

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH PROTECTION:

Cases of neglect and emotional abuse continue to dominate retained reports

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – On June 13, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Youth Protection Department, along with its counterparts throughout the province released their annual reports. In its annual report the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Youth Protection Department states that there were 1,977 reports placed in the 2022-2023 year which is a decrease of 5%. In 2021-2022. There were 2,068 reports placed to the Youth Protection Department.

Consequently, the number of retained reports decreased in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands from 692 last year to 681 this year. That is to say 34.43% of cases were retained in 2021-2022, which is within the provincial average.

In the region, cases of neglect and emotional abuse continue to dominate the retained reports, representing 50.51% of them.

Psychological mistreatment represented 25.18% of the retained reports, which is more than the provincial average of 18.66%.

"I couldn't give you a scientific explanation. We're a little different from Quebec in that respect. The abuse involves serious separation conflicts, family violence and conjugal violence. It's something we're trying to see to, but above all to work on beforehand. We need to work with our partners, community organizations and shelters, to find solutions and services before we get to the DJP (French acronym for Department of Youth Protection)," explains Michelle Frenette, Director of Youth Protection for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

It should be noted that the reports retained in Aboriginal communities fell sharply, from 23 to 19 in Listuguj and from 50 to 30 in Gesgapegiag.

"We have a really good working relationship. DPJ and



The director of youth protection in the region, Michelle Frenette.

Photo: N. Sergerie

these two communities talk regularly. We have training and follow-ups. They do their own interventions on my behalf in their community. Their goal is to prevent the DPJ from having to intervene. The work and the partnership means that there are fewer offenders in the communities," says Ms. Frenette.

The DPJ handled 250 new situations in 2022-2023 for a total of 761, up 9%.

Of these, 65% of the children involved remained with their family or in their significant environment, 30% were placed with foster families and 6% were moved to a rehabilitation centre.

The Youth Protection Department does its utmost to keep young people in the MRC to which they belong but, at times, for the best interest of the young person, he or she is sent to another MRC.

Priority cases, which are Code 1 and Code 2 are processed without delay.

Thirty children, who were signaled and initially assessed as Code 3, received an intervention within four days.

"However, our average response time is two weeks. We quickly try to see which children are waiting. We keep an eye on them to see if we need

we've decided that the DPJ must stay with the family, I was talking about the fact that we had a certain shortage of manpower in the application of measures, and that's something that's now being resolved, because we have practically no more children waiting for a follow-up in the application of measures, which is excellent news, because we don't want any children waiting," she points out.

The theme of this year's annual report is Balancing into the Future with a focus on the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Regarding this issue, 118 adolescents were taken into custody in the past year. The primary objective is to divert situations from the criminal justice system, which resulted in 51 cases where decisions had to be applied by the court.

"In recent years, there has been a significant decrease in the services offered to young offenders in Quebec. Two years ago in our region, we saw a decrease of almost 25% in files, which is still significant in our region," says Ms. Frenette.

The cases include assault, mischief and quarrels between people.

"We're particularly seeing

an increase in sexual offences. This is a cause for concern. In our region, we have trained our delegates to provide better support for young people who commit sexual offences. It's not just in our region. It's on the rise everywhere in Quebec," adds the director.

Of the cases submitted, 42 had extrajudicial sanctions applied and two where the interventions were terminated, which represents 44 cases where the sanctions were fulfilled. In only one case, the sanction was not completed and the case returned to court. Five cases received further decisions and two were referred to the Crown.

Of the number of cases that have been assigned to the court, 12 have been the subject of a pre-sentence report, where an expert advises the judge on the recommendations to be applied.

The impact of the pandemic is not yet clearly established on the morale of children since scientific studies are only just beginning to be published.

"We notice in the report, a certain distress in terms of the risk of suicide among young people. It is also not easy in terms of school attendance," says the director.

"On the other hand, we've done a lot of partnerships and frontline services and putting our stakeholders ahead of the DPJ is really important. Our partners are calling on CISSS services more and more," adds the director.

In terms of human resources, the DPJ is also impacted by the labour shortage. "It is a challenge in our region and in Quebec, to obtain more manpower, to retain them, to train them. It is clear that the issue of human resources remains present and will remain in the years to come. We work very hard to try to keep people in youth protection to support the children," says the director, mentioning that the workers are an important DJP prevention tool.



Photo: DPJ-CISSS of Gaspésie

The Department of Youth Protection presented the data for the past year for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands region.

Gaspé Peninsula CISSS projects a \$34-million deficit

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) is submitting a budget deficit of \$34 million for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Using independent labour to make up for the shortage of workers is hurting the network financially and accounts for \$25 million of the projected deficit.

Inflation accounts for \$6 million to the balance sheet, with \$1.2 million for radiology and another \$1 million for medication.

"We're putting these figures on the back burner, and we don't want to put any pressure on our other activities. We're not the only ones in Quebec to make this kind of presentation," explains Martin Pelletier, President and Chief Executive Officer of CISSS de la Gaspésie.

The challenges are similar across the province and discussions are taking place with the Ministry of Health.

"We are listened to. We are worried because we are starting with big figures but it is well understood the reasons which bring us to this figure. The figures are realistic and the ministry conceives it," analyzes the CEO.

While the CISSS feared a deficit for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, cash inflows at the end of the year made it possible to balance the budget.

"These are figures that we could not put in the books because we had no confirmation of income. We got confirmation of income and we were able to finish with a balance once again," explains Mr. Pelletier.

The final figures are still being calculated with the auditors.

The Gaspé Peninsula CISSS has never filed a budget with a deficit since its creation in 2015.

Martin Pelletier arrived at the head of the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS a year ago and the board of directors reiterated its confidence in its president and CEO in a public meeting on Thursday afternoon.



Photo: N. Sergerie

The President and CEO, Martin Pelletier.

In his eyes, he has a good record. "I managed to fit into an organization that needed someone to trust. I managed to create this bond of trust. Now it will be to keep it. I know it's not going as fast as the world would like, but we've done some things that show the changes, including the collaboration with the SIIEQ (Union of Nurses, Auxiliary Nurses and Respiratory Therapists of Eastern Quebec)," says Mr. Pelletier.

He also wishes to continue his work on sustainable development, consolidate the management office and reassure employees in the transition to Santé Québec.

When it comes to the work environment itself, the actions taken are concrete. "But it's still fragile because it doesn't take much. People are tired. We are fragile in terms of human resources and presence. It just takes one less resource and the service becomes unbalanced but there are transformations that we are in the process of making that will help," says Mr. Pelletier.

It must be said that the new leader arrived following the tabling of an Auditor General of Quebec report which looked into the administrative management and governance of the CISSS.

The Auditor General of Quebec, Guylaine Leclerc, made five major observations: lack of rigour in hiring and inadequate management of serv-

ice contracts; work environment issues; poorly protected personal information; and lack of respect for governance rules.

"We had statutory meetings with them. Recently, I had one with the entire report-writing

team in the Gaspésie in anticipation of their visit a year and a half before the implementation of the action plan. This visit is scheduled for the fall. Currently, they are satisfied with the action plan," indicates the CEO who adds that the action plan can be implemented over three years.

"We installed an internal auditor. It was measure zero of the action plan and she is starting her audit by sampling (verifying recommendations) and, in the fall, there will be results that we can present to the auditor. We may not need to do a second audit depending on the results. All of this is done in good trust between the two groups," says Mr. Pelletier, who mentions that the active plan is about 70% complete.


"The big job remains to put into practice the things we said we were going to do," concludes Mr. Pelletier.

As for the SIIEQ, their


president, Pier-Luc Bujold, is satisfied with the first year of relations established with Martin Pelletier.

"It is going well. Mr. Pelletier is a positive leader. The collaboration is there. The listening is there. The spirit of developing and thinking outside the box and listening to ideas and making action plans with that, we have it. There is all the fertile ground to improve the situation at the CISSS de la Gaspésie," comments Mr. Bujold.

The context of shortage adds an additional challenge and forces us to innovate. Mr. Bujold notes that he responds whenever a problem arises. "In our learning organization project, we take solutions from the ground up and take them into consideration. It's a collaboration with decentralization in terms of management and governance, and that has its positive effects," says Mr. Bujold.



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



Pêches et Océans
Canada

Canadian Navigable Waters Act: Development of multi-species artificial reefs

Fisheries and Oceans Canada hereby gives notice that an application has been made to the Minister of Transport, pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*, for approval of the works described herein, its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the said Act, Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Small Craft Harbours – has deposited with the Minister of Transport on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (<https://common-project-search.canada.ca/>) and under registry number **6995**, or under the NPP File Number **2023-308352**, a description of the following works, its site and plans:

- Development of multi-species artificial reefs located at approximately 48°8'7.60" N - 65°54'2.01" W, in Chaleur Bay, in the New Richmond sector, in the unorganized territory of the Bonaventure RCM, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region, Province of Quebec.

Comments regarding the impact of these works on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above referenced number) or if you do not have access to the Internet, by sending your comments directly to:

Transport Canada, Navigation Protection Program
1550 d'Estimauville Avenue, Québec, QC G1J 0C8

Transport Canada (TC) will not make your comments on a project in the online registry available to the public. However, any information related to a work is considered as unclassified, in public domain, and may be accessible upon legal request. As such, the information and records provided should not contain confidential or sensitive data. If you want to provide confidential or sensitive information that you think should not be made public, please contact TC before submitting it.

However, comments will be considered only if they are in writing (electronic means preferable) and are received not later than 30 days after the publication of this notice. Although all comments related to the above will be considered, no individual responses will be sent.

Posted at New Richmond, Quebec, this 21th day of June, 2023.

Canada

Public Notice

At a special meeting held on April 4, 2023, it was agreed to dissolve the legal person non-profit organization Contact Environnement.

The dissolution was moved by Kim Simpson and seconded by Arleen Rabey.

Arleen Rabey, May 1, 2023
Kim Simpson, May 15, 2023

Police report



Photo: G. Gagné

The murders of a young girl and a young man took place on a property on Riverside Drive, Listuguj.

The preliminary hearing of Brandon Metallic, 30, from Listuguj, who is charged with two counts of unpremeditated murder was held between June 12 and June 16 at the New Carlisle Courthouse. The accused chose to defend himself but the Quebec Court has appointed two lawyers to assist him during the preliminary hearing and thereafter.

A young girl and a man in his twenties were the victims of the murders which took place in broad daylight at a house located on Restigouche Drive on May 15, 2021. A publication ban on the identity of the two victims has been in place since mid-May 2021. This publication ban also does not allow details to be revealed during the testimonies of witnesses during the preliminary hearing.

The preliminary hearing procedure aims to demonstrate whether there are enough elements collected during the police investigation to bring the case to trial. On May 16, 2021, a few weeks after being charged, Brandon Metallic underwent a round of psychiatric evaluations to rule if he was fit to stand trial. At some point in his evaluation, he was deemed unfit to stand this eventual trial, but further treatment at the Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute in Montreal changed that assessment. The accused, however, was unable to either find or retain the services of a lawyer, after he first expressed the idea of representing himself.

This element prompted the court to appoint Mr. Hugo Caissy, from Amqui's Legal Aid Service to cross-examine the witnesses, as well as Chandler's Ms. Ariane Cayer as a friend of the court, so that she could help Brandon Metallic to progress in the inherent steps, the conduct of a preliminary investigation and a trial, including paperwork. A week was set aside for the preliminary hearing.

