° W. NAD83)	From March 15, 2023 to March 14, 2024
Saint-Godefroi (48.07310° N. and 65.11478° W. NAD83)	5 000	SG-2 (48.04500° N. and 65.08333° W. NAD83)	From March 15, 2023 to March 14, 2023

For further information regarding these activities, please contact:

Mr. Maxime Doyon
Project Technician
Small Craft Harbours Branch
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Quebec Region
104 Dalhousie Street
Québec, Quebec G1K 7Y7
Maxime.Doyon@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

The public may raise environmental concerns related to this notice or obtain information on the permit issuance process by contacting the nearest Disposal at Sea Program regional office:

Environment and Climate Change Canada,
Quebec Region
Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Disposal at Sea Program Coordinator
105 McGill Street, 4th floor
Montréal, Quebec H2Y 2E7
Phone: 438-342-1563
immersionqc-disposalatseaqc@ec.gc.ca

Préavis de demande de permis d'immersion des déblais de dragage ou d'autres matières en mer, Gaspésie

Avis est donné par les présentes que Pêches et Océans Canada, sis au 104, rue Dalhousie, Québec (Québec) en ce 7^e jour de décembre 2022 a l'intention de demander à Environnement et Changement climatique Canada,

QUATRE PERMIS D'IMMERSION EN MER en vertu de la LOI CANADIENNE SUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT (1999)

afin de charger des déblais de dragage dans les havres suivants en Gaspésie, pour ensuite les immerger en mer aux sites de dépôt mentionnés ci-dessous, au moyen d'une drague à benne preneuse ou d'une pelle hydraulique ou drague hydraulique et de chalands remorqués.

Havre	Quantité en mètres cubes (m ³) mesure en place	Site de dépôt	Dates prévues d'activités de chargement et d'immersion
Port-Daniel (48,18233° N. et 64,96150° O. NAD83)	4 000	PD-6 (48,13500° N. et 64,94167° O. NAD83)	Du 15 mars 2023 au 14 mars 2024
Anse-à-Brillant (48,72117° N. et 64,28950° O. NAD83)	4 000	ABR-1 (48,73200° N. et 64,28200° O. NAD83)	Du 15 mars 2023 au 14 mars 2024
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Pour de plus amples renseignements sur ces activités, veuillez communiquer avec:

Monsieur Maxime Doyon
Technicien de projets
Direction des Ports pour petits bateaux
Pêches et Océans Canada, Région du Québec
104, rue Dalhousie, Québec (Québec) G1K 7Y7
Maxime.Doyon@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Le public peut faire part de ses préoccupations environnementales suscitées par ce préavis, ou obtenir des renseignements sur la délivrance des permis, en s'adressant au bureau régional du Programme sur l'immersion en mer le plus près:

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada, Région du Québec
Direction des activités de protection de l'environnement
Coordonnateur, Programme sur l'immersion en mer
105, rue McGill, 4^e étage
Montréal (Québec) H2Y 2E7
Tél. : 438-342-1563
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Canada



Photo: Courtesy of the Town of Gaspé

Jocelyn Villeneuve is returning to the Town of Gaspé after five years at the helm at the Rivière-du-Loup MRC.

Jocelyn Villeneuve becomes the new director general of the Town of Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Major changes to the management of the Town of Gaspé will come into effect next February with the return of Jocelyn Villeneuve, who will take over as the director general of the Town.

Mr. Villeneuve is no stranger to the Town since he was Director of Urban Planning, Development and the Environment for 14 years. He assumed the interim director general position in 2010 and that of Public Works between 2013 and 2015.

Mr. Villeneuve left Gaspé to become director general of the Rivière-du-Loup MRC, a position he has held for the past five years.

The current director general, Sébastien Fournier, who has been in office since 2010 will become his assistant. The director of administrative services, treasurer and airport manager, Dave Sainte-Croix, is also promoted to assistant.

“It is a series of circumstances that bring about these changes. We lost our Director of Communications and Strategic Files, who left to take up new challenges. Secondly, our director general had health problems last summer and asked me to reduce his level of responsibility. Thirdly, a window was opening to attract our former Director of Urban Planning and current Director of the Rivière-du-Loup MRC to return home. We are also going to promote Dave Sainte-Croix internally to the assistant director general to support the general management,” explains the mayor, Daniel Côté.

Each has twenty years of experience in municipal administration and all have held management positions.

“They are very complementary to each other. Jocelyn Villeneuve is a planner and is a visionary and mobilizer. Combined with the technical and financial aspects that Sébastien Fournier and Dave Sainte-Croix both possess, it will make an extraordinary trio. We will make people envious in the municipal community,” says the mayor.

A call for candidates will be launched to fill the position in communications left vacant by Jérôme Tardif who has become the director of the constituency office of the new Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

“The new town council wanted to have someone fulltime in communications. In comparable towns, there is more than one communications person. The opportunity presented itself. We are going to open a post,” explains the mayor.

The change of positions will take place in February, the time to allow Jocelyn Villeneuve to leave his current position.

Police report

Steve Soucy, 50, from Saint-Elzéar will return to the New Carlisle Courthouse on December 12 for his bail hearing. Originally, his bail hearing was supposed to take place on December 1 but defence attorney Ariane Cayer asked Quebec Court Judge Célestina Almeida to postpone it until December 12. Steve Soucy was sent for a 30-day psychiatric evaluation following his September 6 court appearance. He faces charges of uttering death threats or causing injury to police officers, possession of a weapon without a license, possession of a weapon for a purpose dangerous to public peace and possession of a firearm while prohibited from doing so.

“The psychiatric evaluation of the accused was not made to determine if he is fit to stand trial but to assess his responsibility at the time of the alleged crimes. It is a bit different. The assessment of responsibility will not be used as long as the trial doesn’t start. It is a tool for the defence. The December 12 bail hearing will not proceed that day. It is a pro forma (for the record) court appearance but the real date of the bail hearing will be set then,” points out Criminal Prosecutor Cédric Leblanc-Falardeau.

When Steve Soucy was arrested on September 2, he was already known to police. In 2018, he was sentenced to serve 30 months in prison for various offences related to break and enters. The September 2 police intervention began in the early hours of the morning and ended around 9 p.m., near Steve Soucy’s residence. The accused surrendered without firing a shot.

Much of Quebec was aware of the situation by 4 p.m. when a general alert was triggered by the Quebec government’s operational centre. It, however, took hours to inform the Saint-Elzéar population because of the poor cellular phone coverage in the village.

The 35-year-old man residing in Port Daniel who was charged with 11 sexual crimes on October 5 at the New Carlisle Courthouse will return to the New Carlisle Courthouse on February 27 for his pro forma bail hearing. He was back in court on December 1 for his bail hearing but the case was postponed once more. The man has been under investigation since September 2022. Some of the crimes he faces were allegedly committed in the Gaspé Peninsula, while others are tied to his stay as a resident of Bedford, Eastern Townships, where he was living prior to moving to Port Daniel.

Although there is no ban on releasing his name, SPEC will not publish it for now in order to protect the victim. The court has prohibited the release of information that could lead to the identity of that woman. Criminal Prosecutor Maxime Rocheville-Paradis will object to the release of the man at the bail hearing.

Most of the charges were allegedly committed between September 1, 2018 and September 21, 2022. The man faces charges of sexual assault, assault with a weapon, forcing someone to commit an act of bestiality and assault. The period valid for the charges of pimping, of having benefitted from a pecuniary advantage knowing that it was coming from pimping, and having participated in a sexual assault with another person, at the expense of the same victim happened between September 1, 2018, to December 31, 2021. Those charges are related to events that occurred in Bedford. All the crimes were committed in a marital context.

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

A suspicious individual is said to be prowling around the Saint-Rosaire primary school in Gaspé and allegedly stopped at least two children to offer them candies, toys or follow them home. The Sûreté du Québec is aware of the events that allegedly occurred at the end of November on at least two occasions, according to police spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron. According to the description provided by the school, the individual has rather long and gray hair, wears a plaid jacket, is around 65 years old and had a hood pulled up.

At this stage of the investigation, the police authorities mention that the individual has not committed a criminal act or made distinct criminal advances to children. The school administration is taking advantage of this incident to remind people of the safety instructions that apply when children are approached by a stranger. They should walk in groups as much as possible, stay on public roads, avoid shortcuts and paths, use lighted pathways, maintain the route usually taken, keep a safe distance when one feels in danger with an individual, say “no” when offered a treat or something else, refrain from following the individual, react physically if necessary and run away, and talk about the situation with a trustworthy adult.

All police services in Quebec, in collaboration with the traffic controllers of the Société de l’assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), will intensify their interventions from December 2 to January 2, 2023, within the framework of the concerted national operation targeting the ability to drive impaired by alcohol or drugs. These interventions will result, among other things, in screenings that could be carried out at checkpoints. In parallel with this operation, an awareness campaign will be deployed on the various social media platforms of police organizations. This campaign aims to remind drivers of the consequences of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

For its part, the SAAQ will conduct an awareness campaign from December 5 to January 1. With the theme “When you drink, you don’t drive,” this campaign will aim to make drivers aware of the risk of driving after consuming alcohol, even in small quantities. When drinking, it is always better to have an alternative solution for a safe return such as the use of a designated driver, a cab, public transit, a ride-hailing service or the hospitality of a loved one. Alcohol or drugs remain one of the main causes of death in road collisions in Quebec. Between 2016 and 2022, on average, alcohol was involved in 25% of fatal collisions and 15% of collisions with serious injuries.

