

TELUS to open new cellular phone zones *Road network will be prioritized*

GILLES GAGNÉ

CASCAPEDIA-SAINT-JULES: - On May 25, TELUS finally announced that the company will invest \$8 million in the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence for the deployment and updating of its PureFibre and 5G networks.

In addition to the \$8 million announced by TELUS, the Government of Quebec will invest \$10.78 million and the Canadian Radio Television Council (CRTC) will contribute \$6.45 million. This will bring the total investment to \$25.23 million.

This amount will allow TELUS to add 12 new wireless sites along Route 299, to the south near the community of Cascapedia-Saint-Jules, as well as certain spots between Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and the Gîte du Mont-Albert.

The investment will also add cellular phone coverage to Highway 132 between Sainte-Florence and the village of Matapédia, and Route 195 between Matane and Amqui. TELUS PureFibre network will also be deployed at Lac Matapédia, Lac-Casault, near Causapscal, and Lac des Huit Mille. Planning and preparatory work will begin in 2023 and TELUS expects the first sites to be in service in 2024. However, the company is not ready to provide an exact delivery schedule.

The prefect of the Bonaventure MRC and mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé, believes that it will take more than one phase to connect the parts of the region which are not already connected to the PureFibre and 5G networks.

"It is important to understand that the announcement pertains to the road network. As far as Cascapedia-Saint-Jules is concerned, I think the



Bonaventure MRC Prefect Éric Dubé is aware that the new TELUS announcement focuses on unserved spots along the region's road network, not the communities. He is, however, hopeful that better service along Route 299 will also solve the problem of cellular phone coverage in Cascapedia-Saint-Jules.

deployment of the towers will solve the coverage problem of that village. From my understanding of the situation, it won't solve the problems of Saint-Alphonse and Saint-Elzéar or some other communities elsewhere. If it takes four more years to complete the coverage in the MRC, some people will be disappointed and rightfully so," explains Mr. Dubé.

He adds that the TELUS announcement likely stems from a deal between the company and Quebec's Department of Transport.

"It is also important to cover the corridor along Highway 132 and Route 299. It (the announcement) improves the safety of all Quebecers travelling here. It deals with more than the cellular coverage of our communities. It doesn't solve all our problems, but I'll say it is a good first step, to be polite," adds Mr. Dubé, who expects a phase 2 as soon as possible.

"I am not a master at these technologies, maybe it would

carried out sooner than later," says Éric Dubé, who points out that he and his colleagues are regularly communicating with TELUS in hopes of accelerating the realization of cellular phone towers for the communities without cellular coverage.

Asked by the SPEC to provide a delivery schedule for the towers that will be installed in the Gaspé Peninsula, TELUS spokesperson, Camille Finnegan, supplies a few details.

"If all goes well, the first construction should begin in 2024 with sites near Saint-René-de-Matane, Saint-Vianney, Saint-Léandre, Matapédia and several (towers) in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. The first commissioning is scheduled for the end of 2024 she first answers.

The SPEC insisted on getting details about Cascapedia-Saint-Jules. In a second round of written messages, Ms. Finnegan specified that

"Grand-Cascapédia, Routhierville and Saint-André-de-Restigouche (...) will be activated in 2025 and 2026. As this is a complex process involving multiple steps and stakeholders, we cannot comment on a firm date."

Meanwhile, Nathalie Dionne, who is the acting vice-president of residential solutions and customer experience in Quebec for TELUS, mentions in a press release that "ten years ago, we started deploying our PureFibre network, which uses the most sustainable technology. Since last September, 99 percent of families and businesses in the territory we serve in Quebec have access to this technology and we are very proud of it. Although our private investments are crucial, we welcome the commitments of the Quebec government and the CRTC to improve the wireless coverage of our regions."

Smile cookie campaign

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Community Social Pediatric Centre l'Équipage in the Côte-de-Gaspé has received \$8,644.50 from the Gaspé Tim Hortons' Smile Cookie campaign. The money will be used to provide children with medical, psychosocial and educational services, as well as activities to help them develop their full potential. 5,763 cookies were sold in this second year of partnership between the centre and the Gaspé Tim Hortons.



Photo: Centre pédiatrie sociale l'Équipage

Groupe GDS calls a lockout in its three Gaspesian sawmills and Matane processing centre

GILLES GAGNÉ

POINTE-À-LA-CROIX – The management of Groupe GDS has instituted a lockout for an undetermined period at its three Gaspé Peninsula sawmills in Pointe-à-la-Croix, Marsoui and Grande-Vallée, as well as in its Matane lumber planer and kiln.

The current lockout has been effective since 5:30 p.m. on May 18. About 200 employees are affected by the decision of the management, 45 employees for each of the three sawmills and between 65 and 70 at the Matane facility.

The lockout was called 24 hours after a one-day strike which was held on May 17 at the Matane facility.

The president and chief executive officer of Groupe GDS, Sylvain Deschênes, is not commenting on the situa-



Photo: Courtesy of Martin Dugas

The workers of the Pointe-à-la-Croix sawmill picketing near the plant.

tion at this time.

In a press release though, Mr. Deschênes points out that it is practically impossible to continue the activities of the plants with the possibility that punctual production stoppages will be triggered within the framework of the ongoing negotiations.

Martin Dugas, the Unifor union representative for the 200 Groupe GDS workers affected by the lockout, says the management's reaction to the May 17 strike was not a surprise to them.

"On May 16, the employer made a global offer without saying that it was a final offer.

He asked us (the negotiating team) to go and see our members with that offer. The offer was much less than what we expected and we had made decisions about what could be acceptable. We knew that there was a possibility of a reaction from the employer because we had previously said that we would possibly hold daily strikes in rotation," explains Mr. Dugas.

The collective agreement between Groupe GDS and its plants' workers ended in May 2022 for the three sawmills and in June 2022 at the Matane plant.

Martin Dugas, who is also the representative of all Unifor members of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Lower Saint Lawrence and the North Shore, is not commenting on the requests made by the workers during the negotiations.

"We look at inflation. People also see that there is a shortage of labour everywhere. They expect to receive competitive salaries and working conditions. The grocery bill is rising. So, we are trying to improve the fringe benefits and salaries of our members. The normative elements, like applying the working agreement specifications such as staff moves, are

already dealt with," adds Mr. Dugas.

The price of lumber has gone down a lot since the end of 2022, which could convince the Groupe GDS management to be patient during the negotiation process.

"The market is not very good, that's true, but it depends on who you are referring to. We have seen better. However, when we look at Weyerhaeuser, the biggest lumber producer in the United States, we see that the company's projections stagnate regarding the construction side, but they expect a strong progression in renovation," explains Martin Dugas.

Shortly after the pandemic started in March 2020, the price of 1,000 board feet of lumber, the standard gauge in the business, climbed to US\$2,000. Recently though, it was down to US\$350.

"It is about \$500, in Canadian currency. The companies are still making profits, overall. The price of building materials has gone down recently but there is some stability regarding lumber," points out Martin Dugas.

The next negotiation round will come relatively soon. "We are meeting again on May 31, June 1 and June 2," he says.



An agreement has been reached to transport logs from private woodlots.

Photo: Archives

An agreement is reached between the Wood Producers Syndicate and transporters

NELSON SERGERIE

NEW RICHMOND - The showdown between the Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers Syndicate and wood transporters will not take place this year, thanks to an agreement that was reached during the week of May 15.

The prime rate paid to carriers has increased according to Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index, with the exception of the fuel rate. Premiums are created for those who will be around for the entire season and the fuel premium to offset the sharp increase in diesel remains in place.

