

## 2022 LARGE GAME STATISTICS: A good year for moose hunters

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – The 2022 large game hunting season was fairly productive in the Gaspé Peninsula. The moose hunting results were slightly better in 2022 than in 2021 while about the same number of deer were killed over both years. The black bear hunting results were down last year compared to 2021.

Up to 5,350 moose were harvested by hunters in 2022 in Zone 1, which corresponds to the Sainte-Flavie to Sainte-Flavie Highway 132 loop. The Zone 1 harvest represented 29% of all the moose harvested by hunters in Quebec in 2022. The Gaspé Peninsula is by far the leader in that field.

The Lower Saint Lawrence region came in second place province-wide, which is usually the case, with 2,583 moose killed, for 14% of the Quebec harvest. Overall in the 29 moose hunting zones in the province, the number of moose killed by hunters dropped 22% between 2021 and 2022. Most of that drop comes from a decrease of 1,858 in the number

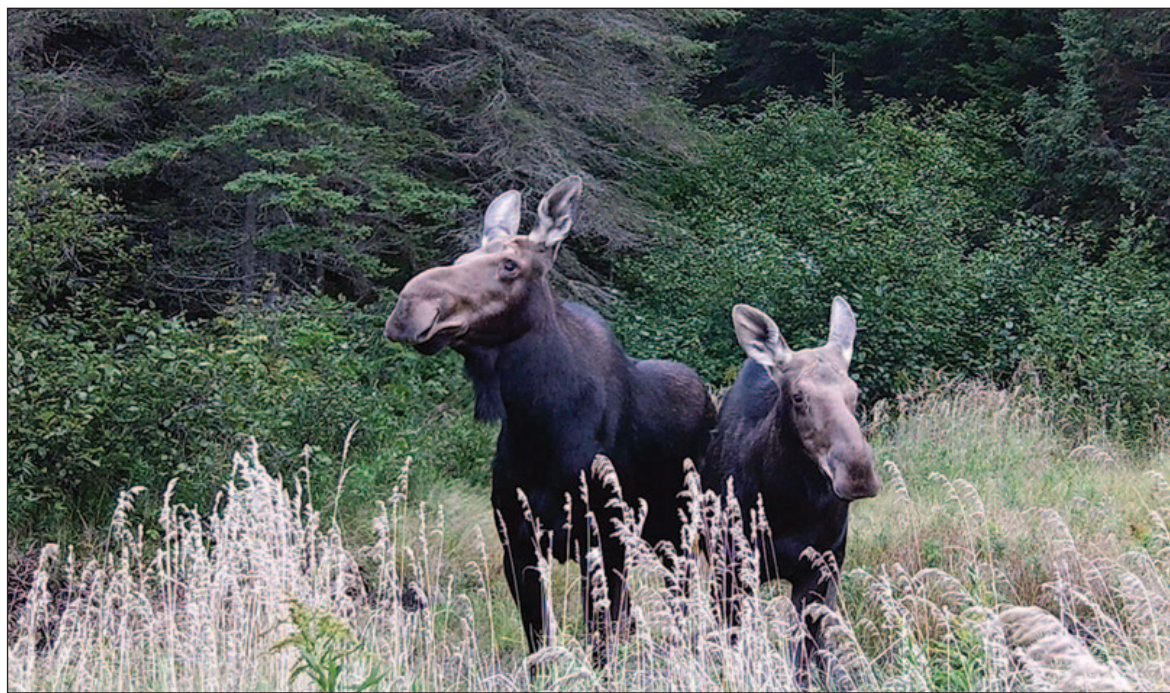


Photo: J. Major

*The Gaspé Peninsula remains, by far, the most productive region of Quebec for moose hunting.*

of moose harvested in the Lower Saint Lawrence region.

The data released recently by the Quebec Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks remains preliminary for the moment.

Data collection began in 2009, since then the record moose harvest was in 2017 when a total of 5,452 were harvested. At the time, it sur-

passed the 2014 record of 5,446 moose, which beat the previous peak of 5,432 in 2012.

The prominence of moose hunting in the Gaspé Peninsula is also reflected by the fact that 70.8% of the female moose hunted in Quebec were killed in Zone 1. It provides a good indication of the abundance of the herd since female permits are not issued in many regions.

In the Gaspé Peninsula,

1,700 females, 3,039 males and 611 calves were killed in 2022. It compares to 1,597 females, 3,053 males and 612 calves in 2021, for a total of 5,262 moose that year. The 2022 increase is slight, at 88 animals or 1.67%.

“I checked the 2021 numbers and the main cause of the 2022 increase comes from 100 additional females killed (103 to be accurate). In fact, the

number of bulls slightly decreased (14 less) and the number of calves remained about the same, with 611 instead of 612 as in 2021. The ministry granted hundreds of additional permits to kill females and it was normal to expect a higher harvest there. Last year (in 2021), the ministry had granted 1,600 female permits but the harvest necessary to restore the ideal male-female ratio was not reached,” explains Alain Poitras, President of the Federation of Hunters and Fishermen of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

He surmises that it will take a higher number of female permits to change that ratio, which should be two females per male. Mr. Poitras doesn't know the exact ratio as of now but he knows that it is more than two for one.

“Let's face it: if you hold a female permit and you see a big bull passing in front of you, 90% of the hunters will shoot the buck,” he points out.

He stresses that a rate of success between 30 and 35% for female hunting would be needed to insure a better

Cont'd on page 7

### MOOSE 2022

Zone	Females	Males	Calves	Total 2022	% of Quebec
Zone 1 (Gaspé Peninsula)	1,700	3,039	611	5,350	29%
Zone 2 (Lower North Shore)	255	1,864	464	2,583	14%
Total for Quebec	2,402	13,695	2,305	18,402	

### MOOSE 2021

Zone	Females	Males	Calves	Total 2022
Zone 1 (Gaspé Peninsula)	1,597	3,053	612	5,262
Zone 2 (Lower North Shore)	2,128	1,740	583	4,451
Total for Quebec	8,568	12,749	2,276	23,593

### DEER 2022

Zone	Females	Males	Fawns	Total 2022
Zone 1 North	3	121	0	124
Zone 1 South	17	390	2	409
Zone 1 Total	20	511	2	533
Total for Quebec	15,283	35,277	4,758	55,318

### DEER 2021

Zone	Females	Males	Fawns	Total 2022
Zone 1 North	4	124	1	129
Zone 1 South	9	398	0	407
Zone 1 Total	13	522	1	536
Total for Quebec	14,066	35,491	5,205	54,762



Photo: N. Sergerie

*The situation is tense in the operating department at the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital.*

## Problems at the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

**SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS:** An unhealthy work environment appears to be the cause of the break in services that has occurred since December 16 in the operating room of the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital. The CISSS, however, seems to be tiptoeing around the issue.

The health network had been explaining for the last month that it was due to a lack of personnel that the suspension of surgical activities were necessary at the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital.

However, on the ground, information sheds another light on the situation with personality conflicts undermining the environment within the unit to the point where a breach of trust between workers would have appeared.

Upon the promise of anonymity, some staff members have even mentioned the possibility of resigning if nothing happens.

The situation emerged on January 26 at the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS board of director meeting.

“Citizens are not fooled.

They believe the work environment played a role in the staffing shortages that led to the unit's closure. It is desirable that if imputable behavior is identified, that fair and equitable sanctions are applied,” says a citizen of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Michelle Lauzon.

“To regain trust, could the Board of Directors commit to shedding light on the process that led to the potentially disastrous decision to close the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts operating room?” questions Ms. Lauzon.

“It's a complex situation,” says the president and chief executive officer, Martin Pelletier, in response to Ms. Lauzon.

“It's multifactorial. These are complex conditions. I don't want to go into those details, but it's multifactorial,” adds Mr. Pelletier.

“The Gaspé Peninsula CISSS is the bearer of the decision and the measures put in place to consolidate the service, but with the support of the ministry. We want to make sure that the ministry understands what is going on and that it supports us in this,” also says the president and CEO.

“Activities gradually resumed at the end of January

and reached 100% by the beginning of February,” points out Mr. Pelletier.

The Union of Nurses, Nursing Assistants and Respiratory Therapists of Eastern Quebec, however, says the real reason is more than a labour dispute in the operating room, according to its president, Pier-Luc Bujold.

“The nurses we represent have raised certain information that must be taken into account and there must be an investigation. The nurses acted out of professionalism because their code of ethics says that if they become aware of things that are happening at the medical level or the quality of care, they must declare it. They did declare it to senior management, according to their code (of ethics), in December,” says Mr. Bujold.

The union even mentions “medical issues,” but Mr. Bujold is circumspect for the moment, having asked the Ministry of Health and Social Services for an investigation to “validate, invalidate or qualify the statements of issues of our members.”

The Ministry of Health has received the request for an investigation and the union president wants things to move quickly.

## Gaspé Peninsula CISSS estimates deficit of \$7.5M

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

**GASPÉ -** Independent labour has a significant impact on the finances of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS).

In January, the organization predicted a deficit of \$5 million for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, which will end on March 31.

After completing 10 months of the fiscal year, it is now estimated at closer to \$7.5 million.

The Department of Health has been notified of the situation. “What we want is the support of the ministry at the

financial level. We have no indication that it will be reimbursed. It is a situation of scarcity of labour, that means that we are forced to use independent labour which is very, very expensive for us,” explains Mr. Pelletier.

For example, Mr. Pelletier mentions that a nurse earns \$41 per hour on average at the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS, while a freelance nurse costs around \$125 an hour.

“What hurts is the extra cost. In additional costs, we are at around \$20 million because we use independent labour rather than regular labour,” says the Director of Financial Services, Jean-Pierre Collette.

## Emergency room redevelopment comes in below budget

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

The redevelopment of the emergency room and intensive care at the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital centre will be completed on schedule. The contractor will complete the \$7.2 million work by the end of March and the new premises will be operational towards the end of June.

The whole project was valued at \$13 million and the budget was more than respected. “This is a project that

should be delivered at a cost of \$11 million. We're going to save \$2 million,” proudly says the director of technical services, Harris Cloutier.