On June 7, a vehicle arriving from outside the region was intercepted by the Sûreté du Québec in New Richmond. This interception led to a major narcotics seizure. In the vehicle, a large quantity of drugs was discovered. The driver, Ghislain Larocque, 52, from Paspebiac was arrested. A search later took place at his home on Duguay Street in Paspebiac where the police discovered other narcotics. In all, police officers seized more than 100 grams of cocaine, nearly 3,000 methamphetamine tablets, cash, several traffic-related items and a vehicle. The suspect appeared on June 8 at the New Carlisle Courthouse to face charges of drug trafficking, possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking and possession of methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking. Following his appearance, Ghislain Laroque remained detained pending his return to court scheduled for a later date. This investigation began a few weeks ago following information received from the public.

The number of people killed and injured in road accidents in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands declined in 2022, according to road safety data published recently by the Société de l'assurance-automobile du Québec, the SAAQ. Nine people lost their lives on the region's roads last year. It represents a decrease of 16.7% compared to the 2017 to 2021 average. Twenty people were seriously injured, a decrease of almost 24% compared to the average of the last five years, and the minor injuries are down 10% with a total of 397 people injured. The number of deaths on the roads in Quebec reached 392 in 2022, an increase of 13.2% compared to the average of 2017 to 2021, while the number of accident victims is down 10.4%.

Isaac Moffat-Swasson, 31, from Listuguj, who is charged with armed robbery, forcible confinement and uttering three death threats, will return to a Quebec City court on June 26. "Mr. Moffat-Swasson no longer has a lawyer and he is trying to find one," explains criminal prosecutor Maxime Rocheville-Paradis, of the New Carlisle Courthouse. He is still in charge of the file despite the fact that Isaac Moffat-Swasson's trials will eventually be conducted outside the Bonaventure judicial district. The accused is now expected to inform the court of his attempts to find a new lawyer.

The crimes he faces mostly go back to the winter and the spring of 2019. The above-mentioned charges laid against Isaac Moffat-Swasson are linked to events that occurred on February 21, 2019, in Listuguj. Initially, the trial in that case was supposed to take place in December 2020 but it was repeatedly postponed because the accused could not find a lawyer. One of the lawyers he found was Marcel Guérin, of Sorel, but he died in April 2021. Mr. Guérin's associate, Réginal Victorin, took over the case but, at one point, he and the accused could not agree and they decided to go their own ways.

Isaac Moffat-Swasson must also face numerous charges in another case on April 30, 2019. He allegedly caused damage at the New Carlisle prison. He is accused of breaking a toilet bowl, a sink, pipes, electronic devices and other prison equipment. A wing of the prison was closed following those actions. A section of eight cells still has not been repaired. He also caused damage in a Quebec City prison following his transfer from New Carlisle.

Denis Minville, 76, from Cloridorme, died on June 13 during an afternoon fishing excursion at Lac de l'Écureuil, located in the same village. "The family of Mr. Minville started to worry near supper-time because he hadn't come back. They called the police and we accompanied them when they went to the lake around 7 p.m.," explains Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Louis-Philippe Ruel. They found the boat overturned and the victim deceased in the water. "There is no criminal element linked to the case and the file is closed," adds Officer Ruel.



VILLAGE
Real Estate Agency

Suzanne Landry

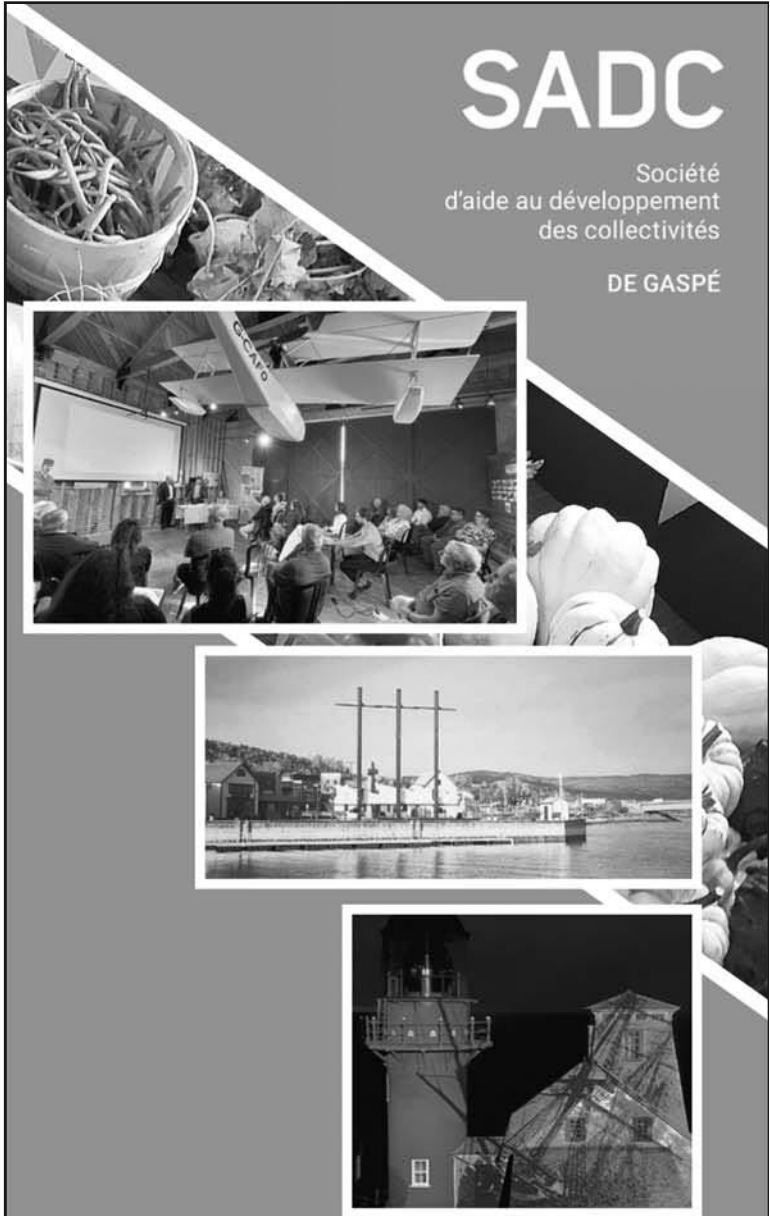
CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE BROKER AEO
418-752-0792
suzannelandry@royallepage.ca
www.suzannelandry.ca

**Friendly bilingual service
from Matapedia to Port Daniel
24 years experience**

THEGASPESEC.COM

418-752-5400

specs@globetrotter.net



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In 2022-2023, the Gaspé SADC invested in 70 business and local economic development projects. To take stock of this memorable year, we invite everyone interested in economic development in the Côte-de-Gaspé region to our Annual General Meeting.

In addition to a review of investments, we will be presenting our favourite projects and the actions planned for the coming year. The AGM will be followed by a cocktail reception.

**Tuesday, July 4, 2023, 5 pm
Chalet des sports de Cloridorme**

**To register or to apply to become a board member, please contact:
www.sadcgaspe.ca/aga2023**

Developpement économique Canada pour les régions du Québec appuie financièrement les SADC et les CAE
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions offers a financial support to the SADC and the CAE



Développement
économique Canada
pour les régions du Québec

Canada Economic
Development
for Quebec Regions



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

A failure to recognize a problem rarely fixes it

It is difficult to solve a problem when some of the people who are in charge of it don't recognize that it exists. The Coalition avenir Québec government of François Legault failed to admit during the first three-and-a-half years of its first term that there is a housing crisis in Quebec.

Premier Legault finally admitted that there was a housing crisis in April 2022, six months before the ensuing October election. The measures his government has implemented in order to solve the crisis are equivalent to going to war with a sling-shot. There is very little evidence proving that the government is taking the problem seriously.

On many occasions, Mr. Legault or his ministers responsible for finding solutions have expressed an opinion to the effect that the private sector will mainly solve the problem.

The private sector is essentially interested in making money, not solving a crisis. Barring a few exceptions, the private sector will invest in the type of housing most likely to ensure the maximum yield on investment. In most cases, renting luxury apartments represents the best way to capitalize on the amount invested.

However, the crisis affects all cross sections of the population. If wealthier people can find a solution by either buying a condominium or renting an upper-class apartment, it leaves a majority of people looking for a roof without viable options.

So far, the Coalition avenir Québec government has fared quite poorly in this issue. First of all, Premier Legault and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Andrée Laforest, waited until statistics revealed that 14 Quebec towns with more than 40,000 inhabitants were experiencing a vacancy rate inferior to 1% before admitting the existence of a housing shortage.

How many smaller towns like Gaspé experience the same shortage? It is hard to know. By the way, the vacancy rate in Gaspé is zero percent. It is close to zero in other Gaspé Peninsula towns and villages as well.

Minister Laforest blamed it on the pandemic, saying that her government announced 15,000 new housing units following the October 2018 election, units that failed to materialize between then and April 2022.

Towards the end of that first term, in June 2022,

François Legault announced a new housing program to gradually replace Accès-Logis, an all-important affordable housing initiative. The premier didn't seem to realize that Accès-Logis was efficient. It was just underfunded.

The problem with the premier's new program is that it duplicated services that were already there. As is the case with almost every new program, there is inertia to get it off the ground, concretely and figuratively. That's exactly what has been happening over the last year. The Programme d'habitation abordable Québec, Quebec's new affordable housing program, is barely getting started now, and the crisis has just gone worse.

July 1 is knocking at the door

Quebecers could not afford to wait for the new program to take off. When he appointed his new cabinet in October, François Legault created a new ministry devoted to housing, run by France-Hélène Duranceau. So far, Minister Duranceau has been far from impressive, expressing a viewpoint that has been repeated over and over since the CAQ's rise to power. The private sector will play an increasingly important role in solving the housing sector.

It hasn't worked so far and chances are that it will not work better in the months to come.

The problem has reached such a level that numerous stakeholders from all horizons who are involved in housing wrote a letter to Premier Legault on June 13. Some of the stakeholders are eminent representatives of the private sector, by the way.

The letter is signed by mayors, different organizations defending tenants, owners and contractors, community groups, engineering firms and chambers of commerce. To put it short, we see signatures here that rarely, if ever, appear on the same letter. They ask the Quebec government to open the door to a concerted plan to organize it now in the role of an arbitrator instead of one or two years down the road.

The housing vacancy rate in Quebec currently stands at 1.7%. Traditionally, the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation, a public body keeping a close eye on the sector, figures that a vacancy rate between 3% and 4% is balanced. It has been below that for many, many years.

In 2023, the fall to a 1.7% vacancy rate coincides with the biggest drop in new constructions since 1995. It also coincides with an important inflation rate, which reached 6.8% in Canada last year, and 13 interest rate increases since the beginning of 2022, to counter inflation. The policy rate now stands at 4.75% after an early June rise of 0.25%.

People looking for a house or an apartment are consequently experiencing a perfect storm, in the

sense of an unwanted journey.

While we see projects here and there taking off the ground, like is the case in New Richmond and Carleton, there are very few ventures targeting low and middle income families.

