

MMBC invests in East Coast Wind to enter the windmill maintenance industry

● GILLES GAGNÉ

GESGAPEGIAG – Mi'g-mawei Mawiomi Business Corporation (MMBC), the economic arm of the Gaspé Peninsula's three Mi'gmaq communities, announces a partnership with East Coast Wind Inc. They will acquire 51% of the company's shares, however, the amount of the transaction is not being disclosed by the partners.

Founded in 2009 by Mitchell Fournier, a resident of Gaspé, East Coast Wind is a major wind operation and maintenance company based in Maria and serving clients across Canada. It currently has 55 employees, with 30 based in the Gaspé Peninsula.

This collaboration further solidifies the Mi'gmaq's position in the wind energy sector and strengthens its commitment to creating employment opportunities and fostering growth within Gespe'gewa'gi, the traditional territory of Listuguj, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj.

This partnership unites Mi'g-mawei Mawiomi Resources Limited Partnership, an investment vehicle created by the Mi'gmaq of Gesgapegiag, the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government and the Nation Micmac de Gespeg, with East Coast Wind Inc.

With a 51% majority ownership stake in East Coast Wind Inc the Mi'gmaq communities can leverage the company's wind farm operation and maintenance expertise, points out Frederic Vicaire, the MMBC chief executive officer.

"We are excited to announce the partnership with East Coast Wind Inc. This milestone marks a significant achievement for our communities. It provides a strong added value through our agreements with regional wind farms, access to an underrepresented labour pool, and strong financial capacity. We look forward to building upon East Coast



Fred Vicaire, MMBC CEO; Donald Jeanotte-Anglehart, President of MMBC; Listuguj Chief, Scott Martin; Gesgapegiag Chief, John Martin; Gespeg Chief, Terry Shaw; and Mitchell Fournier, president of East Coast Wind.

Photo: G. Gagné

Wind's solid reputation and driving sustainable growth in the industry," says Mr. Vicaire. He expects a gradual integration of Mi'gmaq workers into the East Coast Wind Inc. team. Fred Vicaire also points out that Mitchell Fournier will stay with the company. "We have secured his participation for the first five years of the partnership."

Reactions

Gesgapegiag Chief John Martin underlines the fact that everybody will likely gain from the partnership.

"Yes, our community benefits from it, but everybody benefits from it, Non-Natives as well," he says.

Chief Martin's statement matches that of the founder of East Coast Wind Inc. "We are confident that this transaction of East Coast Wind Inc. will be a mutually beneficial partnership. Together, we will harness the potential of the wind energy sector, promote environmental sustainability, and contribute to the economic prosperity of our surrounding communities," stresses the president, Mitchell Fournier.

Gespeg Chief Terry Shaw sees the new partnership as "an example of our capacity to work together and to work with the neighbouring communities."

Listuguj Chief Scott Martin is glad that the Mi'gmaq will be in a position to acquire knowledge in windmill maintenance from a firm they control.

"We will be involved in maintaining windmills everywhere in Canada, from a firm offering diverse quality employment. We want to see our community members get more involved in windmill maintenance," he stresses.

The president of MMBC, Donald Jeannotte Anglehart, also expresses enthusiasm because the new venture "allows us to show that we can participate again in a promising field that will not only have a financial impact but that will confirm our vision to be active in a sector linked to sustainable development and renewable resources."

The MMBC is already a partner in the Mesgig Ugu's'n first 150 megawatts wind farm in the backcountry of Escuminac and will soon invest in a second wind farm in the same

area, this time with a capacity of 124.2 megawatts. The partner in that venture is Innergex. The construction and maintenance of that wind farm will require the hiring of new workers and the Native communities in the Gaspé Peninsula want to contribute to that aspect of the project.

A modest start

Mitchell Fournier, a welder and machinist by trade, who is an anglophone from Gaspé, smiles a bit when he recalls the first steps of his company, which he founded after a misunderstanding with the firm Techeol, a company based in Sayabec in the Matapedia Valley where he previously worked.

"There was a bit of confusion at first because people were under the impression that I was still working for Techeol. I saw an opportunity because LM Wind Power wanted to get rid of three blades that had not passed the quality test. LM wanted the blades broken into pieces and moved to a landfill. I had no idea about the cost of cutting them and bringing them to the dump. I made a bid of

\$30,000. I used a concrete saw to break the blades. Once trucked to the landfill, the whole thing cost me close to \$26,000. I used the balance of \$5,000 or so to incorporate East Coast Wind," he says.

Up to 70% of the company's business comes from Quebec. East Coast Wind is active in most of the Gaspé Peninsula wind farms. The majority of the company's 55 workers are qualified wind technicians. The company serves wind farm operators and wind turbine manufacturers from Eastern Canada to Alberta. It is also active in New Brunswick, Ontario and Alberta.

Its services range from regular maintenance of wind farms, repairs, cleaning of blades, oil changes, inspections, and support. East Coast Wind Inc. can also provide an additional workforce to wind farms under construction. Over the past three years, East Coast Wind Inc. has experienced steady growth, points out Mitchell Fournier.

He is currently working on an innovative project to develop a system that would free windmill blades from ice and freezing rain.

"It is not easy. We have developed a system that worked for a while on a Bathurst wind farm but we still have to find a way to make it more durable. The owners of that wind farm located in the backcountry are losing \$12 million in revenues per year because of the accumulation of ice on the blades," points out Mr. Fournier.

Mi'g-mawei Mawiomi Business Corporation's mission is to generate wealth for members of its communities by implementing projects and creating businesses in sustainable natural resource development and the service and knowledge sectors. MMBC aims to improve the economic and employment security of the Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi through investments, acquisitions, partnerships, and various businesses.

Gaspé and Rocher-Percé launch their tourist season

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The 2023 tourist season promises to be good, according to industry players in the MRC of Rocher-Percé and the Gaspé region.

Tourism and Commerce Rocher-Percé and Destination Gaspé launched their season on June 8 in Gaspé and Percé and the climate seems very positive for the upcoming summer.

"The indicators are good. These are not the record years of the pandemic. It was special in terms of traffic. We are a little more comfortable with the mass of people we can accommodate. We are optimistic on our side," says the director of Destination Gaspé, Pascale Rémillard.