The Gaspé Peninsula CISSS was the project manager of the redevelopment.

The current premises date back to the construction of the hospital in 1973.

This is the second emergency department to be renovated in the Gaspé Peninsula. The one in Gaspé was inaugurated in the summer of 2021.



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# Police report

Grande-Rivière firefighters responded to two fires that occurred on the evening of January 31 and the early morning of February 1. The first incident involved a cooking fire at a residence. 17 firefighters responded to that blaze including Chandler firefighters who assisted. No one was injured as a result of the fire. According to Mr. Lebreux, director of the Grande-Rivière fire department, the house will be uninhabitable for weeks as a result of the damage.

The second fire occurred at 4:15 a.m. in a three-unit building located on Saint-Pierre Street. The spokesperson of Sûreté du Québec, Sgt. Claude Doiron, indicates that there was a lot of smoke when the firefighters arrived, but that the fire was brought under control very quickly and confined to the apartment where it had started. The occupant of this apartment located on the ground floor had to escape through the window because of the thick smoke. Some smoke reached the second level. According to the director of the Grande-Rivière fire department, Luc Lebreux, the fire was caused by objects in contact with a heater. "Even if the fire did not spread, there is a lot of damage," he notes. The apartment is uninhabitable for several weeks. There are traces of smoke everywhere. Fifteen firefighters, including five from Chandler, participated in the intervention.

A blaze on the evening of January 31 completely destroyed a house located on the Third Range of Shigawake. "The Paspébiac firefighters were called around 7:40 p.m. The two occupants were evacuated without problems. It was a single dwelling house. The two occupants were taken care of by the Red Cross. The cause is not foul play," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron. A dog perished in the fire. A backup heating system located in the living room could have caused the fire.

The Court of Appeal has dismissed the appeal made by a couple previously found guilty of financially, sexually and psychologically exploiting two vulnerable people in Percé. Marie-Josée Comeau and Roger Vibert were sentenced in January 2022 to pay more than \$86,000 to the two vulnerable victims, whose identity is protected by a publication ban. The Comeau-Vibert couple appealed this decision on procedural issues, arguing that they were deprived of their right to full answer and defence. In its decision, the Court of Appeal indicates that it rejects this interpretation and notes that the couple, on the contrary, benefited from great flexibility from the court. The three judges who signed the decision, however, mention that they are concerned about the magnitude of the amount in damages set by the Superior Court, given the limited financial resources of the Comeau-Vibert couple.

Recently arrested at his apartment on René-Lévesque Boulevard East in Chandler following a drug bust case, Pascal Boucher waived his bail, scheduled for the end of January. The suspect will remain detained for further proceedings and will return to court on February 15. Aged 44, Pascal Boucher is charged with possession of a weapon contrary to a court order, drug possession, drug trafficking and resisting arrest. The Sûreté du Québec seized 1,065 methamphetamine tablets, three pellet weapons (two of which looked like real handguns), and an undisclosed amount of cash. Information from the public led to the police operation. He has so far appeared three times at the Percé Courthouse, on January 12 for the initial charge of illegal possession of a weapon, on January 18 for the additional drug-related charges and on January 27 for what was supposed to be his bail hearing.

A former organizer of the Conservative Party of Quebec (PCQ) for the Matane region pleaded guilty to having fixed false appointments during the vaccination campaign against COVID-19. Sylvie Paradis, 55 years of age and living in Saint-Léandre, has one year to complete 200 hours of community work for an organization of her choice. She will also have to donate \$1,000 to the Matane Hospital Foundation within the next six months. In addition, the woman is prohibited from going to the government portal Clic Santé, except to make an appointment for herself. She will also be submitted to a probation period of three years. The criminal and penal prosecutor Pamela Tremblay points out that this sentence is a joint proposal with the defense lawyer.

While Ms. Paradis is entitled to her opinion in relation to COVID, in relation to the vaccination campaign that was taking place in 2021 and 2022, prosecutor Tremblay considers on the other hand that the culprit did not respect the opinion of her fellow citizens. Sylvie Paradis scheduled 55 false appointments in Matane and Amqui between December 2021 and the beginning of January 2022. Her goal was to bog down the reservation system, as the lawyer explains. "She caused the Matane and Amqui people to miss appointments or the privilege of having an appointment." The lawyer defending Ms. Paradis declined to comment.

Sylvie Paradis first pleaded not guilty over the 2022 summer. On January 31, she changed her mind and pleaded guilty to two of the three counts against her. She was vice-president of the local section of the PCQ. She resigned for personal reasons, according to the organization. Questioned at the time, the leader of the party, Éric Duhaime, had dissociated himself from the actions alleged against Ms. Paradis. (with information from Radio-Canada)

that connects the Sunny Bank and Wakeham sectors, slows down the flow of the York River.

Before, it was a path at water level and when it overflowed, the river invaded the roadway.

Raised by 1.5 metres in 1952, the road was recog-

nized as partially blocking the flow of the river.

peal in 2013 and the court authorized it in 2015.

Since the case is still before the court to establish compensation, the Ministry of Transport is not commenting on the process of rebuilding York Boulevard West between Sunny Bank and Wakeham, in Gaspé.

The 2010 flood was the straw that broke the camel's back.

The citizens filed their ap-



Photo: G. Gélinas

The Sunny Bank district was hard hit by the 2010 flood.

## 2010 SUNNY BANK FLOOD: Ongoing negotiations

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

**GASPÉ** - The attorney for the citizens affected by a major flood in December 2010 in the Sunny Bank district of Gaspé is continuing his discussions with the Quebec Transport Ministry to establish how the decision handed down in June 2022 will be applied.

In a note sent on January 26 and obtained by SPEC, the law firm, Sylvestre Painchaud and Associates, who led the class action took stock with those listed in the file.

In the notice, it is written that the firm is negotiating in particular the parameters which will govern the way in which class action, indicating that it (the firm) is working to make the claim process as easy and as advantageous as possible.

In addition, the court has not yet issued a summons regarding the next steps. The lawyers will present their positions at this time in order for the court to determine and/or approve the parameters for the execution of the judgement rendered on June 29, 2022.

Victims will now have to file property damages in an upcoming hearing.

Judge Pierre C. Bellavance had marked out the amounts that the victims can expect for moral damages. Ninety-nine buildings were targeted in the decision.

From December 13 to 15, 2010, approximately 246 millimetres of rain fell on

Gaspé.

In the decision, the judge wrote that "the MTQ recognized that it was the activity of the road itself which had the effect of raising the level of the water upstream of the road when the river rose out of its bed at Sunny Bank in 2010."

The magistrate even added that "the evidence has shown that the choice of this location was not preceded by any impact study, if only to verify whether its location was optimal given the proximity of residences."

He also noted that as early as 1977, several letters were sent to the MTQ about flooding to remind them of the problem.

Floods occurred in 1977, 1980, twice in 1981, 1983, 1997, 1998, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2017.

He also rejected the idea that the rains of December 2010 constituted a case of force majeure (unforeseeable and unavoidable catastrophe), as mentioned by the Attorney General of Quebec.

The judge concluded his decision by ordering the MTQ to carry out corrective work in order to maintain an adequate level of service for a flow rate of 600 cubic metres/second over the next six years and to build a station to measure the river flow.

The department had already made a commitment during the pleadings to carry out work valued at \$8 million on this road in order to improve the situation within six years.

The road, rebuilt in 1977



Gilles Gagné

## Commentary

### National Assembly: electricity and health stakes dominate session kickoff

Parliamentary work can be boring to follow at times but the 2023 winter-spring session at the National Assembly will undoubtedly be interesting to watch, considering the impact it could have on two stakes that are close to the citizens, energy and health, no matter the order.

Energy will be one of the top economic and social issues of the next decades, especially people's access to affordable and sufficient sources of energy. In Quebec, if we are to keep counting on cheap electricity, for example, it will require efforts in a field we have been too often negligent about, our capacity to consume reasonably. We have been spoiled by some of the cheapest rates in the world, if not the cheapest.

Why consume reasonably? It's because we slowly discover that our electricity sources are not endless. Yes, we could probably double, triple or quadruple our hydroelectricity output, given the number of important rivers we have on the territory but it would come at a huge installation and environmental cost so, at a huge cost period.

The January 31 work resumption at the National Assembly was marked by a couple of sparks, notably the early morning resignation of Hydro-Québec Vice-President Éric Fillion much before the end of his term. It was the third important departure in less than a month at the utility, three weeks to the day after the announcement made by President and Chief Executive Officer Sophie Brochu and President of the Board Jacynthe Côté. Their departure will be effective during the first half of April.

It is clear now that there is a major clash between Hydro-Québec's high brass and Quebec's "super minister" Pierre Fitzgibbon, who holds many, too many economic responsibilities in the Coalition avenir Québec government.

The current National Assembly session starts with consultations on Bill 2, a document that is officially supposed to ensure that Quebecers will not pay more than 3% yearly increases on their electricity bills. The second major aspect of Bill 2 consists of ensuring that Hydro-Québec will meet the needs of Quebecers.

Presented this way, it sounds logical and reassuring. We are promised to keep receiving, in the future, a reliable supply of electricity.

However, therein probably lies the factors that contributed to Sophie Brochu, Jacynthe Côté and Éric Fillion's resignations.

Premier François Legault's desire to see the

emergence of new power dams in Quebec is now well documented. The same desire is shared by Minister Fitzgibbon.

As the National Assembly session resumed, Hydro-Québec's data regarding the development projects submitted to the utility were released. They total 23,000 megawatts. This is almost 50% of Hydro-Québec's total production capacity of 46,380 megawatts, with power dams delivering roughly 40,000 megawatts (MW).

During the debates that followed the release of the 23,000 MW "future needs," Pierre Fitzgibbon made it clear that Hydro-Québec will not develop all this new capacity in the coming decade. Right from the start, he ruled out the development of 9,000 MW linked to the so-called "green hydrogen" file, which is far from the most efficient way to use electricity.