In rural regions like the Gaspé Peninsula, few young families can afford to pay \$1,200 a month or higher for a two bedroom apartment. The same applies to people having reached retirement age or to low revenue workers. A well-balanced family budget should not be characterized by 50% of the money going to housing, as 25% is the normal proportion.

On July 1, the date when most people move, a fair number of people from all over Quebec will find themselves in a precarious situation because they will have to go back to their parents' place due to the lack of housing, or move to a friend's place, or to a seasonal trailer, a van, a camp and so on because there is a shortage of affordable units.

The price to pay is high, in social problems due to tensions, depression and shame, among others.

Does Quebec need a summit on housing? Yes, if it can be organized quickly and be held in September or October. It looks unlikely that the CAQ government will revert to such a solution. François Legault's regime has admitted a few mistakes since 2018 but it hasn't shown a capacity to act quickly and deal with social problems.

The housing shortage is not solely a social issue though. It is also an economic failure. When your main problem is to find housing, or when you have to fight in order to keep it, your energy level to start new ventures is low.

It is troubling to see that a man animated by the economy like François Legault fails to see the link between fine social conditions and economic health.

The CAQ's alleged indifference to the urgency of the situation is all the more unacceptable considering that the shortage was a reality upon the Liberal Party's defeat in October 2018. That party too had neglected to fund the Accès-Logis program properly.

The housing shortage can only worsen if not dealt with properly. More people want to move to Quebec and young families wanting to have children must be given the chance to do so.

What kind of crisis does the CAQ government need to make an inspired move? Government officials often think that the first year of the term is the right time to carry out dirty jobs because, come the next election, most uneasy issues will have been left behind.

The housing crisis is of a different nature. Dealing with it properly can only have positive effects. It however remains to be seen that François Legault will recognize the relevance of the housing stake.

Subscribe to Support Local Journalism!

You contribution makes trustworthy reporting possible.

The Gaspé Spec

ESTABLISHED • MAY 1975

208-B Gérard D. Levesque
New Carlisle, Que.
G0C 1Z0

Tel: 418-752-5400
specs@globetrotter.net
thegaspec.com

(Taxes included)
1-year (paper or digital): \$46
6-months (paper or digital): \$25
Outside Canada:
1-year paper \$165 digital: \$46

Published every **Wednesday** by:
Les Publications de la Côte Inc.
(Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)

Publisher:
Penny MacWhirter

News Editor:
Gilles Gagné

Office Manager:
Joan Imhoff

Circulation Manager:
Holly Smith

SPEC welcomes letters to the editor on subjects relevant to topics covered by the paper. Letters must be kept within 300 words or less and may be edited for clarity or to remove any slanderous, sexist, racist or homophobic statements. We reserve the right to reject any letters. Opinions or letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies or beliefs of this newspaper. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include the address and number(s) for verification purposes. (Address & phone number will not be printed.). The Publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.

JOURNALISTS:
Nelson Sergerie
Diane Skinner
Cynthia Dow,
Jeanie LeLacheur

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Elaine Sexton
Fred Kirch
Maria Chatterton
Bethany Paetkau
Hayden Sams,
Bonita Annett
Patricia Ste-Croix Annett
Roger Wise

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.
We acknowledge special funding from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

Hugh Wood will be retiring as director general from Eastern Shores School Board

● GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – This upcoming September, for the first time since 1969, Hugh Wood, the director general of the Eastern Shores School Board, will not be starting a new school year in the education system.

Mr. Wood, who is officially retiring as of July 1, has spent the last 35 years as an employee of a regional school board that has had several name changes since he started his career in the Magdalen Islands in 1988.

“To be honest, I have attended school every year since I was 4 years old. Every year since 1970, I returned to school in September as either a student, a teacher or an administrator. This September will be the first time in 54 years that I

will not be returning to school. Retirement may hit me more fully when September rolls around,” he points out.

Hugh Wood has seen a lot of changes during his career.

“The first year I taught at Entry Island there were four teachers (Dave Douesnard being one of them) and I believe somewhere around 40 students. Today the school is closed. Not because we closed it, but rather because there were no more school-aged children on Entry Island,” he says.

Some of the changes pertained to the very name and territory covered by the school board he worked for.

“I started on Entry Island under the Regional School Board of Gaspésie in September 1988. It was actually Lyn-

den Bechervaise that hired me. I stayed on Entry Island for four years and moved to the main islands in 1992 where I became the math, science and physical education teacher at Grosse Ile School. The school board changed names three times during my tenure. It changed from RSBG (Regional School Board of Gaspésie to the Gaspesia-The Islands School Board and finally to ESSB in 1998. I became the principal of Grosse Ile School in 2006. In addition to being the principal of GIS, I was in charge of several ESSB dossiers – adult education, human resources, etc. I was promoted to director general in 2019, just pre the COVID pandemic,” he explains.

Without the necessity to prepare for the next school



For the first time since 1969, Hugh Wood will not go back to school in September.

Photo: Courtesy ESSB

year, Hugh Wood will relax as far as the near future is concerned.

“As for my future plans, (there is) nothing special for

now. My wife and I purchased a motorhome and plan to do some travelling through Canada and the United States,” he says.

ESSB appoints Denise Simoneau as new director general

● GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE - The members of the Council of Commissioners of the Eastern Shores School Board announced on June 13 the appointment of Denise Simoneau to the position of director general of the school board. She will take up her role on July 1 when she will replace Hugh Wood who is retiring after a career in education that spans 35 years.

Ms. Simoneau holds a post-graduate diploma in people management in the workplace and a bachelor's degree in business administration. She has extensive experience at many levels of the educational environment, having worked for over twenty years in Gaspesian schools and held various management positions, especially in human resources.

The Council of Commissioners remark that “Ms. Simoneau’s career path is marked by creative thinking and a keen understanding of the different roles and challenges facing Quebec’s public school system. Her management style is based on rigour, transparency, integrity and a unifying, mobilizing leadership style. Her training, experience and bilingualism make her a director general whose communication and human relations skills will quickly be recognized and appreciated by employees and partners alike.”

Denise Simoneau is thrilled



Denise Simoneau will start her new mandate on July 1.

Photo: Courtesy ESSB

by her new role and her new responsibilities.

“As director general, I would be honoured to continue to work closely with the members of the council, the administrator’s teams and all employees to advance our Board’s vision and mission of cultivating inclusive learning communities from coast to coast and equipping our students, young and old, with the languages and skills they need to thrive in our multicultural communities and beyond,” she stresses.

Some challenges for the new director general

Denise Simoneau will have a few short-term challenges to tackle once she begins her new position of director general.

“As a new school year is about to begin, we must ensure

that we have the personnel in place to support the learning and teaching. Therefore, our goal will be to find the best qualified candidate to take on the role that I now occupy, the role of the director of human resources. In the meantime, I will continue to support the human resources (HR) team to meet the needs of our communities. We will also need to support the HR team to find the best candidates to join the ESSB family in various capacities, in the teaching, professional or support staff,” she says.

The eventual move of New Carlisle High School to a new building is one of the files Denise Simoneau will deal with once the back-to-school affairs will be behind her.

“This new chapter of my professional life promises to be most exciting and will surely

be filled with great moments, one of them being this new building project. As mentioned, we need to ensure continuity. I have worked in recent years closely with the current director general, Mr. Hugh Wood, and the assistant director general, Ms. Jane Bradbury. It will prove essential to meet promptly with Mr. Wood to seek information and to gather knowledge about current issues and upcoming key moments for the 2023-2024 school year. Then, I intend to also meet and discuss with Ms. Bradbury who will be my precious colleague in this new adventure that we are about to begin together. Sitting down with Mr. Wood and Ms. Bradbury, as well as key stakeholders, including our Council of Commissioners, and partners who will be part of this great project, discussing where we are positioned and making sure I possess the necessary and relevant information, and different contacts to ensure the continuity of this major project. This project is being driven, not by the director general, but by a whole ESSB team; so, I will just have to be brought up to date, support the endeavour and then be part of it all the way until completion,” explains Ms. Simoneau.

Denise Simoneau thinks her diversified background will be of great help in the coming years.

“Throughout my career, I am most proud to have served

the interests of young minds in the public sector since entering the profession. I possess an academic background in administration, financial planning, management, as well as in human resources. My professional background demonstrates creative thinking and a great understanding of the different roles and challenges of the public school environment in Quebec. My management style is based on rigour, transparency, integrity and “unifying and mobilizing leadership.” I am a passionate leader with strong organizational skills, coupled with a concern for rigour in the work to be done. Loyal and discreet, I am a professional who rises to challenges and whose flexibility, transparency and dedication are unquestionable. And, I do have a good sense of humour and a positive outlook on life, qualities essential when facing difficult situations.”

She describes herself as a “little anglophone” from Percé, Irishtown, who has lived on the Gaspé Coast all her life. She has three sons and two grandchildren. “I have spent the last 20 years in the education sector, having held various executive positions, particularly in human resources, namely for the last three years, for the Eastern Shores School Board as Director of Human Resources. When you cannot find me at the office or spending

Cont'd on page 11

Common Front Interunion holds its first protest

NELSON SERGERIE

CHANDLER - The Common Front Interunion held its first major regional protest on June 15 in Chandler to demand better working conditions.

This is the first “festive and noisy gathering” protest of members made up of union members affiliated with the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ), La Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ) and the Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS).

“This common front protest is a prelude to what will come this fall throughout Quebec. We are in the intensification phase of the mobilization,” warns the provincial representative of the APTS in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands and spokesperson for the Common Front,

Jenny Tardif. “We also want to point out to the population that public services are in danger. It is important for us that the government puts structural elements in place to attract and retain people in health and social services, education and higher education,” adds Ms. Tardif.

According to the Common Front, the average salary for public sector employees is \$43,916, the difference in salary is 11.9%, and the total compensation difference is at 3.9%.

“It is wrong to believe that people in the public sector are rich. We are very far from wealthy,” says the union representative who underlines that union members are there to explain their working conditions and answer questions from citizens.

The Common Front argues that whether in education, health or social services, the al-



The demonstrators gathered in front of the Chandler hospital to get the Quebec Government's attention.

Photo: The FLEXIBLE Box

ready difficult working conditions are made more difficult and more complex by the lack of personnel in all job categories.

To upgrade public sector jobs, the Common Front is calling for, in addition to a permanent mechanism to protect against inflation, an enrichment aimed at a general salary catch-up.

She claims that the amount

of \$100 per week is required for the year 2023 or the consumer price index (CPI) + 2% (whichever is more advantageous), the CPI + 3% for 2024 and, finally, CPI + 4% for 2025.

According to union members in the public sector, inflation is hurting workers extremely, giving examples of the price of butter, which has risen by 40%, broccoli by 42%,

pasta by 44%, and eggs by 14% in the last year.

Negotiations are progressing slowly.

“The government is essentially focusing on its priorities. Its offers are downright inadequate and it is also seriously attacking our pension plan. This is not how we are going to attract people and retain our people in the public sector,” concludes Ms. Tardif.

Three phases of work required to protect Percé's beach area

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ - Work to secure the Percé promenade, near the Normandie Hotel will be carried out in the western sector, which was damaged by a large storm last December.

Over the next year, three phases of work will be carried out, one of which is urgent.