"There is an increase in the reservation rate at the hotel level. Some (accommodations) showed an increase of 30% to 38%. We are talking about people from the Maritimes and Ontario. There is a good response rate. People are optimistic," comments the director of Tourisme et Commerce Rocher-Percé, Doris Bourget. A new brand image is being created in the MRC of Rocher-Percé.

"In terms of relaxation, we are starting to have a relaxation signature because when you say vacation, you want to relax," says Ms. Bourget, citing a few companies which are offering spas and massage therapy have appeared in the area in recent years.

For its part, Destination Gaspé is putting its Gaspé pure pleasure image and the publication of its tourist magazine



Photo: N. Sergerie

Tourists on the Anse du Sud beach in Percé.

back in the foreground.

"In the novelties this year, there are a lot of entrepreneurial successions. We have a lot of companies that are for sale or that have been for sale. Otherwise, we have some novelties in catering that people will be able to discover," notes Ms. Rémillard, who emphasizes that the accommodation businesses are making efforts to be open year round.

People are arriving earlier this season. "It's an early start to the season. We had statistics a little higher than normal in May and even at the end of April. We are happy to see that in a season that stretches further than the big weeks of July and August," notes Ms. Rémillard.

The two directors mention that the labour challenge in the tourism sector hits them hard.

"We work a lot with Services Québec, the Carrefour je-

unesse emploi and the Ministry of Immigration, which explained to about forty companies all the programs to fill the labour shortage," said Ms. Bourget.

"We cannot ignore it, which is combined with the housing shortage. This is a halt on bringing in workers from outside. For a few weeks, in the summer, that's where the bottom hurts. This has been an issue for three or four years," adds Ms. Rémillard.

Destination Gaspé now has a board of directors made up of 10 people representing the tourism industry, which was one of the goals Ms. Rémillard set for herself since taking up her post three months ago.

An interim board had been in place since the creation of the organization, which took over from the Gaspé Chamber of Commerce and Tourism in 2018.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Bridges are prioritized as part of trail infrastructure upgrades

\$8.1 million available for snowmobile and ATV trails

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - A call for project proposals has been issued following the announcement of \$8.1 million that will be invested in all terrain vehicle and snowmobile trails in the Gaspé Peninsula.

The Gaspé Peninsula Table of Prefects is investing \$6,950,000 from various partners as a trustee, including the Fonds Région Ruralité.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is adding \$1,138,365 and the five MRCs of the Gaspé Peninsula will contribute \$20,000 each for a total of \$100,000.

The sectoral agreement will allow the rehabilitation and sustainability of the infrastructure of the off-road vehicle circuit in the region.

The financial assistance offered by the program is up to a maximum of \$500,000 and is divided into two components. The first component is for the financing of regular projects registered in the priority list of work. The second component is linked to a one-time event. Applications for financial assistance can be made now.

In May, the president of the Table of Prefects, Mathieu Lapointe, indicated that 86 infrastructures needed work in the region, including mostly bridges.

The money will be invested over three years.

After the upgrades to the ATV circuit are complete, the development of the tourist offers, in particular the hotel industry, will be a priority.

"The Gaspé Peninsula Prefects consider that the Off-Road Vehicle economy has strong development potential for the region and that it represents an opportunity to support the diversification of four season tourism. Everything is in place so that eligible organizations can quickly benefit from these important funds for the region and this industry," says Mr. Lapointe.

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



WELDING AND FITTING

COURSE STARTS AUGUST 24

Do you:

- Have good shape perception?
- Enjoy physical and manual tasks?
- Have good visual acuity, dexterity and good execution precision?
- Have excellent powers of observation?

If so, WELDING is for you!




SCAN ME

Register before August 24

100% placement rate


FREE residence





Exchange course bursaries

Find out more at cegepgim.ca



Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

Superior Court dismisses tourism fee

Town of Percé goes to the Court of Appeal

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ - The Town of Percé will go to the Court of Appeal to try to have the June 16 Superior Court's decision overturned, which invalidated the by-law on tourist fees.

The Town of Percé announced its intention on June 22, indicating at the same time that its application is suspended pending authorization to call and further procedures, if necessary.

"The Town of Percé has taken note of the judgment rendered by the Superior Court of Quebec last Friday. We are not only disappointed but disagree with the decision rendered. The Town of Percé will, therefore, bring this decision before the Quebec Court of Appeal," says Percé mayor, Cathy Poirier.

"The Town of Percé must diversify its sources of revenue in order to ensure the sustainable financing of its tourist infrastructures. We believed, and we still believe, that a tourist fee is the best way to achieve this without increasing the tax burden of the local population and the property taxes for its merchants," explains the mayor.

The bill for infrastructure maintenance is \$800,000 out of a budget of nearly \$8 million. The town intends to evaluate the various options in order to plan its maintenance.

Speaking to the media, the mayor stressed that it is important to affirm that the motion filed with the Court of Appeal is not an attack on the merchants involved. The goal is to recognize the validity of the amended by-law adopted in June 2022 and, more broadly, have it recognized that all municipalities have the power to implement such fees.

"I'm not going to lay out our legal arguments now, but what I can tell you is that the town believes that the second iteration of the by-law adopted in the summer of 2022 respects the legal framework and powers conferred on municipalities in 2017. The ruling invalidates the Town of Percé's by-law, but it compromises the power of all Quebec municipalities to implement regulatory fees. It's this power that we want to defend before the Court of Appeal," argues Simon Cossette Lachance, Town of Percé attorney.

So far, the legal bill for this litigation totals \$70,000.

"We consider that it will not cost the same amount at the

Court of Appeal. We now have a prosecutor in the Town of Percé who will devote many hours to it. Legal fees are very much lower than the cost of maintaining tourist infrastructure," says the mayor, who mentions that discussions are underway to share the bill between the town, the Union of Quebec Municipalities and other municipalities.

The mayor cannot say what the town of Percé's share will be for the moment. "We are at the start of the process," replies Ms. Poirier.

So far, 58 merchants are on the register (to collect the fee) and 33 are not. The \$155,000 in fees raised so far will remain in the bank pending further action. The municipal administration intends to consult merchants this fall.

The Percé Citizens-Merchants Committee hoped that the elected officials would listen to reason after the trial judgment.