Strategically, it was a good move on his part. He has been and is still publicly perceived as the minister in favour of the unbridled development of hydroelectricity. It is tempting to guess that through expressing quickly a refusal about developing a chunk of 9,000 MW, he was working at changing the image he projects.

Will this image changer move reassure people worried about the almost all-out electricity production strategy of the CAQ government? It would be surprising. It will take more.

Bill 2 will give the government control over some of the projects submitted to Hydro-Québec. In the past and as long as Bill 2 will not be approved, the utility had to accept all the viable projects of 50 MW or less. Once adopted, Bill 2 will give that control to the government. Decisions regarding bigger ventures will keep being shared by a set of authorities.

Minister Fitzgibbon has recently said that he would like to give a green light to the most promising projects for a total ranging between 8,000 and 10,000 megawatts, from the ventures totalling 23,000 MW. He also said that the rates offered to the selected projects will not fit with Sophie Brochu's fear of seeing Quebec become the "dollar store of electricity." The minister said that the rates offered will be reasonable and will not force Quebec households to make up for the cheap deals conferred in the past to aluminum plants, for example.

We will surely check what will happen, keeping in mind that facts are stubborn.

#### Where is prevention?

Over the last weeks, Health and Social Service Minister Christian Dubé has made several public presentations in order to show that he has a plan and that he intends to make it work. He too is trying to reassure the population regarding a health sector

in crisis.

At the same time, people can hardly ignore that most hospital emergencies in Quebec are walking on a thin, thin line, especially in major cities, that surgery services are regularly suspended temporarily in rural areas, not to mention obstetrics departments, which are so closely tied to surgery. In the meantime, we have learned to be flexible about the definition of "temporarily".

Minister Dubé is also trying to be reassuring about the recruitment of nurses, adding that hundreds of them from outside the country are coming to our rescue and will eventually curb the current crisis.

Although we are lucky to greet these new nurses, chances are that they will hardly improve the situation. The current health system will keep losing nurses to private agencies as long as governmental authorities will not give permanent positions to a greater number of nurses and provide them with a say in the determination of their working schedule.

Point number 2: as long as the emphasis regarding people's health will be put on healing instead of prevention, we will manage crisis after crisis. In all his recent presentations, Minister Dubé didn't mention the word prevention once, in the sense that if we can prevent illnesses before they manifest, the pressure on the health system will greatly diminish.

Recent studies show that 74% of the people in the world die from chronic illnesses: cancer and heart conditions being some of them. The same studies show that 60% of those chronic illnesses could be avoided through working at the problems' roots.

Quebec is not different. Under former Health Minister Gaétan Barette, 30% of the prevention budgets were slashed, to the benefits of hospital care. That mistake was partially corrected since. However, that correction is far from making up for lost time. Besides, ignoring in public presentations, the importance of prevention is like making sure that the current problems will last and last. It is really too bad.

#### Correction

Please note that on page 15 of the January 25 issue the continuation the obituary for Nils Olaf VIKAN- DER should read as follows: *Nils inadvertently drew attention wherever he lived. I recall a very hot July morning, the first summer Nils came to Gaspé. The temperature was a very warm 35 degrees. On route from Murdochville to Gaspé with a load of copper anodes, a driver who knew every twist and turn of the Murdochville-Gaspé road suddenly came upon a man wearing skis, poling his way along the highway. The driver was awe stricken; he could not believe he was seeing a person skiing in July!*

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# Merinov delegation goes on exploratory visit to France

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

BREST (France) - The possible resumption of the redfish fishing leads a delegation made up of researchers from Merinov and various players in the world of fishing to Brest in France to discover the most recent innovations affecting trawls that could be transferred to the Quebec industry.

The objective is to determine which equipment and technologies could be adapted to Quebec fisheries.

“The fundamental objective of this tour is really in the context of the resumption of the redfish fishery which will take place in the short term in Quebec and Canada,” says industrial researcher at Merinov, Jérôme Laurent, who accompanied the delegation to Brest, Treffiagat, Lorient and Saint-Malo.

Since the end of redfish fishing in the 1990s, things have evolved, as have research and regulations in



Photo: Courtesy Merinov

The delegation visiting the Graduate School of Advanced Technology in Brest.

Quebec and Canada.

“We are in a context where we must ensure that we have a very selective fishery that only targets redfish and commercial size, not small redfish, and other species, therefore incidental catches. We must also ensure that the impact of fishing gear on the seabed is limited. This is what

differentiates future fishing from that of the 1990s,” explains Mr. Laurent.

Based on what is observed in Brest, a reflection will be made upon the delegation’s return to Canada to see what can be applicable in Quebec when it comes to redfish catches.

“Elements such as working

on new types of bio-sourced materials, that is to say biodegradable over time, are really interesting. The challenge is to have materials that are as resistant as current materials, which have as long a lifespan and have the same cost,” emphasizes the researcher.

Artificial intelligence can

also be useful in order to see which species of fish are in front of the trawl or in the trawl in order to circumvent them and avoid catching them.

“On the other hand, these are not areas where there will be short-term applications. In the medium term, yes, there are some really interesting things. We have to work on it now because the development time for these innovations is still quite long,” says Mr. Laurent.

The collaboration with Brest has existed since 2008. Missions on both sides of the ocean, in particular with the French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea, have been carried out.

In addition to the Merinov personnel, this mission is made up of fishing technicians and fishermen, the Association of Captains Proprietors of Gaspé Peninsula, the Mi'gmaq and Wolastoqey Native Fisheries Management Association and the Robotics and Vision Industrial Centre.

# Gaspesian MNAs list priorities for the winter session of the National Assembly

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The Members of the National Assembly from the Gaspé Peninsula have chosen several priorities for the parliamentary session which began in Quebec City on January 31.

Coalition avenir Québec MNA for Bonaventure and government assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for the shoreline erosion component, Catherine Blouin, has made that component her top priority.

“This is a priority issue for the Gaspé Peninsula, but also for the Magdalen Islands, Lower Saint Lawrence, North Shore and elsewhere in Quebec. I am continuing my visits to erosion stakeholders in order to form an overall picture and implement a new structure, which is a project coordinating office,” says Ms. Blouin, who mentions that this is a colossal file that links several departments.

“(It is a field) where we must act very quickly and we must act in the medium and long term to anticipate things rather than in reaction (to



Photo: N. Sergerie

CAQ MNAs Stéphane Sainte-Croix and Catherine Blouin with Premier François Legault (centre), in Gaspé during the election campaign last September.

events), to be in prevention mode,” adds the elected official who also wants to document the formulas that work, according to the situations.

She mentions that a budget of \$100 million has been added to existing amounts for

this file.

Cellular coverage, housing, day care services, health and the railway are also on her list of top priorities. “It is difficult to name a single priority. I intend to tackle these issues head-on,” says Ms. Blouin.

Her colleague from Gaspé, Stéphane Sainte-Croix, who is the government assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will focus on the fisheries sector.

This sector has been experiencing a lot of turbulence in

recent years, with suspensions of fishing of certain species last year.

“We will focus a lot of our energy on the 2022-2023 winter session (of the National Assembly). There are specific issues looming on the horizon. The question of energy will be a big adventure in terms of supply and pricing. These will be big issues in the coming weeks,” says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

The fragility of Highway 132 in Haute-Gaspésie is also in his sights, as far as priorities go.

“Highway 132 has special characteristics. We agree that climate change and its impact on our road infrastructure will keep us busy. We are pinning a lot of hope on the next step at the level of the Transport and Sustainable Mobility Committee to see how we will address this phenomenon in the coming years,” adds the elected official.

He also plans to keep a close eye on the air transportation file as part of this priority list. Mr. Sainte-Croix mentions that a committee is reviewing the issue to find tangible solutions.

# Osisko Mining reports again promising analysis results from Murdochville drillings

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – Osisko Metals recently reported additional drilling results from its Murdochville exploration campaign and these results are as promising as the first ones issued over the spring and during the summer. Most of the drillings bear copper content above or close to the thresholds targeted by the company.

The latest results, issued on January 24, came from 18 additional drill holes, all located in the Mount Copper area, the sector chosen by Osisko Metals to resume thorough exploration in Murdochville.

Between 1954 and 1999, various open pit and underground mines were exploited in the town. Mount Copper was an open pit mine whose exploitation ceased in 1982 due to an economic downturn, not because the deposit was exhausted.

Twelve of the eighteen holes being reported in January were collared on the periphery of the existing Mount Copper open pit. The drilling firm hired by Osisko Metals utilized controlled directional drilling techniques, including one long drill hole that was flattened at shallow dips to crosscut the higher-grade mineralization below the existing open pit.

During its exploitation, Mount Copper yielded a concentration of 0.37% in copper. By and large, Osisko Metals would like to find similar concentrations during the current exploration drive. However, the cutoff grade is estimated at 0.16%. The company would be ready to invest at Mount Copper with a grade higher than this.

In many of the holes drilled so far, the laboratory analyses are revealing what the company is looking for.

## The results

Osisko Metals noticed that drill hole 30-1005, drilled at a shallow angle towards the northwest under the existing pit, intersected 1011 metres had a content of 0.46% in copper and 3.19 grams per tonne of silver. The hole included a highergrade intersection in the core of the deposit of 312 metres with a 0.76% copper content and 4.79 grams per tonne in silver.

The true horizontal width of the modelled mineralized shell



Photo: Osisko Metals

*The data released by Osisko Metals confirm once more the vast presence of copper ore in the Mount Copper area.*

in this area is 924 metres. This long directional hole matched the limits of the modelled mineralized envelope but exceeded the expected copper grades.

Osisko Metals also pinpointed the following numbers for seven additional holes:

Drill hole 30-984A was collared on Mount Copper and intersected 235.5 metres with 0.43% of copper and 2.98 grams per tonne of silver. This hole extended mineralization by 180.0 metres beyond the lower limit of the modelled mineralized shell.

Drill hole 30-997 was collared on the eastern margin of the existing pit and intersected 567.0 metres with 0.25% in copper and 1.90 gram per tonne in silver. This hole matched the limits of the modelled mineralized shell.