It remains essential to warn the public about the various myths circulating in connection with the possibility of recovering driving ability more quickly in certain circumstances. Only time can dissipate the effects related to alcohol or drug consumption. In addition, the practice of estimating one’s own blood alcohol level before taking the steering wheel presents significant risks and is, therefore, to be avoided. The effect of a single consumption should never be underestimated. This concerted national operation is organized within the framework of a partnership between the Sûreté du Québec, the Sherbrooke Police Service, the Association of Police Directors of Quebec and the SAAQ.

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Gilles Gagné

Commentary

National Assembly's very short session shows tendencies that will likely continue into 2023

The National Assembly session has been underway in Quebec City since November 30 and will be over by December 9, eight working days later. The Coalition avenir Québec leader, Premier François Legault, and his closest collaborators decided that waiting 58 days between the October 3 election and the session kickoff was a good idea. Time will tell if such a waiting period was wise but it gives an idea of how the Coalition avenir Québec government thinks.

They received much support from the population, winning in 90 of the 125 National Assembly seats and they will act accordingly. They will give very little wiggle room to opposition parties and when they allow for some maneuverability, it will favour the party or parties of their choice.

The very short session shows that the CAQ government doesn't seem to fully understand that arrogance is one of its pitfalls.

Yes, the CAQ won in 90 ridings, or 72% of the seats, but the party did so with a tad under 41% of the votes. Given that the participation rate reached 66.15%, it means that only 27.1% of Quebec electors voted for the CAQ. Never in the history of Quebec has the population witnessed a discrepancy of that size between the high number of seats and the relatively low popular support. A fragmented opposition mainly explains that context.

Such is our first-past-the-post electoral system, which François Legault allegedly wanted to change after his first victory in 2018. He changed his mind and has buried the idea since, seeing that a proportional voting mode would disadvantage the CAQ. Fairness and democracy don't always go hand in hand. The biggest loser on October 3 was the Conservative Party with 13% support and no seat. (FPTP is Canada's current electoral system. Voters in each riding vote for one candidate in that riding. Whoever has the most votes, but not necessarily a majority of votes, is elected for that riding.)

Favours given to the Liberal Party and Québec solidaire

In the distribution of the resources made avail-

able to the opposition, François Legault was glad to approve just about everything asked by the Liberal Party, which is practically absent in the ridings where francophones represent the majority. For the next couple of years, interim leader Marc Tanguay will not be a big threat to the CAQ control over the National Assembly. The Liberals have a very long road to cover before becoming a threat again, if it happens, and they have a leadership convention to organize.

Marc Tanguay likes to project the image of a tough opponent during the National Assembly debates but he will have to curtail his tendency to make gaffes and therefore undermine the party's credibility.

Debate-wise, François Legault's toughest opponent will remain Québec solidaire's leader, Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, who is much more eloquent. Premier Legault also opened the door to most of Mr. Dubois' requests before the session even if the latter will give him a run for his money during National Assembly's exchanges.

The CAQ and Québec solidaire have one common enemy for now, the Parti Québécois, and they will do everything they can to make life tougher for PQ leader Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon.

It may seem contradictory for François Legault to give Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois a favour, especially since the Québec solidaire will be his toughest opponent in the months to come. QS and the CAQ are, however, far apart in the political spectrum, as far as it can be at the National Assembly. As long as Québec solidaire stays relatively far from the centre of political orientations, in other words, as long as QS sticks to a strong left wing, it won't represent a real threat for the CAQ's political base, which is right wing.

The whole thing leaves the Parti Québécois quite isolated. However, Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon has a few elements going for him. He conducted the strongest campaign of all leaders before the October 3 election. His calm behaviour during debates filled a need that was appreciated by the television audience, quite tired of cacophonous exchanges.

His party is still holding on. Although it has only three National Assembly Members, they are some of the best debaters. In addition to that, the PQ has shown that its aging fan base can still mobilize and send money to the party. The PQ has been able to get out of the financial nightmare of the 2014-2020 stretch and rejuvenate its budget. Mr. Saint-Pierre-Plamondon asked that base to make up for the poor funding allowed by François Legault and the party members will surely send enough money soon.

Strategically, the PQ leader was also able to steal the show between voting day and the beginning of the session through refusing to take the oath

for King Charles III. Although that position can only make the headlines over a limited period, as the other parties will soon table a motion to make that oath optional, the whole issue relegated the opening speech of Premier Legault to the status of a distant and blurry image.

François Legault seems obsessed with his goal of obliterating the Parti Québécois, his former party. He is wasting his time for now. The PQ is far from out of the woods yet, survival-wise, as Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon and his small team must find a way to get in contact with the youth, once the party's forte.

However, if the PQ goes belly up, chances are that its members will not switch to the CAQ but to Québec solidaire, especially if the latter takes more moderate positions economically.

Meanwhile, François Legault's opening speech proved once more that he can be stubborn and outdated regarding today's urgent priorities.

While it might sound refreshing to hear that his government will carry out the much needed energy transition, from an economy fueled by oil and gas to one that is propelled by renewable sources of energy, one of the means François Legault intends to deploy is the wrong one.

He still favours power dams. Although the premier made some forward strides over the last half of his term by admitting that wind energy is competitive and through opening the door to more wind farms, he remains convinced that big power dams will first and foremost fill future Quebec needs. He has not understood that it takes 15 years nowadays to plan and build a power dam. It is either that lack of understanding or he thinks he can take shortcuts.

He will sooner than later find that flooding large territories, without the necessary consent of the First Nations, for an energy that will cost significantly more than 20 or 50 years ago will not make it.

Mr. Legault justifies his position by affirming that wind power and solar energy won't supply enough energy to meet the upcoming needs of Quebec. Well, this statement is far from proven, as it is too often the case for the premier's statements, and it forgets the fact that the future relies on energy savings, wiser construction methods, the renovation of existing buildings, the development of more efficient batteries to take advantage of temporary over-production in renewable energies and a brighter use of energy by Quebecers in general. We are the biggest energy consumers in the world, or very close to it.

Not much will come out of an eight-day National Assembly session. It is mainly a warm-up for the winter session, which will begin on January 31. We will then know quickly if the CAQ will show some more arrogance that early in its second term.

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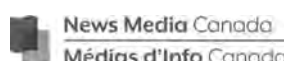
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Gaspé Peninsula Alzheimer Society raises \$159,000 with its first challenge

GILLES GAGNÉ

BONAVENTURE – Over the last 16 years, the Alzheimer Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands has organized a major fundraiser to complete its annual funding. This year, the event took the form of the Alzheimer Challenge and it enabled the organization to collect just over \$159,000.

Participants registered with the challenge had to raise a minimum of \$200, mainly through different physical activities. Prior to the pandemic, the Alzheimer Memory Walk was the annual main fundraiser. Bernard Babin, director general of the region's Alzheimer Society, points out that the Alzheimer Challenge was organized to take over two years of online fundraising activities due to the pandemic.

"To give an idea of how our fundraising activities evolved over the years, the last year of the Memory Walk, we brought in \$150,000. We then relied on two years of online donations and it went well. In 2021, we collected \$170,000," says Mr. Babin.

Without expecting a major reduction in donations this year, he can explain the reasons behind this year's total of \$159,000.

"This year, the companies gave less, due to an economic situation that is not as good as that of 2021. Because the effects of the pandemic have diminished, the number of organizations that are back asking for sponsorships is increasing. Some enterprises, instead of donating \$400 for example,



Photo: Courtesy of the Alzheimer Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands

Bernard Babin, Director General of the Alzheimer's Society of the region, Kathleen Friolet, animator, Louise Dupuis, coordinator of programs and services, Janick Arsenault, office manager, Robert Lapointe, member of the board, Pierre-Luc Bigaouette, honorary president of the Alzheimer's Challenge fundraising campaign in the Bonaventure MRC and Maude Cyr, communication and philanthropy officer, are glad to show the result of this year's major funding event.

are giving \$300 or \$200. On the other hand, the participation of individuals was on an upswing. Once again, it is the solidarity of Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders that explains this great success," points out Bernard Babin.

"The money raised with this event is essential to complete our annual fundraising. In concrete terms, this allows us to maintain or improve the services offered such as family and individual support, coffee meetings, stimulation at home for people, conferences and the loan of adapted equipment and games," he further mentions.

The Alzheimer Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands functions with an annual budget of \$900,000. Its main source of funding is the

Integrated Health and Social Services Centre of the region, with an envelope of \$300,000, followed by l'Appui, a regional organization specializing in fundraising activities and philanthropy.