"Unfortunately, there seems to be boundless obstinacy on the part of the mayor to come and fight against the citizens of Percé on behalf of the municipalities of Quebec. It has been clear from the start that several aspects are illegal and this regulation is based on foundations that do not 'hold water'," comments the committee's co-spokesperson, Jonathan Massé.

Pending the acceptance of the Court of Appeal to hear the case, Mr. Massé is clear. "Never will the merchants who oppose it collaborate with an illegal regulation that forces us to take illegal actions. I can't speak on behalf of the trading community right now, but I can guarantee there will be calls for (municipal council) resignations. It makes no sense what is happening in Percé," says Mr. Massé.

Pressed to clarify his thoughts, Mr. Massé goes further.

"I'm not quite there personally, but it's in the air. It is a person who is no longer able to represent citizens and who exceeds legal powers by asking us to do illegal things and who continues for her personal glory within the UMQ does not deserve to represent citizens," says Mr. Massé.

In a press release, the Union of Quebec Municipalities supported Percé's decision to appeal the judgment.

The case brought by the Town of Percé is indeed crucial, according to the Union, because its outcome could

have significant repercussions on the application of the general powers in terms of regulatory fees for all Quebec municipalities.

"Municipalities face significant financial pressure. They must imperatively diversify their sources of income to continue to assume their responsibilities and offer the local services that the population needs. Regulatory fees are aimed precisely at this objective while being directly linked to the exercise of municipal powers. This is why we unreservedly support Mayor Cathy Poirier and the Percé Town Council and we will continue to follow developments in the file very closely," said UMQ President and Mayor of Varennes, Martin Dampousse.

In fact, the UMQ has already supported the town of Percé by granting \$10,000 in financial assistance.

These reactions follow the decision of Judge Isabelle Germain of June 16.

The tourism fee regulation was first adopted on September 28, 2021, and amended on June 14, 2022, the judge writes in her 24-page decision that "the Court is of the opinion that both By-law 575-2021 initially adopted by the defendant and By-law 600-2022 are void in that they do not comply with the enabling powers prescribed by the CTA (Cities and Towns Act) relating to municipal royalties. It is true that this framework allows a municipality to enter into an agreement to make a third-party collector of the royalty, but this role of collector cannot be imposed as in this case. In doing so, it oversteps the powers."

The judge added that "the Court can only note (...) that the provincial legislature has not delegated to the municipalities the power to regulate the collection of such a royalty without prior agreement."

Therefore, the regulations must be declared null and illegal, writes the magistrate.

"When we amended the regulations, it was to clarify this legal aspect and it is the merchant now who is subject to the fee. We no longer need an agreement from the moment the merchant is subject," says the mayor without adding more.

The tourist fee added \$1 on purchases of goods and services of more than \$20, with some exceptions, and \$1 per night to maintain tourist infra-

Police report

On June 16, at the New Carlisle Courthouse, Brandon Metallic's preliminary hearing came to an end. The hearing took longer than the five days that were initially scheduled and had to be postponed until June 26 by Quebec Court Judge Janick Poirier since a few witnesses still remained to be heard. Mr. Metallic was charged on May 16, 2021, with two counts of unpremeditated murder. The alleged crimes occurred on May 15, 2021, in Listuguj. The two criminal prosecutors in the case had 13 witnesses which needed to be heard. A publication ban prevents these testimonies from becoming public. This preliminary hearing will allow Judge Poirier to determine if there is enough evidence to bring the case to trial. Brandon Metallic is defending himself but two lawyers are present to accompany him in legal matters. Lawyer Arianne Cayer is acting as a friend of the court. Her role is to ensure that he respects the proper conduct of procedures. Legal Aid lawyer Hugo Caissy will cross-examine certain witnesses that should not be in verbal contact with the accused. The date of the trial will be set later.

Holly Stanley, 43, from Gaspé was recently charged with fabricating a false document, a will, in a fraud case. A sum of more than \$200,000 was allegedly stolen. The events of which the suspect is accused took place in 2017 and 2018. Additional charges could be added at her next court appearance on September 25. The Sûreté du Québec (SQ) began its investigation following a complaint in August 2022. Holly Stanley was released on several conditions. Ms. Stanley also faces a civil lawsuit of \$286,000 from the Curateur Public. In March 2021, the Superior Court relieved Holly Stanley of her role as liquidator of the estate of a man who had died in a 2019 accident. The court then appointed a notary to manage the case. The Curateur public has been appointed tutor to the property of a minor child. The Court accepted the request given the suspicions of diversion of the property with a purpose of exercising the rights and remedies in order to recover the money if necessary. A first procedure step was filed in July 2022 claiming Holly Stanley stole nearly \$248,000 before modifying the amount to more than \$286,000 in January. A trial date has yet to be set.

Convicted of sexual assault on a minor under the age of 16 in February, André Robichaud, 56, is being sent to a penitentiary for five years. Superior Court Judge Manon Lavoie went halfway between the two years suggested by the defence, and the seven to eight years suggested by the criminal prosecutor. After two weeks of trial in February, a jury found Robichaud also guilty of causing bodily harm during the March 2019 event in Pointe-à-la-Croix. The judge underlined the victim's courage during the legal procedure and the significant consequences of André Robichaud's actions on the victim's life. The accused is already in the process of appealing the guilty verdict.

structure, while the bill for this component is \$800,000 per year, according to the town of Percé.

Citizens and workers were exempt.

On June 3, 2022, the

Comité citoyen-merchants de Percé filed an application to institute proceedings for nullity, their attorney alleging that the by-law is unconstitutional, illegal and is abusive, unreasonable and intrusive.



Join us at the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre for the Grand Opening / Vernissage of the

BACK TO NATURE EXHIBIT

This exhibit showcases the artwork of nearly 100 community participants through 9 different art forms.

July 4th, 1pm to 7pm. Free admission. Snacks and refreshments served.

Part of the Family Ties Back to Nature project funded by:



Canadian Heritage



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Part 2: A failure to recognize a problem rarely fixes it

The Coalition avenir Québec government needs a serious reality check on the way housing is managed. The editorial in last week's SPEC about the housing crisis and recent events prove that it remains a hot subject. The minister responsible for housing in Quebec, France-Élaine Duranceau, proved that she is really not up to the task.