Drill hole 30-1000A, collared outside the mineralized shell on the eastern margin of the pit, intersected 399.0 metres grading 0.28% in copper and 1.61 gram per tonne in silver. This hole extended mineralization by 260.0 metres beyond the lower limit of the modelled mineralized shell.

Drill hole 30-1001, collared outside the mineralized shell on the eastern margin of the pit, intersected 330.5 metres grading 0.34% in copper and 2.32 grams per tonne in silver. This hole matched the limits of the modelled mineralized shell.

Drill hole 30-1012, collared outside the mineralized shell on the northern margin of the pit, intersected 238.0 metres grading 0.51% in copper and 3.43 grams per tonne in silver. This hole was stopped within the modelled mineralized shell as historical drill data is available at depth to the lower limit of the shell.

Drill hole 30-1020, collared

on the southern margin of the pit within the modelled mineralized shell, intersected 601.5 metres grading 0.34% in copper and 1.34 gram per tonne in silver. This hole extended mineralization by 175.0 metres beyond the lower limit of the modelled mineralized shell.

Drill hole 30-1021A, collared on the southwestern margin of the pit within the modelled mineralized shell, intersected 138.7 metres grading 0.43% in copper and 1.22 gram per tonne in silver, followed by an additional deeper intersection of 366.0 metres grading 0.25% in copper and 1.82 gram per tonne in silver. This hole extended mineralization by 200.0 metres beyond the lower limit of the modelled mineralized shell.

Robert Wares, Osisko Metals' chairman and chief executive officer, expresses satisfaction regarding the latest results.

"We are very happy with this latest slate of drill results at Gaspé Copper, which are not only confirming grades at the Mount Copper deposit but also expanding the modelled limits of mineralization. Final results of the 2022 program are still pending, including another long directional drill hole that was designed to crosscut a known northwestern discontinuity and intersect higher grade mineralization below the bottom of the existing pit. We look forward to announcing these final results in the near future and resume drilling early next summer," he states.

In eight of the 18 holes whose results were outlined by Osisko Metals, the mineralized zone exceeded the anticipated model limits.

In its statistics, Osisko Metals is providing silver and

molybdenum contents found in the drill samples. However, they are not considered vital to the project and will not influence the company's decision to invest or not in Murdochville. The former mines also included relatively weak contents of gold and silver. They were part of the copper anodes leaving the smelter for the Canadian Copper Refinery Plant in Montreal.

## Mount Copper could contain more ore than expected

On April 28, following the first series of laboratory results released by Osisko Metals, the company estimated that the Mount Copper deposit was probably containing 456 million tonnes of mineralized ore, at a grade of 0,31% recoverable, with an additional 0,04% of non-recoverable content because it is oxidized.

Such a deposit would give 1.4 million tonnes of pure copper, once processed. It is roughly the same tonnage as that exploited locally between 1954 and 1999.

Without speculating on the overall grade of the deposit, Osisko Metals' management pointed out that recent analysis results "may add to the next resource estimate update. (...) Economic factors detailed in the MRE (mineral resource estimate) have changed since the historical mine was closed such that drill results on the margin of the pit are generally above the proposed cut-off grade of 0.16% in copper."

On July 11, Osisko Metals and the owner of the Murdochville mine property, world giant Glencore, reached an agreement that will have the location ownership transferred to

Osisko. The completion of the transaction has not been confirmed yet.

So far, Osisko Metals has earmarked \$12 million for the exploration campaign, while its initial commitment with Glencore was \$5 million. The buyer will pay \$25 million in American dollars as the initial payment to purchase Glencore's property, and \$20 million more if a mine is reopened there. Copper is viewed as a key element of the transition towards transport electrification.

Osisko Metals and Glencore have also reached a deal regarding the processing of the Murdochville ore, as the latter will buy it if both parties can agree on a reasonable price.

In previous interviews, Robert Wares, who worked for Noranda Mines in Murdochville during the 1990s, stated that about \$1 billion will be invested in the town's deposit if a decision to go ahead is made. At least five years will be required to give an eventual go ahead to the venture, because economic and environmental studies are needed in the meantime.

The initiative could provide permanent work to about 700 people if the mine reopens.

The Murdochville mines were exploited between 1954 and 1999. The underground mine was closed in October 1999. The smelter stayed open until April 27, 2002, relying strictly on imported ore during the last two-and-a-half years of its existence.

Osisko Metals will need a copper price of US\$4 per pound in order to make a positive decision about the reopening of the Murdochville mine. Over the last year, that price has hovered between US\$3.60 and US\$4.50.

# Fred the groundhog is no more

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ - Quite a surprise awaited the 250 or so participants in the 14th edition of Groundhog Day in Val-d'Espoir, near Percé, when the founder, Roberto Blondin, announced the death of the famous Gaspé meteorologist on February 2.

"This is reality. No one is immortal, no animal is immortal either," says event founder Roberto Blondin.

It was when picking up Fred around 1:30 a.m. that Mr. Blondin noticed that the groundhog had not woken up.

"When I put Fred away to sleep this fall, he was fat. He had been well-fed corn and he seemed fine," he says.

This was Fred's second generation and he was nine years old, a venerable age for groundhogs.

The succession is already assured. "We are raising a small groundhog, but it is too small to take it out. It would not have been reasonable to take it out in cold weather like today," says the organizer.

The thermometer was hov-



Photo: N. Sergerie

Children took over from Fred with a stuffed groundhog to make the 14th prediction.

ering around -20°C when it was time for the prediction a little after 7 a.m. at the entrance of the Val-d'Espoir church.

The show must go on... Several children took over with a stuffed groundhog, which saw its shadow, predicting spring will be late.

"You have to take it with a bit of humour. It happened

too quickly. Junior will be in training in May and will have the right to predict an early or late spring next year," assures Mr. Blondin.

This "sudden" death clouded the festivities. "It's a new experience even though it's been around for a long time. It's a new experience every time. The day before, the children tell us we have to

go. We get up early and go see the groundhog," says Nancy Vachon, a regular at the event.

As is the tradition at Candlemas, pancakes were served to people who attended the event in the community hall of the permaculture school since the church is closed for the winter.

For the mayor of Percé,

Cathy Poirier, the return of the spectators brings back the festive aspect of the celebration. "It's huge, the exposure. We are talking about Percé, Val-d'Espoir throughout Quebec today. It shows that there is activity in winter. It's a great activity in winter in Percé," says the mayor with conviction.

Note: Candlemas, also known at the Christian Festival of Lights, is celebrated on February 2. The ancient festival marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. The celebration honours light, warding off evil and death and assuring prosperity. This Christian festival commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem and his role as a light to enlighten pagan nations. It is traditional to eat pancakes on Candlemas in some parts of Europe, where each family member prepares and cooks a pancake while holding a coin in hand. This is believed to assure wealth and happiness until the next Candlemas celebration.

## LARGE GAME:

### ► Cont'd from cover

balance between the population of males and females. The exact success rate in 2022 is not out yet but Mr. Poitras thinks it is not much more than 20%.

"The last season's results don't make a big difference in the ratio. The last years have been pretty stable. We see a harvest ranging between 5,200 and 5,300 moose and the number of permit holders in the region reaches about 26,000 hunters. It was 25,000 in 2021. We can guess that the reduced effects of the pandemic in 2022 convinced a higher number of outside hunters to come back to the Gaspé Peninsula," adds Alain Poitras.

He noticed during the main moose hunting season, which is for rifle, the weather was particularly warm in 2022.

"Climate change creates modifications in hunting habits. My son and I killed a moose at about seven in the morning and while my son was preparing the animal, I started making calls to find a cold room to store it. It was 12 degrees that early in the morning," explains Mr. Poitras. Zone 1 covers part of the Lower Saint Lawrence administrative regions, namely fractions of the Matapedia and Mitis MRCs, and the whole

MRC of Matanie. Zone 2, despite being predominantly located in the Lower Saint Lawrence region, covers part of Gaspé Peninsula's Avignon MRC, the fraction located west of the Matapedia River, namely parts of the village of Matapédia's municipal limits, as well as Saint-Alexis, Saint-François and L'Ascension-de-Patapédia. Moose remains the most popular large game species for hunters active in Quebec, with more than 170,000 licenses sold, a rate similar to that of previous years, for similar hunting methods.

### Stability in deer hunting numbers

Alain Poitras sees a "balanced situation" in deer hunting between 2021 and 2022 in the Gaspé Peninsula, which is divided between north and south sectors for this animal, due to significant discrepancies in the concentration of the herd.

"In Zone 1 South, the harvest was almost the same between 2021 and 2022. Considering that 200 fewer permits were purchased in 2022 compared to 2021, the rate of success was better. In the north part of Zone 1, the numbers were also almost the same from one year to the other. Overall in the Gaspé Peninsula, there were

## BLACK BEAR 2022

Zone	Females	Males	Cubs	Total 2022
Zone 1 Spring	54	82	4	140
Zone 1 Fall	2	1	0	3
Total for 2022 (Gaspé Peninsula)	56	83	4	143
Total for Quebec Spring	1,653	2,744	174	4,571
Total for Quebec Fall	193	181	85	459
Total for Quebec	1,846	2,925	259	5,030

## BLACK BEAR 2021

Zone	Females	Males	Cubs	Total 2022
Zone 1 Spring	81	126	6	213
Zone 1 Fall	1	3	0	4
Total for 2022 (Gaspé Peninsula)	82	129	6	217

harvest years of 1,500 to 2,000 deer, but that was many years ago," says Alain Poitras.

In the two zones combined, hunters harvested 20 females, 511 males and 2 fawns in 2022, for a total of 533 animals, only 3 less than the total of 536 in 2021.

Alain Poitras is not too wor-

ried about the bear hunting results, despite a drop of 34.1% between 2021 and 2022, from 217 to 143 animals.

"It fell a bit but moose hunting is big over the fall. The bow and arrow, as well as crossbow hunters concentrate on moose and it might make the bear numbers vary. We can't say that

our game hunting is declining," he analyzes.

Bear hunting in the Gaspé Peninsula represents 9.1% of Quebec's overall picture. Deer hunting harvest is much more important elsewhere in Quebec, as the Gaspé Peninsula share accounts for only 0.96% of the provincial total.