"We also receive corporate donations, in memoriam donations and we apply for an array of programs and land some of those applications," underlines Bernard Babin.

He stresses that there are many people behind this year's success of the Alzheimer Challenge. There are hundreds of people who got involved in the Alzheimer's Challenge in order to support this cause. Up to 185 participants from everywhere in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands chose to register. There were nearly 200

sponsors, thousands of donors and dozens of volunteers who embarked on the adventure. The 17 employees of Alzheimer Society, also called SAGIM, and the members of the Board were able to rally all these participants towards the Alzheimer's diseases cause.

The participants first had to raise at least \$200 in donations from their surroundings. Their second mission was to achieve a sporting challenge of their choice and up to their capacity between September 3 and September 25. People took up their challenge as a family, between friends, colleagues or alone. The objectives of the partici-

pants were varied, either to support the cause, to pay tribute to a loved one or to excel. Diversity was also present in the participants' choice of challenges. There was walking in the forest, in the mountains, on beaches, in town, on Magdalen Islands mounds, called Buttes, or at Forillon National Park's Cape Gaspé. There was also cycling, canoeing, golf and running among the funding activities.

"The flexibility of the formula is greatly appreciated and contributes to the pleasure of participating," says Bernard Babin.

Moreover, the organization's Facebook page was literally flooded with photos from participants who were proud to be involved as well as having been up to their challenge.

"There is a long journey from diagnosis to placement and people need support in this in between period and that is what SAGIM is doing," mentions Chantal Cyr, honorary president of the Alzheimer Challenge in the Magdalen Islands, during the closing moments of the event.

Alzheimer's disease and other neurocognitive disorders tend to isolate families. The Alzheimer Society offers many necessary forms of support, thanks to the involvement of the entire community.

Close to 2,000 people from the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands suffer from various stages of Alzheimer's disease, according to Bernard Babin.

Tax increase will be less than inflation rate for Bonaventure

Nelson Sergerie

BONAVENTURE - The Mayor of Bonaventure indicates that every effort is being made to limit the increase in citizens' taxes to a point below the level of inflation.

Even though the budget for 2023 is not yet complete, Roch Audet mentions that the increase in taxes will be below the 5% mark.

In October, Statistics Canada calculated that the year-over-year inflation rate was 6.9%. "If there are increases on everything, including labour, gasoline, and public works, there is an impact, but at the level of taxation, it's clear that we will fall under the inflation rate. That is our objective. We should be around 5%. We are confident of minimizing the impact for citizens," says the mayor.

This budget will not impose any sacrifices on citizens.

"That's what's interesting. We are able to maintain all the services offered to the community. It is obvious that we will not create new things. We will have projects every year but we are in a situation where we have to worry about services and satisfying the citizens," adds the mayor.

A new assessment roll will come into effect next year, which has influenced the preparation of the 2023 budget.

"We try to not overload the citizens too much," explains the elected official.

It is not excluded that the town may appropriate part of the budget surplus to balance the budget, "but I cannot tell you for the moment," says the mayor.

Everything indicates for the moment that inflation will not have too much impact on the finances of the year that is ending.

Family Ties
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Activities for Seniors

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

The Bishop of Gaspé tenders his resignation to Pope Francis

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - Six years after his arrival at the head of the Diocese of Gaspé, Bishop Gaétan Proulx has submitted his resignation to Pope Francis.

As is customary in the Catholic Church, when a bishop turns 75, he must present his resignation to the pope. Bishop Proulx reached this milestone on May 27.

"I am waiting for my replacement. My renunciation was delivered to the pope several months ago. The process is underway to appoint a new bishop, but I don't know when," the bishop explains.

"At 75, I want to live something else. But I am happy in the Gaspé Peninsula. Plans for the future... It's like I don't have that much interest anymore. There is a time for everything. It takes someone younger, more dynamic," he

believes.

He was appointed Bishop of Gaspé by Pope Francis on July 2, 2016. Before returning to the Gaspé Peninsula, Mgr Proulx was auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Quebec City for four and a half years and parish priest for seven years in Quebec City.

"I was superior in the community because I am a religious (figure). I was provincial. I have visited at least thirty countries," he says.

The resigning bishop joined the Order of the Servants of Mary. Ordained a priest on June 8, 1975, he then acted as assistant and master of novices in his community, until his departure for France in 1985, where he exercised his priestly ministry in the diocese of Séez and then in the diocese of Belley-Ars.

In 1989, he was appointed to Brussels to fulfill the role of training master of the Servites



Photo: N. Sergerie

Bishop Gaétan Proulx, resigning bishop of the Diocese of Gaspé.

of France, Belgium and the Democratic Republic of Congo. "This international experience was very useful to me with all the priests we have in the Dio-

cese currently who come from other countries. It has allowed me to have this capacity and this openness to welcome and understanding of other cultures.

That is important and I hope that the new bishop will have this sensitivity," hopes Bishop Proulx.

Back in Quebec in 1991, he was once again a master of formation for the Servites of Quebec, while ensuring a Sunday ministry at the parish of Saint-Jean-Baptiste-de-la-Salle, in Quebec City.

In 2000, he became prior of the Canadian Servite Province before becoming parish priest and auxiliary bishop in Quebec. His order, the Servites de Marie, founded and animated the Pointe-Navarre Sanctuary for 60 years. He stayed several times in the Gaspé Peninsula and prepared for the departure of the aging Servites in the early 2000s.

Bishop Proulx was the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Gaspé. He succeeded Bishop Jean Gagnon, who had been in office since 2002.



Photo: Darlene Dimock

Santa's float delighted young and old alike. The Duc de Richmond cadet corps participated in the parade as well.

New Richmond continues Noël en Gaspésie tradition

CYNTHIA DOW

Once again this year, the Town of New Richmond has put together a series of activities for young and young at heart during the holiday season. Noël en Gaspésie kicked off its season with a Santa Claus parade on November 25 that was truly magical. Floats were put together by local agricultural business and the agricultural society, hockey teams, the Rallye Baie-des-Chaleurs organization, and the local cadet corps marched as well. As SPEC went to press the annual Christmas market was to be held at the Carrefour de la Baie on December 3 and 4. Up-coming events include an initiation to Pickle Ball at the Bois Vivant School on Saturday, December 10, the season opening of the Pin Rouge ski hill on Saturday, December 17, and Disco on Ice at the arena on Wednesday, December 21. For more details, a bright red pamphlet can be found at most local merchants, or check out www.noelengaspesie.com where you can participate in online contests.

The Rivière-au-Renard seniors home will not be ready until the winter of 2023

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Rivière-au-Renard seniors home will not be ready until winter 2023 and will cost more than expected.

Started in June 2021 by the firm Habitat Construction Matane at a cost of \$29.3 million, the building was to be delivered this fall.

The Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI) evokes several factors for this delay such as the shortage of labour in construction, the difficulties in supplying materials and the inflation situation.

These elements impact the budget and increase the project costs to \$40.5 million, according to the SQI.

The amounts were adjusted by Quebec from \$2.6 billion to nearly \$2.8 billion for all projects in the province last spring, a budget which is still maintained for the moment, mentions the SQI.

Once delivered, the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) will need eight weeks to install the equipment, integrate the employees and the gradual entry of the beneficiaries.

The complex, which will be located at 180 boulevard Renard Ouest, near the former maritime station, will have 48 places, including 24 for adults with specific needs. The building takes into account the new measures related to the pandemic: it will have four wings of 12 bedrooms. Bathrooms and showers will be made of easy-to-clean materials.

The building meets a need in this area of Gaspé.

QUEBEC COMMERCIAL FISHERIES: 2022 marked by record catch value

Gaspé Peninsula dominates Quebec maritime regions

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – The Quebec commercial fisheries sector had its best year ever in terms of landed catch value with dockside deliveries of \$462.9 million, up 3.1% from the previous record, established in 2021, with \$449 million.

The 2022 numbers, although still preliminary, reveal that it was an increase in snow crab volumes that first propelled the increase of nearly \$13.9 million in overall value between the two years. The snow crab value at the wharf has increased from \$185 million in 2021 to \$197 million this year.

Although the price of snow crab did not maintain the threshold anticipated by the industry before and at the start of the season, an increase from 11,192 to 13,286 metric tonnes in the volumes delivered by fishermen offset the slightly lower prices of 2022 compared to 2021.

The year 2022, however, gave lobster first place among all species fished in Quebec in terms of dockside value for the third year in a row, ahead of snow crab. Thus, Quebec lobster fishermen delivered \$208.7 million worth of their favourite crustacean in 2022, slightly more than the \$207 million in 2021.

The total value of landings, all species combined, has grown steadily since 2013, rising from \$169 million to \$462.9 million. It is different for the volume of catches, underlines research analyst Simon Desrochers of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Lobster, with 45% of the value of catches, snow crab, with 42% of this value, and shrimp, at 6%, accounted for 93% of the income paid to Quebec fishermen in 2022.

“Between 2013 and 2022, the quantities delivered have evolved downwards,” he says, highlighting this regular, almost annual decline, which has reduced the annual volume of marine products from 60,757 to 43,729 metric tonnes in this interval of 10 fishing seasons.