She finds herself amid ethics problems, perception problems and a thorough lack of judgement regarding the issues she is supposed to take care of.

On June 20, the public learned that Quebec's Ethics and Professional Conduct Commissioner has opened an investigation into France-Élaine Duranceau's December 5, 2022, meeting with her friend and business partner Annie Lemieux. At the time, Ms. Lemieux was acting as a lobbyist.

There is an apparent conflict of interest because Ms. Lemieux was able to get the meeting just a few weeks after Minister Duranceau's access to the newly formed cabinet of the Coalition avenir Québec government, which had been elected on October 3. The cabinet was appointed on October 20.

The meeting, therefore, occurred six weeks later. It was very quick, sums up Monsef Derraji, the Liberal Party Member of the National Assembly, who is the driving force behind the file. The Ethics Commissioner will not comment on the file until the inquiry is over and the report is published.

Minister Duranceau is also criticized for the way she ran her business at times, before her political career. As a real estate agent, she also flipped houses. A series of news reports say she acquired a duplex in Montreal worth between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000, transformed it into five condos and later sold each of them for up to \$800,000.

Two Québec solidaire spokespersons, Emilise Lessard-Therrien who is a former Member of the National Assembly (MNA) and Ruba Ghaza who is the current MNA for Mercier quickly pointed out that a certain number of CAQ politicians are close to the financial elite and consequently far from the issues other Quebecers experience regularly. Ms. Ghazal stresses that her riding office phone is ringing off the hook, with calls from people who are being evicted from their homes and people who find themselves now homeless.

Flipping houses is legal. With the current housing shortage, a situation that is not new al-

though it was just acknowledged by Premier Legault and then Minister of Municipal Affairs, Andrée Laforest, in April 2022, we must wonder if a real estate agent heavily driven by money was the best person to tackle housing responsibilities.

Bill 31 and the Minister's lack of judgement

Over the third week of June, Minister Duranceau also made controversial statements when interviewed by the Noovo network. She was asked to comment on the way Bill 31 will deal with lease transfers, which are often a way for renters to keep rental rates down by preventing landlords from jacking up the price like they might in a new agreement with another tenant.

In response she basically said that "you can't use a right that isn't yours, to assign a lease to someone else, on terms you decide when it's not your building." She added that "the tenant who wants to do that should invest in real estate and take the risks that go with it." (-quotes translated by CBC)

She apologized after seeing how her statements were received. She awkwardly explained her insensitive words by stating that she was providing "a legal and economic description." The damage is done though. It could eventually be the third strike for Minister Duranceau.

If Bill 31 is adopted as it stands, a landlord whose tenant wants to transfer their lease can simply refuse the transfer and terminate it. As the regulation stands now, a valid reason is required to terminate a lease agreement.

Premier Legault also has strange ideas when it comes to housing

Minister Duranceau's blunders were probably fuelled to a certain point by a reasoning coming from Premier François Legault, who sees the skyrocketing housing prices as a sign of wealth accumulation, which seems to be his obsession since accessing power in 2018.

Global wealth accumulation means nothing if thousands of people don't find a home, because of an insufficient supply of housing units. July 1, also known as "moving day," is just around the corner. Mr. Legault's view is disconnected in that regard. There is growth in the population of Quebec and consequently a rising demand for housing units.

If the premier thrives on the rising cost of a house or rent because he sees a sign of growth, we are not even close to solving the current problem, which is a supply issue. There is a shortage of housing!

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation conducted a study recently and came up with a need for 3.5 million additional housing units in Canada

by 2030. The construction pace is way under that number.

In Québec, we will need 620,000 units by 2030. The current pace for new housing units does not meet that demand. It means a shortage of 90,000 units annually. In 2023, in Montreal, where close to half the Quebec population lives, only 9,000 units will be created this year.

Since becoming premier in 2018, Mr. Legault has regularly compared Quebec and Ontario. He seems obsessed with the alleged need for Quebec to match Ontario's wealth. However, his model of "collective enrichment" hits a few snags because you cannot compare Quebec and Ontario across the board. The two provinces are different.

For generations, Quebec has opted for affordable access to housing while in Ontario, society has a more elitist view of property. Quebec's neighbours have been experiencing a housing crisis for decades and it looks "normal" for a wider cross-section of the population.

When Premier Legault thinks that a price increase means we are collectively enriched, it contradicts the Quebec model. He forgets that the young generation wants access to housing, whether it is an apartment or a house. They need a roof over their heads at a price that will allow them to live with less stress, have children and lead a happy life. In Premier Legault's mind, happiness can only be achieved with money. For a man who wants to put emphasis on Quebecers' pride, it is a strange obsession.

The housing issues have been neglected by the provincial and federal governments for close to 30 years. We shouldn't be surprised by the current mess. The lack of construction manpower, recent disruptions of supply chains and recent interest rate hikes have only worsened the context.

The problem will not be solved with prayers. At the beginning of the 1980s, the Quebec government, amidst a major recession, with an unemployment rate surpassing 10%, interest rates in the vicinity of 20% and a shortage of quality housing, launched a vast forum which led to the creation of the program Corvée Habitation. It was a huge success. It might be time to think of a similar program. Not everybody wants to be a homeowner, a situation that must hurt François Legault's desire to propel his vision of collective enrichment. If the Quebec premier doesn't react soon to the housing crisis though, he will have to deal with shameful images and testimonies of numerous people unable to find housing. That might hurt his pride for a long time.

Until recently, it was "easy" for some government officials to ignore the housing problem because it "only" hurt poor people. However, it is now the middle class who is suffering. Will the government react soon?

Subscribe to Support Local Journalism!

You contribution makes trustworthy reporting possible.

The Gaspé Spec
ESTABLISHED - MAY 1978

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

Tel: 418-752-5400
specs@globetrotter.net
thegaspespec.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 Kirsh
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.

Chandler declares a \$480,000 deficit in 2022

NELSON SERGERIE

CHANDLER - Chandler ends its 2022 fiscal year with a deficit of \$479,682 on a budget of nearly \$12 million.

This is the result of the financial report presented on June 12 in a special municipal council meeting.