In addition, the rates are

aligned with those that will be paid by the lumber industry in 2023.

"It was less difficult because you have to understand that the last contract, which ended in March, caught things up with a whole new way of doing things, paying and calculating all that. We were talking more about an increase in the case of the present negotiations," explains the president of the Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers Syndicate Pierre-Luc Arsenaault.

"We have increased the prime rate and introduced a delivery bonus system. For those who meet all the criteria, we're talking about a 9% increase," says Mr. Arsenaault.

For example, the fuel bonus is in place as soon as a litre of diesel exceeds \$0.89. The current price of diesel is \$1.58.

"We are really satisfied. The two sides had a good understanding and I think it will go well this year," says the president of the union.

Last winter, the application for accreditation by the Gaspésie Forest Transporters' Association was rejected by the Régie des marchés Agricoles et Alimentaires du Québec.

The association tried but failed to bring together forestry truckers who transport wood for the Wood Producers Syndicate in order to have better bargaining power.

The price of lobster set at \$7.65 per pound for week three of fishing

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI – For the third week of the 2023 lobster season which spanned between May 14 and 20 inclusively, the region's lobster fishermen received \$7.65 per pound from the region's processing plants. This third week price is only a five cent drop from the \$7.70 fishermen received for the first two weeks of the season.

According to lobster buyers and processors, including Bill Sheehan (E. Gagnon et Fils) and Roch Lelièvre (Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan) the demand remained strong after Mothers' Day due to the Patriots' Day long weekend, when families tend to get together.

Meanwhile, catches remain remarkably high. Shigawake lobster fisherman Jeffrey Vautier describes the 2023 situation: "I caught more lobster in my first week of fishing this year than I had in one complete season about 18 years ago. It is now down a bit from the first two weeks but that is normal and, yes, a weekly capture is still close to a full season in the past."

Lobster buyers expect a fall in the price from the end of May until mid-June. Fathers' Day and the long weekends at the end of June in Quebec, Canada and the United States usually mean strong demand for lobster, with an upward push on the price.



Photo: G. Gagné

Police report

The owner of the Bar le Triangle D'or located in Paspébiac, Jacques Joseph, 61, was recently found guilty on one count of sexual assault involving an employee of the bar during the period from July 29, 2021, to October 19, 2021. Mr. Joseph was found guilty of having repeatedly struck the buttocks of the victim and of having, at least once, touched her breast without her consent, in his bar. A publication ban is in effect in order to protect the identity of the victim. Quebec Court Judge Martin Gagnon presided over the one-and-a-half-day trial and rendered his decision on Friday, May 12. The defence attorney has requested the preparation of a pre-sentence report and the case will return to court on October 3 for sentencing representations. Jacques Joseph remains free until his sentencing.



New Carlisle Courthouse.

Andy James Rehel, 42, originally from Gaspé, who brutally attacked his mother, was recently sentenced to 27 months in prison. Mr. Rehel admitted to causing the victim numerous bruises and breaking her nose in August 2022. The man also admitted to having strangled her and to having committed a mischief of more than \$5,000 by destroying the furniture in his mother's residence. The man is forbidden to be in the Gaspé district for three years. He must also provide a DNA sample, and will be forbidden to possess a firearm for 10 years. Once his prison term is completed, Andy James Rehel will be transferred to Alberta, his place of residence, to face two counts of breach of a court order.

Sûreté du Québec police officers from the Bonaventure MRC detachment assisted by their colleagues from the Avignon MRC station, proceeded on the afternoon of May 18 to arrest Travis Smith, 35, a resident of New Carlisle. The suspect appeared in the afternoon of May 18 at the New Carlisle Courthouse to face several charges in connection with various crimes against property committed in recent months in the New Carlisle area. "The arrest (of Travis Smith) will likely make it possible to solve several files of theft, mischief and break and enter in sheds, garages and houses when people were absent. The investigation goes back to the fall of 2022. We think we have resolved about 20 cases where complaints were filed. It might amount to more than 20 cases because some people had refused to lay a complaint although they admitted having been robbed," says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

In addition to the above-mentioned crimes, the suspect could also face other charges for threatening and assaulting police officers. Following his May 18 court appearance, the suspect was remanded into custody until he returns to the New Carlisle Courthouse on June 28. The investigation is ongoing and other charges could be added to the file.

A May 20 motorcycle accident claimed the life of Gaétan Gaumond, 58, from Petite-Vallée. The accident occurred in Cloridorme shortly after 5 p.m. "The emergency services were called at 5:15 p.m. because a motorcycle had left the road. The victim was transported to the hospital, where his death was confirmed. A technician specialized in accident reconstitution was called to investigate the case. We can't explain why the driver left the road. It looks as if he simply lost control of the motorcycle. We can't even conclude that speeding was the cause of the accident. There were no witnesses, and no other vehicle was involved," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron.

Paul Alexander Banko, 41, from the Montreal area has been missing since May 21. The kayaker was first reported missing by the Longueuil Police Department, south of Montreal. "The Sûreté du Québec was contacted by the Longueuil police officers to assist them because people close to the kayaker had not heard from him. We were told that he intended to do some kayaking in the Kamouraska and Rivière-du-Loup sector and we were asked to check wharves in the area. We quickly found his car at the Notre-Dame-du Portage wharf that day," points out Sgt. Doiron.

"The SQ started the search and rescue the same day, and the Coast Guard joined the operation, also on the same day (May 21). We looked for the man day and night until Tuesday night (May 23), when the Coast Guard suspended the search. The SQ did so as well on Wednesday morning (May 24) by pulling out its boats. The Coast Guard used thermal detection devices in order to locate people. The SQ used boats and some police officers walked along the shoreline. In fact, after Wednesday morning, we kept searching in some specific areas on foot," adds Sgt. Doiron.

After having asked the public to pay attention to seeing a turquoise kayak, clothes or objects that could be linked to a kayak excursion, the SQ also answered many calls after May 21.

"We had invited people living between Kamouraska and the Matanie and Haute-Gaspésie MRCs to keep an open eye on the sea and the shoreline. We are still answering those calls and we are ready to go out and check any clue that could allow us to find Mr. Banko. The file remains open and will stay so as long as we haven't found him," stresses Sgt. Doiron.

During their search, the Canadian Coast Guard flew over the islands located between Kamouraska and Rivière-du-Loup and even reached the Île aux Lièvres and Brandy Pot Island, near Rivière-du-Loup, to no avail. Those two islands are slightly closer to the Charlevoix area.

Sgt. Claude Doiron doesn't rule out that Mr. Banko could have drifted as far east as the shore between Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Cape Gaspé. "We have seen that in the past. We have found in the Haute-Gaspésie area people who had drowned in Quebec City."



Upcoming work to be done on the snowmobile and ATV trails

Nelson Sergerie

CARLETON-SUR-MER - The vast project to upgrade the Gaspé Peninsula's snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle trails is progressing well.

"We received \$9 million from the Department of Economy, and the MRCs are putting \$1 million into the project. Our main goal is to upgrade the entire off-road network," explains Mathieu Lapointe, president of the Gaspé Peninsula Table of Prefects.

This is the first phase. Mr. Lapointe adds that the next phase will involve developing their offerings. "But before developing the hotel business and other related aspects, we wanted to make sure the network was functional for touring the Gaspé," adds the president.

The work will be carried out over three years and, according to Mr. Lapointe, the amount invested will be sufficient for the upgrades required.