This drop of 17,028 metric tonnes in one decade stems in particular from reductions in shrimp and pelagic fish quotas. “In the shrimp sector, 2022 is the weakest year since 2013,” points out Simon Desrochers.

Between 2013 and 2022, shrimp catches decreased from 20,661 to 7,705 metric tonnes. In the case of the 2022 statistics, the fall landings are not all recorded yet as some fishermen are still active in late November. As for the volume of pelagic fish, it fell from 10,073 to 4,019 metric tonnes in the same interval. This is a sign that the last years have been tough for those species: the spring herring fishing season was suspended in 2022 and mackerel catches were shut down during the whole year along the southern coast of the Gaspé Peninsula.

In the lobster sector, catches increased from 4,287 to 11,908 metric tonnes between 2013 and 2022, a jump of 178%. These lobster catches have more than doubled between the 5,182 metric tonnes in 2016 and the 11,692 metric tonnes in 2022. They have increased steadily every year since 2016, notes Mr. Desrochers.

In 2013, the value of lobster landings for Quebec was \$39 million, compared to \$208.7 million this year, more than five times more. The only time that value decreased compared to the previous year occurred in 2020 because of the low prices paid during the first year of the pandemic.

“In terms of value, it’s completely different as a trend since 2013, compared to volume of landings. Meanwhile, in 2022, snow crab and lobster prices remained good even though they didn’t break a record. For shrimp, we have reached a low level,” specifies Simon Desrochers, about a value of landings which, for three years, has been around \$25M to \$26M. In 2022. This value reached \$26.1M, up 4% compared to 2021.

Regional statistics

His colleague, Marilou Des Roberts, points out, in particular, that by maritime sector, “It is still in the Gaspé Peninsula that the quantities and value of catches are the highest, followed by the Magdalen Islands, the North Shore and the Lower Saint Lawrence.”

The value of catches in the Gaspé Peninsula was \$202.7 million in 2022, compared to \$164.7 million in the Magdalen Islands, \$74.4 million on the North Shore and \$21.1 million in the Lower Saint Lawrence.

Snow crab still dominates the value of catches in the Gaspé Peninsula, thanks to catches slightly exceeding \$100 million, but lobster, by virtue of catches worth \$74



The value of lobster landings in Quebec has been increasing steadily since 2013, except for 2020, the first pandemic year, because of low prices.

Photo: G. Gagné.

million, continues an ascent that should be described as spectacular, considering that this statistic was around \$10 million per year a decade ago and that the 2022 total is still preliminary. The regional distribution of lobster landings made by fishermen not living on Anticosti Island remained to be carried out at the end of November. A few of those fishermen are likely Gaspesians.

This same lobster still dominates the commercial fishing scene in the Magdalen Islands, with a value of \$123 million, compared to \$34 million for snow crab. These two data constitute 95.4% of the value of all marine products delivered in

the Magdalen Islands.

The North Shore fisheries are also dominated by snow crab and, to a lesser degree, by lobster, but molluscs and echinoderms make their way like nowhere else in maritime Quebec, thanks to catches accounting for 20% of total volume, and \$6 million in value, for a share of 9% of the revenues.

In Quebec, as a whole, the value of groundfish stagnated at \$16 million from 2021 to 2022. The value of echinoderms was \$6.2 million, compared to \$5.6 million for molluscs, \$1.9 million for pelagic fish and \$2.3 million for other species.

Canada at COP27: a missed opportunity for the climate, according to Member of Parliament Kristina Michaud

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - Following the conclusion of COP27 in Egypt, the Bloc Québécois critic for climate change, Kristina Michaud, has trouble hiding her disappointment. Despite some progress which deserves to be highlighted on a collective level, Canada has failed in its simple task of acting as a leader in the fight against climate change locally and globally.

“First, the prime minister, Justin Trudeau, refused to participate in this essential meeting, despite the presence of many leaders of various countries. Next, the Canadian delegation, led by a former environmental activist (Steven Guilbeault), rolled out the red carpet to Canadian oil and gas companies by giving them not only a place within the delegation, but giving

them the floor in the Canadian pavilion. Finally, Steven Guilbeault objected to the final declaration of the conference mentioning the phasing out of oil and gas,” says Ms. Michaud.

No additional significant commitments were made by Canada. The observation of its participation in COP27 is unfortunately clear: “The actions of federal environmental policies are deplorable and in complete contradiction with the government speech. When talking about his environmental leadership, we will know from now on that the country no longer has any credibility in this matter. Canada is far from the expected leadership. It is rather at the bottom of the barrel of the most dangerous countries for the planet,” adds the Member of Parliament for the riding of Avignon-Mitis-Matane-Matapédia.



Photo: G. Gagné.

Member of Parliament, Kristina Michaud, finds the lack of leadership shown by Canada at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP) held in November in Egypt deplorable.

“It is rather difficult not to be cynical when, at the same time as the COP27, Canada is ranked 58th out of 60 countries in the climate performance index of 2023 and announces its intention to authorize oil exploratory drilling in January in the middle of a

marine biodiversity protection zone off Newfoundland. The message that the government sends to the world as the COP15 on biodiversity is taking place in Montreal, is that in Canada, the protection of biodiversity is incidental,” deplores Kristina Michaud.

Strong surge in mining claims in the Gaspé Peninsula

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - The Gaspé Peninsula saw the number of mining claims grow by 139% between November 2020 and November 1, 2022.

This is revealed by a coalition of environmental organizations which mentions that this average growth was established at 107% in the province.

In addition to the Gaspé Peninsula, the regions of Estrie and the Lower Saint Lawrence are also experiencing strong growth.

This coalition took advantage of the opening of the Québec Mines + Énergie congress on November 21 and the end of COP 27 in Egypt to unveil these elements and add its voice to that of dozens of municipalities calling for a moratorium on the allocation of new claims and, this, as long as the rules dictated by the Mining Act have not been modified to protect the natural environment.

According to the coalition, the number of mining titles increased from 1,967 in November 2020 to 4,693 on November 1 which represents an increase of 2,726 in the Gaspé Peninsula.

The proportion of the mining area reaches 257,171 hectares compared to 160,511 hectares of protected land in the region, which represents barely 7.86% of the whole territory

"There are three large areas of mining titles that come to rest on the limits of the Parc de la Gaspésie," indicates the spokesperson for Environ-

nement Vert Plus, Pascal Bergeron. It mentions the area of Mines Madeleine or Vallières-de-Saint-Réal.

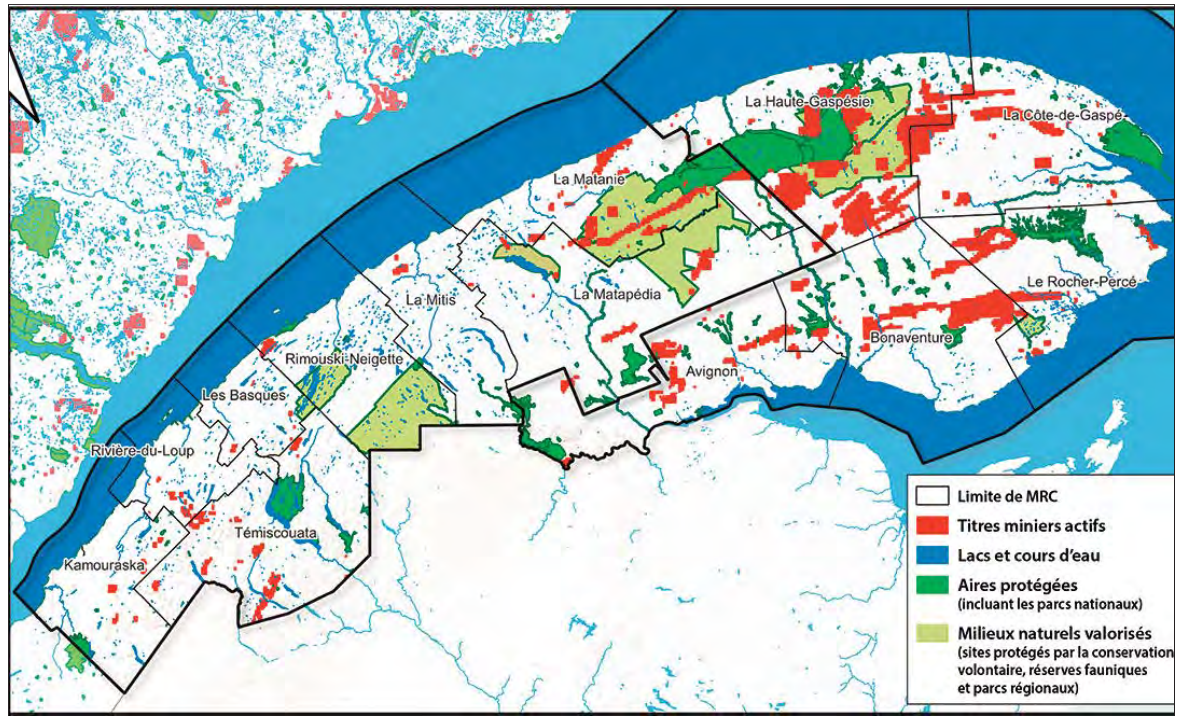
"As we are trying to work on the expansion of the Parc de la Gaspésie, these claims are directly harmful because we cannot establish a protected area unless the claims are removed. This implies that we will have to negotiate with these mining companies to eliminate these titles before being able to expand the park. This is very problematic in the caribou conservation situation," says Mr. Bergeron.