Inflation and rising fuel costs have had an impact on municipal finances, particularly in transportation with costs being \$300,000 more than budgeted.

Rising interest rates increased the municipality's financing costs by \$100,000.

The Town was counting on the \$400,000 from the sale of the Marina to balance its budget, but the transaction did not close during the 2022 fiscal year.

Initially, the transaction was supposed to be signed around the middle of June.

"The year ends with a deficit of \$79,000. Why \$479,000? The sale of the Marina was due to be listed in 2022 but surveying and notary delays meant the sale will not

take place until Thursday. The money will arrive in 2023 to balance 2022", explains the mayor of Chandler, Gilles Daraïche.

With a deficit of \$79,000 in 2022 and \$10,000 in 2021, the management of public finances is very tight and the Town no longer has any budget surplus.

"That's why we manage to squeeze as much as possible, but we think we'll see the light at the end of the tunnel," adds mayor Daraïche mentioning that work still needs to be done to maintain the assets.

Raising taxes to create a financial cushion is not currently being looked at as a possible solution by the municipality.

"That's where we don't want to go. We spoke with the director of finance and we should have good results in 2023," underlines the elected official.

Significant tax exemptions are expiring this year which will generate additional cash flow this year, with some businesses expected to contribute \$100,000 to the Town's coffers. On December 31, 2022, the accumulated deficit was

\$394,368.

The long-term debt went from \$15 million to \$19,838,000 due to the addition of \$4.8 million from the municipal garage in the last year.

Taking into account \$8.8 million in grants, the long-term net debt is \$11.5 million.

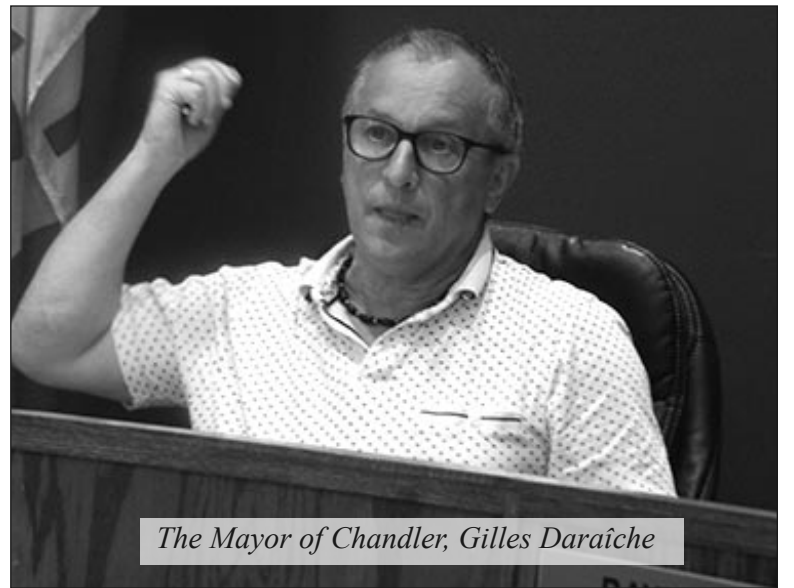
Vandalism

Vandalism will be in the sights of the municipal authorities of Chandler following several events that occurred last summer.

The mayor of Chandler, Gilles Daraïche, mentions that the summer of 2022 was the worst in this regard and he hopes that these events will not happen again this year.

To dissuade people from committing these acts, concrete actions will be taken.

"We are going to buy high-performance cameras to monitor our strategic locations. When we talk about strategic places, we are talking about the places where there is a lot of activity in summer. We also talk about the Bourg de Pabos, the Bâtisseurs walkway. We will be



The Mayor of Chandler, Gilles Daraïche

Photo: N. Sergerie

monitoring this very closely this summer," says the mayor.

Sûreté du Québec police officers were asked to increase surveillance on the territory.

Return of junior hockey

The Rimouski Oceanic of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League will again play two exhibition games in September in Chandler.

Promoters for a major junior club in the community have made representations and the reception has once again been positive.

"It wasn't hard to get them to Chandler. After last year's experience, the two organizations – the Armada de Blainville-Boisbriand and the Océanic de Rimouski – were delighted with the reception at Chandler. They found that we had exceptional ice and an extraordinary amphitheatre. They were welcomed in a wonderful way," recalls the mayor.

The Drummondville Voltigeurs will face the Océanic in games on September 8 and 9 at the Clément-Tremblay Sports Centre.

Stéphane Sainte-Croix says he is satisfied with his record

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, Stéphane Sainte-Croix, believes that he has done a satisfactory job of representing the citizens of his riding since being elected last October.

"After nine months, I am very satisfied with the work accomplished, (I am) more and more comfortable with my role, with the stakeholders and ready for more files," says Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

Among the important files, he notes the investments in Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospitals and the railway file.

"When I look at the significant evolution of the rail in the Gaspé Peninsula, it is still remarkable what we are realizing (the refurbishment), against all odds I would almost like to say. It is progressing in a spectacular way," says the MNA.

The Quebec Government has indicated that it would determine, by the end of the spring, what work needs to be carried out on section three between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé with an overall assessment of the amounts to be devoted to it.

However, spring is over and there has yet to be any announcement. "We should have



MNA for Gaspé, Stéphane Sainte-Croix

Photo: N. Sergerie

good news to announce very soon on the rail issue in the Gaspé Peninsula. We hope it will happen in the next few weeks," says the MNA.

Regarding air transportation, Mr. Sainte-Croix notes that the file is still in the reflection phase. "I am regularly in discussion on the evolution of the discussions. Things are moving forward and I am hard at work seeing how we can move things forward in a positive way for all regions of Quebec," says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

The wind power sector is also in his sights as Quebec has significant energy needs. "Wind energy will be a part of the solutions to come," he says. The best sources of wind are found in the Lower Saint Lawrence and the Gaspé Peninsula.

However, the lack of capacity of the transmission lines east of Rivière-du-Loup to bring these additional megawatts to the major centres results in a bottleneck situation.

"For the bottleneck, it's not unheard of. It's known. It's being addressed. It's true for our sector, and potentially it will be true elsewhere too. It won't be unique to our region, given that we're going to significantly increase energy capacity for Quebec's future. The Gaspé Peninsula, with its partner in the Lower St. Lawrence region, will be able to quickly become part of the solution. We're working hard to ensure that we have the input we need to make an informed decision that will benefit our sector," he adds.