Work will be done on 86 infrastructures throughout the network. "An inventory was made of all the bridges, culverts and trails. We've targeted bridges in need of repair. We're more on the technical side since it's the snowmobile and ATV clubs that will be doing the work and submitting projects, but we should be doing that soon," explains Mr. Lapointe.

This was one of three priorities selected by the region in the post-pandemic recovery.

"Minister Proulx (Marie-Ève, Minister responsible for Regional Economic Development under the first mandate of the Legault government) had solicited all the regions and asked them to prioritize three elements. In particular, the region identified the off-road vehicle industry. We think it could generate significant economic spin-offs all around the peninsula," says the president.

School Service Centres will be self-insured

Nelson Sergerie

BONAVENTURE: - Almost all French-language school service centres in Quebec are joining forces to create their own liability insurance plan.

"As of July 1, we will be our own insurers with a premium that should be better controlled. Initially, costs should be fairly stable, but decrease over time. Risk coverage will be more adapted to the reality of school service centres," explains the outgoing director of the René-Lévesque School Service Centre, Louis Bujold.

The decision almost imposed itself. "Premiums have almost doubled over the past two or three years and coverage is getting smaller and smaller. We have seen it in certain situations where it was almost impossible to do an alpine skiing activity. We had comments to the effect that when we went cross-country skiing with our students outside the school grounds, it became difficult to cover. It was difficult to do outdoor activities with our students, but with this self-insurance, we should be much better covered and costs better controlled," explains Mr. Bujold.

Initially, costs will remain at the current rates as the plan must fund itself to meet the requirements of the Authority of the Financial Sector (AMF).

"The AMF made sure that everything was done according to the rules of the act and the Ministry of Education saw it in a good light and participated with an initial investment to allow us to start all this," concludes the director.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Greater stability needed for Quebec's Ministry of Education

Quebec's Auditor General, Guylaine Leclerc, created huge waves during the presentation of her annual report on May 25 when she pointed out that a little more than one-quarter of the teachers who worked in the province's classrooms during the 2020-21 school year weren't officially qualified. The right percentage is 27%.

She revealed that 30,500 people who taught in schools during that year did not have a teaching certificate or a provisional qualification.

The reality of turning more frequently to uncertified people to teach in schools has been admitted in the past by the Quebec Department of Education, the reason being a shortage of qualified teachers. However, the proportion was unknown.

The Auditor General's report also specifies that the Department of Education has no overall picture of the current situation regarding the reasons behind the massive recourse of substitute teachers, the proportion of regular teachers leaving the profession and the factors explaining their departure or what could be done to correct the situation.

To reach some of her conclusions, the Auditor General's office created a database of its own, since there were no such statistical references at the Department of Education.

For example, Guylaine Leclerc and her team wanted to analyze the reasons explaining the departure of teachers across Quebec. There was no such report at the ministry. So, she decided to assess 10 criteria in four service centres, the equivalent of the former school boards in the current French system (school boards still exist in the English system). Three out of four school service centres had no data to explain the factors behind the departure of teachers!

How can you correct a situation when you can't analyze the root of a problem? In fact, the Auditor General and people working in education on a daily basis know that almost everyone is overworked and is dealing with crisis management more often than not.

We have known for years that 25% of Quebec's qualified teachers leave the profession after five years of practice.

Despite that reality, teachers' tasks have increased uninterruptedly over the years, notably because of the paperwork and the proportion of students requiring additional services. Those educational services often require a teaching assistant, a reality that has hardly been understood by the Department of Education.

Some numbers released by the Auditor General must be put in the right context. While 27% of the 110,000 teachers are not officially qualified, it would be a lie to state that they are all incompetent. Some of them are probably very knowledgeable and competent. They just don't have the piece of paper acknowledging it.

At the other end of the spectrum, some qualified teachers could be incompetent or could need a refresher course but the assessment process of their qualification is either non-existent or late in coming. Moreover, assessing teachers is not popular with

unions but there are provisions for an evaluation process in the education law.

It must also be mentioned that non-qualified teachers fill 8% of the entire teaching schedule in Quebec. It means that 92% of the time, the students are taught by licenced teachers. The situation will likely worsen over the next few years because a lot of teachers are reaching retirement age or have enough years of work to qualify for early retirement.

Education has gone down in society's priorities

The lack of teachers and teaching assistants should not come as a revelation in 2023. The first report about an eventual shortage of teachers was released 21 years ago in 2002. That conclusion was strengthened by another report in 2009.

In reality, the overall situation of Quebec's educational system is neglected by too many people.

The Ministry of Education is only 59 years old in Quebec. For the first three decades, the catching-up job mobilized a significant part of the population and therefore made headlines regularly. The generations that had suffered from poor access to education pushed youth hard to make up for the past. The media also covered education issues at length.

The last 30 years have not been so fruitful. Budgetary cuts frequently hit the Ministry of Education, whose expenditures were not always considered an investment, which they should have been.

Those cuts affected the educational system and the buildings. These days, a lot of Quebec schools are in poor shape. However, it looks as if the system itself is in worse shape.

In today's fast-paced world, finding time to think about how education must be provided seems to escape a lot of people. Citizens will mobilize to protect a school, or the building, but talking about education doesn't draw the same attention. It is not as concrete, without a play on words.

Not submitted to the same public pressure over the last decades, governments, not often led by visionaries, have almost relegated education to a secondary role while it is the foundation of a society.

One of the best examples of the poor attention given to education over the last 30 years is that the term of a minister lasts less than two years on average. If we look at the last 15 years, eight different ministers have occupied a total of nine terms. It means a minister only holds that position for 20 months.

How can we expect stability in such a vital department if every minister stays 20 months, knowing that it takes a few months to get familiar with a high number of complicated files? That is not counting the six electoral campaigns that have taken place

since 2007 and the 35 to 40 days standstill periods coming with them. How can a minister show leadership in front of the tens of thousands of education employees if he or she will be gone 20 months later?

Students have too often been forgotten

Evidently, that instability is also visible in the classrooms, considering the high number of teachers a student might have over a single year. Those students have in many cases been shaken up by the distance education particularity that was imposed on them during the pandemic, another conclusion drawn by Guylaine Leclerc in a December 2022 report specific to the COVID-19 crisis.

So, better days are not knocking at the door. The instability and the lack of staff in the classroom, plus the consequences of the pandemic over a fair number of students, will likely boost the number of dropouts over the coming years.

Where do we go from there? Coalition avenir Québec Premier, François Legault, has appointed a controversial minister to run the Education Department in Bernard Drainville, a former Parti Québécois minister who ran an equally controversial radio show for years during his political hiatus.

He maintained the degree of controversy during the September electoral campaign when he asked the electorate to waive the issue of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) during a discussion about the Quebec City-Lévis third link project, which has since been considerably downsized. The GHG statement remains a rather strange example for the young generation.

In Mr. Drainville's defence, he identified the need to improve the exchange of information between his ministry and the school service centres. In order to fix problems, one must identify them, and data is of the utmost importance in that regard.

However, Bernard Drainville's Bill 23, notably tabled to get the information he needs more easily, will lead to centralization in education.

Centralization in a field as important as education has usually been characterized by failures. The minister's abrasive style is already not popular among Education Ministry's employees, including the teachers, who are still negotiating for a better salary and working conditions.

They are not very accepting of the fact that the Members of the National Assembly are getting a substantial pay raise before them.

In order to correct the current problems plaguing classrooms, the Department of Education will need the collaboration of its employees and make allies with them. Power centralization is rarely a solution in that context.



