



30 ships are expected this summer in Gaspé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Gaspé to greet 30 cruise ships this year

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The 2023 cruise season in Gaspé looks promising with 30 ships expected to arrive beginning May 12.

Eight of these ships will make their inaugural call in 2023.

According to data from Destination Gaspé, which oversees the arrival of these giants of the seas, nearly 20,000 passengers and 10,000 crew members are expected this year.

"If we forget the years 2020 and 2021, we were (previously) at a number of ships higher than that, but we see that we are returning to normal in terms of calls," says the director of Destination Gaspé, Pascale Rémillard.

During the cruise ship season there will be times when two ships or three ships call at the same time.

"When we have triple calls, it means that we have a boat at the dock, a boat anchored in Gaspé Bay and another one anchored near Percé Rock, in Percé. This is perhaps the challenge this year to manage the double and triple stops with the team in place but it's a great challenge that we intend to take up," says Ms. Rémillard.

Many of the ships that will anchor in Gaspé have a capacity of 800 to 900 passengers.

The last port of call is scheduled for October 25, while the peak number of visits will take place in September and October.

"There is a lot of work done to have ships in May and June. Without getting too far ahead of myself, we have discussions and we should succeed in having winter cruises in the next few years. There is a lot of development going on for the spring-winter season," says the director.

The 2024 season is already being planned and the first winter boats are expected in 2025.

Is the destination still attractive? "Absolutely. The beauty of the landscapes, the services offered and the welcome from Gaspésians. I will not hide from you that there is a lot of competition in the St. Lawrence. There is a lot of development going on everywhere in the other ports of call, but Gaspé remains a major attraction," says Ms. Rémillard.

Last year, 21 ships visited the region for a total of 5,940 passengers and 4,286 crew members, whereas at the beginning of the season, Desti-

nation Gaspé was expecting 28 ships, 14,113 passengers and 7,322 crew members.

Hurricane Fiona in September forced the cancellation of 10 scheduled calls.

Moratorium extended for the Zec des Anses in Chandler

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - The moratorium on logging in the Zec des Anses that was set to end this year has been extended for two more years.

This new delay will allow the stakeholders who manage the protection of this territory to pursue the development of a protected area project.

"Two weeks ago, we received notice from the Ministry of Forests and Natural Resources that the moratorium has been accepted. It is a moratorium. It is not a total stop. It will provide the new team, including Canadians Parks and Wilderness Society Quebec division with the time needed to move forward with the project of the protected area," says Chandler municipal councillor, Pierre-Luc Arsenault.

According to him, the protected area project has attracted the attention of the network of controlled harvesting zones across Quebec.

"It was highlighted at the last ZEC Quebec meeting where we had all the ZECs of Quebec and government authorities. It made a big difference. Chandler has made a good name for itself on this issue," says Mr. Arsenault.

Since the beginning of 2020, experts have walked the area and demonstrated the natural wealth of the land.

Century-old trees, multi-century-old cedar trees estimated to be between 400 and 600 years old, numerous rare plants

Cont'd on page 5

An exciting visit



Holly Smith

POINT A LA CROIX - On April 3, sisters Shylah Sweetman, 12, Makahlie Sweetman, 10, and stepbrother Perley Caplin, 4, of Listuguj, Quebec, were excited to get the chance to see the Sipu Muin Canadian Coast Guard hovercraft, before its April 4 departure. The Canadian Coast Guard has deployed the hovercraft every year since 1995, to clear ice, in hopes to avoid spring flooding.

Gaspesian environmental group supports a moratorium on the issuance of new mining claims

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - Gaspé Peninsula-based ecological group Environnement Vert Plus is asking the region's politicians to add their voice to the request for a moratorium on the issuance of mining titles, often referred to as mining claims.

Environnement Vert plus (EVP) is voicing its support for the Coalition Pour que le Québec ait meilleure mine, which judges the moratorium as essential, pending legislative changes that should remove certain archaic privileges from the mining industry.

The spokesperson of EVP, Pascal Bergeron, points out that the abolition of mining precedence must be added to Bill 16 amending the act respecting land use planning and development.

"There has been a 137% increase in the surface claimed for mining purposes in the Gaspé Peninsula over the last two years. It is the largest increase of all the regions situated south of the Saint Lawrence River. There was a 400% in the Mauricie region (north of the Saint Lawrence River) because of the interest of some companies in graphite deposits but surface-wise, the area covered by new Gaspé Peninsula claims is much higher. Surface-wise, Abitibi is the leading region in mining claims," explains EVP spokesperson Pascal Bergeron.

"The stakes are numerous, including the protection of endangered and threatened species such as the mountain caribou. The only way we will save the caribou is by expanding its territory. However, the Vallières de Saint-Réal territory, where caribou can often be seen, is covered with claims. The problem with the current claiming system is that there is no expiry date. As long as the fees are paid by companies, the claims remain valid. Except for Murdochville, the last exploration campaign conducted in the Gaspé Peninsula goes back to 2016, despite the fact that a wide array of claims is maintained. Why are they kept? Is it strictly for speculative reasons, to sell them with profits if a deposit is found elsewhere? It is possible," asks Mr. Bergeron.

"Under the current laws, the order or uses, importance-wise, starts with God, then the Mining Act, forestry companies and then the rest of the users, for



Mining exploration and quarries often leave marks in the scenery that are difficult to erase, without counting pollution often generated by such activities.

Photo: G. Gagné

leisure, fishing and hunting, as well as maple production. It is an extraction-based scheme that has not been changed since 1864," he deplores.

A bill under revision

Bill 16 is under revision by the National Assembly of Quebec. On March 21, the Coalition Pour que le Québec ait meilleure mine asked the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Andrée Laforest, to amend her bill tabled earlier that day at the National Assembly.