“The first is to secure the westernmost part of the promenade where you can see the foundations of the promenade emptied. There is emergency work to be done in a few weeks for the tourist season,” explains the mayor of Percé, Cathy Poirier.

A second phase will take place in the fall to protect the beach from winter storms.

“Eventually, the big (beach) recharge would take place in the spring of 2024, according to the last meetings we had with the Ministry of Public Security. There could be changes, but the important thing is to make the walkway safe for pedestrians who will walk in this sector,” adds the mayor.

There is no certainty about the future stability once the major intervention in 2024 is carried out. The first beach re-loading was done in 2018.

“Will it last? I doubt it. These are dynamic structures. If we don't want them to clog up at the pebble level so that water can enter without damaging them, time will tell. This is work that

needs to be carried out on a recurring basis,” maintains the mayor.

The Ministry of Public Security will foot the bill since it was the December storm that damaged the beach following the first recharge.

“To tell you the truth, if there had been a correction in 2021 or 2022, we would not be here today. We've been asking the Department of Public Security to come and review the promenade for a long time. The municipality of Percé does not have the financial capacity to do maintenance every two, three or five years,” says Ms. Poirier who wants to work with the Quebec government to fix the situation.

“This work is much less costly than an engineered structure that could be more solid and massive, but requires monitoring and a partnership,” adds the elected representative.

“The future will tell us if we have to do it (the recharge) again,” she adds.

Nothing is planned for the Anse du Nord sector because it is primarily private land, unlike Anse du Sud where key municipal infrastructure is located.

“We are very aware that there is erosion in this sector. It's not simple. It is not the municipal responsibility and the beach does not belong to us but we are following the file closely,” explains the mayor.

In addition, the authorities

are working to find a solution to protect the beach and Rue de la plage in Coin-du-Banc, which also suffered damage last December.

The mayor ensures that the project has not been forgotten. “We are working with the Ministry of Transport, road and rail, to find the best protection method for the sector.”

The Ministry of Transport is producing a hydraulic study. The first versions suggest a re-fill, gravel or even geo bags with plants.

“We are not making a decision. It will be done in partnership with the Ministry of Transport and determine what type of program we are eligible for. Public Security can help us financially, but we don't want to make a hasty decision, put the money in too quickly and it's not the right decision,” says Ms. Poirier.

Since the railway passes nearby, the railway division of the Ministry of Transport is also in the file.

“They have a responsibility

on a certain part and we want to be in partnership to know what type of work they will do versus what the municipality will decide to do to secure the solutions,” explains the mayor.

In the meantime, the Town of Percé is evaluating the amount that needs to be invested to protect the sector this summer.

“Do we put rocks for the summer season which could leave during a storm? We are in this assessment. We want to keep the place as safe as possible,” concludes Ms. Poirier.

Fair Haven Bible Camp

New Carlisle, Quebec

ACTIVITIES:
Beach Time, Group Games, Field Sports, Water Sports, Picnics, Hikes, Camp Fires, Tuck Time, Crafts and Chapel

We are PEANUT FREE.

Little Campers (A) (boys & girls)	7 - 9 yrs	July 2 - July 7
Girls Camp	10 -12 yrs	July 9 - July 14
Little Campers (B) (boys & girls)	7 - 9 yrs	July 16 - July 21
Boys Camp	10 -12 yrs	July 23 - July 28
Teen Camp	13 -18 yrs	July 30 - Aug. 4

Rate: \$130 This includes the \$30 non-refundable registration fee.

To reserve a spot you can etransfer your registration fee to: rose.roussy@gmail.com or by mail to Nelson Roussy, 371 route 132 east, New Richmond, Quebec G0C 2B0

Include name of campers and which camp they are attending.

Blue Innovation Zone to be officially announced this fall

NELSON SERGERIE

RIMOUSKI - The Blue Innovation Zone which is expected to be announced this fall by the Quebec government is becoming more and more concrete as promoters announced on June 1 the appointment of Martin Beaulieu as president and chief executive officer.

Mr. Beaulieu previously worked for the Economic Promotion Society in Rimouski, which is a partner with the Economic Development Corporation of Grande-Rivière in its blue zone.

"It is an important step to go with dedicated resources for the next stages of the blue zone. We are moving forward in this project while it is the prerogative of the government of Quebec to make the official announcement. With today's appointment, it creates the winning conditions to lead us to a possible announcement," explains Mr. Beaulieu.

The administrative part of the structure is settled. There really only remains the political aspect to conclude, which seems certain because a gov-

ernment source confirms that the announcement will be made in the fall.

"There are still strings to tie. I like to say that we have a good idea of what is in the gift box. We are in the process of finalizing the packaging and putting the bow on it," illustrates Beaulieu.

Several stakeholders will be involved, including the maritime regions, educational institutions such as the University of Quebec in Rimouski (UQAR), research centres, businesses, large companies, up-starts and the Ports of Montreal, Trois-Rivières and Quebec City.

"We make sure to have the project as in line as possible with the various objectives put forward by the government of Quebec," explains Mr. Beaulieu.

The Grande-Rivière Innovation Hub, a project worth around \$30 million, should be announced in the coming days. UQAR has just obtained \$154 million under the Canada First Research Excellence Fund. The certification of the Davie shipyard in Lévis is another link in the Blue Zone in addition to the



Martin Beaulieu will lead the future Blue Economy Zone

Photo: Courtesy of SOPER Rimouski

expansion of the Port of Montreal in Contrecoeur, near Sorel-Tracy.

Since its first beginnings in 2017, the project has grown considerably.

"Initially, it was a vision of regional economic development, knowing that there was a centre of researchers in eastern Quebec. But, no, we didn't think it would get that big. The first versions of the initial projects submitted by the Gaspé Peninsula and the Lower Saint Lawrence were projects of a few tens of millions of dollars. Once the Quebec Maritimes portion has been merged, we have

projects for the first five years of the zone worth \$1 billion," says the president and CEO.

The vision that the zone wishes to develop stretches over periods of five, ten and 15 years.

"This is why we must create winning conditions for the project to be a success for the stakeholders but also for the Quebec economy," explains Mr. Beaulieu.

The Blue Zone aims to federate and deploy the blue and sustainable innovation ecosystem in Rimouski and Grande-Rivière, by focusing on expertise in marine resource development and mar-

itime engineering and intelligent navigation.

The Blue Zone is dedicated to accelerating the blue economy and democratizing the knowledge associated with it.

It brings together more than 600 researchers and 1,000 companies with cutting edge expertise.

The Blue Zone coordinates the support and commercialization of innovative projects with high growth potential from across Quebec, Canada and internationally.

On the sidelines of this major development, the company Marcel Charest et Fils from Saint-Pascal submitted the lowest proposal to build, renovate and bring the Grande-Rivière Fisheries Sector Innovation Hub up to standard. This complex is a major element of the zone for Grande-Rivière.

The offer submitted is \$25.9 million, while two other entrepreneurs placed bids of just over \$29 million.

This spring, Minister Pierre Fitzbiggon welcomed the establishment of a Blue Economy Zone in Rocher-Percé and Rimouski.

On May 29, the government of Quebec announced a third innovation zone, the Energy Transition Valley in Mauricie and Bécancour.

Bonaventure and Percé unveil their fiscal year-end financial reports

Nelson Sergerie

BONAVENTURE - The town of Bonaventure ended its 2022 fiscal year with a small deficit of \$44,440 on a \$6 million budget.

Bonaventure mayor, Roch Audet, did not want to report a deficit. "We had a few unforeseen events during the year and, in all that, we didn't necessarily want to halt ongoing projects or services offered to the population," says the mayor.

The \$88,000 decrease in camping revenues and the impact of inflation on road and fuel costs is the reason that explains Bonaventure's deficit.

On the other hand, additional revenues came from new registrations, adjustments to the assessment roll and increased government transfers.

The accumulated surplus stands at \$287,000. Choices will also have to be made as loans come up for renewal. "We renewed one at 4.7% for the next five years. Before that, we were at 2% or 2.5%. We'll have to be vigilant, and that's what we'll do for the 2024 budget," says Mr. Audet.

Percé

The situation is different in the Town of Percé, which has reported a surplus of \$283,000 on a budget of \$7.6 million in 2022.

Vacant positions at the town, which could not be filled due to labour shortages, saved \$260,000 on the budget.

Inflation, however, had an impact. "The general rise in costs, from fuel to asphalt, weighs heavily and leaves us little room to manoeuvre," explains Percé Mayor, Cathy Poirier.

The net debt is currently at \$6.9 million, with an unallocated surplus of nearly \$1.5 million. "Despite all the constraints, the entire administration has risen to the challenge of sound management of public funds," says Ms. Poirier.

Air transport: a previous suggestion makes a comeback

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - On June 13, at the Standing Committee on Air Transport meeting, the Mayor of Gaspé and ex officio president of the Union of Quebec Municipalities, Daniel Côté, repeated a previous suggestion that the market should be regulated as a solution to the ongoing problem in air transportation.

Daniel Côté indicates that several solutions were put on the table during this meeting but nothing "phenomenal" was put forward, he said. In his view, governing the markets would mean that the regions would have to define their needs and ask carriers to manage them.

"It means saying what we need and asking the carriers which one would provide us with this service at the best possible price and offering them a practically exclusive contract. We do not mean exclusivity because whoever would receive this service could receive funding to operate it. We wouldn't want to crowd out all the players in the market," explains Mr. Côté.

A tendering system could be put in place to choose the base carrier. The proposal seems interesting but Mr. Côté explains that the market is not governed and there is no pre-determined ticket buying pattern.

"There are players in the market who decide which services they can offer. Private carriers decide. They don't like being told what to do. If we don't pull the strings of the market, probably nothing will change. This is why we are going back to the principle," adds Mr. Côté.

This example is very similar to the current model of intercity bus transportation governed by the Quebec Transport Commission.

"It has been mentioned several times. It is true that bus transport is muddy these days. On the other hand, there is a certain advantage. If there was no Commission des transports du Québec to govern bus transport, there would not even be bus transport in the Gaspé," says Mayor Côté.

"It's the kind of system that could do the job in air transport as well. It's been said for years but it seems like no one is taking the bait. There may be a very strong lobby of private carriers who don't want to be tricked. I understand that but it's the regions that are paralyzed," says Mr. Côté.

When it is pointed out to him that air transport is under federal jurisdiction, the mayor becomes inflamed. "It is not easy and the silence of the federal government is worrying. If the federal government gave us free rein to act, it would be easier. There may be downsides to look at but Ottawa is silent," he says, suggesting that Ottawa could help reduce fees at airports by subsidizing various mandatory services such as Nav Canada which provides air traffic.

Among other suggestions, it is mentioned to subsidize the training of pilots with an obligation to serve in regional companies for a given period. The principle could make it possible to lessen the impact of the labour shortage in this sector.

Work is underway to secure a problematic intersection in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - On June 12, four years after a fatal collision at the intersection of Boulevard York West and York South in Gaspé, and following several fender-benders, the Ministry of Transport took the first step in making the intersection safer.

In 2019, the mayor of the Town of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, had discussions with the Ministry of Transport about the dangerous intersection in an attempt to find a solution.

In 2021, after an analysis, Transport Ministry specialists recommended modifying the markings on the roadway in that whole sector.