Childcare and housing are

among the files that are slowing down. "Things are progressing in the sense that the projects have been identified, whether they are on the drawing board or in the process of being started. But there is a time to have these cases moved and I realize that things take time and it is necessary given the current situation. And there is a capacity to build that we must respect. There is a temporal dynamic that causes problems, but the good news is that these projects will happen in the coming months and the next few years," admits the MNA.

The time between planning, implementation and service offer is long.

"We are working on it every day to speed up these processes as much as possible," explains Mr. Sainte-Croix.

The Town of Gaspé is still struggling with the \$390,000 bill to sell land near Carrefour Gaspé to a developer to build 144 housing units and a new Centre de la petite enfance.

The MNA had discussed the property sale issue with the council during the election campaign and discussions, in particular with the Ministry of Natural Resources, continued thereafter.

"Things are progressing but it is a complex file. I do not

have the final answer to transmit to you, but there are regular discussions and we will hope for a favourable outcome," explains the MNA.

Will there be at least a partial refund in support of housing construction? "I understand that it is not over in terms of discussions. It involves a change in the law to go about it in the simplest way possible, but it is not the easiest way. If ever it requires a change of law, it will be up to the minister to go this way," adds Mr. Sainte-Croix.

On the issue of service breaks, particularly in obstetrics, since last fall in his riding, the MNA wants to ensure that basic services are provided.

"We must speed up the training and immigration processes and ensure that we have targeted approaches. We have convincing results. The Gaspésie still figures very well in terms of the workforce present on the territory when we compare it with the other regions of Quebec. They're specialist nurses. Yes, it's fragile, we're aware of that. We're working on it," he says.

Mr. Sainte-Croix did not want to discuss it initially, but he states that nearly \$100 million has been invested in the Gaspé riding since the election last October.

Catherine Blouin: Rundown of the National Assembly session

NELSON SERGERIE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - The Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Catherine Blouin, maintains that since her arrival at the National Assembly, 108 citizen files have been settled, another sixty are currently being worked on and approximately twenty businesses have been assisted. In addition, she has also assisted organizations with support grants for volunteers.

"In recent months, we have been proactive and I dare say effective," affirms the MNA when asked what was the highlight that marked the rundown of the session.

On the railway file, an announcement seems imminent for Gaspé. "I'd venture to say that there will be some excellent news very soon," says the Member of the National Assembly.

In health, services remain fragile due to the lack of manpower. As an assistant to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Christian Dubé, Ms. Blouin believes that we can be assured of adequate and continuous care. "That's what the Minister of Health wants to do with Bill 15 to make the health care system more efficient,"



MNA for Bonaventure,
Catherine Blouin

Photo: N. Sergerie

she states.

Ms. Blouin mentions, in particular, the training of doctors so that they are educated closer to the regions, as well as Bill 10 to regulate the use of independent labour. "We have a timetable for stopping this action, but in a region like ours, we cannot stop it overnight. We won't make it. We have a longer timeline, until 2026 to remain realistic. There are different incentives to attract new staff to training. There are a lot of projects underway to maintain services to the population of the Gaspésie," says Ms. Blouin.

Another major project involves coastal erosion, a phenomenon which frequently hits the region with increasingly

strong storms. Ms. Blouin says that comments made in consultations over the past few months have been passed on to her government.

"What we want is to implant the idea of prevention, anticipating what's to come. Not just short-term reactions, but medium and long term. We want to set up a Project Coordination Office. That's a lot of work. It won't happen with a snap of the fingers, but we're making progress," she says.

The Coordinating Office should be in place next January, says the MNA.

Regarding cellular coverage, the constituency representative regularly uses Saint-Elzéar as an example when she makes presentations on the subject.

Last September, a national alert was given following an active search for an individual who could be dangerous, but this municipality in the MRC of Bonaventure had not received it due to a lack of network (coverage).

"The objective of our government is to deliver by 2026 adequate cell coverage in Quebec and my personal objective is to ensure that we are the first in Bonaventure county," says Ms. Blouin.

In the MRC Avignon?, work has already been done to identify sites for towers to cover the territory. "It (the work) could start at home. We are already ready," she says.

In regards to childcare services, Ms. Blouin intends to look into the shortage of available spots in Port-Daniel and Nouvelle.

"We have 321 allocated spots that have not been delivered. What we want to do is to meet the people, the municipalities who have ongoing projects and whose (childcare) places have not yet been delivered. I want to have a clear game plan to ensure that these places are delivered. Then, maybe we can hope to have new places," says Ms. Blouin.

When asked about the program that will replace the Aid Fund for Regional Initiatives (FAIR), which had an envelope of \$8 million exclusively for the Gaspé Peninsula, the MNA doesn't have any information.

On March 31, the Table des préfets criticized the decision by the Quebec government to end the program, the municipalities also showed their displeasure by adopting resolutions. They were especially upset at losing the FAIR program, since Part 4 would

have granted funds for municipal projects.

The municipalities allocated money in their 2023 budgets under the assumption that the program would be renewed. They now find themselves with holes to fill this summer.

"I understand the disappointment. For this summer, I don't think we're going to be able to help them. On the other hand, I hope we'll be able to rectify the situation this fall," admits the MNA.

On the question of ethics because of her marital status with Mathieu Lapointe, who is the current mayor of Carleton-sur-Mer, prefect of the Avignon MRC and president of the Table of Prefects, Ms. Blouin does not intend to publicize the Ethics Commissioner's recommendations.

"We have different procedures to avoid conflicts of interest. The only person I don't talk to directly is the mayor of Carleton-sur-Mer and the prefect of the Avignon MRC. I think it's completely normal, but don't make it more complex than it really is but all the other citizens of the Bonaventure riding, including citizens of Carleton-sur-Mer and the MRC of Avignon can talk to me," says Ms. Blouin.

Cime Aventures offers access to the river in the Malin rapid area

NELSON SERGERIE

BONAVENTURE - Cime Aventures is offering the use of its Bonaventure River waterfront lot located on the Chemin des Saumoniers, just upstream of the Malin rapids to a not-for-profit organization through a call for tenders.