The bill aims in particular to better support municipalities wishing to protect their territory against lawsuits from real estate developers. An official request to that effect was sent to Minister Laforest at the first reading of the bill.

The coalition proposes to add a provision repealing section 246 of the act respecting land use planning and development to put an end to the precedence given to the mining industry. Section 246 of the act respecting land use is the main reason why the Mining Act still prevails over decisions made by municipalities, MRCs and First Nations regarding the management of their territory.

"The objective of the minister's bill is noble, but it misses its target if it wishes to adequately equip local elected officials to protect the environment against all the undesirable projects of private promoters," underlines Rodrigue Turgeon, lawyer and spokesperson for the Coalition Pour que le Québec ait meilleure mine.

The Coalition says that this correction to the act respecting

land use planning and development has been requested and has been awaited for a long time by various civil society organizations, environmental groups, as well as hundreds of municipalities and MRCs across the province, including the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) and the Quebec Federation of Municipalities (FQM).

A matter of public interest

A Léger poll conducted in August 2022 indicates that 78% of Quebecers are in favour of "requiring the consent of local populations (examples: municipalities, Indigenous Nations) before authorizing any mining activity on their territory."

According to Mr. Turgeon, the abolition of Article 246 of the act respecting land use is an essential first step to take to listen to and prioritize the fate of the populations directly affected by the impacts of the mining industry. The Coalition invites the minister not to take refuge behind the excuse of the forthcoming holding of consultations on the mining framework to come in April and May to avoid legislating immediately.

"The injustices of the precedence of mines over other uses of the territory have persisted since the first version of the Mining Act in 1864. The people and the territory have suffered enough and shouldn't come last anymore. It is time to cut the cord of dispossession," concludes Rodrigue Turgeon.

The Coalition's March request to Minister Laforest, followed a letter sent on October

10, 2022, to Premier François Legault after the re-election of the CAQ government. The repeal of Article 246 of the act respecting land use appeared as the second point mentioned in the Coalition's list of priority actions recommended to the new government to meet the legitimate expectations of the population concerning the mining sector.

In the letter sent to Premier Legault, another aspect of the Léger poll was underlined, the fact that 79% of the citizens consulted say that health and the environment should be prioritized, "even if this means that certain projects spearheaded by mining companies will have to cease their operations."

Repealing Article 246 of the act respecting land use "would send the right signal that you have already heard the consensual demands of the population and that the government intends to take action quickly," if such a measure is initiated up-

stream of the consultations on the mining framework.

The consultations were announced on February 17 by Premier Legault, jointly with the Minister of Natural Resources and Forests, Maité Blanchette Vézina, and will be conducted later this year, possibly during the spring.

In his letter to Minister Laforest, Rodrigue Turgeon also stresses that "of course, this action alone will not resolve all of the mining issues related to the development of the territory. We believe that other measures will have to be taken to provide better tools to supervise the mining regime on the part of your ministry, the Department of Natural Resources and Forests and more broadly the entire government".

He adds "among these measures that we will have the opportunity to detail during the consultations scheduled for next April and May, it will be necessary to revise the government orientations in terms of territories incompatible with the mining activity, add a mechanism to suspend and revoke claims for reasons of public interest, and, above all, to ensure that the entire legislative apparatus respects the inherent, constitutional and international rights of Indigenous peoples concerning access to territory and resources, as well as consultation and consent of affected communities."

The Coalition spokesperson assures Minister Laforest that she can count on his group's full cooperation to support her department and the whole government in the implementation of the proposed solutions to ensure an exemplary supervision of the Québec mining sector on the social and environmental levels.



Pascal Bergeron points out that there is no mechanism to nullify unused claims if mining companies keep paying the registration fees.

Fire service: Avignon is leaning toward a two-cluster scenario

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - The fire protection services review in the MRC of Avignon continues. The consultant in charge of the review, which was initiated a year ago, has submitted a progress report. That report offers various solutions and completely disregards other scenarios.

"The objective is to find solutions to optimize the fire department to be able to respond to our risk coverage plan," says the Avignon MRC prefect, Mathieu Lapointe.

At this juncture, the consultant is bringing forward the idea of two clusters: one between the municipalities of Maria and Escuminac, and another that would include the municipalities from Escuminac to the Matapedia plateau.

The idea of a fire service inter-municipal board for the entire MRC has been ruled out.

"The challenge everywhere in Quebec is the recruitment of part-time firefighters. There are changes in the services when there are retirements and we



A possible two-cluster fire protection scenario could be the solution for the Avignon MRC

Photo: N. Sergerie

wanted to take the opportunity to review our ways, be attractive when recruiting new firefighters, and have good procedures. It's a global reflection process to improve services," suggests the prefect.

With the possibility of two clusters, it is still to be decided if one fire chief for both units or two chiefs will be needed.

"The idea is to see how we can group services and in what ways. Everything is being thought out to see if we can come up with one organizational chart or two organizational charts in the territory to

meet the risk coverage objectives and then see the financial impact. All this is being evaluated," explains Mr. Lapointe.

The consultant has visited all the fire stations and has already made a variety of recommendations including having the same brand of equipment so that teams can exchange equipment when working with several brigades. The prefect adds, "We could have grouped purchases for equipment, shared washers to wash protective equipment, and recommendations to see how we can improve collectively."

Legal aid lawyers strike

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW CARLISLE - On April 6, the seven legal aid lawyers in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands picketed in front of the New Carlisle courthouse.

Their colleagues in Montreal, Laval, Montérégie, Laurentians, Lanaudière and Lower Saint Lawrence are also taking part in the five-day strike, in an attempt to renew their collective agreement as negotiations with Quebec drag on.