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Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Alzheimer Society raises \$25,250 with Memory Relay Run

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – Thirty-six runners raised \$25,250 during the four days of the Memory Relay Run of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands. The event was held between May 19 and 22. Six groups of runners covered the 495 kilometres between Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and the Pointe-à-la-Garde part of Escuminac.

The course consisted of six sections: Sainte-Anne-des-Monts to Grande-Vallée (115 kilometres), Grande-Vallée to Gaspé (95 kilometres), Gaspé to Chandler (95 kilometres), Chandler to Bonaventure (90 kilometres), and Bonaventure to Pointe-à-la-Garde (100 kilometres). Magdalen Islands runners covered a distance of 5 kilometres instead of running a relay.

“The money will go to the Alzheimer Society trust fund. A fund managed by the Fondation communautaire Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine. This will bring our trust fund to \$300,000. We are only using the interest on the money and adding it to our regular budget,” explains Bernard Babin, director general of the region’s Alzheimer Society.

Bad weather in the town of Gaspé made for less than ideal conditions for the runners on



Claude Blais, seated in the middle, joined the Pointe-à-la-Garde runners, who took a little break here before the May 22 final sprint.

Sunday, May 21, but otherwise, the relay run went off without a hitch.

Bernard Babin says that some remarkable feats occurred during the relay race.

“Leila (Poucet) ran 90 kilometres in one day, between Grande-Vallée and Gaspé. That’s incredible. She ran almost the whole distance without a break. She was running in memory of her father, who died of Alzheimers,” points out Mr. Babin.

“We have exceeded our fi-

ancial goal and we know that \$500 still remains to come in,” he adds.

Another feat characterizing the event, he says, was the way it was organized from the ground up last fall. “It was the idea of Claude Blais and he started (organizing) in October. He is one of our board members. What he did in such a short amount of time is remarkable,” insists Bernard Babin.

Mr. Blais is a retired Sûreté du Québec police officer from



Photos: Courtesy of Bernard Babin

The runners of the Grande-Vallée-Gaspé leg are nearing their goal.

Grand River. He is an enthusiastic runner. “He joined the Pointe-à-la-Garde runners after having covered parts of the event’s other legs. He was everywhere,” mentions Mr. Babin.

When asked if the event will return in 2024, Bernard Babin hesitates a bit. “It is a good question. It was conceived as a one-shot event, however, we will have a decision to make because the runners, who really liked the challenge, asked Claude im-

mediately after the event if there will be another one next year,” says Mr. Babin.

The Alzheimer Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands functions with an annual budget of \$900,000. It employs 20 individuals. Between 2,000 and 2,500 people in the region experience cognitive problems of various degrees. The number is expected to increase because of the rising part of the region’s population that will reach 65 and over in the coming years.

The Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers Syndicate modifies its governance

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND - The Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers Syndicate will be managed differently from now on. The organization is being restructured following the consecutive departures of the last two director generals: Katherine Court, who retired, and Guylaine Fournier, who left for personal reasons.

The organization chose to create two new positions rather than hire a new director general. Rébecca Allard-Landry, who was an executive assistant, obtained the position of director of operations. She will take care of day-to-day activities as well as services to producers and members. She has been with the union for over 10 years.

The union has also created

a forest director position. This department will encompass sales, marketing and business development activities. The president of the union, Pierre-Luc Arsenault, says that the position will be filled in the coming days.

“We posted the position of director general and nobody applied for it. We might have asked too much from one person. We have just finished interviewing people for the forest director position and we will announce our choice in a matter of days,” says Mr. Arsenault.

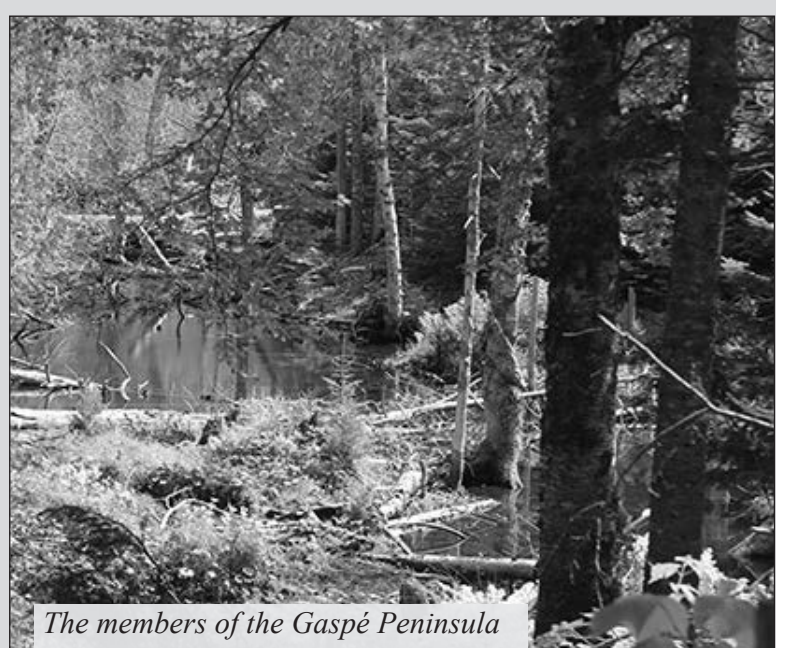
The Wood Producers Syndicate has found a solution regarding general management.

“We have had discussions with the UPA (Union des producteurs agricoles), a very close organization. We share the same building, a lot of our

members are also UPA members and we are sharing some resources with the organization. The UPA director general, Guy Gallant, has agreed to integrate some managerial tasks like human resources, maintaining viable union activities and finances to his existing load,” further explains Mr. Arsenault.

The Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers Syndicate has about 1,800 members among the region’s 7,000 to 8,000 woodlot owners. About 300 to 400 of them sell wood on an annual basis.

Yearly, the organization sells between 350,000 and 500,000 cubic metres of wood to various industries, mainly based in the Gaspé Peninsula but also in the Lower Saint Lawrence and New Brunswick.



The members of the Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers Syndicate will be managed differently.

Photo: G. Gagné

Last year, the volume was down to 275,000. The sales reached close to \$15 million. “The negotiations with the wood hauling truckers and a problem with the Groupe

Lebel sawmill in Nouvelle-related to a contract previously signed with the company, reduced the volume of wood sold by the syndicate,” says Pierre-Luc Arsenault.

Another promising year on the Gaspé rivers

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The salmon fishing season on the three Gaspé rivers promises to be a record year in terms of attendance, a situation that the management of the Société de gestion des rivières de Gaspé is taking with great calmness.

"From the point of view of reservations during the winter draw, we have broken records again this year. We have more participation than last year, which was already a record. It is quite exceptional what we are currently experiencing," says the director, Rémi Lesmerises.

It is difficult to provide a precise spinoff figure because we do not know if these people will bring their companions, but one could estimate several hundred additional people.

"We still have 250 winners for the York River draw, 150 for Saint-Jean and 50 for Dartmouth. There are still holes in August when the fishing is more difficult, but the calendar

is quite full," he says.

The director does not dare speak of an attendance record.

"It's hard to say. Last year, we set out to break a record, but we did not break it because we had very difficult conditions in August which made fishing difficult, and caused a reduction in traffic. On the other hand, in June and July, we were beating (the attendance record of) 2021. We are always at the mercy of the weather conditions and the upstream runs," explains Mr. Lesmerises.

Last year, the number of fishing days in sectors 1 and 2 on the Saint-Jean River reached 749 compared to 799 in 2021.