# Hazel McCallion: A grand lady

DIANE SKINNER

MISSISSAUGA: Gaspésians like to claim that Hazel McCallion is ours – a native of the Gaspé Peninsula, born and raised in Port Daniel, Quebec.

She was born Hazel Journeaux on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1921, in Port Daniel. She passed away on January 29 just days away from her 102nd birthday. She was determined, hard-working, professional, and beloved by many people not only here on the Gaspé Coast but also in Quebec City and Montreal where she attended post-secondary schooling. Most of her working years were spent in Toronto, Streetsville and then Mississauga, where she was the beloved and respected mayor from 1978 until 2014, an amazing 36 years!

Her father, Herbert Armand Journeaux, owned a fishing and canning company, along with her brother Lockhart and later on her nephew Hughie was involved with that fish processing plant in Port Daniel into the 1990s.

Her mother, Amanda Travers, was a homemaker and ran the family farm. Hazel Journeaux was one of five children and the house where she was born is still standing and occupied in Port Daniel.

Hazel was always feisty and displayed a strong, winning personality. She played hockey with her sisters when she was a little girl here on the Coast and often played forward, demonstrating her skill and leadership qualities early in life. When she moved to Montreal, she played for a semi-professional women's team. Hockey is a passion she actively supported.

After graduating from high school in Quebec City, Hazel attended business and secretarial college in Quebec City and Montreal. She wanted to attend university but could not afford it at the time. She quickly got a job with the Canadian Kellogg company and in 1942 was transferred to the Toronto office of her Montreal firm. Almost immediately she became active in several projects in her community: Lakeview Generating Station, British American Refinery and a pilot project for the



Photo: P. MacWhirter

*Hazel McCallion, born in Port Daniel, passed away on January 29, 2023, in Mississauga, Ontario. She is a splendid example of a person who devoted her life to a career in public service to her community. She is seen here with relatives Enid Bechervaise, Audrey Journeaux and Joy Carson during her book-signing open house on August 2, 2015, in Port Daniel.*

Tar Sands in Alberta were some of the projects she worked on. She worked for that company for 19 years.

In 1951, she met her future husband, Sam McCallion at an Anglican Church congregation and were married later, that same year. They had three children: Peter, Linda and Paul. She had strong faith and was a member of the Anglican Church and she often gave credit to her faith for giving her the immense energy required for her many years of service as a politician. She always liked to do her own housework because, she said, it gives you exercise and keeps you humble.

Her devotion to political life began in 1967 when she became Chairperson of the Streetsville Planning Board. Soon after that she was elected Mayor of Streetsville. She was a political meteor. She became mayor of Mississauga in 1978, narrowly defeating a popular incumbent. She was acclaimed in 1980, re-elected in 1991, 1994, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2010. Under her leadership, Mississauga did not have to borrow money and remained debt-free from the time of her first term as mayor in 1978 until her retirement from politics in 2014.

Mrs. McCallion exhibited an approach to politics that is described as forthright and no-nonsense. Her career was not without controversy,

mind you, but the overwhelming majority of voters continued to support her. Don Cherry, a friend, said at one of Hazel's birthday celebrations, referring to her strong electoral support, that 98% of the residents of Mississauga voted for her and that he was going out to look for the 2% that had not. She did not accept donations for her political campaigns, but instead asked her supporters to donate the money to a favourite charity.

Hazel McCallion always held the philosophy that a city should be run like a business. Likely this view was shaped early in life by her family's background as successful business people here on the Gaspé Coast, combined with her education in the field of business.

She received multiple awards and was a strong supporter of many charities. Some of her accolades include: World Leadership Award, Canadian Family

Values Award, Robert Baldwin Award for Career Achievement, Honorary Doctorate of Laws and many community service awards.

Hazel McCallion was sometimes referred to as "Hurricane Hazel" because of her outspoken style.

At one gala held in her honour, this tribute was made: "Mayor McCallion is a true inspiration to us all. Through her extraordinary terms as Mayor of Mississauga, her outstanding leadership, volunteerism, and philanthropy have become well-known both nationally and internationally."

Her proud niece, Enid Bechervaise (Journeaux) of New Carlisle, states that her Aunt Hazel was a wonderful lady. This week upon hearing of her passing, from Enid's son Scott Bechervaise who had been visiting his great-aunt Hazel, Enid placed a large photo in the window of her home so that passersby could see it. Mrs. Bechervaise recounted that she received that photo and a few others, given to her by her beloved aunt, when she last visited her in Ontario some years ago.

Mississauga might like to claim Hazel McCallion as their own, but we Gaspésians believe that her strength, no-nonsense views and perseverance come from her roots here on the Gaspé Peninsula.



*Sally Walker*  
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# Hurricane Hazel, the Hockey Star!

CYNTHIA DOW

Hazel McCallion (née Journeaux) is famous across Canada for her outstanding political career, but her long-standing professional and volunteer influence on Canadian and world hockey culture also deserves recognition.

Hazel received a pair of skates from brother Lockhart at the early age of five. As a small child, she played hockey with her sisters first, then her brothers, and then she took on the neighbourhood of Port Daniel!

Ivan Dow, my father, often chuckled about playing with Hazel, who grew up next door. "She could play better than most of the boys," he once told me, "She was like a whirling Dervish on the ice!"

My 100-year old Uncle Gerald agrees. When asked what she was like as a hockey player back in the 1930s, he answered with one word: "tough!" She was small in stature, but an excellent skater, fast and agile.

In the late 1930s she played in the Gaspé Coast



Credit: Samantha Fleming, Mississauga Steelheads

Hazel McCallion dropped the puck at the Mississauga Steelheads' home opener on October 2, 2022.

League with girls from Chandler to New Carlisle. Then in the late 1940s when she was in Montreal to further her education, she actually became one of Canada's first professional female hockey players. She was paid \$5 a game by

Kik Cola, playing centre for their team in a small women's league on the Island of Montreal.

In the 1970s she joined the board of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association. She worked for them as a volunteer even after she retired as Mayor of Mississauga in 2014 at the ripe old age of 93. In that role she was instrumental, along with her colleagues, in creating the first women's international hockey championship.

She and her cohorts organized the World Women's

Hockey Tournament in North York in 1987, with the winners hefting the McCallion World Cup. The event was so successful that by 1990 the International Ice Hockey Federation was holding its first worldwide event for women in Ottawa.

Hurricane Hazel also worked hard to have women's hockey added to the roster at the Olympic Games. After the IIHF recognized women's hockey, the International Olympic Committee voted to include the sport in the Winter Olympics, which finally

happened at Nagano in 1998.

Throughout her long life she was an inspiration to many players: boys, girls, men and women. She pushed through a major arena project in Mississauga, allowing the city to host an Ontario Hockey League team.

David Branch, Commissioner of the OHL, commented on their website: "Not only did Hazel McCallion have a tremendous commitment and dedication to the city of Mississauga, she also championed the game of hockey at all levels. She played an important role in bringing the OHL to Mississauga, and continued providing tremendous support to the IceDogs, Majors and Steelheads throughout her lengthy tenure as mayor and beyond. Hazel's leadership and passion will be greatly missed."

You may have seen Hazel playing hockey with Rick Mercer on his TV show when she was 88 years old. Apparently she took to the ice regularly until well into her 90s.

Since at least 2018 there has been a movement afoot to have Hazel McCallion inducted in the Hockey Hall of Fame. It's a shame this was not done during her lifetime when her passion and determination could have been celebrated with her.

With files from Jonah Shinuda at [insauga.com](http://insauga.com); the Ontario Hockey League; and Ice Hockey Wiki.

## Highway 132 still closed in Chandler

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - Expert assessments are continuing on the section of Highway 132 in Chandler affected by a major water main break on January 15.

The Ministry of Transports (MTQ) is still looking for the best option to repair the roadway while experts are carrying out various tests to determine if traffic can resume on this section built in the 1980s.

The MTQ is still unable to give a possible timetable for the opening of the road between rue Hôtel de Ville and Jacques-Cartier.

The mayor, Gilles Daraïche, is aiming for a repair that will last several years. "We know very well that every four or five years, you have to do a minor intervention for ground subsidence. It was suggested to make a major intervention so that the work is more sustainable," suggests the mayor.

On January 15, a 14-inch water main pipe broke causing the road to be closed. It had taken workers several hours to complete the repair because the pipe is eight feet below the roadway.

Following the event, the mayor explained that ground instability could be the cause of the break since a seven-metre fill of forest debris from Gaspésia is under the road, which could be the cause of the recurring deformations.

## NOTICE OF RETIREMENT

Salon Christine, New Carlisle, will cease offering hair services effective April 1, 2023.

After over 40 years of dedicated service to my clients, the time has arrived to make this step toward other endeavours, experiences and adventures.

I wish to thank all who have supported me over the years which allowed me to provide hair services and also to share our time together. Many special relationships and friendships have developed that have enriched our lives and I retire from the profession completely fulfilled.

My heartfelt thanks to all...

Chris Fraser-Ward

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# Eastern Quebec will likely lose a riding

GILLES GAGNÉ

JEAN-PHILIPPE THIBAUT

CARLETON – The grievances of elected officials have impacted the commissioners of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec, responsible for redrawing the federal ridings. Eastern Quebec will likely lose a Member of Parliament in 2024.

The eastern part of the province will soon have only two ridings instead of three. The Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia riding, currently represented by Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament (MP) Kristina Michaud, will be “re-distributed” to neighboring ridings to the east and west.

The Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine riding, represented by Liberal Party MP Diane Lebovillier, will incidentally be greatly expanded. The MRCs of Matane and Avignon will be added to it. The riding will incidentally be renamed Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj.

For its part, Rimouski-Neigette-Témiscouata-Les Basques will become Rimouski-La Matapédia. The MRC of Témiscouata will be integrated to the west riding of Montmagny.

The arguments presented at the end of the summer and over the fall by all levels of government were not enough to convince the commissioners André Blais, Louis Massicotte and President Jacques Chamberland.