The CSN-affiliated (Confédération des syndicats nationaux) prosecutors are demanding pay parity be maintained with their Crown colleagues.

"This has been an achievement for legal aid lawyers for over 35 years. This time, once again, the employer wants to take it away from us," says one of the lawyers, Mr. Alexis Deschênes.

He mentions that the legal aid lawyers defend the most disadvantaged in society.

"We don't see why we should be treated worse than Crown lawyers, who also do



Lawyers demonstrated on April 6 in front of the New Carlisle Courthouse

Photo: CSN

very important work. We do, too," adds Mr. Deschênes.

In a situation where there is a shortage of lawyers, this issue can become a barrier to attracting lawyers.

"And not only to recruit, but to retain. But at some point, if the employer sends a signal that they are not that important, that they are less important than others, they will leave legal aid," says the attorney.

The strike helped speed up negotiations, but the discussions are disappointing.

"Unfortunately, the impression is that the employer is

stalling, trying to give false hope, but not delivering, and that the words are not reflected in the written offers. It's disappointing," says Mr. Deschênes. The strike ended on April 14, but if negotiations do not lead to an agreement, the lawyers will consider further pressure tactics.

"We hope that this will lead the employer to hold back on its idea of taking away a historic gain from legal aid. If not, as of April 17, the union members will regroup and other strikes could occur," warns Mr. Deschênes.



The Restigouche River at the end of March.

Photo: SOS Inondation Gaspésie Facebook - Randy Falle

Flood risk remains low

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

MATAPEDIA - The weather is working in the favour of residents as the risk of flooding is virtually non-existent in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Mild daytime temperatures combined with cool nights and little rain are factors that favour the slow melting of snow in the forests, according to the regional office of Civil Security.

"For now, the situation is not a concern. The flow of rivers is still far from monitoring thresholds. The municipalities are prepared with the network of observers who monitor the rivers. For now, nothing alarming has been reported," confirms the Regional Director of Civil Security, Félix Caron.

In the forest, the amount of snow received is within the normal range for the season.

"What we are seeing is that the mouths of the rivers are either canals or open water. Ice flows are in the lower levels. The watersheds have room in the rivers to have, we hope, normal water levels," says Caron.

In Matapedia, the Coast Guard hovercraft cleared the mouth of the Restigouche River, which should allow the flood water to flow.

The situation upstream of the Matapedia River is evolving positively, with some sectors already clear.

Unionized Chandler workers vote for a five-day strike

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

CHANDLER - Twenty Town of Chandler unionized employees demonstrated on April 11 prior to the municipal council meeting to put pressure on the administration to renew their collective labour agreement which expired on December 31, 2021.

During the day, the 41 workers affiliated with the CSN (Confédération des syndicats nationaux) voted unanimously for a five-day strike to be called at the time deemed appropriate.

The normative aspect is settled but there are still the monetary clauses to be concluded.

Union members are demanding a 16.5% increase over five years and the application of a new salary grid.

"This new grid would promote hiring. We are at a 1% difference in salaries. The employer is proposing a modified salary grid starting in 2025 only. We want it sooner because, since 2021, employees have continued to get poorer with the increases suffered since then," adds union president Lisa Cyr, who points out that the strike mandate could be applied fairly quickly.

"We are in the monetary points and that is where the employer blocks (negotiations). They do not want to change their position. We did a bit. We made counter-proposals. We've been back twice since their last proposal. They have not moved," says Ms. Cyr.

In reaction to the demonstration, the mayor, Gilles Daraïche, initially mentioned that he was not at the negotiating table.

Offers reflect taxpayers' ability to pay. "I am told that the town offers a lot. I am very aware that our employees do an extraordinary job. We have said it often, but the town manages an extremely tight budget. We cannot do more," says the mayor.

The mayor does not like to see union stickers appear on the town hall, but understands the reasoning behind it, having himself been a union member of the public service.

"It's the game of negotiation," he said when asked to comment on the threat of a civil servant strike.



Emma Buckley

Guest Commentary

Mansplaining:

The phenomenon has a name, but it still hides in plain sight.

Last month my partner and I were driving back home to the Gaspésie from Montreal, having stayed with family en route the night before. Talk in our car had turned to our host. I'll call him David, to alleviate my traitorous feelings. "It's like he takes, as a starting point, that I have zero knowledge on any topic, and I need to be educated," I complained. When I try to tell him that I do have some experience with what he's talking about, he just steamrolls right over me!" "He used to be a Boy Scout leader," my partner offered. "Maybe he's just used to giving information and instructions?" I thought this was mildly insulting toward Boy Scout leaders and generous toward David, given that my partner, having clocked almost thirty years in a commercial kitchen, was last night on the receiving end of David's instructions on how to cut pita bread and cook rice.

The exchanges with David and the way they made me feel, infantilized, lacking any credibility, percolated in my head for days. A week later I read a Guardian article by American author Rebecca Solnit and the penny dropped. David was a mansplainer.

The word mansplaining is relatively new, and was coined following an essay Rebecca Solnit wrote in 2008 titled Men Explain Things To Me. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, to mansplain is: to explain (something) needlessly, overbearingly, or condescendingly, esp. (typically when addressing a woman) in a manner thought to reveal a patronizing or chauvinistic attitude.

In other words, when a man assumes that you don't know about x, y or z, they will tell you. Frequently shared tales of mansplaining often involve professional women being lectured by men on their own fields of knowledge, such as this tweet sent by American Ph.D. Dr. Jessica McCarty two years ago: At a NASA Earth meeting 10 years ago, a white male postdoc interrupted me to tell me that I don't understand human drivers of fire, that I needed to read McCarty et al. I looked him in the eye, pulled my long hair back so he could read my name tag. 'I'm McCarty et al.'