On the York River, there were 4,743 fishing days compared to 5,328 in 2021. The Dartmouth River is doing a little better with 1,449 fishing days last year compared to 1,504 in 2021.

It is difficult to predict the effects the "dry" winter will have on the region's rivers.

"It is certain that less snow



Photo: Gaspé Rivers Management Society

The salmon fishing season will be very busy this summer on the Gaspé rivers.

in winter recharges the groundwater less. On the other hand, in the end, in July and August, if there is no rain, the water tables alone are not sufficient to maintain high levels. Higher water tables will delay low water levels (in the rivers), but rainfall, is also a factor," says the director. He adds that, after the month of June, any ef-

fect from the amount of snow received no longer factors in.

The last time the economic spinoffs generated from the rivers in Gaspé were calculated was in 2012, at that time it was suggested that they generated \$5 million in spinoffs.

"It's something we would like to know. There are things that have happened since that

time. There are many more fishermen, and the cost of living has increased. A day (of fishing) costs more than in 2012. It is certain that we have exceeded that. We are working on this with the Quebec Atlantic Salmon Federation to update the economic spinoffs," says Mr. Lesmerises.

Returns last year were particularly strong. On the Saint-Jean River, it was exceptional situation that had not been seen since 1994.

By the end of the 2022 season, 1,239 large salmon, 346 grilse and 361 anadromous brook trout were caught on the Saint John River. On the York River, the results were even more impressive with catches of 1,312 large salmon, 339 grilse and 71 anadromous brook trout, such numbers that had not been seen since the early 2000s.

The Dartmouth River was an exception with 669 large salmon, 240 grilse and nine anadromous brook trout.

This year's salmon fishing season opened on May 25.

Activities are resumed at the Grande-Rivière sorting centre

NELSON SERGERIE

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - The Grande-Rivière sorting centre resumed its activities on May 24 following a breakdown that stopped a conveyor for 12 days.

According to Nathalie Drapeau, who is the director of the Régie intermunicipale de traitement des matières résiduelles of the Gaspé Peninsula, there was a delay in delivery of the part and the supplier had to come to the site to install it. She adds, "The contractor's team has

worked hard and we now have a sorting centre that has resumed its functions."

About 100 tonnes of recyclable materials were diverted to other centres during the suspension of activities. Repairing and transporting the materials to the other plants will cost citizens between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

Recently, brake discs, metal bars and even an engine were found in blue bins.

The management of the facility hopes that this breakdown will make citizens

more aware of the necessity to sort materials properly.

"We had a lot of messages of support. The message reached a large number of users. We are hopeful that the messages have been heard and that we will be able to

measure the results over the next few days," says Ms. Drapeau. However once again on May 25, a metal bar was put in a blue bin in the Gaspé region.

The management is always available to support

anyone who has questions and citizens are also encouraged to download the app "Ça va où", which indicates what is accepted at the sorting centre. Note: the app is available in English, and specific to each municipality.



Photo: Courtesy

On May 25, a metal bar was again visible in a recycling bin.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are invited to join us:

-  Wednesday, June 21st, 2023
-  4:00 PM
-  Via Zoom

Please RSVP by Friday, June 16th, 2023 by private message to the Facebook page, by e-mail to familyties@telus.net or by calling 418-752-7265

A Zoom link will be forwarded to you.

Head injuries can be reduced with a safe helmet

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - Between 2016 and 2019, 41% of young people aged 13 to 17 who fell while biking were not wearing a helmet, a proportion that rises to 61% in the case of accidents while skateboarding, according to federal data about health.

That's why the The Never Without My Helmet organization is conducting the *Avec toute ma tête* awareness campaign throughout the province of Quebec. The organization aims to raise awareness among the population, especially young people about the importance of wearing a helmet, which is an essential protective tool in the event of a fall.

According to a report by the National Institute of Public Health (INSPQ), more than a quarter of the patients hospitalized for trauma associated with cycling in Quebec from 2007 to 2015 suffered a cranio-cerebral injury.

"Helmet use is a critical piece of equipment to achieve this outcome to prevent preventable deaths and injuries.



Founder and director of *Avec toute ma tête*, Simon Poulin, Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté, MNA for Gaspé Stéphane Sainte-Croix and Gaspé Ambassador Jean-François Tapp.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Since the pandemic, skate-parks and pump tracks have become more popular. More users mean more risk of falls and collisions," says Simon Poulin, founder and director of *Avec toute ma tête*.

Mr. Poulin, who stopped in Gaspé on May 18, was accompanied by Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé,

Stéphane Sainte-Croix; mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté; and Gaspesia événements, Gaspé Peninsula ambassador and running events director, Jean-François Tapp.

"It is with a dad's heart that I agreed to act as an ambassador. As the father of three young children who move a lot, I know that the helmet

saves a lot of worries," says Mr. Tapp.

Mr. Tapp had a message for parents: "We still have to lead by example. I regularly see families on bike paths where the kids all have their helmets on, but Mom or Dad aren't wearing them. The responsibility of the parent is not just to buy it, but also to wear it," says the ambassador who also reminds us that as soon as a helmet shows a sign of weakness, it must be dis-

posed of immediately.

The mayor of Gaspé explained an event that happened to him a few years ago: "Although it has become natural to protect your head in hockey, it is not yet natural to do so at the skatepark, the pump track or on a bike path. I can testify to the impacts of a concussion. I suffered a severe one seven or eight years ago. I still have consequences today in terms of memory lapses, headaches, difficulty concentrating, consequences that follow us all our lives. A helmet allows us to avoid these after-effects," says Mr. Côté.

Thanks to the support of various public and private partners, in collaboration with organizations working in all regions of Quebec, and the initiative *Avec Tout ma Tête* in 2023, 23,000 bicycle helmets will be donated to children from low income families.

Over the years, the tour has donated more than 30,450 bicycle helmets in addition to having visited more than 2,934 schools and reached 328,000 students to raise awareness about wearing protective helmets.

Created in 2013, *Avec Toute ma Tête* is a nonprofit organization, funded by grants, donations and various fundraising activities.

Louis Bujold retires after 33 years in the education sector

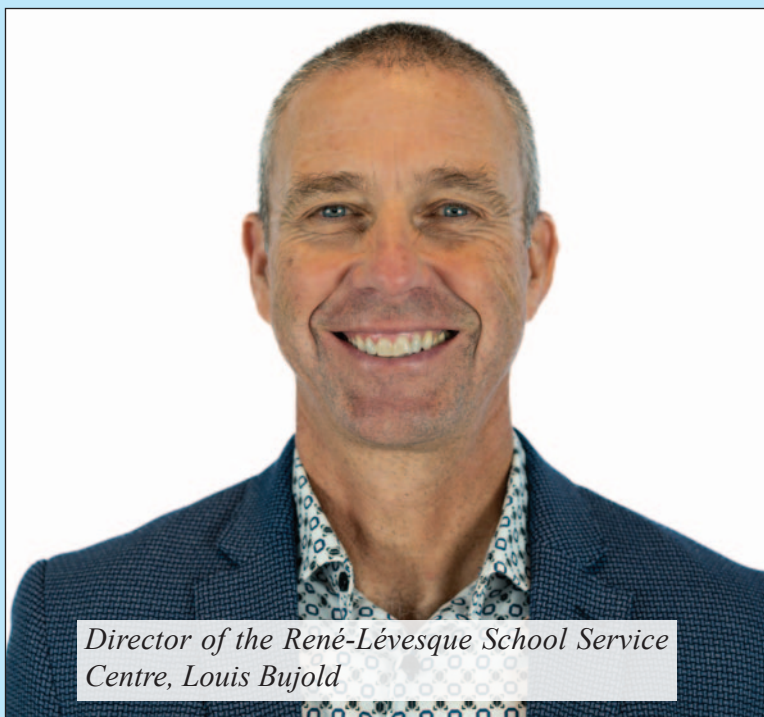
NELSON SERGERIE

BONAVENTURE – On May 26, the director general of the Centre de services scolaire René-Lévesque retired from a career in education that spanned 33 years.