On Boulevard York South, two lanes will be maintained between Boulevard York West and the end of the four lanes in the direction of Percé.

In the direction of the downtown, the left lane will be dedicated to left turns only and the speed limit will be reduced from 80 km/h to 70 km/h.

Even though the pavement was not due to be redone, the ministry added this step before modifying the lines.

The asphalt will be redone first between Cerisiers Street and the Mgr Ross Bridge, a step added to the initial plan to carry out the reconfiguration in a single step.

In 2021, Mayor Côté hoped that this would be the right choice and that the changes made would work. He added "We do not have the luxury of losing other human lives at this place (intersection)," he said.

The changes to the markings were scheduled for the fall of 2021 but due to the weather, it had to be postponed to 2022.

The following year, a strike by Quebec government engineers put a halt to the reconfiguration and the asphalt component was added in the meantime.

In addition, the Ministry of Transport is continuing the safety study at the intersection of Highways 132 and 197 in Saint-Majorique. Last August, the Town of Gaspé requested an assessment of the dangerousness of the intersection following a fatal accident on July 3, 2022. Over the summer, the ministry will carry out a traffic flow and speed count at that

intersection.

Daniel Côté, indicated in July 2022, that as a volunteer firefighter, he was called upon to intervene in high-speed accidents using the jaws of life. He indicated that the problem of that particular intersection is widely documented.

This intersection will be made safe with the interventions made by the Québec Ministry of Transport.

Photo: N. Sergerie



An illustration of the interventions made by the Ministry of Transport on York Boulevard South.

Photo: MTQ



Exchange course bursaries

Find out more at cegepgim.ca



Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

Business & Professional Directory



DIANE LEBOUTHILLIER

MP • Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Serving the English-speaking community of our beautiful region!

Grande-Rivière office
418 385-4264

Magdalen Islands office
418 986-1489

Sainte-Anne-des-Monts office
418 764-2890

New Richmond office
581 355-0060

Email: diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca

LFG
CONSTRUCTION

T 418-364-7082 / 1-844-664-7082

PROUD PARTNER IN YOUR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR MORE THAN 45 YEARS!

constructionlfg.com

Gaspésie—Les Îles | Côte-Nord | Bas-Saint-Laurent

BUILDINGS **ENERGY AND CIVIL ENGINEERING** **INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC**

AXIO
ARPENTEURS - GÉOMÈTRES

AXIO
arpenteurs-géomètres inc.
land surveyors

151B, Avenue de Grand-Pré, Bonaventure (Québec) G0C 1E0

Alexandre Babin, Arpenteur-géomètre
C abag@axioag.com

Guillaume Lapierre, Arpenteur-géomètre
C glag@axioag.com

Membre de l'Ordre des Arpenteurs-Géomètres du Québec

418 534-3113 / info@axioag.com
axioag.com

ENERGY
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

WHAT MAKES US DRIVEN TO BE DIFFERENT?

www.shipENERGY.com

DISCOVER MORE

Quebec government invests \$1.2M in fisheries and aquaculture businesses

GILLES GAGNÉ

PASPEBIAC – A fish processing company, Unipêche MDM of Paspebiac, as well as three other aquaculture businesses, are receiving a total amount of \$1,241,535 from two Quebec government ministries. This money will be used for improvements to their facilities or to verify new opportunities.

The total investments in these four companies have reached \$3,901,416. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will contribute \$1,074,953, while the Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Energy will inject \$166,582 in the ventures.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will grant \$874,121 and the Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Energy will give the amount of \$52,100 to Unipêche MDM for the acquisition and installation of lobster tanks in Mont-Louis, on the north side of the Gaspé Peninsula. The company will inject \$2,553,779 into the initiative.

“Lobster fishing is ex-



Photo: G. Gagné

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Minister André Lamontagne; Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure Catherine Blouin; Unipêche MDM president Jean-Marc Marcoux; Carl Leblanc of Pétoncles Carleton; Carl Provost of Huîtres Baie-des-Chaleurs; Raynald Mercier of Raymer Aquaculture; and Stéphane Sainte-Croix, Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé were on hand for the investment announcement.

panding on the north side of the Gaspé Peninsula to such a point that we needed a facility to keep the shellfish in good condition before sending it here to Paspebiac,” explains Jean-Marc Marcoux, president of Unipêche MDM.

The company already operates a large set of lobster

ponds in Port Daniel. Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Minister André Lamontagne, who was present for the announcement, inquired about the size of the lobster ponds. Jean-Marc Marcoux replied that it can contain 300,000 pounds of lobster “which is not unusual in fisheries,” noted the businessman.

Three additional projects

New Richmond’s Raymer Aquaculture will need to invest \$208,071 for the improvement and optimization of its fish farming productivity. The company’s president, Raynald Mercier, was glad to receive \$72,825 from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (often designated by

its French acronym MAPAQ) and \$50,479 from the Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Energy.

“We produce 50 tons of human consumption trout annually. Almost everything is sold in advance. We keep 25% of our production for our customers that send us last minute orders. We have benefited from the MAPAQ help since the beginning, 12 years ago. We have received money but we have also received good technical help,” says Mr. Mercier.

The company Huîtres Baie-des-Chaleurs will need to invest \$133,477 for an experimental oyster growth project at seven coastal sites in the Bay of Chaleur area. The seven sites are located between Nouvelle and Paspebiac. The company has decided that the optimal site will be off the coast of Bonaventure and Saint-Siméon. MAPAQ will give \$80,086 to support that venture and the Ministry of the Economy, Innovation and Energy will invest an amount of \$40,043.

Cont'd on page 11



ASSISTANT MANAGER

Permanent job, 40 hours per week
Pharmacie Jean Coutu, New Richmond

You are a good leader with relationship abilities? You are autonomous, dynamic and a good team member? This could be the challenge you were waiting for!



YOUR ROLE: Carry out management duties (human resources, commercial image, etc.) in collaboration with the manager. Also, offer a great customer service and ensure that the store is well run and clean

Working conditions

Salary starts at 19,38\$ an hour

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

1 out of 2 (or 3) weekends (closing at 5 pm)

Be present for the opening and the closing (until 6:30 pm, approx. on week days and 5:30 pm approx. on weekends)

Our proposal

Collective insurances (paid in part by the employer) and telemedicine access

Retirement savings plan

Paid training and opportunity for advancement

Store discount program

Flexible leaves

Plan for paid absences



Interested? Contact Mr Cyrisse Desbiens, Manager: cdesbiens@pjc.jeancoutu.com

Difficult conditions for Shigawake lobster fishermen

GILLES GAGNÉ

SHIGAWAKE – The two lobster fishermen using the Shigawake wharf have dealt with the accumulation of sediment, as well as seaweed, on several occasions during the month of June. On June 6, George Skene and Johnny Ross had to wait at least 45 minutes before delivering their lobster because the entrance to Shigawake wharf was so clogged with seaweed.

At Shigawake wharf, fishermen already have to regularly deal with sediment build-up since the wharf has not been dredged for several years.

“Seaweed came after a bad storm (June 3 to 5). It filled up. The northeast wind cleared it. The storm persisted and it (the seaweed) came back but not as much,” points out George Skene.

He stresses that, in addition to the lack of dredging, the work carried out a few years ago by a Fisheries and Oceans



Photo: G. Skene

Lobster fishermen in Shigawake had to navigate through a lot of seaweed in the harbour.

Canada subcontractor who added rocks at the west extremity of the wharf has worsened the accumulation of sediments.

“The rock dyke contains sediments. The material stays on the west side when the wind

comes from the west. The way the rocks were put is worth nothing. The water can’t circulate and on top of everything, it produces a bad smell,” further explains Mr. Skene.

He intends to talk to the other users of the Shigawake

wharf, mostly leisure boat owners who come during the summer. He also intends to sensitize the Fisheries and Oceans Canada management to the correction work that could be undertaken at the wharf. “We haven’t had a meeting this

year yet,” he remarks. George Skene wants to protect the Shigawake wharf for several reasons.

“It is a good spot where we are. Another fisherman based in Port Daniel East uses it sometimes for protection when the weather gets rough because he has a small boat. It is a matter of safety in his case. For us, Johnny and I, Saint-Godefroi and Port Daniel are a bit far to deliver our catches. It (Shigawake) is closer to the place where we fish. I have fished for 34 years. We have to keep the wharf. It is a good one if we correct the sediment situation,” concludes George Skene.

Lobster fishermen at Saint-Godefroi harbour, just west of Shigawake, also experienced a similar situation with seaweed buildup.

The Fisheries and Oceans Canada public relations department stated that they have taken notes of SPEC’s questions and will eventually submit a reply.

NORTHERN GANNET: Breeding peaks and no avian flu detected so far this year

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ - The gannet's reproductive rate has a decade high of 58%.

This is the conclusion of the scientific reports released by the director of Parc national de l'île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé, Rémi Plourde, who also mentions that the impact of the avian flu that swept through the country last year did not have a major effect on the emblematic species of the Gaspé Peninsula as it did elsewhere in the country.

There is no indications that the virus is back. “We have a closer follow-up. Indeed, our first findings indicate that the colony is all there. We don't see signs like last year when we had indications that there were sudden deaths all over the beaches, which we don't have this year,” says Mr. Plourde.

“We can count ourselves lucky compared to, for example, the Magdalen Islands where the mortality rate had been very high – 58% or 60% approximately – compared to us where we are at 13%. We have a reproductive rate of 58%, by far the best rate since 2012. We can see with the inventory that we are at about 45,000 pairs, so 90,000 gannets plus juveniles, so about a

100,000 gannets,” says Mr. Plourde.

“We have fluctuated in recent years, depending on the reproductive rate. I remind you that from 2012, we had problems. Gradually it recovered with years at 36%, 45%, and last year at 58%. When the conditions are adequate, the rate goes up,” says the director.

This is why specialists are doing research to monitor the reproductive rate.

“Once again this year, the University of Quebec in Rimouski with its team of researchers is there all season to analyze the reproductive rate and the Canadian Wildlife Service too,” he says. In total, seven research projects will take place around Bonaventure Island.

This year, the evening presentations will be back on June 24 where geology, northern gannets, Native American legends and history are highlighted.

The upgrade of historic buildings in the park is nearly complete.

In total, 24 buildings have been fully restored, with only one left to do.

“Around five million dollars has been invested in restoration and this is in line with one of the park's mandates, which is to preserve the

natural and cultural heritage for future generations,” mentions the director.

The park receives an average of 65,000 people, employs about fifty employees and generates spinoffs of some \$5 million annually.

Miguasha Museum is improved with new items

According to Rémi Plourde, who is also director of Parc national de Miguasha, a shift in the park’s direction to focus on families is producing convincing results.

“The idea was to kill the image of a stone museum. It is not true that we are a museum. It's not true that it's not fun. It can be super interesting,” says Mr. Plourde.

Guides are on hand to interpret the geology that reveals part of world history.

The showroom has been improved with new items and the mini-laboratories are once again accessible for children following the pandemic.

Mr. Plourde remains discreet about the secrets to come this year in Miguasha.

“There are always secrets that come out every year. The latest Elpistostege (fossil) discoveries show that it (the Elpistostege) had fingers. There is new research being done, but I cannot reveal the secrets of the discoveries,” the director cautiously asserts.