Of course, women can also be condescending toward others. I know plenty of men who are quick to recognize and credit women's knowledge and lived experiences. But you don't have to dig too far to find a mountain of examples of women receiving unsolicited explanations for things they already know quite a bit about.

Mansplaining doesn't just affect women in their professional capacity. It exists in medical environments: "the doctor explained how I shouldn't be in pain 24 hours after a c-section as c-sections are not particularly painful." In domestic situations: "Mum's new boyfriend insisted on explaining how to fit my baby car seat in my car... after my second child." It also exists in social situations: "A friend of a friend insisted that I wasn't pronouncing my name correctly."

Though we may laugh, or roll our eyes about this behaviour, it has a darker side. Having a voice, that is, being heard and believed, is fundamental to feeling credible and valued. By speaking over women's voices in a condescending fashion, mansplaining treats women as less than credible, and devalues them. Someone who is constantly spoken down to, spoken over the top of, or spoken for (unasked), may eventu-

ally not even bother trying to speak up. The word mansplaining may be new, but the power inequalities that it reveals are not, and these inequalities touch many, many lives. People living with disabilities, First Nations peoples, the elderly and the poor are just some people in our society who have historically known the feeling of not being heard, listened to or treated as credible.

Now, I am a firm believer that advice should be given only when requested, but the exhilarating prospect of potential mansplainer rehabilitation makes me reckless enough to break my own rules. I am not a psychologist, nor a sociologist, but I can't help but think that the following three-step approach, to be kept in mind when talking to someone may help temper mansplainer tendencies:

- 1. Choose to see the person in front of you as a unique and credible human being. They are in fact a glorious mini-repository of lived experience and knowledge.
- 2. Ask them if they'd like something explained. If not, don't.
- 3. Ask them if they'd like to share their thoughts, especially on matters concerning them. If yes, listen.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mayor Poirier:

The news of the addition of a footbridge to the rail bridge at Barachois, as reported in Spec (March 29, 2023 issue) meets the objective of the Barachois Area Citizens Development Committee which has been working hard on this file in collaboration with the provincial Transport Ministry and the Town of Percé. The support of the province and the town for this initiative are to be commended.

What many citizens of Percé cannot understand is why you would not support the return of passenger rail, as provided by Via? You note in your interview that the footbridge is 'an interesting project for tourism development'. Agreed. But surely you would also consider the return of passenger rail to be interesting for tourism?

Mayor and the council passed a resolution that same evening in favour of the rehabilitation of the Societe de Chemin de Fer de la Gaspésie to Gaspé. That resolution makes no mention of supporting the return of ViaRail nor does it make any mention of a phased in approach of the return of Via, beginning later this year when repairs will be completed as far as New Carlisle.

The Town of Percé had received in February (well before the March meeting of council, to the attention of the mayor), a 15 page brief prepared by the Coalition pour la retour du train en Gaspésie presenting detailed information on why the Gaspé Coast has urgent need of the return of this federally mandated regional passenger rail service. The brief presented the statistics on how many Gaspésians were travelling annually at the time we lost our service: 27,000. This was followed by a resolution to support the return of ViaRail this year, beginning with New Carlisle, connecting with regional bus transportation, and continuing to Gaspé as soon as possible. We, in the eastern part of the peninsula, have been without service for 13 years now, the western section for 10 years.

The line will be secure and ready for passenger rail later this year. Why will you not support this demand of Gaspésians, including the citizens you represent?

No explanation for this failure to support has been provided.

We trust you will see fit to change your mind on this and in your discussions with Transport Quebec, which is in charge of the footbridge design, ensure appropriate measures are taken to safeguard those using the footbridge in a manner compatible with the presence of passenger rail.

Cynthia Patterson, Barachois



Master Corporal Nick Bujold and Chief Warrant Officer Lori Flowers.

Photo: McC Nick Bujold

Recent CAF achievement

I recently came across a social media post by Chief Warrant Officer, Lori Flowers, about a young man from Cascapedia-St-Jules who graduated from a Canadian Armed Forces leadership course and wanted to share with SPEC readers his accomplishment.

In her post, CWO Lori Flowers says, "What an honour I had on Wednesday, March 29, at the Canadian Forces Base Borden in Ontario to attend Nick Bujold's graduation from a leadership course. It's not too often that we, former Cascapedia-St-Jules residents, have the opportunity to see others from our community, especially within the Canadian Armed Forces."

She adds, "From the first time I met him a few weeks ago, within the first 20 minutes I knew already he is and will continue to be one of the great leaders in the CAF. He truly cares about his personnel and leads by example. I have come across some really amazing people in my 25 years of service and it certainly gives me hope for the future of our institution. MCpl Nick Bujold is one of those people. Congrats Nick, you were that leader even before the qualification. All the best in your future."

Nick Bujold is the son of Diane Snow and Yves Bujold.

Elaine Sexton, President of SPEC

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Local school competes at First Robotics regional competition

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER: On February 24, teacher Patrick Fournier and the Robotics Team from Evergreen High School in Chandler travelled to Quebec City to compete in the First Robotics Regional Competition. This competition was offered through Lego and is designed to introduce students to real-world engineering challenges through the building of Lego-based robots. These robots need to complete specific tasks. Guided by their imaginations, teacher coaches and their design and building skills, the competition exposes students to exciting career possibilities.

Starting in December 2022, teacher Patrick Fournier and five Evergreen students: Chloe Rideout, Zoey Rideout, Connor Burton, Maverick Brousseau and Bradley Hottot-Lacombe met at lunch, after school and sometimes both, about two to four times weekly. Mr. Fournier also integrated components of the project into his science classes. During these sessions, the group built an obstacle/mission course so that they could build and program a robot for the competition.