He began his teaching career at the Magdalen Island campus of the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles before going to teach at the Carleton-sur-Mer campus for ten years. Subsequently, Mr. Bujold became director of the Carleton-sur-Mer campus before moving to Gaspé to take up the position of director of studies for the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles.

He has spent the last five years at the head of the Centre de services scolaire René-Lévesque.

"The reality has changed with many great challenges and great achievements. I shared with my team in the last weeks a look at what the Gaspé Peninsula was like 25 or 30 years ago and what it is like now. I think there are a lot of



Director of the René-Lévesque School Service Centre, Louis Bujold

Photo: Courtesy of the René-Lévesque School Service Centre

these changes that are a result of education," analyzes the outgoing director.

Mr. Bujold remains humble when asked what he has been most proud of throughout his career in education. "No matter what position I held, it was always to have the success and well-being of our students in mind and as a priority. This is a bit what marked my time in

these organizations, whether in the distribution of financial resources or human resources, regardless of the achievements, they have always been made with this spirit," says Mr. Bujold, who has stayed the course despite reforms or upheavals such as the pandemic.

Mr Bujold intends to take up the hobby of carpentry, after a summer of cycling.





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Travelling to or from the Gaspé can be difficult

DIANE SKINNER

Over the years it has become more difficult and costlier to travel to and from the Gaspé Peninsula.

The train, which at one time ran every day and provided more amenities, such as a dining car open to all, now only gets travellers as far as Matapédia or Campbellton, New Brunswick. Bus travel is difficult for many who have any mobility challenges. Travelling by plane has become very costly, and more so since the pandemic. Bathurst, New Brunswick, airport is on the verge of closing this summer because it has been operating on a deficit.

It seems travellers are no longer using the airport as much as they did before the pandemic. Currently, Air Canada offers four passenger flights weekly. Before March 2020, Air Canada offered multiple flights per day! Explicitly, before the pandemic, 40,000 to 50,000 passengers per year used the Bathurst airport. That number is currently at 15,000 a year mainly due to the limited schedule. The timing of those flights is a challenge for coordinating with other connecting flights.

I recently spent six hours at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Airport (also known as Dorval Airport) in Montreal, landing there from Toronto at 2 a.m. and departing at 8 a.m. That experience was not as pleasant as it sounds! More about that further down in this article. Flying to the Town of Gaspé is enormously expensive. More about that also. Please read on.

These travellers share their travelling challenges and frustrations and, certainly, there are many more distressing accounts.

Darlene Gallon-Chang

Darlene travels home from the west coast each summer to visit her parents Doreen and Vincent Gallon who live in New Carlisle. She dubs her trip “The Long Way Home.”

“Coming from Vancouver, it is like the movie, Planes, Trains and Automobiles. There’s a lot of planning that goes into this ‘Down Home’ trip. Also, it is more costly than travelling to Asia! On some trips, you even have to rent a hotel depending on your connections. If you can get to the Bathurst Airport and don’t have someone to pick you up,



Rob Hackett is astonished at the cost of flying to the Gaspé Peninsula

Photo: Courtesy of Rob Hackett

well now, you must rent a vehicle but we do it because we want to get where our family is.”

This year Darlene plans to travel to Quebec City and will be picked up at the airport by her sister who is travelling from Ontario to the Gaspé by car. They will have to stay in a hotel that night (about \$200), plus the cost of gas and food. Flying to Bathurst from Vancouver (no direct flights) would cost \$1,210 per person and to rent a car would cost \$2,099 at a rate of \$131 per day.

Mitchell Fournier

Mitchell Fournier, who travelled from Montreal to Gaspé with his wife and child, purchased tickets at a cost of \$500 per person. Mr. Fournier was feeling so frustrated about multiple delays that he posted comments on Facebook about the difficulties and challenges of flying to his home in the Town of Gaspé.

“For three days in a row our flights have been cancelled from Montreal to Gaspé.” He adds, “PAL airlines, something must change. You provided everyone with hotels, food, a taxi and even clothes for the inconvenience. What a waste of money and our time, especially when there is a plane that leaves from Quebec City to Gaspé half-empty, in a time when we are trying to be more ‘green’ (environmentally conscious). This makes no sense to me. For us, it’s not so bad but for doctors trying to get to Gaspé to help sick patients this is unacceptable. We are going back in time for transportation services.” (To PAL airlines) “Don’t book flights if you don’t have a pilot available. It would be best to have three

flights per week that you can respect rather than flights every day that you cancel. Flights leave at hours when travellers can’t even catch connecting flights. What can we do as a population to fix this problem? If it keeps on like this, we won’t be able to develop our community as we are already considered to be an isolated region and the situation just keeps getting worse.”

Rob Hackett

Rob Hackett is originally from York Centre sector of Gaspé. Mr. Hackett currently resides in Lacombe, Alberta, and works all over western Canada. The last time he visited the Gaspé Peninsula was in 2020 when he flew out of Gaspé the day before the COVID restrictions began.

Rob informs us about that trip. “I flew out of Calgary directly to Gaspé and at that time Air Canada was the airline. It cost close to \$2,300 round trip, per person, and the rental car for 14 days was another \$1,400. In the 17 years that I have been flying back and

forth, the plane is never empty, always full. The runway at Gaspé needs to be extended to allow for larger planes so that Air Canada or WestJet could fly in. At the Bathurst, New Brunswick, airport you can’t even rent a car, so my next option is Fredericton! The challenge of travel to Gaspé is dollars and cents. For anyone, it feels like once you hit Quebec City any place east of there, we are forgotten in time.”

Rob used to travel home once or twice a year and states that in 2002 a round trip cost \$1,200. Today that same ticket is \$2,800! According to him the train is not the answer and that money should be put towards lengthening the airport runway to allow larger planes to land in Gaspé.

Anne MacWhirter

Anne MacWhirter and her husband Gordon MacWhirter are owners/operators of Gîte Macdale Bed and Breakfast in Hope. Anne reflects on the challenges that seniors face in getting to medical appointments in Montreal or Quebec City.

“In the Gaspésie, there is no life without a car. Even if you have a car and happen to be over a certain age, when medical trips become more frequent, it’s not a pleasant situation. Gone are the carefree days when we thought nothing of driving to Montreal or Quebec in one day. Now, especially for medical appointments, it takes planning to find a driver to take you to your appointment and to remain with you to drive home again. Most times, an overnight stay is needed because of fatigue.

Of course, we do have a daily bus service but that’s not for everyone. Going alone re-

quires a great deal of autonomy: changing buses, managing luggage, etc.

The train did provide a safer way to travel when faced with a long journey, comfort, a dining car, and great service. Now, a person still has to arrange transportation to Matapédia or Campbellton, and then find someone to get up before daybreak to fetch you on the return trip!

The best plan is to remain healthy and be able to avoid the hassle of long-distance travel. Sadly, many aren’t so lucky.”

Diane Skinner

I will not mention the incredible challenges of getting to the Gaspé during COVID. I will briefly comment on taking VIA rail in December 2022 when the train was full, delayed, and my seat was under dripping water all night in a very cold train car. (That train is always freezing overnight.)