"The Bonaventure River is a jewel of the Gaspé Peninsula that is increasingly difficult to access. Cime Aventures wishes to promote access to the river in order to ensure that the population can take advantage of this unique waterway while being sensitive to the principles of sustainable development," explains Élodie Brideau, Director General of Cime Aventures.

The company is, therefore, launching a call for projects to solicit a nonprofit organization to promote the principles of public and equitable access to the Bonaventure River for non-motorized activities, in hopes to raise user awareness of good environmental and safety practices in a natural and nautical environment and the preservation of the banks of the river.

Last year, the owner of the land adjacent to the Malin rapid, Michel Bourdages, closed access to the public. Mr. Bourdages had for years been operating a parking lot to make the site available to the population.

Élodie Brideau points out that the property that belongs to her family will not be allowed to be used by the public to access the Malin. "Of course, there is an attachment of the population to the site but it is not our intention to replace the way the Malin was operated. The Bonaventure River is part of our heritage. Our decision (to make a property available) is a response to consultation stating that there is a lack of access to the river. We have always offered free access at the Cime Aventures base to the people wanting to swim and wanting to give access as long as they use non motorized boats. The bottom of the bank of the piece of land we make available is located 100 metres upstream from the Malin. It is a good place for cohabitation because it is not popular for (sports) fishing," says Ms.



Cime Aventures Director General Élodie Brideau wants people to have access to the river near the Malin rapids.

Photo: Cime Aventures

Brideau.

The change to the property intention should not trigger conflicts with neighbours because they are far from them, she adds.

"We mitigate the undesirable effects for private landowners and ensure better cohabitation. There is a neighbour downstream, but there is no house or cottage on that adjacent land. The nearest dwelling is four to five lots higher. We, at Cime, cannot undertake such an initiative because our workforce is quite busy at this time of the year.

We want a free activity for everyone. That's why it likely falls in the mission of a not-for-profit. It takes a partner that shares the same values as us, non motorized access, good environmental and safe practices," underlines Élodie Brideau.

The piece of land has a surface of 26,000 square metres and is located in the recreational zone for large-scale outdoor leisure use. It is mostly composed of a wetland whose natural character must be preserved and also includes a non-wet area that could be

developed to accommodate a parking lot and any other collective and ecological means of transport.

Access to the river is already arranged by a narrow path turning into a trail and overlooking a bank located on the east side of the river. "From there, it is possible to cross the river on foot and reach the Malin. The banks of the river are public," says Ms. Brideau.

The development of an access path for people living in a situation of reduced mobility is also possible at a low cost.

Cime Aventures requests no financial compensation in return for the project which will be selected according to its contribution in terms of accessibility, user awareness and good practices in terms of shoreline preservation. Any organization expressing its interest is invited to inform Cime Aventures by June 30, 2023, at the latest.

Cime Aventures was founded in 1989 by Gilles Brideau, Élodie's father. He wanted people to discover parts of the Bonaventure River that were relatively unknown at the time.

Interruptions in obstetric services

A stressful situation for expectant parents

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - Interruptions in services at the obstetrics department at the Gaspé hospital is causing anxiety for expecting mothers nearing their due dates.

The advisory committee of the Perinatal Centre attached to the Maison de la famille Parenfant in Gaspé sent a letter to the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS), Martin Pelletier, to deplore the situation regarding the gap in obstetric services at Gaspé.

In the letter sent to the president and CEO, it is mentioned that the uncertainty as to the place of birth adds unnecessary and detrimental stress for mothers who are about to deliver.

The letter also states, "It is impossible to know the course of a birth. The duration of the different stages of labour is extremely variable and unpredictable and can sometimes be surprising by its speed. So, what will happen in the event of a rushed delivery or an emergency during the drive?"

The letter goes on to mention that the service is deemed essential, asking when the situation will be regularized and when they will obtain the precise schedule of when services will not be available over the next few weeks.

The committee also considers it essential to have a nurse or a doctor that is reachable at the Gaspé obstetrics telephone extension or at least that calls are not transferred to a voicemail.

"It is important that families are really informed which periods will be covered and not covered because not knowing where their place of birth will be becomes a really unnecessary stress which can be detrimental for the progress of the birth," mentions the coordinator of the Maison de la famille Parenfant de Gaspé, Marie-Andrée Nadeau.

The obstetrics service was suspended between June 16 and June 22.

It resumed on June 23, but an interruption in service was scheduled for the night of June 23 and 24.

Geneviève Leroux of Douglastown is due to give birth in early July to her second child at the Gaspé hospi-



Photo: N. Sergerie

Expectant mothers are worried about discoveries of obstetrics services in Gaspé.

tal.

The thought that she might have to give birth in Chandler worries her. "I will not hide that it is stressful and creates additional logistics," said Ms. Leroux.

"What the nurses recommend is that at the first sign (of labour), we must contact them to establish a protocol according to how the delivery is likely to present itself. Normally, we are encouraged to start labour at home, rest and stay calm in the expectation that labour will happen more naturally. But in this case, from the first moments, we will have to go to the hospital in Gaspé to be evaluated and

make decisions accordingly. It creates a lot of strangers (involved in the care)," explains Ms. Leroux.

The expectant mother has been told there is an interruption in services scheduled from June 30 to July 4.

"It's really hard to prepare mentally and logistically when your partner is working and you have a family. It's already difficult because you have no control over when it will happen but, on top of that, we don't know the logistics. It's going to be a matter of juggling the situation in due course," stresses the mother-to-be, who nevertheless tries to remain as serene

as possible.

"I still feel well supported and I have no real concerns. Already, childbirth has its share of effervescence. You just have to focus on the positive. It takes a little more effort," she says.

The CISSS is aware of the situation, writing in an email that the obstetrics department of the Gaspé hospital is fragile due to human resources issues at the nursing level.

Without denying that the service could be disrupted again, the CISSS says it is working hard, in each of its services, to offer the best coverage to users.

In the event of a break in service, contingency plans with safe service corridors are put in place to other centres.

In the specific case of interruptions in obstetrics services, pregnant women 36 weeks and over are interviewed individually and accommodation is offered to them near services, according to the specific needs of each patient.