The competition itself consisted of two events. Mr. Fournier informs us, "One was a presentation of a project/idea linked to the topic, rethinking energy. Our group presented different ways to encourage the recycling of energy. For example, one of the unused sources of recycled power we mentioned was water flow, whether it be to send to a home or within a home, the flow of water can be harnessed by small turbines to recycle the



Two of the Evergreen Robotics Team members, Chloe Rideout and Maverick Brousseau, front left and right during the judging of the competition in Quebec City.

Photo: Patrick Fournier

movement's energy."

After the presentation by the students from Evergreen, the competition was underway! Two teams simultaneously attempted to complete 15 prescribed missions. To view a video of this part of the competition, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RifaIsVftDk&t=322s>.

Patrick Fournier, who attended Evergreen as a student, has a diploma in Industrial Maintenance but decided at the age of 26 to become an English teacher. As well as the Robotics team, Mr. Fournier currently teaches "a little bit of everything," including Math, History and an Option class called Project Management. In the Options class, the students are currently building programmable robots using wood and a few electric motors and controllers.

Mr. Fournier also registered his students for the Cinema and Game Creation Event and they will be heading to the Festival

of Future Education in May. Evergreen High School will be submitting a video game and a short three-minute movie.

What are the benefits for students who participate in the Robotics competition? Teamwork and collaboration are a big part of the experience but it also exposes students to new and upcoming technologies and programming. Mr. Fournier explains, "I feel that these types of experiences play a huge role in shaping our student's futures. Robotics is a topic that is becoming increasingly talked about and important in our current society and offers a chance for students to learn about it and develop a passion is invaluable." Student Chloe Rideout adds, "It was a great experience and lots of fun!"

What are the plans for next year? Students have already expressed that they are looking forward to competing at the next regional robotics competition in 2024.

ZECS

Cont'd from cover

such as the calypso orchid or the royal lady's slipper, wetlands, and amphibians, some of which have precarious status, were inventoried during the research.

"We have something very special, especially in a Gaspé area where most of the sectors have been cut. It was afterwards that everything came together, that it became interesting because we had a complex site to protect," says Mr. Arsenault.

CPAWS Quebec and the Gaspé-Magdalen Islands Regional Environmental Council have been involved in the

project since the fall.

"We have project managers who will put together the file to go towards the protected area. We have very good partners," he believes.

In 2021, forestry cuts were planned on the territory, a de-

cision that the Chandler council had denounced at the time calling it "aberrant."

At the time, ZEC leaders had always believed that a controlled harvesting zone was safe from logging.



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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



A Breath of Spring

*Oh, how fresh the wind is blowing!
See! The sky is bright and clear.
Oh, how green the grass is growing!
April! April! Are you here?*

The first day of spring officially arrived this year on March 20 but, on the Gaspé, you can wait a little longer for the weather to realize that the calendar says that spring is here. This spring, according to the Farmers' Almanac Canadian Edition, the weather will be cooler and drier than normal over much of the east (us) and warmer and wetter than normal across the rest of the country.

We search daily for signs so that we can confirm that winter has indeed departed. This can be discouraging when the grass is not turning green, but is still white! Still, we look for the many slight changes that signal that spring has commenced. You see, the much-anticipated season arrives slowly, but surely, here on the Gaspé.

Here are a few of the signs to come (some sooner, some later) that spring is here:

Crab fishing. The men and women fishers venture out onto the still frigid waters to catch their quotas.

Capelin. This small forage fish is a member of the smelt family. When they roll in at the end of May or early June, the seabirds know and will swoop and dive to feed on the plentiful fish. Their flavour resembles herring and they are an essential food for Atlantic cod.

Clothes on the line. A beautiful sight and sure sign of better weather is freshly washed clothing on the line, flapping in the wind. The earlier in the day that you hang out your laundry the better chance it has of drying by dinnertime. I once overheard a woman say she suspected a neighbour of washing her clothes the night before so that she was first to hang out her laundry in the morning. Don't be fooled. It is a competition.

Birds. Baby birds will be out taking their first flight.

Spring flowers. Daffodils, crocus, lily of the valley, and tulips finally poke their shy heads out of the ground. Much later, lilacs will be in full bloom and they are worth the wait.

Spring cleaning. It is time to do the big cleaning. Wash the walls and ceilings. Wood heat is the best, but we must always clean up after it in a number of ways. Throw open the windows to let in the fresh, though slightly frigid, air.

Flies. On warmer days, where the sun is shining, you might spot flies sitting on the side of the house.

Clothing. Oh, nothing improves our optimism about the changing season more than getting out our lighter, brighter clothes. The days when we wash and pack away winter clothing are of great significance for us.

Garage sales. This is a sure sign that spring has arrived. Once the weather improves, garage sales, or lawn sales, will continue throughout the season.

Bikes. Bikes and motorcycles go whizzing by and it is wonderful to see children and adults out enjoying the fresh air.

Gardens. Tilling will eventually begin and avid gardeners have ordered their seeds long ago. They are tiny little bits of hope. We anticipate the beautiful, fresh vegetables that will be on our tables in the fall.

The seasons come and go as they should. It is a time of rebirth and revival and we welcome this change. We crave the warmth of the sun on our faces. So, prepare to shake off the last bits of winter, just as we will watch the last bits of snow in the fields melt away.

Now if the temperature would just get a wee bit warmer...



LET'S VOLUNTEER



IN UNISON!

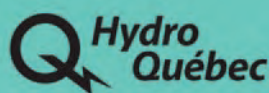
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New Carlisle, Quebec

8 ways to find a job

● **DIANE SKINNER**

If you are looking for a job, there are a number of places to look. Be creative, be fearless but most of all be prepared. Once you have determined what sort of employment you are looking for, begin the job hunt in earnest.