My most recent travels here from Ontario were a challenge due to the very inconvenient scheduling of flights into Bathurst, New Brunswick. I flew from Toronto at 12:05 a.m. and arrived in Montreal at about 2 a.m.. Air Canada assured me that I could wait in the airport until my connection from Montreal to Bathurst departed at 8 a.m., the only flight available departing for Bathurst. That was not true. At 2:30 a.m., airport security asked all weary travellers to leave the arrivals area and exit to the departures area. There were fewer places to sit and we had to go through security again early that morning – which was a “madhouse”. Not pleasant at all. The cost of a one-way ticket, including taxes, and airport improvement fee was \$498.17!

Young author is honoured

Nelson Sergerie

MURDOCHVILLE: - On National Patriots’ Day (May 22), the Société nationale of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands presented Isaac Landry, 13, the first Patriote de la relève (next generation of patriot) award.

The young author is a two-time winner of the Kayak Kids’ Illustrated History Challenge. He won in 2021 for his story *La Résistance du Nord-Ouest*, which was accompanied by illustrations. His comic book-esque story depicts the events of the North-West Rebellion of 1885. In 2017, his comic-strip *Le rêve historique* about one of Jacques Cartier’s sailors in 1534 also won.

The Patriote de la relève is awarded to young citizens in recognition of their social and community involvement, or their brilliance in artistic, sporting, scientific or other disciplines

Kayak is a children’s magazine produced by *Canada’s History* magazine. It is geared toward 7 to 12-year olds. Each issue of the magazine has a theme and introduces children to the “who, what, when, where and why of Canada.”



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Café Coull offers coffee and lots more!

DIANE SKINNER

NEW RICHMOND: Behind every new business that opens is someone with a dream and hopes for a successful venture. Danika Coull had a dream, and it has become a reality since February 15. Initially, Danika approached two other people who she thought may have been interested in a joint venture of opening a unique coffee shop. When they declined, she said to herself, "Why not me?" The answer was a resounding, "Yes, you!" She says that she "had an idea blooming in her head."

She immediately set out to find a location in New Richmond and make it into a beautiful oasis where she could serve her customers specialty coffees, iced cappuccino and lots more. When you visit her café, you will see the dream has become a reality.

Café Coull offers unique events and recently Roxane Leblanc has offered mini tarot card readings on a Saturday afternoon for \$5. Musician Jean-



Danika Coull states "The future of coffee is looking great!"

Photo: Danika Coull

David Palmer also entertains customers in the coffee shop by playing guitar while they relax with a "Coull beverage" and a sweet treat. At the café, Danika sells products from Sexton's in

"Help yourself and heaven will help you" and "Where there is a will, there is a way" are both mottos that Danika lives by.

Cascapedia, including maple syrup, maple butter and mini maple cones. She also has "Volcano espresso" from Grande-Rivière for sale. At Coull Café all the coffee beans that are used have been roasted on the Gaspé Peninsula. An example of a local business supporting other local entrepreneurs! Everyone benefits!

The beverages and wide variety of sweet treats make for a difficult choice because they are so appealing. Coffee lovers will be satisfied with the vast choice of coffee-based drinks. The lemon milkshakes are made with drops of essential oil, as are the orange cinnamon milkshakes. Danika serves what she calls "chicken milk" – a blend of one fresh egg, maple syrup and a sprin-

gling of cinnamon. A sweet indulgence on her menu is the chocolate pistachio espresso served with a scoop of ice cream, and a choice of seven different toppings.

Danika, who is originally from Bonaventure, returned to the Coast after a 28-year absence. First putting down new roots in what she calls an 'old, abandoned chicken coop', she renovated her three-storey house, put in support beams, replaced the floor, and then installed electricity and plumbing. She then added insulation and a wood stove for the winter. She thanks her father and grandfather who were both carpenters because they taught her the skills to do all the work herself. This is, however, not her first renovation. In the past, she renovated a house in Shawinigan that was built in 1935. "I guess old buildings love me," says Ms Coull.

During her 28 years away from the Gaspé, Danika worked in Calgary as a

landscaper, in Schefferville and Kuujuaq. She also worked for two years as a prison guard in Nunavik and later as a daycare worker. Her travels and time brought her back to the Gaspé and to the dream (now reality) of opening Café Coull!

Café Coull is located at 114 boul. Perron Ouest in New Richmond. On Wednesdays at Café Coull, beverages are 25% off for health care workers with the presentation of I.D.



Photo: Facebook

The chocolate pistachio espresso with a scoop of ice cream is a delicious, sweet treat offered at Café Coull.

Indoor herb gardening - Start small and watch it grow!

Are you an avid gardener who is itching to get outdoors and prepare your garden? Maybe you have never gardened at all and you are curious and want to try your hand at growing some edible food indoors. You can start today if you have seeds, light soil and containers with drainage. The fun part is deciding what to grow in pots and planters in your kitchen and then moving them outside onto a deck or garden later on.

Gather cans, pots and planters. Herbs are ideal for indoor container gardens. Grow what you like to use, such as cilantro, basil, rosemary, oregano, chives, mint, parsley

and sage.

Place your pots and planters where they will get between four to six hours of sunshine daily. Direct sunlight is best. You will need to water your indoor plants more often than outdoor plants. Be cautious about overwatering (drowning) which can be deadly for your plants' roots and produce mold. Larger pots can handle more water. Important reminder: all containers should have drainage.

The soil you use in indoor containers should be lighter than outdoor garden soil. A lighter soil or mixing in a peat-based substrate (or an eco-

friendly alternative such as coconut coir) will be the healthiest choice for your herbs. Some suppliers sell soil that is specifically for container gardening. If you can find that, great. If not, add a substrate to your soil.

A common mistake is overcrowding the containers. This can lead to poor plant growth or cause the plants to die. If you plant several varieties of seeds, use plant markers to keep track of what you have planted. Always keep the package so you can refer to the directions at any point in your plant's growth cycle.

You need to water your containers more often so keeping

the soil rich and healthy is very important for maximum plant growth. If you have a compost pile that is a big plus. If not, and you want to get into container gardening, or outside gardens in a bigger way, starting a compost will be beneficial.

Making compost is a simple task. You will need three ingredients: green material, brown material and moisture (commonly rain water). Green materials include kitchen scraps, eggshells, coffee grounds and grass trimmings. Brown materials include fallen leaves, shredded tree branches, shredded cardboard, shredded news-

paper, hay and wood shavings. Turn the pile regularly. Note: What not to put in a compost pile – meat, dairy, fats, oil, wood treated with preservatives, dog or cat waste.

These skills will help you move one step towards more food self-sufficiency. That is a good thing.