The Caribou Commission recommended creating the Vallières de Saint-Réal protected area in the Chic-Chocs wildlife reserve, near the park.

It is too easy in Quebec to get a claim, according to Mr. Bergeron. "It is done in a few clicks on the internet and it costs less than \$45. The problem is the antiquity of the Mining Act. We are trying to exploit the minerals of the future with a law of the past. Therein lies the big problem. We must update the law to get out of the principle of free mining enterprise which goes where it wants without asking permission from anyone," says the activist who demands that citizens and municipalities be consulted before the acquisition of mining titles.

Nine MRCs comprising 142 municipalities signed an open letter to express their concern and denounce the situation.

The Union of Municipalities deplores that Quebec does not respect the municipal will



Map of mining claims in the Gaspé Peninsula.

to prohibit mining exploration on its territory.

The president of the union and mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, says that the government had allowed municipalities and MRCs to register territories incompatible with mining activities, but the last word belongs to the Ministry of Natural Resources, criticizes Mr. Côté.

The UMQ will hold a forum on this issue in mid-January in Gatineau where Quebec has been invited to participate.

A portrait will be drawn up and possible solutions will be sought.

"It is as if resorts, tourism, the outdoors, were not sufficiently recognized as vectors of economic development by the government and this causes a conflict of use on the territory.

If we were given the power to decree the territories as incompatible with mining activities,

we still have to trust the local elected officials in determining the uses," comments Mr. Côté.

McInnis Cement still a major polluter in Quebec

Moreover, Environnement Vert Plus is not surprised to see that McInnis Cement of Port-Daniel-Gascons remains the most significant industrial polluter in Quebec.

The cement plant released more greenhouse gases in 2021 to reach 1,429,550 tonnes compared to 1,210,596 in 2020, according to a survey carried out by Quebecor.

McInnis is ahead of the Jean-Gaulin oil refinery in Lévis and the Alouette aluminium smelter in Sept-Îles.

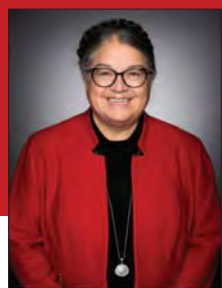
The company predicts that once at full capacity, it will emit 1,600,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases, in 2027.

"It is not a surprise. We knew the trajectory of the plant towards this direction. Quietly, they reach the maximum emissions," stated Pascal Bergeron.

The ecologist recalls that the population had been promised by the former Liberal government of Philippe Couillard a process of capturing CO2.

"We never demanded that it be part of the business plan. We find ourselves, five years after the opening, with the problems of dust emissions and no concrete plan to capture the CO2 to store it and bury it. We ask people to make a considerable effort to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and, meanwhile, we have a plant that emits the equivalent of 6% of the industrial emissions of the entire province. It's gigantic as a carbon footprint for a handful of jobs," says the ecologist.

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A modern mental health unit in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The mental health service of the Côte-de-Gaspé local health network has been redeveloped on the sixth floor of the Gaspé hospital centre, an investment totaling \$5.8 million.

The new facilities are at the cutting edge of technology and will be the envy of other sites in Quebec, according to the president and CEO of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre, Martin Pelletier.

“The sixth floor was targeted a few years ago as a floor that could accommodate the mental health unit which was (located at) the Mgr Ross (long-term care facility). The advantage we have is when a patient comes to the emergency room, instead of being put on a shuttle and taking him to Mgr Ross, he can be admitted quickly to the mental health unit,” explains Mr. Pelletier.

The environment is adapted to the clientele

“It’s all the little construction details like a person not being able to remove a screw with their fingers. We are going to have systems so that a person cannot self-harm or hang himself. The more modern the physical environment, the easier it is for staff to assume safe patient supervision,” says the manager.

The facilities will welcome patients within two weeks, in time to allow the training of workers to be finalized since their work environment has changed and the operating rules are not the same when the unit is in a hospital centre.

The unit has seven beds, one more than the six-bed capacity allowed by the Ministry of Health. The CISSS hopes to have authorization for the seventh bed.

There is a sufficient staff, including psychiatrists to operate the unit.

The other establishments in the Gaspé Peninsula will be refurbished in the coming years to adapt them to the practices that have evolved over the years.

There is a project for the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital which has already been submitted to the ministry. At the Maria hospital, we are asking for a new hospital because it is completely obsolete. In the meantime, we are still investing in the old hospital. In Chandler, it’s a little more recent, we’re talking about twenty years, but there would be adjustments. We finish a department and we start the other older ones and we end up going around,” explains the Chairman and CEO.

Maria Hospital would need 10 mental health beds while the department currently has seven. Sainte-Anne-des-Monts has two and Chandler four.

The spaces left vacant at the CHSLD Mgr Ross will be used for the accommodation component of the establishment.

“The idea is to redevelop long-term care, to separate the rooms there. It is an upgrade that is required. The project is being evaluated,” says Mr. Pelletier, who mentions that beds are also being added with the construction of the senior’s residence in Rivière-au-Renard, the opening of which has been delayed until winter 2023.

The November 28 inauguration of the unit was announced in the presence of the Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, Stéphane Sainte-Croix, who was making his first announcement since the election of October 3.

“We feel excited and very happy for the community of Gaspé. It was something that was expected and I am very happy to deliver it with my government for the well-being of our citizens,” says the MNA who made the announcement on behalf of the Minister of Social Services, Lionel Carmant. The issue of the overall workforce to provide mental health services to all the organizations dedicated to this issue remains, while Accueil Blanche-Goulet had to suspend its services last summer due to a lack of resources.

“The idea is to ensure that we have staff in all departments. Based on this observation, we can be sure to deliver



The ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate the new facilities on November 28 at the Gaspé hospital.

Photos: N. Sergerie

the services to the right place with the right clientele. The workforce issue remains in the very short term,” says the MNA for Gaspé.

Other work to be done at the Gaspé hospital

After the construction of an ultramodern emergency room inaugurated in July 2021 and the development of the mental health unit, the modernization of the Gaspé hospital built in 1972 will continue in the coming years.

The Gaspé Peninsula CISSS plans to renovate the care units located on the fifth and seventh floors, change the windows and exterior cladding, and reorganize the hemodialysis unit in the area of the former emergency room.

Anyone who has ever visited these floors of the estab-

lishment knows how vulnerable the building is to cold and wind in winter. When the wind blows from the northwest, you can feel the air entering the building through the windows.

“We are working on plans and specifications. It is a deficiency in relation to the exterior envelope, the insulation, the windows, the exterior finish,” says CISSS President and CEO Martin Pelletier.

Once this project is completed, the work will return to the interior.

“Thereafter, it is the care units: the 500, the 700, the fifth floor, the seventh floor. It’s antiquated like the mental health care unit was. But, there, we have short-term care or multi-services. We have that to do,” explains Mr. Pelletier.

The hemodialysis redevelopment project is progressing

while professionals are preparing plans and specifications to move this care unit to the premises of the former emergency room.

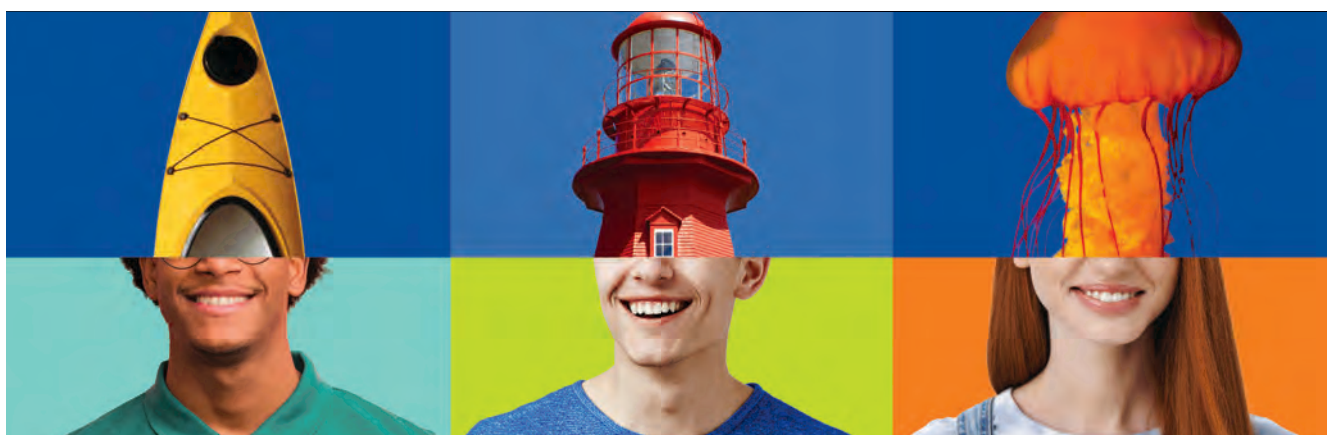
“The plans and specifications will make it possible to determine the exact costs and then finalize the financing. We had a budget of \$1.5 million and we think we have reached \$3 million in terms of evaluation. It gives you an idea of the evolution of costs as we move forward in the project,” says the CEO.