In 2013, the park discovered Elpistostege watsoni, a unique fossil in a cliff at the park. This fossil is the very first

complete specimen ever discovered on a worldwide scale. It is a species of fleshy-finned fish of great importance in evolutionary biology. There are still discoveries to be made.

“If we had let people dig into the cliff, one would have left with a small piece and another would have left with another piece. We would not have found the total value of what this fossil represents,” mentions the director who insists that people respect the site and follow the instructions of the guides during their visit.

Miguasha receives 22,000 visitors each year, employs 20 people and generates \$2 million in spinoffs.

“Enjoy these gems, It's your heritage,” concludes Rémi Plourde.



2022 was a good year for gannet breeding.

Photo: Île-Bonaventure-et-Rocher-Percé National Park, Corentin Chaillon



Photo: Netral English

Mount Tambora.

1816 - The “Year Without a Summer”

DIANE SKINNER

In the past few days, the weather has taken a turn for the better, albeit with a hefty dose of rain. Warmer temperatures bring us hope for the lovely summer days ahead. We are making plans to spend time outdoors. Gardens are being planted and lawn furniture has been cleaned up and placed outside. The clothes we wear are making the big transition to suit the seasonal change. It is no exaggeration to say that we wait for summer with high hopes.

However, in the year 1816, Gaspesians had a very real reason for being alarmed about the weather. It was the year without a summer. The effects on the crops and, therefore, the people and animals who lived here were devastating.

Strange weather that year caused famine across the Northern Hemisphere and that included here on the Gaspé. The cause of this very out-of-the-ordinary weather is believed to have been the eruption of the Mount Tambora volcano in Indonesia earlier that spring. It was the greatest eruption in over 1,000 years. Huge amounts of volcanic dust settled over the Northern Hemisphere. This along with a year of reported low solar ac-

tivity combined to create the “Year Without a Summer.”

People of the Gaspé reported seeing a type of fog all that spring and summer. This was caused by the volcanic ash that filled the atmosphere. It must have been a strange and frightening sight for the inhabitants of the Gaspé Peninsula. The sun could not break through. Keep in mind the people in 1816 did not have access to news, social media and weather reports. They did not know what was happening or why. They just saw and felt the effects.

Crops that were planted did not flourish and what remained was killed by frost and in early June heavy snowfall was reported. Through the months of July and August, some lakes and rivers were still ice covered. Along with the lack of sunlight were curious temperature changes. Some days the temperature spiked at 35 degrees Celsius and within a matter of hours dropped to freezing.

As the summer of 1816 progressed, the inhabitants of the Gaspé realized that their situation was dire. On the peninsula, there were almost no crops for harvesting come fall and no quick or easy access to alternative markets and little money to buy all the staples re-

quired to feed families and animals. The prices for what little that was available went sky high because of the great demand for food coupled with the low supplies. The government stepped in and supplied some food for the desperate people.

“We can only hope that we never see a “Year Without a Summer” but it is doubtful that it would be so difficult for us to survive in these times. We just went through a global pandemic and very few people in Canada experienced life-threatening hunger. We might not have been able to buy toilet paper or yeast for a bit, but we made do with shortages. Now we are experiencing a huge number of forest fires that are impacting the lives of people across Canada and the United States. Natural disasters, albeit with the effects of man-made climate change this time, can be catastrophic.

We can only imagine how challenging and frightening it was for our ancestors in 1816, however, our Gaspesian ancestors were hardy people capable of enduring difficult conditions. They struggled just to survive and survive they did. If your ancestors are Gaspesian, be proud because you have a right to be. A little bit of them is part of you.

MAPAQ:

Cont'd from page 9

As for Pétoncles Carleton, \$79,868 will be used to carry out the verification of the technical and economic feasibility of the scallop farming business model by underwater intervention technique. MAPAQ will invest \$47,931 to support the project and the Economy, Innovation and Energy Department will contribute an amount of \$23,960.

“Our government recognizes the importance of the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sector for the development of our coastal regions and the growth of our food self-sufficiency. More than ever, innovation and automation are essential levers for the growth of the sector. The support we are announcing will allow businesses to be more competitive and continue to stand out,” stresses Minister André Lamontagne.



Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



A Staycation?

Lots of reasons why

It's summertime and our thoughts turn to vacation! A staycation makes sense for several reasons, not just that it is less expensive than travelling farther from home. The price of gas is high and booking accommodations anywhere is futile. Everybody is travelling this summer. The news about the chaos at some airports is discouraging and the photos of hundreds of pieces of lost luggage might be enough to discourage you from travelling out of your area, province or even country.

You still want to make summertime special so plan a staycation – a holiday spent at home and taking day trips near home. The Gaspé has so much to offer that planning a staycation should be a fun proposition. So, why is a staycation a good choice?

You don't have to drive a long distance to an airport or a far-away destination. You can rise and begin your staycation when you wish. No rushing, no dealing with lineups.

No packing is required. No need to worry about how heavy your suitcase is. No need to sort items into checked baggage and carry-on.

You get to explore the areas nearer to your home that you might not have before. Go off the beaten path. Visit a museum, or have lunch in a café or canteen.

You get to sleep in your own bed! There is nothing as comfortable as sleeping in familiar surroundings.

You can keep your schedule flexible. If it is raining, you can easily postpone your day out until the weather is more suitable. Pets need not be a worry. When taking a long vacation away from home, you will need to plan for the care of your pets.

There is no pressure when on staycation. If you are away from home on a longer vacation, you feel the pressure to make every moment count. You can set your own pace.

Safety is not such a big concern. You don't have to think about crime because this is your home turf. When travelling to other countries, you have to be hyper-vigilant about others.

Staycations are cheaper. You can pack a picnic to cut down on costs. It is easier to control the vacation budget when you are closer to home.

Of course, it is exciting to travel to a faraway destination, especially one where you have never been before but planning a staycation can be a lot of fun. Think of it this way – you will save money that you can use for a future vacation to a place further away!

Explore the beauty of your area. The Gaspé has so much to offer for all ages to enjoy.

ESSB:

Cont'd from page 5

time with family and friends, you will find me either at the campsite enjoying the magnificent view of the bay of Gaspé or playing a round of golf,” she says.

Denise Simoneau is an avid defender of the public school system, whether it serves the young generation or adults.

“I am a proud ambassador of the public school system. As director general, I intend to continue working closely with members of governance and members of the management team to promote the vision and mission of the Eastern Shores School Board, which is to cultivate communities of learning from coast to coast, and to

equip our students, young and old, with the languages and skills needed to thrive in our multicultural communities and for the future,” she concludes.

The Eastern Shores School Board is the most easterly English-speaking school board in Quebec, occupying three administrative regions of the province: the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, the North Shore and the Lower Saint Lawrence. Of the 16 schools spread over these three territories, six are elementary schools, three are secondary schools and the remaining seven are combined primary-secondary schools. The school board also manages five adult education and vocational training centres.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, sometimes you do not have to take action to fix problems. Certain issues will work themselves out on their own. Don't feel the need to rush in and find a quick solution.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Right now the spotlight is on you and your talents, Taurus. You have a large group of admirers who are looking to see what you can produce next.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
You will recover quickly from disagreements with others, Gemini. These situations may give you a new perspective and compel you to change a few things for the better.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Confide in a friend about something that is troubling you, Cancer. Talking about the issue could start you down a path toward a solution. Thank others for lending an ear.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, on the outside everything may seem to be going along fine with a friend. But things may be different on the inside. Treat others tenderly to avoid piling on.

HOROSCOPES

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Vacation vibes are high this week, Virgo. You are day-dreaming about potential destinations. Narrow down your prospects and zero in on your favorite features.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
You may want to know what another person is thinking but don't want to come off too pushy, Libra. If you phrase the question the right way, it won't seem like an interrogation.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Your physical and emotional health may be a focal point this week, Scorpio. Book some time for reflection, rest and relaxation. Solitude can help you clear your mind.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you are staying on top of your responsibilities and have good energy moving through this week. However, by the time the weekend arrives you may be running on empty.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Try having some fun outside of your comfort zone, Capricorn. It is good to try new things from time to time and push the boundaries you have set up for yourself.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, this week you may find yourself meeting new people and fitting into groups you had not imagined. Network as much as possible while having fun along the way.


PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, finances may have been on your mind and you are eager to pay off some debt. It could take a while, but you will be successful.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 18: Blake Shelton, Singer (47)
JUNE 19: Macklemore, Rapper (40)
JUNE 20: Nicole Kidman, Actress (56)
JUNE 21: Chris Pratt, Actor (44)
JUNE 22: Danny Green, Athlete (36)
JUNE 23: Alexandra Trusova, Skater (19)
JUNE 24: Lionel Messi, Athlete (36)

Business & Professional DIRECTORY

Grenier, Grenier & Grenier
LAWYERS

 **Réal Grenier, b.a.ll.l.**
Jules Grenier, b.a.ll.l.

96 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd, P.O. Box 519
New Carlisle (Quebec) G0C 1Z0
Tel.: (418) 752-3308 • Fax (418) 752-6935

 **Gagnon Claveau Law Firm**

Isabelle Gagnon
Attorney and family law mediator

Ann-Chloé Boudreau
Attorney

418-392-3542
www.gagnonclaveau.com
info@gagnonclaveau.com

Fully bilingual services in the whole Gaspé peninsula

GAËL TREMBLAY
Notary and legal counsel

TREMBLAY & BARRIAULT, NOTAIRES INC.
119B Perron Blvd West
New Richmond, (Québec) G0C 2B0
Tel.: (418) 392-5282
Fax: (418) 392-6155
E-mail: gaeltremblay@notarius.net


 **Tremblay & Barriault**
Notaries and legal counsel

FULLY BILINGUAL SERVICE

 **Forage Moreau Inc.**
418-392-9501
Mathieu Mercier - Driller/Owner

- Artesian Well Drilling
- Budgetary Price
- Bilingual Service
- RBQ: 5672-1467-01

foragemoreaumercier@gmail.com

 By Appointment

Richard Ste Croix
Denturologist
Construction and repair of dentures.
We also make dentures on implants.

9 Adams Street, Gaspé Tel.: (418) 368-1525
Quebec G4X 1E5 Fax: (418) 368-1542

 **OHMEGA**
Going beyond and reliable sir

 **Electricity - Plumbing**
Automation
Industrial computing
Counter sales

3 Rue Cerisiers
Gaspé, Québec G4X 2M1
Tel. (418) 368-5425
Fax (418) 368-7290
www.groupeohmega.com

CLOTURE KENNEDY
INSTALLATION DE CLOTURES
DEVELOPPEMENT

EXCAVATION • KENNEDY

 **GASPÉ, DOUGLASTOWN**

- Snow removal
- Fence installation
- Septic Systems (Ecoflo)
- Machine brush cutting

Tel.: 418-368-4774 / Cell.: 418-368-9302

To reach the anglophone population, advertise in **The Gaspé Spec!**

Contact our Advertising Representative
Heather Imhoff
581-233-2062
gaspespec.revitalization@gmail.com

Not everyone is on Facebook!

Reach more people for your events with an announcement on our Classified Page.