The trio, which gathered feedback from the public and elected officials during hearings held in September and October, noted that the reactions to the idea of eliminating a constituency “have been numerous, firm and unanimously negative.”

Nothing, however, made them question their certainty of suppressing a voice in Eastern Quebec or to agree with the general consensus of a status quo.

The arguments of representativeness, democratic weight or geographical reality were also waived. “The Commission, therefore, maintains its proposal to eliminate the riding of Avignon—La Mitis—Matane—Matapédia and to redistribute its territory between the two neighboring ridings,” summarizes the report tabled on February 1.

The only notable change made between the initial proposal and the one presented on February 1 is respect for the limits of the MRCs. Initially, those of Matapédia, Matanie and, to a much lesser degree,

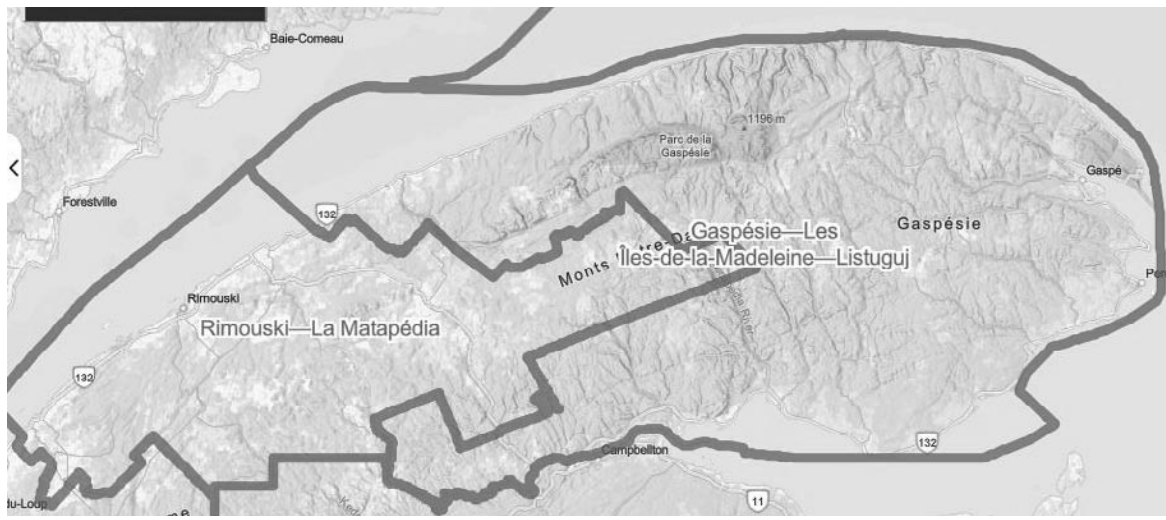


Photo: Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec

*The new electoral map that could apply if a federal election is called in 2024.*

Avignon, were split on both sides. Their boundaries are now respected in each of the new federal ridings.

The federal electoral redistribution exercise is conducted every 10 years in order to better represent demographic movements across the country. For fairness, each constituency must come as close as possible to 108,998 citizens. The difference between the population and this electoral quotient must not exceed 25%, more or less. Barring exceptional circumstances, no constituency should have fewer than 81,749 people or more than 136,247.

Among regional elected officials, mathematical rhetoric has little interest in the face of pragmatic realities. “Rarely have the commissioners heard so much ill towards mathematics as during these four days of hearings!” they also note.

The two previous commissions charged in 2012 and 2002 to assess the situation had also proposed the elimination of a seat in the region, before backtracking. The current commissioners were also invited to use the so-called “extraordinary circumstances” provision to derogate from the usual rules. In vain. “The Commission is convinced that the statistical basis on which its work must be based is the population figure from the 2011 and 2021 censuses,” they explain.

The commissioners add “that there are no vested rights in this area; an electoral riding which according to a commission presents ‘extraordinary circumstances’ during a redistribution, such as Avignon—La Mitis—Matane—Matapédia in 2012, can cease to present them during a following redistribution in the eyes of the commission of the moment.”

## A huge territory

The area of each of the two new constituencies will be around 15,000 square kilometres. The Commission explains its decision by noting that in

Quebec, eight electoral ridings currently have a higher surface area, but none were deemed to present “extraordinary circumstances” by the previous commission.

Ultimately, the electoral division of Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj will include the MRCs of Haute-Gaspésie, Côte-de-Gaspé, Rocher-Percé, Bonaventure, Avignon and Matanie as well as the territory of the Magdalen Islands. It will have 110,225 inhabitants and will present a deviation from the average of 1.1%.

The riding of Rimouski-Neigette—Témiscouata—Les Basques will include the MRCs of Mitis, Les Basques, Rimouski-Neigette and Matapédia. It will have 102,019 inhabitants and will present a deviation from the average of -6.4%.

The commission will once again hear the opposition of elected officials in February and May, before reexamining everything before the adoption of a decree in September. The new constituency boundaries are expected to come into effect in 2024.

## 35 times the size of Montreal Island

With a surface area of close to 15,000 square kilometres, each of the new eastern Quebec ridings will cover 35 times the surface of Montreal Island, which includes 18 federal ridings. It means that an average riding on Montreal Island will be 630 times smaller than the riding of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj, for example.

“Their evaluation is strictly an arithmetic exercise,” first sums up Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia riding MP Kristina Michaud, who also denounces the words used by the commissioners in their written report.

“I hesitate between disappointment and indignation. We made a big regional mobiliza-

tion. We went to testify before the Commission by providing verified and truthful arguments. It took a fine knowledge of the field. It seemed to me apparently solid, but the Commission came to deconstruct all that in a somewhat arrogant way,” analyzes Ms. Michaud.

“They acknowledge the unanimous arguments of the regional stakeholders but refuse to recognize their relevance. The context has not changed since the 2012 decision to maintain the ridings as they were submitted to extraordinary circumstances,” she adds.

It will be impossible to cover the whole riding from one end to the other in one day, like be-

tween Matane and the Magdalen Islands, she also underlines.

The Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj constituency would cover the equivalent of seven MRCs if no change is brought between now and September.

Kristina Michaud deplors that, in their second report, the commissioners mentioned having satisfied the requests expressed during the September public hearings and the briefs submitted by the stakeholders, through refusing to put some MRCs in two different ridings. “The most significant request, the status quo regarding the limits of the ridings, was refused,” she stresses.

“We are told that we cannot be given exceptional status because there are larger regions that have not requested it, such as Abitibi-James Bay. That's all we're told. James Bay alone is 335,000 square km, but there are 1,000 people who live there. It is not the same for Avignon-Mitis-Matane-Matapédia with 15,000 square km but people everywhere on the territory. I find that we did not have that consideration for more local elements that they certainly do not have in their Montreal offices,” she concludes.

## A not so difficult contract renewal at Crustacés de Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - After an arduous battle to negotiate a first collective agreement in 2019 at the Crustacés de Gaspé plant in Grande-Rivière, the second round in the fall of 2022 went off without a hitch.

The Unifor union, which represents some 80 workers, and the management of the plant, which belongs to the Unipêche MDM Group, signed the new collective agreement on February 1 in Grande-Rivière.

“The climate is very, very healthy. It was a frank negotiation with a team spirit and complete partnership,” comments Unifor national representative, Marco Allard.

According to him, the increases are very substantial, but he prefers not to go into all the details publicly.

“I can tell you that there are huge gains. These people, since they joined the Unifor union, have considerably improved their quality of work life,” says Mr. Allard. An experienced worker can fetch close to \$22 an hour, including various bonuses at the end of the three-year agreement.

Another important element is that the workers have received the assurance that they will be able to avoid getting hit by the Employment Insurance “black hole” by accumulating enough weeks of benefits.

“The complicity between the labour movement, the workers and the employer is a very, very good relationship. We can think that the employer no longer has to worry about the sustainability of this company,” says the union representative.

This is quite a contrast to the situation experienced when the union was certified in the spring of 2018.

The company had announced the closure of the plant on March 18, 2019, which had provoked a major movement of demonstrations in Grande-Rivière.

The workers even marched in Paspebiac in order to demonstrate at another Unipêche MDM group plant.

An agreement was finally reached and presented to the workers on August 28, 2019, which allowed the reopening of the plant in 2020.

# BEYOND THE SCHOOLYARD: Hands on interactive learning

DIANE SKINNER  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

ESCUMINAC: Trevor Buttle, Youth Animator, enjoys leading activities for young people who, he says, can teach us as much as we teach them. The interesting variety of mini-courses that he offers through the CASA (Committee for Anglophone Social Action) Beyond the Schoolyard project, usually last one day, giving youth from various communities including Escuminac, New Carlisle, and New Richmond to name a few, an opportunity to be active participants in learning “out of the box.” It gives them an opportunity to sample an activity they might not otherwise be able to.



Photo: Trevor Buttle

*Group of students from Escuminac participating in the Woods Survival Workshop offered through CASA's Beyond the Schoolyard project led by Trevor Buttle.*

This project has been offering the activities over the past three years, both during the school year and in the summer. Courses, established after receiving suggestions from the students themselves, have included fishing from the wharf, ice fishing, swimming, visiting La Grotte (the caves of St. Elzéar), various art activities, woodworking/carpentry, sticker making, shirt design, paddleboard making, kayaking, sand sculpture, pumpkin carving, music and the most recent Woods Survival Workshop. There is an activity to suit almost every child!

Workshops involve hands-on learning so can be very different from classroom learning. In most workshops the participation of females is equal to males. The groups are composed of students from 8 to 17 years of age (and are sometimes limited to a more specific age group), and group size is usually limited to no more than ten participants. Trevor also works with special

needs students at the Anchor Adult Education Centre in New Carlisle. A unique partnership has developed where the Anchor (Eastern Shores School Board) covers the cost of supplies and Trevor plans and leads the activities.

The Woods Survival Workshop, the most recent activity, is all hands-on and includes learning to make a shelter, how to build a fire outside and how to make fire starters using a toilet paper roll and dryer lint. Trevor informs us, “Most of the participants had never lit a match in their lives and at the end of the workshop they were able to light a fire outdoors!”