The new facilities will increase the capacity from three to four seats in a room that will be designed to accommodate six.

Construction is scheduled for May for delivery in December 2023.



An example of the contention room of the new unit.



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CARIBOU: Environnement Vert Plus wants access to the latest reports

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - Environnement Vert Plus is denouncing the Ministry of Wildlife for not publishing field surveys quickly enough on the number of caribou in the Gaspé Peninsula.

The most recent statistics date back to December 2021 following the survey carried out in the fall of 2020. During the overflight, 19 caribou were observed in the McGertrige sector, while 10 caribou were observed in the Albert sector for a total of 29 while there were 34 during the 2019 overflight.

Taking into account an imperfect detection rate during the inventories, the Ministry of Wildlife estimated that 32 to 36 caribou frequent these two sectors compared to 38 to 42 caribou in 2019.

“The 2021 inventory has not yet been released. For the 2022 inventory, the field surveys have been completed for more than a month. The ministry has the 2022 data in its hands. It is the same method from one year to the next. It is unacceptable that the 2021



Photo: Louis Fradette

Environnement Vert-plus doesn't understand why it takes so long before releasing caribou inventory reports.

data has not yet been published,” deplores the spokesperson for the environmental group, Pascal Bergeron.

When confronted with the subject, the regional director of the ministry, Sébastien Ross, told Environnement Vert Plus that “the ministry is doing as usual.”

Research by the ecologist shows that between 2011 and 2018, it took about three and a half months on average to publish this data.

“Since the CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec) has been in power, it has taken more than a year to have this report. It is unjustifiable! This report is delayed for political reasons. We must go back to much more plausible disclosure times,” demands Mr. Bergeron.

He recalls that the Independent Caribou Commission has done its job and Quebec already has its plan and can put the recommendations into

practice.

“The June 2023 deadline, we are still buying time to do nothing. This is not acceptable with the herds which are on the verge of extinction,” underlines the ecologist.

Moreover, on the still incomplete enclosures in the Parc de la Gaspésie, Environnement Vert Plus is still questioning the ways of doing things.

Despite an effort made by Quebec, capturing them in the spring and releasing them a few months later in the wild is not enough.

“Yes, we reduce the risk of predation, but at the point where we are in a state of degradation, it is far from sufficient. What it takes is an extensive capture, breeding and release program where the calf would be released after a year,” suggests Bergeron.

The role of enclosures could later be used to rehabilitate calves to survive in their natural environment.

“We wonder why last year we were ready to send pregnant females to these enclosures and that it was only a question of snow being too high and that the coyotes

could enter? And that this year, we have not yet finished the construction? What was the plan last year? That all the 24 hours a day, seven days a week surveillance buildings, were not planned? Ultimately, it was a plan in appearance only and there was no consistency to ensure the survival of the pregnant females and their calves? If so, that's extremely serious!” says Mr. Bergeron bluntly.

“What tells us that this year it won't be something like that?” he adds, calling it a plan to “look good”.

The difficulty of obtaining information from the ministry is once again denounced by Environnement Vert Plus.

Recently, in a request to provide an update on the construction of the enclosures, the department assured that the enclosure of pregnant caribou females and subsequently their calves should be done from next March.

It was specified that the construction was taking place in accordance with the new schedule planned for this year, with a view to penning the animals at the end of winter.

Gaspesian women are most affected by violence

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Women in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands are more often victims of violence than their counterparts elsewhere in Quebec.

The roundtable of women's groups in the region is bringing attention to this issue during the 12 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women.

“In our region, we have high rates of domestic and sexual violence compared to other regions,” says table coordinator Nastassia Williams.

“Minor girls are more often victims of sexual violence than other Quebec women. When we look at certain women, such as Mi'gmaq women, racialized women or those with disabilities, they are more often victims than others. In this context, the table and women's groups in the territory want to raise awareness about this situation,” adds Ms. Williams.

Without advancing on specific points to explain these

findings, the coordinator mentions, for example, devitalized environments of the territory and situations that promote isolation, but she does not have enough data to elaborate further on the causes.

“Elected officials and communities tackle this situation head on,” says the coordinator. The femicides of recent years have raised people's awareness, but women's groups are calling for more action to end this violence.

“You feel that there is some action going on. Public authorities question their actions. We know that there is an awareness, but given the scale of the phenomenon, women's groups consider that it will take more action,” adds Ms. Williams to justify participation in the 12 Days of Action.

Meanwhile, the shelters that work with women victims of domestic violence remain busy in the Gaspé Peninsula.

“The last portrait shows shelters that were at full capacity for the most part in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Mag-

dalen Islands,” said the director of the help and l'Émergence in Maria shelter, Nancy Gough.

In addition to the shelters, external services are also offered to these women to get by. “Demands are always increasing,” adds Ms. Gough.

Quebec released funds during the wave of femicide, but the needs are still great as the homes offer services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To reduce this form of violence, all-out work must be done. “What it takes is upstream work and multi-sector work. Over the past 30 years, funding has come and resources have been put in place. The population must take ownership of the fight against violence against women in order to strive for egalitarian relationships in order to offer our children a society free of violence as a legacy,” says the director.

The forms of violence remain the same. “Even today, one murdered woman is one woman too many and many

women are murdered every year in Quebec. This bloody portrait should sound the alarm so that everyone feels concerned about the issue of violence against women,” she adds.

On November 30, awareness sessions were organized by the Sûreté du Québec to counter violence against women. Police officers in collaboration with the shelters in the territory, distributed leaflets in Gaspé, Grande-Rivière, Bonaventure, Carleton-sur-Mer and Pointe-à-la-Croix.

On the occasion of the 12 days, the table prepared a communication campaign on Instagram and Facebook social networks.

Each year, from November 25 to December 6, the 12 Days of Action to End Violence against Women takes place. These 12 days are used as an opportunity to shine a light on different aspects of violence against women and offer possible solutions and solidarity actions that will generate positive and lasting change in the lives of women and girls.

Family Ties renovations progressing well

Projected completion date April 16, 2023

DIANE SKINNER

NEW CARLISLE: The major renovations being completed at the Family Ties building are moving ahead as planned and Executive Director Heather MacWhirter informs us that, to date, there have not been too many surprises. At this point the demolition work is completed and the construction team has almost finished the structural work.

The biggest challenge that faced Family Ties was finding the money necessary to complete the very large project. It was necessary to make requests to many different funders in order to meet the costs. The project began with an application to Canadian Heritage to build a new kitchen on the main floor as well as moving the library down to the main floor. This part of the project was approved in March 2020, just as the pandemic lockdowns started.

This unfortunate timing set the project back as there was a lack of professionals, such as architects and engineers, as well as contractors. Unfortunately, this took about a year to solve as prices kept rising and professionals were harder and harder to find.

Ms. MacWhirter adds, "When the measures were lifted and work on the project was able to start, prices had skyrocketed and there was a shortage of materials. To add to these difficulties, a feasibility study concluded that, before the renovations could start, the structure, electricity, plumbing and ventilation had to be brought up to code for the safety of everyone using the building. This drove costs from \$350,000 to \$2 million and left Family Ties with an additional \$1.6 million dollars to find." At this point there are some additional funds needed to purchase some necessary equipment.

During demolition and construction, the building had to be completely emptied and all the programs relocated. Alternate spaces were rented as it was important to allow programming to continue. Early Childhood programs are in the old Heritage Restaurant; Food Security and Youth Programs are in the basement of the Anglican Church and Destination Family and administration moved



Photo: Family Ties

The second floor at Family Ties will have a Youth Room.

to the Kempffer House all located in New Carlisle. Although the employees still meet weekly for staff meetings, Ms. MacWhirter adds that it will be great to bring everyone back together under one roof in the spring.

This project was made possible thanks to funding largely from the federal government. Additional funding also came from the provincial government, private foundations and a Go Fund Me page that brought in \$42,215 from the community!

Work is now well underway and the excitement for the finished renovations is rising. The new community kitchen, previously located in the basement, had not been renovated in 20 years. The new kitchen will feature modern appliances and an inviting seating area as well as more space, increased accessibility and improved lighting. Greatly enhanced ventilation with two large windows are two additional features.

Ms. MacWhirter explains, "We are also building a community cold room so members can store vegetables grown in the community garden. By moving the existing library to the main floor of the building, it will improve access to this important community resource, especially for senior members and those with physical mobility issues. This will allow the space on the second floor to become a dedicated youth room. We cannot wait to get back in the building so we can welcome our members and make it feel like home again."