 **Dr. Pascal Cyr**
Optometrist

 **Dr. Stacey Starrak**
Optometrist

CLINIQUE D'OPTOMÉTRIE L'ÉMERILLON

LENSES CRAFTED ON THE PREMISES

PASPÉBIAC: 104 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd West • 418-752-5553
CHANDLER: 260 René Lévesque Blvd East • 418-689-5553
MARIA: 435 Perron Blvd West • 418-759-5553

 **BILINGUAL SERVICE**

MEMBER OF

 **Canada's Largest Network of Optometrists**

World Kidney Cancer Day - June 15, 2023

Living with Kidney Cancer

KAREN ROSS

Away from hospitals, tests, and treatment, there are things every kidney cancer patient and caregiver can do to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing. Talking openly about it is vital to a patient's physical and emotional health. We need to talk about living with kidney cancer. World Kidney Cancer Day 2023 aims to start conversations around the world about what those things are and how those living with kidney cancer can use them to help maintain their quality of life. Today is a good day to start!

Maybe some of you remember seeing David Ross biking when he visited the Gaspé Coast in the summer. Biking was his "go-to" exercise and he loved his long rides both back home and in Fredericton where he resided. What some of you may not know is that David was an active member of the York Sunbury Search and Rescue in Fredericton for over 10 years while he was living with kid-

ney cancer. He participated in many ground searches. Following the suggestions below, he was able to have a good quality of life - full of lots of living, love and laughter even while he was in treatment. He used to say, "Every day is a good day."

Talking with family and friends brings up questions to consider, such as how much should you share with your family and friends, and will talking about it (kidney cancer) make them worry.

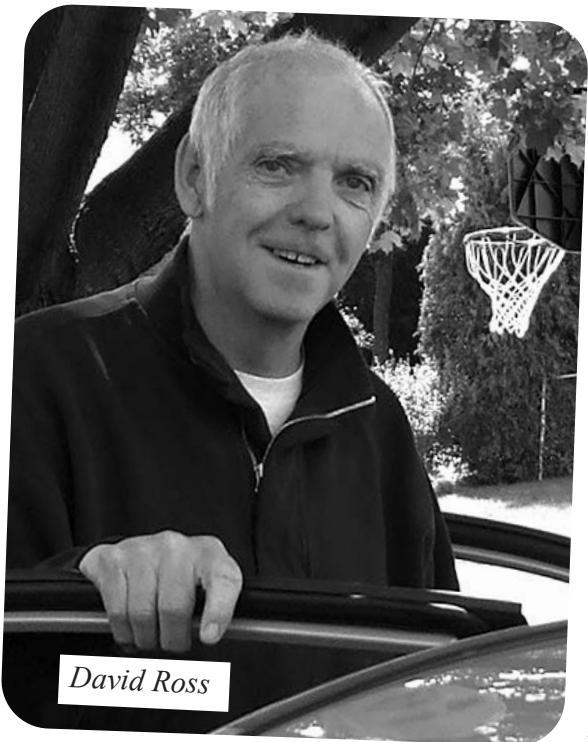
A good patient and caregiver support group is a community that helps overcome feelings of isolation. It can also provide solutions to some of the challenges of living with kidney cancer and help better understand both the patient's condition and treatment options. Questions arising are how to find a good support group and why talking with others going through the same thing helps and also how to check if a support group is legitimate.

We need to talk about counselling and therapy and how it can help the patient

and caregiver. A good support group can encourage kidney cancer patients, particularly men, to accept counselling support; another question is - do clinicians put enough emphasis on the cancer patient's emotional health?

Diet and nutrition are important topics to talk about while living with kidney cancer. Some questions that need to be asked are: Is there anything a kidney cancer patient should or shouldn't be eating while on or off treatment? Must a patient give up favourite foods? How does a patient get the nutrients needed when it is a struggle to eat anything at all?

Physical activity is also very important. Today most kidney cancer patients are encouraged to be as physically active as their body can tolerate. But what activities are best? What if you are not a sporty person? What can a caregiver do to encourage and support patients to be more active? Kidney Cancer



David Ross

activity guide created by Dr. Linda Trinh specifically for kidney cancer patients and survivors. On the Kidney Cancer Canada website, there is a Video Knowledge Library to answer questions many patients and caregivers have asked us over the years featuring the responses from kidney cancer specialists Canada-wide.

If you are facing or have faced a diagnosis of kidney cancer, are living with kidney cancer or know somebody who is, please consider telling them about the organization and suggest they check out our website at www.kidneycancerCanada.ca. If there are any questions or need of help or support is required please contact info@kidneycancerCanada.ca. Kidney Cancer Canada is here to help.

PRICES IN EFFECT UNTIL JUNE 30, 2023

23 SENTRA
SV SE

\$329

MONTHLY

24 MOS.

LEASE

\$2,049 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW

84m Finance

NCF

Banks

Sentra SV	Rate	6.99%	7.49%
-----------	------	-------	-------

23 KICKS
S

\$283

MONTHLY

24 MOS.

LEASE

\$1,865 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW

84m Finance

NCF

Banks

Kicks S	Rate	6.24%	7.49%
---------	------	-------	-------

23 QASHQAI
S AWD

\$76

WEEKLY

24 MOS.

LEASE

\$2,195 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW

84m Finance

NCF

Banks

Qashqai S AWD	Rate	6.24%	7.49%
---------------	------	-------	-------

23 ROGUE
SV AWD

\$469

MONTHLY

64 MOS.

LEASE

\$1,749 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW

84m Finance

NCF

Banks

Rogue SV AWD	Rate	5.99%	7.49%
--------------	------	-------	-------

23 MURANO
SV

\$525

MONTHLY

64 MOS.

LEASE

\$1,695 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW

84m Finance

NCF

Banks

Murano SV	Rate	5.74%	7.49%
-----------	------	-------	-------

23 PATHFINDER
SL

\$655

MONTHLY

24 MOS.

LEASE

\$5,349 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW

60m Finance

NCF

Banks

Pathfinder SL	Rate	6.49%	7.49%
---------------	------	-------	-------

23 FRONTIER
CC SV
Midnight Edition

\$263

BI-WEEKLY

60 MOS.

LEASE

\$5,745 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW

60m Finance

NCF

Banks

Frontier CC SV Midnight	Rate	6.74%	7.49%
-------------------------	------	-------	-------

23 ARMADA
SL Midnight Edition

\$449

BI-WEEKLY

24 MOS.

LEASE

\$3,649 DOWN

ULTRA-LOW

60m Finance

NCF

Banks

Armada SL Midnight	Rate	5.99%	7.49%
--------------------	------	-------	-------

* Bank rates based on market data as of May 31st, 2023



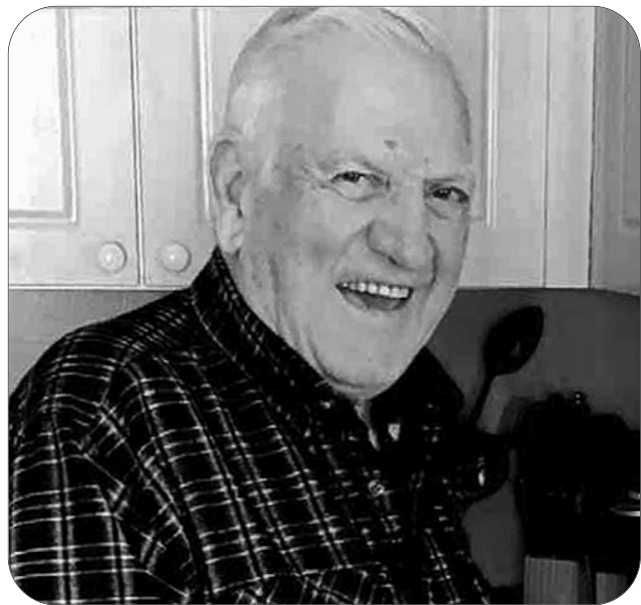
ROY NISSAN

158, boulevard Gaspé, Gaspé, Quebec
Tel.: (418) 368-6226 Fax.: (418) 368-1221
E-mail: roynissanventes@cgocable.ca

Announcements



Obituaries



ASSELS: Charles (Charlie) Edwin

August 28, 1933 – February 14, 2023

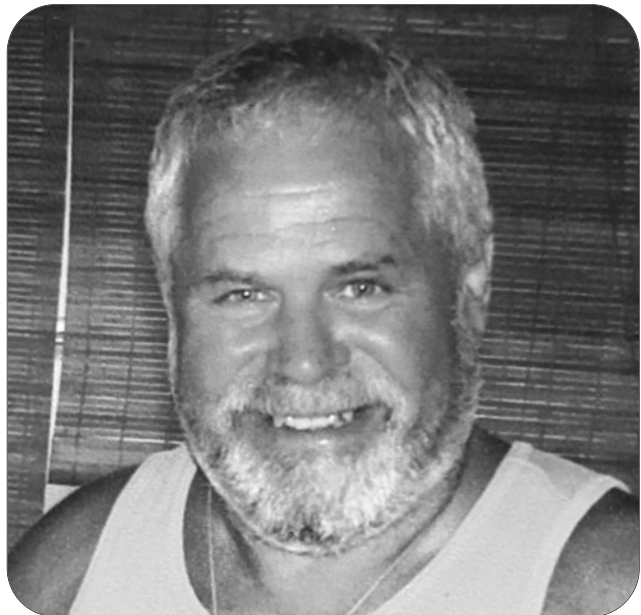
It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of my husband and our beloved father on February 14, 2023, at the age of 89 in Tottenham, Ontario.

Charles devoted his life to his wife and family and is survived by his loving wife of 65 wonderful years, Gertrude; four children: Brenda (Clifford), Darlene (Dave), Charles (Liz) and Wanda (Boyce); six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly.

Charles was born on August 28, 1933, in New Carlisle, Quebec. He moved to Montreal where he met the love of his life, Gertrude. He worked for Northern Electric for approximately 15 years before returning to the Gaspé Coast with his wife and four children to work as an engineer for CN Rail. After a full career with the Canadian National Railway, he retired. He was now able to focus on his hobbies and interests which gave him so much joy as he loved creating works of art with his hands.

Charles was a quiet, humble and selfless man who will be missed dearly.

The family would like to thank everyone who came to pay their respects at the funeral home and the church service for Charles Assels. Thank you to Reverend Joshua Paetkau for a beautiful service and a special thank-you to the families who so generously brought food and for donations to the Linda-Lemore Brown Foundation.



DUBÉ: Jean-Guy

It is with great sadness that we announce Jean-Guy Dubé passed away unexpectedly and peacefully, on Sunday, May 21, in Port Daniel at the age of 69.

Predeceased by his father, Jean-Paul Dubé, and mother, Édith Fontaine, he is survived by his part-

ner; Marie-Josée Leroux; his children, Jessica Dubé (Drew Doyle) and Sheldon Dubé; grandchildren, Nolan and Braden Doyle; sister, Francine Dubé; and many other family members and friends.

A celebration of life service will take place at the Optimist Chalet in New Carlisle on Thursday, July 27, at 1 p.m.

Family and friends are invited to come share their memories and stories, and to remember Jean-Guy, an irreplaceable person who is already so greatly missed.



FITZPATRICK: Patricia Ann

It is with great sadness, that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Patricia Ann Fitzpatrick on June 10, 2023, at Alexandra Hospital, in Ingersoll, Ontario.