Newspapers

Read through the newspaper and there you may find a job posting that meets your expectations. Do not hesitate and because you are prepared, your résumé (CV) and references, if you are asked for them, are ready to send.

The newspaper is also a source of jobs within articles. It may not be a job ad per se but may contain information that points to a need for hiring. This is an example of reading between the lines. For example, an article about the increased production of windmills may mean that the company will be searching for additional employees. Then you can watch their websites for job postings or be proactive and submit a résumé or call to inquire if they will be hiring.

Job Fairs

Job fairs may be specific to one industry or workplace, such as Rhéal Pitre Sports, New Richmond, who has significantly expanded its number of employees in a new larger space. Some job fairs are more generalized with a variety of local employers who are hiring and setting up a booth. This is a great opportunity to talk with representatives from the work-

place. Be ready and bring a batch of résumés and be ready to “sell yourself.” This could be an opportunity for a mini interview

Company websites

Make a list of employees that you would like to work for. Search the company websites for openings and check them often. You just might find the job you are hoping for.

Temporary jobs

If you are searching for a full-time, permanent job but the only position is a temporary one, consider taking it. Once your foot is in the door, you will have the opportunity to impress. Temporary and short-term jobs can lead to full-time work.

Job placement services

Most postsecondary schools offer the free services of a counsellor who will help you with your job search.

Cold calling

This approach requires confidence and being fully ready with an up-to-date résumé. If you are interested in a certain company, consider a cold call. Look up the phone number or the email and the person in that organization who is responsible for hiring. Ask about existing or upcoming openings and, if speaking by phone, offer to send a résumé. If your first contact is by email, attach your résumé. This method may give you the “edge” you need to land that job.

Networking

Networking is the key to finding the hidden job market. Over 50% of successful job seekers found out about their job through friends and acquaintances.

What is the hidden job market? This term refers to jobs that are not advertised either in a newspaper or online. The good news is that many, many jobs are filled with never needing to post any ads at all.

If you are searching for a job, talk to your friends and family about your plans. That way they can tell you what is available and will keep an eye open for upcoming jobs.

Volunteer

Volunteer, if appropriate, especially for nonprofit organizations that may be on a limited budget. This gives you an “in” for future jobs. It gives the employer a chance to know who you are and whether you would be a good fit. The key to finding the hidden job market is to keep your eyes and ears open.

The 1-page résumé (C.V.)

● **DIANE SKINNER**

For most jobs a 1-page résumé (C.V.) is ideal. If you are applying for a highly skilled job, such as an engineer or software designer, you may need to provide more information including specialized education or training. If you submit a short, readable and error-free résumé, you increase your chances of landing at least an interview and the job you are seeking.

Whether you are submitting your résumé electronically or dropping off a hard copy, it should be typed using a word processing software. Check over the document carefully for spelling or glaring grammar errors. Get a friend to proofread it.

Make sure that all the information is relevant to the job you are applying for.

Start long – include everything that comes to mind and then pare down. There is no need to go back more than 10 or 15 years unless that job experience is highly relevant to the job you are applying for.

Skip listing references. It is not necessary to say “references available on request.” That is understood, however, gather your references’ contact information, and ask them if they will be a reference for you. That way when references are requested you will be ready!

There are loads of templates available online and community organizations may offer assistance with writing your résumé.

Don't rely on fate!

According to statistics **printed newspaper** ads have the **highest effectiveness score** of ALL media. Readers **notice ads** and are **less annoyed** by them.

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YOUR ROLE:

Assist the pharmacist in the processing of prescriptions and ensure satisfaction of patients by providing an excellent customer service.

No need to have a specific diploma: we will train you!

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Salary starts to 17,78\$ an hour

40 hours a week, day shifts (closing at 6 pm)

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Interested? Contact Jean-Sébastien Laliberté-Gemme, pharmacist-owner
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Announcements



Obituary



POTTLE: Shirley

April 11, 1936 - March 14, 2023

Shirley Ena Pottle (nee Syvret) passed away peacefully at the age of 86. She was the wife of the late Thomas Pottle who lovingly referred to her as "Shirl-my-girl".

Shirley was born into a family of 10 in Belle-Anse, Gaspé to the late Alvin and Iza Syvret. She will be missed by her surviving sisters: Marion Hotton, Yetta Dion (Bill), Wilma Touzel (John); her many nieces, nephews and friends.

Shirley was a quiet woman who loved the company of family and friends, especially children. The family would like to thank the staff of the Willowdale Residence for their gentle loving care over the last four years.

A celebration of her life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to your local Alzheimer Society in Shirley's name.



In Memory

ASSELIN: Anthony

January 28, 1926 - April 10, 2002

ASSELIN: Kevin

January 28, 1953 - April 19, 1983

Deep in my broken heart lies a picture

Of my father and brother laid to rest

In memory's frame I shall always keep it

Because they were the very best.

Sadly missed by Marlee and Boyd.

IMHOFF: Charlotte Assels - April 22, 1995

IMHOFF: Robert John Gerald - June 20, 2004

In loving memory of my parents.

No matter how life changes

No matter what we do,

A special place within our hearts,

Will always be with you.

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by daughter Sharon and family.



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Covering Port Daniel to New Richmond

With so much evidence of depleting natural resources, toxic waste, climate change, irreparable harm to our food chain and rapidly increasing incidences of natural disasters, why do we keep perpetuating the problem? Why do we continue marching to the same alarming beat?



Do we love our planet enough to protect it for future generations? Are businesses, governments and individuals willing to do difficult things to improve the health of the Earth? Earth Day, first held in 1970, is an annual event which demonstrates support for protecting the environment. This year the official theme is Invest in Our Planet. Earth Day is not a statutory holiday but has helped many Canadians realize that they can and should do something to protect the environment.