Active hands-on learning, as opposed to passive learning, has a huge benefit for those students who learn best by doing. Passive, more traditional learning means students receive information through a variety of texts (books, online) and listening to the instructor.

Active learning involves more engagement by the learner because they can be more involved.

The students have many positive comments about Trevor and these activities. These include “This is our favourite workshop, and you give us the most fun days, ever!” What workshops will be offered in the future? Trevor has many more ideas, and comments that the sky is the limit!

Trevor will continue to offer his workshops and if you have a child in your life who would benefit from this learning opportunity, give CASA a call at 418-752-5995. Watch CASA's Facebook page for upcoming groups. There is never a fee to be involved in any of these workshops.

Trevor says he offers, “A fun, learning activity where I listen and do not judge the students.”

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



## A “sense of Gaspé”

### Lots to love about the Gaspé Peninsula

In honour of Valentine's Day, let's brainstorm some of the many things we love about the Gaspé.

- The clean air
- The (mostly) pristine, unspoiled beaches**  
Sand between your toes
- The night sky when stars are visible (no light pollution)**  
The forests (special beauty of birch and juniper trees)
- The mountains**  
The clean lakes, rivers and streams
- The seasons**  
Wildflowers
- Our unique history**  
Museums and cultural centres
- Hiking trails**  
Music festivals
- The big, open spaces**  
The beautiful churches
- Old houses**  
Peace and quiet
- The smell of burning firewood**  
Picking agates, shells and driftwood
- Sea birds**  
Fish and fishing
- The sounds of the tides lapping at the shoreline**  
The sense of community
- Our tri-cultural communities**  
Artisans of the Gaspé
- Tracks in the snow and figuring out what animal made them**  
Magnificent sunrises and sunsets
- The taste of locally grown and sourced foods**  
Wild edibles (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries...)
- Laundry flapping on the clothesline**  
... And looking forward to seeing and hearing the train once again!

**THEGASPESPEC.COM**

**SPECS@GLOBETROTTER.NET**

## 4 facts about St. Valentine

Saint Valentine is the patron saint of lovers and engaged and married couples. He also is the name behind the holiday that inspires images of red hearts and rose petals in the middle of February.

Not much is actually known about St. Valentine because records are sparse. However, these facts have emerged.

- St. Valentine could be one of at least three individuals who were martyred. In fact, some believe there were about a dozen St. Valentines.
- Of course St. Valentine is known for presiding over lovers. However, he's also the patron saint of epilepsy, watching over those who experience seizures associated with the disease.
- Visitors to the Basilica of Santa Maria in Rome can find the flower-adorned skull of St. Valentine on display. Other parts of St. Valentine's skeleton are on display in the Czech Republic, England, France, and Ireland.
- Some people think Geoffrey Chaucer may have invented Valentine's Day. In his “Parlement of Foules,” he speaks of a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day. This association became more established after Chaucer's poem received widespread attention.



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# Announcements



## Obituary



### MCCALLION: Hazel Muriel Journeaux

Born in Port Daniel on Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula on February 14, 1921, after a brief illness, she passed away on January 29, 2023, at 101 years at her home in Mississauga, Ontario.

Hazel's funeral will be held February 14 at 11 a.m. at Paramount Fine Foods Centre. It was formerly known as the Hershey Centre in Mississauga. This will be a state funeral.

Her parents were the late Herbert Journeaux and Amanda Maude Travers of Port Daniel. She was predeceased by her siblings, Lorne, Lockhart, Linda and Gwendolyn and her husband Sam. She is survived by her three children, Peter, Linda and Paul and her grandchild Erica and many nieces and nephews.

She attended Commissioners High School (now Quebec High School) and went on to a business secretarial school in Montreal. She began her career with Canadian Kellogg, an engineering company in Montreal and later was transferred to Toronto to be part of a new project office to construct a synthetic rubber plant in Sarnia. After several years, she retired to enter business with her husband, Sam whom she married in 1951, to run a printing business, Unique Printing, in Streetsville. They had three children, Peter, Linda and Paul.

She entered politics having been invited by the then mayor of Streetsville which later amalgamated with the city of Mississauga. She was elected mayor of Streetsville in 1970 and later mayor of Mississauga in 1978 and retired in 2014, after 36 years, one of the longest serving Canadian mayors. That city grew from a 250,000 bedroom community to over 750,000 during her term to become the 6th largest city in Canada.

A Member of the Order of Canada (2008), Chancellor of Sheridan College, she has received many Canadian and International awards and honours.

For those unable to attend in person, the funeral service will be livestreamed on the Government of Ontario's YouTube channel with closed captions and ASL interpretation.

*The McCallion and Journeaux Families*



### PYE AHERN: Marilyn

July 14, 1926 - January 22, 2023

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our dear mom.

Predeceased by her husband Tony Ahern. She leaves to mourn her children: Peter and Joanne (Jim); her grandchildren Christopher and Charlotte (Blue); her great-grandchildren Brooklyn, Jax, Grey and Belle. She is survived by her sister Betty as well as nieces and nephews.

Mom spent most of her life in Sandy Beach. She worked in the office at Hyman's Store in

Gaspé Harbour and she also worked in the audit office of Morgan's in Montreal. She shared stories about the victory parade along St. Catherine Street following VE Day WWII. Mom was most proud of her family whom she loved deeply.

The family would like to thank the dedicated staff on Unit 250 at The Monseigneur Ross in Gaspé. Thanks also for the many messages, calls, visits and food from friends.

If you wish, in lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to The Fondation Santé Côte de Gaspé or to Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

A service and burial will be planned for a later date.



## In Memory

### BOURGAIZE: Eunice

In loving memory of our dear sister who passed away February 4, 2020.

Sadly missed along life's way,  
Quietly remembered every day.

No longer in our lives to share,  
But in our hearts, you're always there.

Forever in our hearts, loved and sadly missed by Dolly, Merle, Clayton (Eleanor), Bradford (Shirley) and families.

*Announcement  
Prices*

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(picture + \$5)

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*All other  
Announcements* → \$30  
(picture + \$5)

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## COAST ROUND-UP

**GASPE:**  
**Cancer Society**  
**Membership Renewal**  
With 1,600 members between Corner of the Beach and Grande Vallée, We are pleased to announce that new memberships and renewals are being accepted and are good for one year, until March 2024. Please note that there has been a change in membership pricing. New membership/renewals \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. All new membership and renewals can be sent to Gaspé Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 6078, Gaspé Quebec G4X 2M6. Payment can also be made by e-transfer to gaspe45@hotmail.com. Please include your name, address, phone number and email address. For more information, please contact Tony Patterson at 418-368-3276; Beatrice Coffin at 418-368-1566 or Patricia Ste. Croix at 418-649-3779.

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

**PORT DANIEL:**  
**Three Star Golden Age Club**  
**Tuesdays:** Pétanque from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday evening to have fun and learn a new game. Cost is \$3.  
**March 4:** Music night beginning at 7 p.m. \$5 per person  
**March 17:** Pot luck supper beginning at 5 p.m. for members and guests.  
**April 28:** Gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. \$10 a strip and \$20 a series.  
**May 13:** Mother's Day tea from noon to 2 p.m. \$10 per person.

**PORT DANIEL:**  
**Tea and Bake Sale**  
**February 25:** The St. James Port-Daniel and St-Paul's Shigawake, Anglican churches are having a Tea and Bake Sale at Three Star Golden Age Club in Port-Daniel, 177 Route 132 from noon to 3 p.m. Weather permitting. Cost: \$10 Please come and enjoy a few hours out and support our churches. Contact information: Landis 418-752-4236 or Audrey 418-752-6171. Hope to see you there!

**SHIGAWAKE:**  
**Community Centre**  
**March 4:** Ski-doo Rally  
**April 10:** Gift bingo - Details to follow.

**HOPE TOWN:**  
**Sports Club**  
**March 10:** Super gift bingo at the Optimist Club in Saint Godefroi beginning at 7 p.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.

**HOPE:**  
**Hope Baptist Church**  
**Sundays:** Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. Worship service beginning at 11 a.m.

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**LLB Membership**  
Please note that membership renewals for the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation are available for the 2023 year. You can

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

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64**  
Please be advised that Legion memberships are available for \$45. Returning and new members welcome.  
**Wednesdays:** Line dancing every Wednesday in February and March at 7:30 p.m. \$7 per person.  
**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!  
**February 11:** Music with Nash Stanley beginning at 8:30 p.m. \$10 per person.  
**February 24:** Music with Tammy Adams beginning at 8:30 p.m. \$10 per person.  
**March 7:** 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 and Sunday School.  
**Thursdays:** 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. Everyone welcome! For more information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**  
**Book Room**  
The book room is now open. Anyone who needs assistance can contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

**UNITED CHURCH**  
**NEW RICHMOND**  
**Sunday, February 12**  
10 a.m. Service

**UNITED CHURCH**  
**HOPE TOWN**  
**Sunday, February 12**  
10 a.m. Service

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA**  
**Sunday, February 12**  
**NEW CARLISLE**  
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
**PORT DANIEL**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**PARISH OF GASPÉ**  
**Sunday, February 12**  
No Service

## ANNOUNCE ALL YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

Does your organization have a Coast Round-Up plan? If so, don't forget to send SPEC information about your upcoming activities.

### Be sure to include:

- location
- date
- time
- cost



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HELP KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY INFORMED





## Set a romantic tone with cheesecake this Valentine's Day

Romance is in the air come Valentine's Day. Though chocolate, oysters and honey are often seen as aphrodisiacs, there is no evidence to back such perceptions up. However, Healthline reports that fenugreek, saffron, red ginseng, and pistachios might boast the properties often associated with aphrodisiacs.

People have been eating pistachio nuts since 6,000 B.C. Pistachios improve blood cholesterol and stimulate better blood flow throughout the body. They're also tasty, which makes them a worthy addition to Valentine's Day recipes. such as this one for "Pistachio Cardamom Cheesecake," courtesy of the American Pistachio Growers. It's a rich, creamy, no-bake dessert to share with that special someone.