If you are an experienced outdoor gardener, your skills will come in handy for indoor herb gardening. If you are a newbie to growing, trial and error will help you to improve those skills. As the herbs grow, simply snip bits to use. Food that you grow tastes the best.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Being more selective can enhance your life in many different ways, Aries. You often are judged by the company you keep, so think about that when starting new relationships.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Set up camp on the sofa for the next few days, Taurus. Enjoy the rest and relaxation. You don't have to be productive every minute of the day so don't feel guilty about your R&R.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Some interesting information

could be coming your way, Gemini. You just need to keep your ear to the ground and open to receive it. Others may want to get in on the news.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, this week you may find it easier to cut out superfluous spending or extravagant behavior than at other times. You may need to exert greater control and discipline.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

There's a fresh cosmic wind blowing your sails, Leo. This gives you all the energy you need to tackle projects or get moving in other ways. Embrace all of this energy.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Your romantic life is about to get even more exciting, Virgo. Date

nights are happening with greater frequency and you're likely to enjoy all of the extra attention.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

You'll likely feel more at ease having a big group of people around you during the next few days rather than heading out alone. Put away that lone wolf mentality for now.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Ambitious career goals could have you re-evaluating all of the choices you have made thus far, Scorpio. It might be time to venture off on new paths once you figure out the way.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, the call of the wild is quite strong right now. This means you might be right at home

on a hiking trip or a rafting trip. Make your plans and bring a friend.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, rather than being light-hearted, conversations could take a turn to the more serious, especially as they pertain to a health condition for someone you love.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, don't try to take on too many things yourself. You need to know when to ask for help this week, especially as your schedule gets even more filled up.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

This is the perfect time to get more organized, Pisces. Try to fit in time to sort and clean among all the other things on your itinerary.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 28

Seth Rollins, Wrestler (37)

MAY 29

Mel B, Singer (48)

MAY 30

Steven Gerrard, Coach (43)

MAY 31

Phillipa Soo, Actress (33)

JUNE 1

Tom Holland, Actor (27)

JUNE 2

Justin Long, Actor (45)

JUNE 3

Al Horford, Athlete (37)

Announcements



Visitation and Memorial Service

ASSELS: Charles Edwin

Please join the family for a visitation on Friday, June 2, 2023, at the Henri Thibodeau Funeral Home in New Carlisle from 7 to 9 p.m. for Charles Edwin Assels.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in New Carlisle with Rev. Joshua Paetkau officiating.

Thank you

The St. James Anglican Church of Port Daniel would like to thank all the sponsors who helped make the Annual Mother's Day Draw possible. Lobsters were donated by the following: Mark Renouf, Nicholas Renouf, Darren Walker, Donald Walker, Andrew Dow, Wayne Dow and E. Gagnon et Fils Ltée. The cake was donated by Pamela Huntington. The wine was donated by Mrs. Margaret Ramier and the boiler kit was donated by the church.

This year's tickets were sold by Landis Assels, Margaret-Ann Mauger and Pamela Huntington. Special thanks to all our supporters who bought tickets. 1000 tickets were sold for a grand total of \$2,500 with all proceeds going to St. James Anglican Church.

The winners of this year's draw are: Daniel Sullivan (20 pounds of lobster and boiler), Jason Higgins (20 pounds of lobster and cake), Kimberley Campbell (15 pounds of lobster and wine), and Yolande Chouinard (15 pounds of lobster). Congratulations to all the winners. To claim your lobsters, winners can call Landis between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 418-752-4236.

Announcement Prices

Obituary and Wedding → \$40
(picture + \$5)

Up to 300 words. If it is more, we will give you a quote.

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

Up to 20 lines. If it is more, we will give you a quote.

Deadline

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

PHOTO QUALITY

When submitting a photo for this page, please send in a digital photo (.jpg) to specs@globetrotter.net. You can also send your photo by mail.

It is essential that the photo is not a copy printed at home or by the funeral home.

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COAST ROUND-UP

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.

PORT DANIEL:

Three Star Golden Age Club

Tuesdays: Pétanque from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday evening to have fun and learn a new game. Cost is \$3.

HOPE:

Hope Baptist Church

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Funeral Association

June 18: The New Carlisle Funeral Association will be having a Father's Day Brunch at the

New Carlisle Chalet from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adults \$15, children ten and under \$10. Hope to see you all there.

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!

June 6: General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sor-

rel, 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, June 4
10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH

HOPE TOWN

Sunday, June 4
No Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, June 4

NEW CARLISLE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
PORT DANIEL
10 a.m. Morning Prayer

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Gesgapegiag girls win FNEC Inter-School finals

SHANNON GEDEON
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

GESGAPEGIAG: - Forty-two students from the Wejgwapniag School in Gesgapegiag took part in the 15th edition of the FNEC Inter-School Games between May 18 to 21 at the Laval University Sports and Physical Education Pavilion (PEPS) in Quebec City.

Each year, students from Wejgwapniag School proudly participate in the Inter-School games and this year the volleyball team, coached by Haley and Amber Jerome, and consisting of athletes between the ages of 16 and 18, won the gold medal and the championship banner in volleyball.

“They all played their hearts out. Last year they went and came in second place. This year they were determined to bring home the championship banner and first place medals. They practiced so hard for this all year and worked together each and every practice we had, and it all paid off for this exact moment,” says Coach Haley

Jerome proudly.

The community of Gesgapegiag showed its support to all the students who participated in the FNEC Inter-School Games by celebrating their accomplishments with a parade followed by a pizza/chicken meal upon their return.

In total, 28 schools with 80 teams and 903 students between the ages of 10 and 18 participated in this year’s First Nations Education Council (FNEC) Inter-School Games. Four major competitions took place over the four days including: floor hockey, volleyball, basketball and track and field.

The games are a result of a study carried out in early 2000 by the First Nations Education Council which revealed that the majority of council’s 22-member communities were without a sports and recreation policy, and that half of them had no programs of that kind in place. The main goals of the games are to promote healthy lifestyles, encourage kids to stay in school and foster academic success.



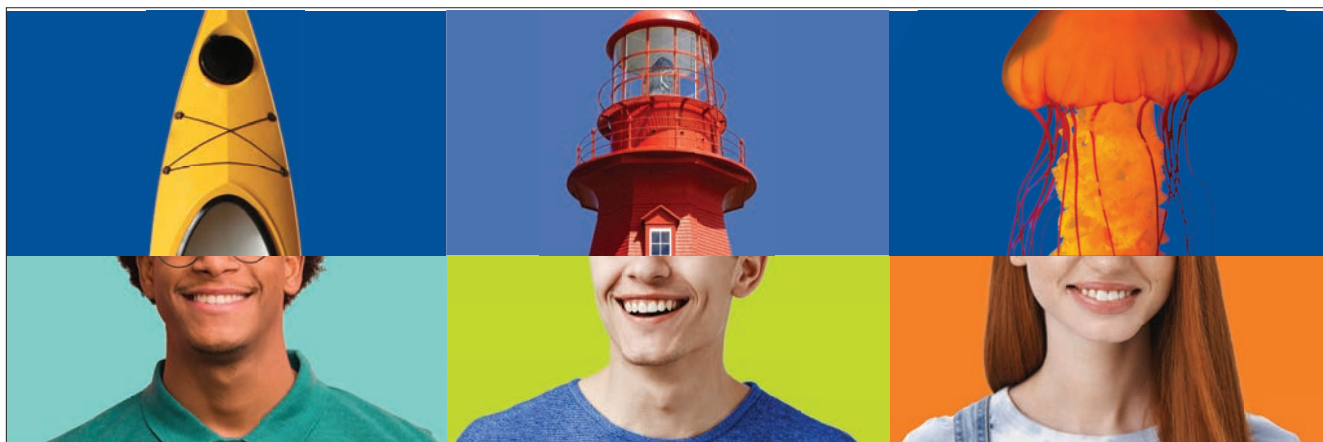
Coach Amber Jerome, Abbey Condo, Gina Condo, Mystie Jerome, Tenika Martin, Anastasia Jerome, Malia Caplin and Coach Haley Jerome.

Photo: Shannon Gedeon



The 42 students from Gesgapegiag who took part in the FNEC Inter-School Games, along with their coaches.

Photo: Jimmy Martin



Exchange course bursaries

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