Earth Day is about awareness, hopefully leading to a change in human interaction with the environment and helping to change global, national and local policies. It is important to think globally but act locally.

Many people will actively take part on Earth Day in activities such as cleaning up litter or planting trees. Planting trees may have to wait for a bit, until the ground is workable but you can plan ahead. Deciduous and evergreen trees can be planted early in spring as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

Families and educators have a big role to play in preparing children with facts and a positive proactive approach to protecting the Earth. Teach about recycling, no littering, composting, reducing waste, conserving water and electricity, buying local and avoiding single-use containers. Adults need to set an example. Not just on Earth Day, but every day, let's make the changes that will protect our home. "We have forgotten how to be

good guests, how to walk lightly on the earth as its other creatures do."

"Fast" Fashion Pollution

The average consumer now buys 60% more pieces of clothing than 15 years ago and keeps each item for half as long. One way to cut down on the pollution this causes when fast fashion ends up in landfills is to donate to a flea market and to shop for used clothing as well. Fast fashion is inexpensive clothing produced rapidly by mass-market retailers in response to the latest trends. Textiles have a significant impact on the environment and climate throughout their life cycle because of the emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Clothing, especially inexpensive pieces, wear it for one season types, is a growing contributor to climate change.

Why clean up litter?

Picking up a few pieces of garbage along the shoreline seems to be a small act of no consequence, but there is power in numbers. If everybody picked up a bit of garbage each time they visited the beach, the impact would be significant. There is strength in a collective will. Put on your disposable gloves and be part of a movement.

Picking up litter is impactful because:

- It helps to make the world a better, cleaner place.
- It inspires others to do so - leading by example.
- It helps to ensure the future well-being of the planet. Pick up litter for your children's children.
- Safety of wildlife. Fish and birds get stuck in plastic rings made to secure six cans of pop. Those bits of plastic are deadly.
- It costs nothing. All you need is the will, a bag and disposable gloves.
- Litter is ugly. Make the planet more beautiful.
- Don't be part of the problem. Do not litter.

Earth Day vocabulary

Acid rain - Acid rain is rain or any other form of precipitation that is acidic. Human activities are the main cause of acid rain through the release of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

Biodegradable - Substances that are capable of

decaying naturally and in a way that is not harmful to the environment.

Biodiversity - The variety of life in the world or a particular habitat or ecosystem.

Carbon footprint - The amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels.

Deforestation - The clearing of a wide area of trees.

Fossil fuels - Natural fuels such as gas or coal, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.

Global warming - This describes the current rise in the average temperatures of Earth's air and oceans. It is also referred to as climate change.

Greenhouse effect (gases) - The way in which heat is trapped close to the Earth's surface by greenhouse gases. These heat-trapping gases are like a blanket wrapped around our planet.

Nonrenewable resources - These are resources that cannot be replaced after they are used. These include rocks, minerals, metals and fossil fuels such as petroleum, coal and natural gas.

Pollinator - Anything that helps carry pollen from the male part of the flower (stamen) to the female part of the flower (stigma). This must occur for the plant to become fertilized to produce seeds, fruit and young plants.

Reforestation - The process of replanting an area with trees.

Sustainability - Fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations, while ensuring a balance between the economy, social well-being and the environment.

Earth Day

Our Earth is special. There is just one.

It gives us water, soil and sun.

People and animals share the land.

Let's all lend a helping hand.

You can save water or plant a tree,

Make a better home for you and me.

Recycle things, don't throw them away.

Make every day an Earth Day.

COAST ROUND-UP

GASPÉ:
Royal Canadian Legion

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

GASPÉ:
Cancer Foundation

All new membership and renewals, \$15 per person or \$25 per couple, can be sent to Gaspé Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 6078, Gaspé, Quebec G4X 2M6, or 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.

April 23: The Gaspé Cancer Foundation AGM will be held at the Gaspé Legion beginning at 1:30 p.m. A light lunch will be served.

YORK:
York River Seniors AGM

May 6: The FADOQ York River Senior Citizens Club will be holding its Annual General Meeting at 4 p.m. at the Gaspé Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 59. The AGM will be followed

by cocktails, a Chinese supper and live music for dancing. The price of tickets is \$25 with a \$10 rebate for members who will have attended the AGM. Draws for door prizes will be held during the event. Members are welcome to attend only the meeting if they wish. For more information and to purchase tickets contact: Ron Mundle 418-355-4732, Tony Patterson 418-368-3276, Debbie Sams 418-368-2977, Alfred Cassidy 418-368-2011. Deadline for purchase of tickets is April 30.

BARACHOIS:
BADC

The Barachois Photo Contest, "Barachois, our village and its barachois," has been extended until **April 30**. You can enter one photo per category of the Barachois area taken in the last three years by using the submission form on the website Barachois.org. Over \$1,100 worth of prizes. Refer to the regulations on the website for more information, or email to barachoisphotos@gmail.com.

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.

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.

HOPE:
Hope Baptist Church

Sundays: Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. Worship service beginning at 11 a.m.
May 6: Bake sale fundraiser beginning at 9 a.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall.

HOPE TOWN:
Sports and Recreation Club

May 20: Gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at the Saint Godefroi Optimist Club. Bring your dabbers. Organized by the Hope Town Sports and Recreation Club and the Saint Godefroi Optimist Club.

NEW CARLISLE:
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64

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

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!

May 2: General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

NEW CARLISLE:
Funeral Association

June 18: The New Carlisle Funeral Association will be having a Father's Day Brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adults \$15, children ten and under \$10. Hope to see you all there.