This massive project became a plan at a three-year strategic planning meeting in

2018, when community members decided unanimously that the Family Ties building needed to be adapted in order to best meet the needs of the community and be accessible to all. Once this became part of the Family Ties Action Plan, the Administrative Council adopted a resolution to start the process and a building committee was formed to work on the project.

This was a very challenging project for Family Ties and executive director adds, the most difficult project of her career. She, however, notes that Family Ties is so grateful for the support from the community and she would like everyone to know that Family Ties is working extremely hard to provide a building that is safe and accessible for all and which will be more welcoming than ever to its members.

Christine Fraser, Board President, stresses that, "The adaptation of the Family Ties building to improve accessibility as well as facilitate program implementation and flow has been a priority for many years. As the building renovation comes to completion this year, and with much anticipation, the staff, program participants and members will benefit from our new and improved Family Ties Community Centre. Much appreciation to all those who steadfastly worked together to help Family Ties realize this important goal."

There will be an Open House and BBQ in May when the community will be invited to come and see the results of over five years of planning and hard work.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Our gift to the planet A promise to be mindful this Christmas season

Dear Planet Earth, This season being kind and thoughtful to you is more important than ever. If we can avoid some of the waste and overconsumption, we also help to reduce the effects of climate change. We regret that despite knowing that the planet is in peril, we did not change our ways sooner and in bigger more meaningful ways. We will pass the Earth on to our children and grandchildren and therefore we will make some attempts this season to improve the health of this planet.

We will try, even in small ways, because it all counts if we shift away from waste and needless buying.



We pledge to:

Choose quality over quantity. One way is to buy one large gift rather than a number of small gifts that might be unwanted, or not needed.

Draw names. Rather than giving gifts to everybody, we will draw names and buy one really nice gift.

Use eco-friendly wrapping. We will do our best to avoid the shiny metallic paper and glitter because it cannot be recycled. Many stores now use brown paper bags. Just cut these open and flatten them to use for wrapping paper. Dolly it up by using ribbon (reused from a previous gift) and tuck in a sprig from a pine tree. Name tags can be made from last year's Christmas cards. Make fabric gift bags that can be used for many years.

Buy useful and practical gifts. Try not to buy something just to cross off that person's name on our list. We will look for something useful. This could be live plants, tablets, snowshoes, an air fryer, a diary, crafting supplies or any items that will be used and enjoyed after the Christmas season.

Create our own handmade gifts, made with love. If you can bake, knit, sew or craft, there may be someone on your list that would appreciate handmade jewelry, warm mittens, a scarf, a painting or a wooden bench.

We can spread love by using leftovers. Take leftovers and freeze them in individual portion sizes like a homemade TV dinner. Take a couple of these to someone celebrating Christmas by themselves.

Use a live potted tree and then transplant it in the spring.

Feed the birds. We can show our love for nature by using suet, pine cones rolled in peanut butter and birdseed, or seed bells in a tree that you can see from your window. Everyone will enjoy watching the birds come and go. Binoculars would be a gift that could be used year-round to watch nature in action.

Use LED lights. They use 95% less energy than traditional bulbs.

We promise to recycle old electronics and batteries responsibly.

We will give gift cards and no wrapping is required. These cards are available for many different stores – gas, grocery stores, coffee shops, restaurants, SAAQ, and Amazon.

May Christmas 2022 be white – with a little bit of love for the planet on the side.

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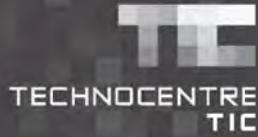
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Christmas gifts for seniors - *Thoughtful gifts for the older adults in your life*

DIANE SKINNER

When buying (or making) a gift for a senior in your life you want to give something that is thoughtful and useful. After all, the older adults in your life have likely been buying you gifts for all your life! It is your turn to be generous and loving!

Cup holder for a walker. Helps to keep a drink or bottle of water close at hand.

Electric jar opener.

Electric can opener.

Gel and memory foam cushion that makes sitting for long periods of time more comfortable and prevents pressure sores.

Philips Smart Wake-Up Light. A combination clock, alarm clock and “sunrise.” You can choose from 20 settings of brightness, soothing sounds to wake up to, and a reading lamp.

Electric shaver. Maybe hands are not as steady as they once were so a cordless, rechargeable wet/dry shaver may be the right gift.

Compression socks improve circulation and help to reduce



It is your opportunity to buy a kind and thoughtful gift for the seniors you love. Likely those seniors have been buying you gifts for most of your life!

swelling.

Slippers with non-skid soles such as Memory Foam with adjustable closures.

Weighted blanket which can reduce anxiety.

Heating blanket, with a variety of settings. This will keep the senior warm and help to ease aches and pains.

A wheelchair blanket that provides layers of warmth and will not fly off because it can attach to a wheelchair.

Foot massager with soothing heat. Read instructions (or ask the doctor) because depending on health issues this gift may not be suitable for all seniors.

Gift certificate for a restaurant. Go together and enjoy a meal.

Gift certificate for hair, manicure, pedicure or a massage. Accompany them to the appointment.

Jumbo sized playing cards.

Jigsaw puzzles.

Crossword puzzle books in

large print.

CD player and radio combination.

Warm gloves, hat and scarf.

Celebrate special memories:

Create a custom photo album which may be a helpful reminder for someone with Alzheimers.

Make a custom photo wall calendar.

Order a custom photo blanket or photo puzzle.

Digital photo frames are a lovely way for seniors to easily view photos of family and friends.

Tablet which seniors can use easily to use email, play games, check the weather, browse the internet and use social media.

Reusable microwave heating pads.

Echo Dot, a smart speaker that makes it easy to play music and check the weather.

Small handheld vacuum that can be used to clean up crumbs, etc. No need to get out the large vacuum.

A window bird feeder and binoculars. Hours of bird-watching for the senior in your life.

Cozy fleece wrap or cozy pajamas.

And we can't forget, everyone's favourite community newspaper. A **gift subscription to The Gaspé Spec.**

“Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas.”

Cascapedia-St-Jules parade

Jenna Boucheau

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - The Cascapedia-St-Jules Christmas parade is back for its second year of fun! This year's event is on December 17, with floats leaving the former Cascapedia Hotel at 6 p.m. and making their way to the town hall. Individuals participating will be asked to bring their floats ahead of time to set up. More details on the specific time to arrive will be sent out as the event date approaches.

A few activities from last year's parade will be brought back, including the bonfire and treats being offered. Some new surprises are in store for this year as well!

If you would like to register a float in the parade, please email Lisa Cleary at lcleary79@gmail.com Registrations can be sent until December 10. The registration fee is \$5 which will go towards prizes. This fee can be paid directly at the municipal hall in Cascapedia-St-Jules. There is also a waiver to be signed, which can be done there also.

Have fun decorating your floats, trucks, all terrain vehicles, etc. Be sure to book December 17 into your calendars now: you'll be busy participating in or watching the second beautiful Christmas parade in Cascapedia-St-Jules!

Snow much fun! *Cool gifts for the outdoor lover*

DIANE SKINNER

Winter is coming and there are those among us who would love to hibernate or travel to warmer climates! Others embrace the colder weather and get out and enjoy the snow. If you have a snow lover on your gift list, it can be easy to find a gift that ranges from inexpensive to very pricey. There are loads of choices!

Cross-country skis, boots and poles. You can ski on a groomed trail or local hills.

Snow tube for lots of sliding down hills of snow fun.

Ski goggles to protect eyes from snow, wind and glare. Be sure to choose a pair that is anti-fog.

Snowshoes are available in a wide range of prices and for most ages. This offers a low-impact outdoor fun and exercise.

Snow Stampers “Bear” Feet are made for children who just strap these snowshoe-like stampers onto their own boots and they can stomp around leaving bear paw prints in the snow.

Snowboards are available in



Looking to buy a gift for a snow lover? There are so many to choose from in a wide variety of prices!

a very wide range of prices. Ask for advice in a sporting goods store where the staff will be knowledgeable.

Ice skates are available in a wide variety of styles and some offer great features that offer great ankle and foot support. Some are adjustable and can “grow” with your child, some over four sizes!

Ice-trax cleats (there are

many brands to choose from) can strap onto boots and offer safety when walking on icy driveways. Remove them before walking indoors.

Aluminum trekking poles will provide extra safety when walking in the snow.

Really warm waterproof toques, mitts or gloves.

A good compass for someone who likes to explore off the beaten path.

Driving after dark can be challenging, especially as we age

Diane Skinner

Many among us, particularly older adults, avoid driving after dark. We are aware that we cannot see as well and if you add a snow-storm in with that, we feel downright anxious about night driving.

As we age, vision can be affected and if there is an underlying eye problem, it can make night driving even more challenging. Cataracts are cloudy areas in the lens of the eye that can interfere with normal vision. Cataracts can cause blurry vision, a decrease in contrast sensitivity, a decrease in ability to see under low light, a dulling of colours and an increased sensitivity to glare. If you suspect that you may have cataracts or other issues with your eyes, it is time to see an eye professional.