Born in Gaspé, Quebec, she was the daughter of Arthur Fitzpatrick and Rita Element. Beloved wife of the late Hartley Stewart (October 13, 2022). Loving mother of Hoyt (deceased), Darrell (Christine) and Trina (James). Cherished Nanny to Mitchell (Michelle), Courtney (Blake), Christina, and Brandon (Gabrielle) and Great Nanny to Elliott. Predeceased by brothers and sisters Lawrence, Raymond, Delbert (Alicia), Shirley (Clifford), Joyce (Keith), Jeannie, Clorenda, Gerry, and Norma (Archie), and Joan (Leonard). Dear sister to Carol (Levy), Lee (Mary), Harold (Sandra) and Melvin (Micheline).

Born and raised in Gaspé, Quebec; Patricia moved to Ingersoll four years ago with her husband. She enjoyed being with her family, especially with her two-year-old great-grandson. Her love and passion for her hometown of Gaspé was indescribable.

Visitation will be held at the McBeath-Dynes Funeral Home, Ingersoll, Ontario, on Saturday, June 24, 2023, between 12 - 12:45 p.m. A funeral service will follow at 1 p.m. A private family interment will be held at a later date.

Special thanks to the Care Partners of Oxford County and the nursing staff at Alexandra Hospital for their dedication and care for our mother. In lieu of flowers, donations in her honour can be made to the Gaspé Cancer Foundation.



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.



JOURNEAU: Cyrus Guildroy

It is with great shock and sorrow that the family of Cyrus Guildroy Journeau announces his sudden passing at Maria Hospital on Sunday, June 4, 2023 at the age of 83.

While Cy, as he was commonly known, retired as a school board Director General, he will also be remembered as a teacher, a councilman and mayor as well as a lay reader in the Anglican Church. His love and devotion to his church and community was only surpassed by what he had for his family and wife of almost 62 years, Iva May Munro.

Cy is survived by his wife Iva Munro, his children Tania Lee (Richard) and Jonathan (Nadine) as well as his grandchildren Jhordan and Timothy and great-grandson, Sunny. His son, Christopher, predeceased Cy, a year ago.

A celebration of Cy's life will be held on Saturday, July 15 at 3 p.m. at the Saint Andrew's Anglican Church in New Carlisle. There will be a visitation at the church from 1 to 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, you can donate to Saint Andrew's Anglican Church of New Carlisle.



In Memory

SIMON-ROBERTS: Vera

In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away June 26, 2020.

*In our hearts your memory lingers,
Sweetly tender, fond and true.
There is not a day, dear mother,
That we do not think of you.*

Always remembered and sadly missed by Eleanor, Clayton, Garfield, Sandra, Carolyn, Donald, Frank and families.



**Four Generations
of Monument Craftsmen**

HIGHEST QUALITY - BEST PRICES

MONUMENTS, MARKERS, CEMETERY LETTERING,
LASER DESIGNS AND PORTRAITS

SALES REP:

Steven Imhoff **418-752-6041**

Covering Port Daniel to New Richmond

COAST ROUND-UP

YORK:
ACW Summer Sale
July 15: The York Anglican Church Women will be holding a summer sale beginning at 2 p.m. at the York River Community Hall. Homemade handicrafts, baked goods, mystery parcels, white elephant table and used books will be available. It will be followed by afternoon tea, \$5 per person. Everyone is welcome.

GASPE:
Women's Institute
The Gaspé County Women's Institute will be holding its Annual County Fair on September 9, 2023, at York River Community Hall. If you wish to participate, please contact Bonita Annett to register and receive the program. The cost is \$15 to register. Email gaspe22@gmail.com or call 418-368-3453. The last date to register is June 30, 2023.

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.

BARACHOIS:
BADC Canada Day Celebrations
July 1: Come and celebrate Canada Day in Barachois! Car parade at 11 a.m., hotdogs at the Legion at noon, and Family Picnic at Barachois Beach beginning at 1:30 p.m. Fun games (water balloon toss, horseshoes, etc.) with prizes, and facepainting by Stephanie Bond. BBQ at 5 p.m., and music in the evening by Alex Bailey and Jack Gaul. Something for every age. Everyone is welcome.

PORT DANIEL:
St. James Anglican Church
July 6: Gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at the Shigawake Community Centre. \$10 for one series or \$20 for three series. Canteen service available.

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.

SHIGAWAKE:
St. Paul's Shigawake ACW Booklet
When St Paul's ACW dissolved last summer, it was

decided to put together a booklet outlining the history of the church with emphasis on the part women played in that history. We would appreciate your help. Photos of former ACW members or photos of their activities would be appreciated and can be sent to eemcmilan93@gmail.com If you are interested in buying a copy, please email or phone 418-752-2539 so we will print enough copies! Estimated cost \$10 to \$20 per copy. Proceeds after expenses will be given to St. Paul's Church.

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!
July 4: General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

NEW CARLISLE:
Open House
July 2: An open house will be held at the home of Fern Assels Carter (180 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd) from 2 to 4 p.m. to celebrate her 75th birthday by Sascha and Ashley Buttle. Everyone welcome.

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.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:
The winners for the week of May 1 to 6 are: Yves Martin, Éloïse St-Pierre, Dial Lepage, Cathy Fortin, Gilbert Berthelot and Lina Landry.
The winners for the week of May 7 are: Nicole Paquet, Guy Dugas, Simon Vinneau, Darlene Sexton,

Bernard Doiron, Donald Murphy and Simon Dubé.
The winners for the week of May 14 are: Carl Garrett, Juliette Gagné, Roger Leblanc, Gail-Martin Harrison, Yannick Cloutier, Denise Cyr-Gagnon and Yves Boisvert.
The winners for the week of May 21 are: Faye Legresley, Sharon Bujold, Lucille Willett, Gérard Cyr, Joan Mac Cormick, Claire Desbiens and André Berthelot.
The winners for the week of May 28 to 31 are: Jamie Bergeron, Arnold Martin, Cristelle Arsenault and Raynald Barriault.

UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, June 25
10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, June 25
10 a.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
Sunday, June 25
NEW CARLISLE
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
HOPE TOWN
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
SHIGWAKE
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Perfect Gift
For Any Occasion

Subscribe today

Mail your form along with your cheque or money order to:
The Gaspé Spec
208-B Gérard D. Levesque Blvd,
New Carlisle, Quebec, G0C 1Z0

Call with your credit card at 418-752-5400 or
order online at thethegaspespec.com



Name: _____
Address: _____

Your gift Message: _____
1 year: Canada \$46 ☐ 6 months: \$25 ☐



BIOPARC
Wildlife Park

Bonaventure bioparc.ca



Place du Havre
CHANDLER
Shopping Centre

WHALE - WATCHING CRUISE

Forillon National Park

Grande-Grave Harbor



418-892-5500
www.baleines-forillon.com



THE BONAVENTURE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PRESENTS ITS

114TH SHIGAWAKE FAIR AND

15TH SHIGAWAKE MUSIC FESTIVAL

AUGUST 17-20, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.SHIGAWAKEFAIR.CA



LODGING • RESTAURANT
FINE PRODUCTS

530, boulevard Perron
Maria, Quebec
1-888-959-3766
aubergedumarchand.com

OCEANVIEW TERRASSE
CONCERT HALL
GASPESIAN CUISINE
EXHIBITION HALL



info@culturegriffon.ca
facebook.com/culturegriffon

557, boulevard du Griffon
L'Anse-au-Griffon, Quebec

418-892-5679



Municipality of Shigawake

180 Route 132
Shigawake, Quebec
418-752-2474

Hidden Treasures

THRIFT STORE

164 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd
New Carlisle

(Basement of Catholic Church)

OPEN


Wednesday 1 - 4 p.m.
Thursday 1 - 6 p.m.
Friday 1 - 4 p.m.
First Saturday of the month
9 a.m. to noon



LA MAISONART
The John Wiseman Art Gallery

Open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Free entrance
826 Route 132, Anse à Beaufils
418-782-2047
www.johnwiseman.net

the **GASPÉ PENINSULA**
2023 Vacation Guide



LET NATURE BE YOUR GUIDE

The Gaspé Spec

HÔTEL INTERPROVINCIAL

4, boulevard Perron, Pointe-à-la-Croix, Quebec
1-418-788-2080

Centre culturel & d'interprétation

Kempffer

Cultural & Interpretation Centre



125 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd
New Carlisle, Quebec
418-752-1334



STATION TOURISTIQUE
PIN ROUGE

www.pinrouge.com



CAMPING DE LA
POINTE-TAYLOR
New Richmond

www.campingbaiedeschaleurs.com
418-392-2400

Municipality of New Carlisle



Mayor: David Thibault
Councillors: Clyde Flowers, Brent Hocquard,
Cathy Lisa Boileau, Cindy Carney,
Stephen Leberre, Robert Benwell

For more information,
please contact the
Town Hall at
418-752-3141
www.new-carlisle.ca



PLAN YOUR TRIP
Browse thegaspesianway.com
to see what the English-speaking
community has to offer.

BUY LOCAL
Purchase locally-made artisanal
products. Open from Mon-Fri, 8-4
168 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd
New Carlisle



www.uniprix.com

Place Jacques-Cartier
Carrefour Gaspé
Rivière-au-Renard



NEW RICHMOND A TOWN TO EXPERIENCE



TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE:
418-392-7075 Open from June until September.



Canadian Tire Paspébiac
49 Boul. Gérard D. Levesque E.
418-752-5050

Canadian Tire Gaspé
39, Montée de Sandy Beach
418-368-6868

**MICMAC CO-OP
HANDICRAFT ASSOC.
NATIVE MADE BASKETS
AND SOUVENIRS**

6 PERRON BLVD
GESGAPEGIAG, QUEBEC
418-759-3504




WE ARE OPEN
Tuesday to Saturday
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Check us out on our web page at
https://garagepizzeria.ca

154 Perron Blvd West, New Richmond, Quebec **418-392-4385**



39, montée Sandy Beach
Gaspé, Quebec
CARREFOURGASPE.COM



ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC



Stéphane Sainte-Croix
Député de Gaspé

Welcome!

to the beautiful region of
Gaspésie this summer! We
are thrilled to have you
here and share the natural
wonders and unique
experiences that await
you.



CATHERINE BLOUIN
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BONAVENTURE



ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC



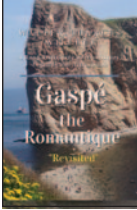
LA MAISONART
The John Wiseman Art Gallery

Open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Free entrance
826 Route 132, Anse à Beaufils
418-782-2047
www.johnwiseman.net



SÉLECTÔTEL

340, boul. St-Benoît Ouest,
Amqui (Québec)
1-800-463-0831



Plan your Gaspesian vacation with
Walter Willett's travel/history guidebook
to the Gaspé Peninsula!

Visit www.gasperiroadtrip.com to order your
copy or email walter@gasperiroadtrip.com

**Find out what's
happening on the Coast,
turn to the pages of
The Gaspé Spec**

Photo: Nancy Coulombe

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Canada (taxes are included in prices)
Paper or Digital: 1 year \$46 ☐ 6 mths \$25 ☐

Enclose cheque or money order or call us with your
credit card or order on line at: **thegaspespec.com**

The Gaspé Spec
208-B Gérard D. Levesque Blvd,
New Carlisle, Québec G0C 1Z0
418-752-5400