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, April 23
10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, April 23
2 p.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, April 23
NEW CARLISLE
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
HOPE TOWN
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
PORT DANIEL
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, April 23
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
St. Andrew's York



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
You don't want to have mundane tasks hanging over your head, Aries. Try to check as many of them off your to-do list this week as you can. This will free up a lot of time.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you may be planning a much-needed vacation at the present time. Figure out a place you've never been and then fill your itinerary with plenty of fun things.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
You likely will have to devote a lot of attention to practical matters in the days to come, Gemini. This

includes taking a hard look at your spending and making cuts.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, the coming week will be a busy time for social opportunities. Other people will want to be around you as you can be the life of the party when you come out of your shell.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Don't be surprised if your energy level is high this week, Leo. This leads to you feeling restless at home and even at work. This could be a fine time to take up a hobby.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you may be looking forward to an evening out with a romantic partner or close friends. Try to narrow

down a day this week or next. Have a few restaurants at the ready.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Take advantage of some free time to get things done around the house, Libra. Cleaning or other home improvements should be a priority.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
There's a lot of activity expected close to home, Scorpio. A new business may open or there could be a movie star who is spotted in town. Maybe you'll get new neighbours.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
The thought of financial prosperity has you scouring the recruitment sites this week, Sagittarius. Speak to

others about the pros and cons of leaving your current job.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you are surrounded by positive energy and eager to be out and about with friends this week. Start exploring all of the possibilities around you.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
This may be a good week to devote a large chunk of time to being alone. Some time with just your thoughts and a little silence could be everything you need.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, discussions at work could get a bit heated. It's best to distance yourself from these situations as best

as you can.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
APRIL 16
Akon, Singer (50)
APRIL 17
Jennifer Garner, Actress (51)
APRIL 18
Chloe Bennet, Actress (31)
APRIL 19
Hayden Christensen, Actor (42)
APRIL 20
Miranda Kerr, Model (40)
APRIL 21
James McAvoy, Actor (44)
APRIL 22
Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Actor (57)

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23 SENTRA

SV

\$75
WEEKLY

24 MOS.

LEASE

\$1,045 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Sentra SV	Rate	6.24%	7.49%
	Payment	\$ 375	\$ 390

23 KICKS

S

\$70
WEEKLY

24 MOS.

LEASE

\$995 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Kicks S	Rate	5.99%	7.49%
	Payment	\$ 338	\$ 355

23 QASHQAI

S AWD

\$79
WEEKLY

24 MOS.

LEASE

\$1,495 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Qashqai S AWD	Rate	6.24%	7.49%
	Payment	\$ 427	\$ 445

23 ROGUE

SV Midnight Edition

\$99
WEEKLY

24 MOS.

LEASE

\$3,195 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Rogue SV Midnight	Rate	5.74%	7.49%
	Payment	\$ 597	\$ 632

23 MURANO

3.99%

24 MOS.

FINANCE



84m Finance		NCF	Banks
Murano Midnight	Rate	5.74%	7.49%
	Payment	\$ 702	\$ 744

23 PATHFINDER

4.99%

48 MOS.

FINANCE



60m Finance		NCF	Banks
Pathfinder SL	Rate	5.99%	7.49%
	Payment	\$ 1,065	\$ 1,104

23 FRONTIER

CC SV

Midnight Edition

\$250
BI-WEEKLY

60 MOS.

LEASE

\$4,999 DOWN



60m Finance		NCF	Banks
Frontier CC SV Midnight	Rate	6.49%	7.49%
	Payment	\$ 970	\$ 994

23 ARMADA

SL Midnight Edition

\$399
BI-WEEKLY

24 MOS.

LEASE

\$5,399 DOWN



60m Finance		NCF	Banks
Armada SL Midnight	Rate	5.99%	7.49%
	Payment	\$ 1,481	\$ 1,535

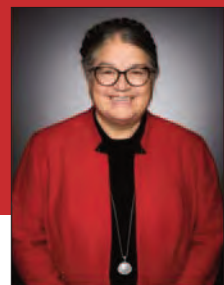
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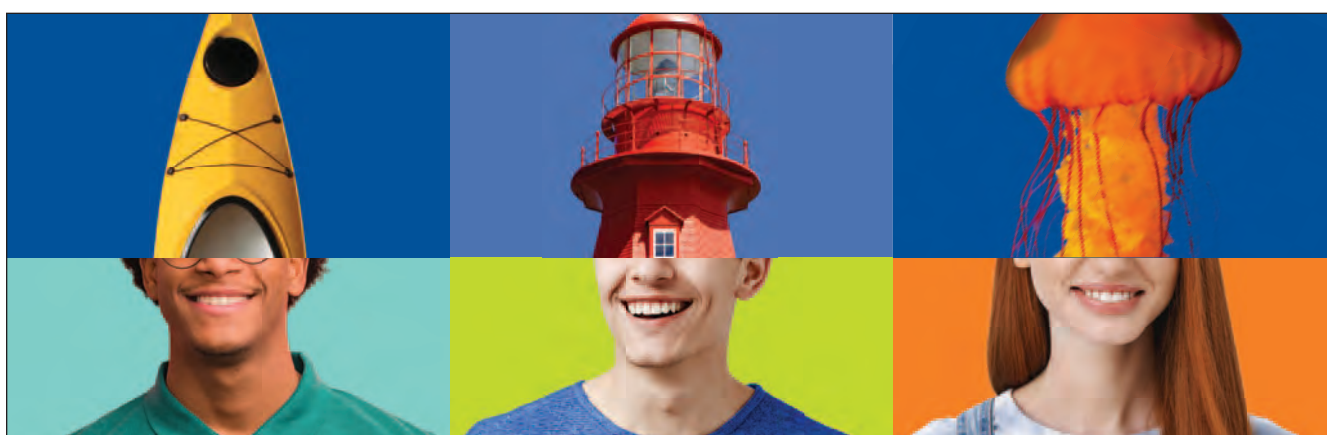
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