There are a few safety tips that can help to reduce risk on the road after dark. **Drive cautiously:** You cannot see as far ahead at night so be on “high alert.” **Slow down:** Remember that the faster you drive, the less chance you have to avoid trouble. **Keep lights on:** This seems obvious, but don't neglect to double-check that your lights are on. **Keep your windshield clean:** In winter make certain that your windshield fluid is topped up. **Avoid distractions:** Keep the interior lights low.

Keep safe and if you are feeling highly anxious to drive at night – don't. If you are not a confident driver after dark, that's when you make mistakes. Get a friend or family member to drive you.

Announcements



Obituaries



BENWELL: Vimy

With deep sorrow, we say goodbye to an amazing Man, Vimy Benwell. He passed peacefully on November 4, 2022, after a hard-fought fight against cancer.

He is remembered by his loving wife of 47 years Carol Benwell, two children: Jason and Lindsay, and four cherished grandchildren.

He was a travelling man and went from coast to coast and everywhere in between. Although Vimy left Gaspé as a young man, he always had a special place in his heart for his home roots. He will be dearly missed and remain forever in our hearts and prayers.



CARTER Pauline M.

At the Charlotte County Hospital on Tuesday, November 1, 2022; Pauline Margaret (Baird) Carter, wife of the late Dr. Wilfred Carter, of St. Andrews, New Brunswick. Born in Gaspé, Quebec, she is the daughter of the late Harold and Grace (Roberts) Baird.

Pauline is survived by her daughter Susan Carter of Bayside, New Brunswick, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Pauline was predeceased by her son Brent, one sister Dorothy Lenox, and brother Stanford Baird

The funeral service in celebration of Pauline's life was held on Friday, November 4, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Humphreys Funeral Home, 20 Marks Street, St. Stephen, New Brunswick E3L 2B2 (506-466-3110)

The family received friends during a time of visitation at the funeral home on Friday 1:15 p.m. until service time.

In lieu of flowers donations to a charity of the donor's choice would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences to the family or donations can be made at www.humphreysfh.com



MILLER: William (Bill) Arthur

April 5, 1956 to November 19, 2022

Parents: Eva Patterson, Hillary Miller

Caregiver, Naturalist, Gifted musician.

It is with great sadness that the family of Bill Miller announces his sudden death on November 19, 2022, at the age of 66.

Beloved son of Hillary and Eva (deceased), youngest brother to Kerry (Geraldine) and Sherrill (Neil). Bill was totally dedicated to his family and his community. Although he had opportunities to pursue different paths, he chose Wakeham in Gaspé as his home enjoying the surrounding woods, rivers and wildlife while working with ZEC. He became the main caregiver and advocate for both his parents and his Uncle Keith when their health declined.

Weekly Sunday drives, most often with his mother Eva in the passenger seat, took him to his favourite spots in Forillon National Park or the Gaspé Peninsula. These excursions allowed him to develop his love and talent for nature photography. Many of his favourite photos have been shared with his friends and family via social media.

Music was his main passion. He taught himself to play a variety of guitars eventually focusing his musical talents on pedal steel guitar.

Bill lived his life to the fullest while accepting changes in his health status. Those who truly knew Bill would recognize the courage, love and independence he demonstrated at the end of his life. Although we will all miss his kindness and generosity, the gifts he left behind will live on with us forever.

A celebration of Bill's life will be planned some time in the future. Donations in Bill's memory can be made to a charity of your choice.



ROBERTSON: George Jr.

George Robertson Jr of Guelph, Ontario, born in Bridgeville, Quebec in his 89th year left us November 19.

Husband of Shirley of 62 years, dad of Cindy of Australia, Steven who left us too early and Chuck.

Excellent husband and father, a man that had a passion for fixing things whether it needed it or not.



In Memory



LYALL: Peter Samuel

In loving memory of my dear husband, who passed away two years ago on December 8, 2020.

Gone from me that smiling face

That pleasant cheerful way,

A heart that won so many friends

In bygone happier days.

Though his smiles have gone forever

And his hand I cannot touch,

I shall never lose sweet memories

Of the one I loved so much.

Just a token of fond remembrance

To a husband who was one of the best.

The joys that he missed on life's highway

May he find in God's Garden of Rest.

Sadly missed and never forgotten by your loving wife, Ruth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Obituary or Wedding:

\$40 (\$45 with picture)

(Max. 300 words).

If it is more, we will give you a quote.

All other announcements:

\$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines.

If it is more, we will give you a quote.

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

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



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COAST ROUND-UP

GASPE:

Royal Canadian Legion

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

GASPE:

United Church in Rosebridge

December 10: There will be a free carol service at the Rosebridge United Church beginning at 7 p.m. Masks are recommended but not mandatory.

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:

Sports Club

December 10: Military whist beginning at 8 p.m. at the Hope Town community Centre.

HOPE:

Hope Baptist Church

Sundays: Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. Worship service beginning at 11 a.m.

PASPEBIAC:

Knitters Needed

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64

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

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

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

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

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

December 9: Nash Stanley beginning at 8:30 p.m. \$10.

December 10: Christmas bingo beginning at 7 p.m.

December 11: Santa at the Legion from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

December 16: Music with Jeffery Buttle and Band beginning at 8 p.m.

December 17: Shuffleboard tournament beginning at 1 p.m. to register please contact Stephen Leberre at 418-752-8159.

December 17: Music with Vern Huntington beginning at 9 p.m.

January 3: General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Meetings

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Breaking of Bread for believers. 2 p.m. Gospel meeting.

Thursdays: 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. Everyone welcome. For more information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

NEW CARLISLE:

Christmas Bazaar

December 10: A Christmas bazaar will be held at New Carlisle High School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds go to St. Andrew's Anglican Church.

NEW CARLISLE:

LLB Membership

Please note that membership renewals for the Linda LeMore-Brown

Foundation are now available for the 2023 year. You can renew your membership by sending \$20 cash, e-transfer or cheque by mail to: C.P. 219, 168 Gérard D. Levesque, QC G0C 1Z0 or in-person on Tuesdays or Fridays between 9 and 11 a.m. For more information, please call 418-752-7223.

NEW RICHMOND:

United Church New Richmond

December 11: White gift Sunday, donations of gifts for children.

December 18: Angel tree service. Angels are \$5. Please contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896 to purchase your angel.

December 24: Christmas eve service with communion at 6:30 p.m.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room

The book room will be closed from **December 14 to January 11**. Anyone who needs assistance can contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

**UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, December 11
10 a.m. Service**

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, December 11
10 a.m. Service**

**ANGLICAN
CHURCH
OF CANADA
Sunday, December 11
NEW CARLISLE
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
SHIGAWAKE
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

**PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, December 11
St. Paul's - Gaspé
9 a.m. Carol Service with
Holy Eucharist**

Please be advised that all **cheques** must be made payable to **THE GASPÉ SPEC**

**DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE:
WEDNESDAY AT 4 P.M.
Please send your Classified
or Coast Round-Up to:
holly.smith@globetrotter.net**



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Someone thinks you are up to a challenge this week, Aries. Dive right in and prove them correct. There's much you'll get done, but leave some time for leisure.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
There's not much you can't accomplish these next several days, Taurus. The key will be knowing just where to pull back so that you can do each job well.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Think before committing to a project that is expected to take a long time, Gemini. While you may have a lot of free time right now, that may

not be the case in a few weeks.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, health concerns may come to the forefront this week, whether it pertains to you or someone close to you. Empty your schedule so you can devote the utmost attention.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, despite many looming deadlines, you are surprisingly relaxed about all the things you need to accomplish. Maybe that is because you have a lot of help.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Some unexpected time off has dropped into your lap, Virgo. Figure out if a small vacation or weekend getaway might be just what you need right now.

Then make it happen.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
A career change could be on the horizon, Libra. Do your research before you take the full plunge into new waters. Maybe test things out before making a firm commitment.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Home improvements could be coming soon, Scorpio. They'll interfere with your daily schedule for a bit, but the results will be well worth any disruption.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Your hospitable nature is a perfect match for the entertaining you will be doing this week, Sagittarius. Expect a houseful of people on one or

more days.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Spending certainly is up during the holiday season, but you may need to keep a closer eye on what is going on with your finances, Capricorn. Don't lose sight of your budget.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
A few interesting possibilities may come across your desk, Aquarius. Look at them with a critical eye and get a second opinion before moving forward.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Too many things seem like a priority right now, Pisces. You need to weed through all of your responsibilities and tackle the most urgent.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
DECEMBER 4
Tyra Banks, TV Host (49)
DECEMBER 5
Frankie Muniz, Actor (37)
DECEMBER 6
CoCo Vandeweghe, Athlete (31)
DECEMBER 7
Jon Moxley, Wrestler (37)
DECEMBER 8
Nicki Minaj, Rapper (40)
DECEMBER 9
Donny Osmond, Singer (65)
DECEMBER 10
Kenneth Branagh, Actor (62)

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