### Pistachio Cardamom Cheesecake

6 servings

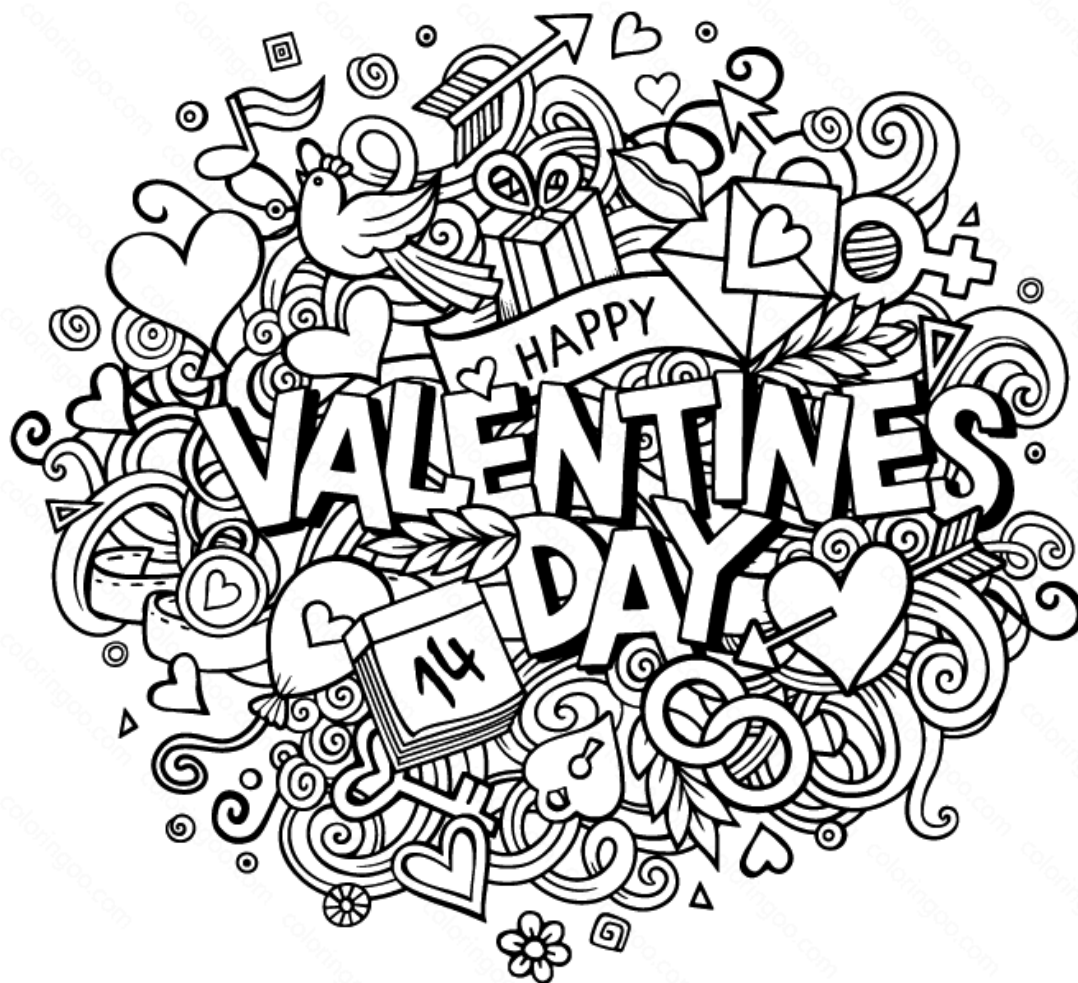
- 20 Biscoff® cookies, crushed
- 16 ounces cream cheese, softened at room temperature
- 2/3 cup organic white sugar
- 9 ounces whipped topping
- 3 teaspoons masala chai spice
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons roasted and salted pistachios, crushed

1. Blitz Biscoff cookies in food processor. Press into the bottom of six 8-ounce ramekins. Set aside.
2. In a food processor or blender, add softened cream cheese, lemon juice, sugar, and chai spices.
3. Transfer cream cheese mixture to a mixing bowl and gently fold in whipped topping. Do not over mix; you want it to be light and airy.
4. Pour mixture into prepared ramekins.
5. Chill in fridge for an hour to set before serving.
6. Garnish with crushed pistachios.

## Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Hawaii on June 20, 1967. I worked as a massage therapist to help my mother after her cancer diagnosis. My roles have been varied. I've played a singing star, a tragic British novelist and even Aquaman's mother.

Answer: Nicole Kidman



## VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

T R E S S E D E F S T B O U Q U E T U V  
 D V S L U P S E G F P R D D O S M F F J  
 I A A J E W B N L A E B Q G E P O L S N  
 F L I M E U I S D L I T M I I J L M E O  
 A E N E M L M Y A Y H R R Y E F S Q C I  
 D N T J E S A T Y E K O R W I S T H A T  
 L T F E R D I V A Q M I E A I V C S R A  
 K I F U I O Q R B E F L H K M L Y R B R  
 R N T L N Y T D M C R N R U O I R C M B  
 O E O S T S V Y B T Y H Y E C G O E R E E  
 O H H D O V E S J F R O Y K M K J G D L  
 D I P C R B E S B A C G C A A B T A F E  
 P I N J W D A U S W S E N O C C N P M C  
 M D P D D G W R D Q L C I O L E P U B N  
 O C L U F I E Q K D E U O B R A S U C C  
 I A I C C V W O R R A W Q E D I T L C F  
 E R K A I M S E S O R W S S C T L E E K  
 C D C N N O I T I D A R T L F L I R T B  
 A S N D L Y V P O E M V W K D R C B E C  
 L A Q Y I L F L O W E R S B L O V E L D

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

- ANNIVERSARY
- ARROW
- BOUQUET
- CANDY
- CARDS
- CELEBRATION
- CHOCOLATE
- CUPCAKE
- CUPID
- DESSERT
- DOVES
- EMBRACE
- FEELINGS
- FLIRT
- FLOWERS
- GIFTS
- HEARTS
- HOLIDAY
- HUG
- JEWELRY
- KISS
- LACE
- LOVE
- MARRIAGE
- MEMORIES
- MUSIC
- POEM
- RELATIONSHIP
- ROMANCE
- ROSES
- SAINT
- SERENADE
- SWEET
- TRADITION
- VALENTINE
- WOO

### ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Excessive spending in recent days may have you feeling nervous about your finances, Aries. In addition to bills, you could be waiting to be reimbursed. Be patient.

### TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may have been working so hard you haven't had time to spend with family and friends lately. Clear your calendar and make some time for recreation.

### GEMINI – May 22/June 21

This week you may lock yourself behind closed doors and enjoy some alone time for a change, Gemini. Relax with a good book or binge watch some television.

### CANCER – June 22/July 22

A friendship could be tested when you get into a quarrel over money, Cancer. You each have different philosophies on spending. Try to see both sides.

### LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Philosophy and religious principles are of interest to you lately, Leo. Explore the metaphysical and dive into these subjects with all of your energy.

## HOROSCOPES

### VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you could be longing for a vacation, so why not make it happen? If you've socked away some cash, put it towards a trip to recharge and relax.

### LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Make an effort to reconnect with someone you have known a long time who has become absent from your life. Resolve to maintain this connection in the years ahead.

### SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Honest communication can take you through a rough patch you might be having with your romantic partner, Scorpio. Speak openly and honestly to resolve the issue.

### SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Keep your eyes focused on the future, Sagittarius. It's easy to dwell on what happened in the past, but that won't matter much in the grand scheme of things.

### CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

A miscommunication could find you spending money you just don't have right now, Capricorn. This may be an

instance when you need to seek a professional to sort it all out.

### AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, a project that has been on the calendar for some time finally gets completed. It has been a long time coming, but the results are better than you expected.

### PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Go through some old photos and reminisce, Pisces. It can be a quiet way to spend a day or two and enjoy the memories.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

#### FEBRUARY 5

**Darren Criss, Actor (36)**

#### FEBRUARY 6

**Charlie Heaton, Actor (29)**

#### FEBRUARY 7

**Chris Rock, Comic (58)**

#### FEBRUARY 8

**Jaden Hossler, Singer (22)**

#### FEBRUARY 9

**Michael B. Jordan, Actor (36)**

#### FEBRUARY 10

**Elizabeth Banks, Actress (49)**

#### FEBRUARY 11

**Jennifer Aniston, Actress (54)**

# Valentine's Day

QUIZ



"The best measure of a human being is how we treat the people who love us and the people that we love."



- Besides Valentine's Day, for which special day are the most flowers given?
- Kissing can increase a person's heart rate to approximately how many beats per minute?
- What is commonly known as the "love hormone"?
- What is the length of the longest marriage ever recorded?
- Which two colours are the unofficial colours of Valentine's Day?
- Which common fruit (though we consider it to be a vegetable) has been called a love apple?
- What type of candy is the most popular on Valentine's Day?
- What is the second most popular candy on Valentine's Day?
- In what year was the first box of Valentine's chocolates made?
- Which flower is the most popular on Valentine's Day?
- Women buy (approximately) what percentage of all Valentine's Day gifts?
- On what continent did Valentine's Day begin?

- In Greek mythology who is the goddess of love?
- What American gangster is associated with the St. Valentine's Day massacre?
- What herb did English women say (200 years ago) would bring good luck on Valentine's Day?
- In what European country is February 14 called "Friend's Day"?
- Who said, "Where there is love there is life"? Kim Kardashian or Mahatma Gandhi?
- Can you name a Beatles song with the word love in the title?
- What is rose hip?
- What does the O mean in XOXO?

## ANSWERS

(1) Mother's Day, (2) 110, (3) Oxytocin, (4) 86 years and 290 days, (5) Pink and red, (6) Tomato, (7) Chocolate, (8) Conversation Hearts, (9) 1868, (10) Roses, (11) 85%, (12) Europe, (13) Aphrodite, (14) Al Capone, (15) Bay leaves, (16) Finland, (17) Mahatma Gandhi, (18) She Loves You, Can't Buy Me Love, (19) The fruit of the rose plant, (20) Hugs



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