For Gaspé, the service corridor is established with Chandler.

"We are also empathetic to the situation of users when interruptions occur. Our objective is always to maintain services as long as possible," writes the CISSS.

Eastern Quebec to lose a riding

Gaspé Peninsula regrouped in the same riding

Nelson Sergerie

CARLETON - The Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec has maintained its decision to abolish the riding of Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapedia. That riding will be divided among two ridings, with the Matane, Mitis and Matapedia MRCs being integrated into the Rimouski riding. Matane will join the Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands riding. Listuguj's name will also be added to that riding.

This decision will reduce the federal representation for Est-du-Québec from four seats to three, which means reduced political weight for the Gaspé Peninsula-Magdalen Islands and Lower Saint Lawrence administrative regions. The current ridings will stand as they are until the end of the 44th Parliamentary session. Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapedia is currently represented at Ottawa's House of Commons by Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament Kristina Michaud, who won both elections in 2019 and 2021. Ms. Michaud has not indicated if she intends to stay in politics or which riding she would choose if she decides to pursue her political career.


In the original version of their new electoral map, the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec split some MRCs between two ridings. Some minor corrections were made during the winter but the commission never took into account representations made by numerous Eastern Quebec groups where the number of constituencies had to remain the same. The strict mathematical view of the commission remained, without consideration for the size of the ridings. For more information about this subject, please look for a longer report in next week's issue of The Gaspé Spec.

On behalf of the CASA Staff and Board of Directors we would like to wish everyone a

HAPPY
CANADA
DAY

Happy Birthday, Canada!

HYUNDAI
GASPÉSIE AUTO
339 Avenue de Port-Royal
Bonaventure G0C 1E0
418 534-2191
gaspesiehyundai.com

MUNICIPALITY OF
CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES

75 Route Gallagher,
Cascapedia-St-Jules
(Qc) G0C 1T0
Tel: (418) 392-4042 Fax: 418-392-6004

TOYOTA
BAIE DES CHALEURS
20 boul. Perron ouest
Caplan G0C 1H0
418 388-5544
toyotabaiedeschaleurs.com

BMR
Les Matériaux Gaspésiens
125 5^e Rue., Paspébiac, Québec
418-752-5933

Proud to Be Canadian
Happy Canada Day!

E. GAGNON & FILS LTÉE
405 route 132, Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé
Tel: 418-385-3011 • Fax 418-385-3021
13 Route 132, Shigawake, Québec
Tel.: 418-752-4236
Lobster • Snow Crab • Rock Crab

Happy Canada Day!
Russell Campbell
ardecor@globetrotter.net
A&R
decorations
Manufacturers of quality christmas products
166, route 299
Cascapedia-St-Jules
Québec, C0C 1T0
Tel (418) 392-4686
Fax (418) 392-5988
www.wreathorders.com
Fresh from the forest!

IGA
MARCHÉ IGA
ARBOUR LEBLANC
New Richmond Paspébiac
418-392-4237 418-752-2288

CASCAPEDIA
River Museum
275 route 299, Cascapedia-St-Jules, Qué.
Tel.: (418) 392-5079 • Fax (418) 392-5070
cascpdia.ds@globetrotter.net
HAPPY CANADA DAY!

275 route 299, Cascapedia-St-Jules, Qué.
Tel.: (418) 392-5079 • Fax (418) 392-5070
cascapedia_museum@globetrotter.net

Ville de
NEW RICHMOND
99, place Suzanne-Guité
New Richmond, Québec
Tel.: 418-392-7000

Carrefour Gaspé The ideal place to shop in Gaspé
ANIMALERIE FÉLIX LA TORTUE
BANQUE NATIONALE
CLAIRE FRANCE mode 14^e
Club C LES CHAUSSEURS QU'ON AIME
IGRA
L'ÉQUIPEUR
Hart
COIFFURE NOUS DEUX
SOURCE
GRENIER
MOBILE SNAP
PENTAG ONE
Société de l'assurance automobile Québec
L'ORIENTAL RESTO-CAFÉ
sports experts
UNIPRIX

39 Montée Sandy Beach,
Gaspé, Québec
418-368-5253

Happy Canada Day!

Honourable Diane Lebouthillier
MP for Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine
Grande-Rivière Office
153 Grande Allée East
Suite 104
Grande-Rivière, Québec
G0C 1V0
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts Office
464 Sainte-Anne Blvd West
Suite 27
Sainte-Anne-Des-Monts, Québec
G4V 1T5
New Richmond Office
New Richmond Town Hall
99 place Suzanne-Guité
Room 211
New Richmond, Québec
G0C 2B0
Magdalen Islands Office
418-986-1489
Facebook: lebouthillierd
Instagram: lebouthillierd
Twitter: DiLebouthillier
E-mail: Diane.Lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca
Website: DLebouthillier.Liberal.ca

Happy birthday Canada Quiz! -Diane Skinner



Take in the activities, fireworks, parades and flag waving. It's a day to be a proud Canadian. Wear red and white! Try this quiz about your country. It starts out with the easy questions but see how far you can go. On Canada Day annoy your friends and family by asking them some of the questions, because you know the answers!

1. Name of the current Prime Minister.
2. Flag colours.
3. Capital city.
4. Largest city.
5. National Anthem.
6. Governor General.
7. Official tree.
8. Largest province. (in area)
9. Smallest province. (in area)
10. Most populous Canadian province.
11. First Prime Minister.
12. Largest island.
13. Highest point.
14. Two official languages.
15. First francophone Prime Minister.
16. Official animal.
17. Official motto.
18. Longest river.
19. Number of provinces. Number of territories. Can you name them?
20. Largest lake.
21. Official summer sport.
22. Official winter sport.
23. Age eligible to vote.
24. Tallest freestanding structure.
25. Only officially bilingual province.
26. The three oceans that touch Canada.
27. Date of Canada Day and why we celebrate it.
28. Canada's first (and, so far, only) female Prime Minister.
29. Last province to join Canada.
30. People who became extinct after contact with the Europeans (in Newfoundland).
31. First Canadian in space.



32. Name of political and social movement in Quebec in the 1960s.
33. Name of early French fur traders. (Two answers possible)
34. National police force.
35. Largest religious denomination.

Bonus: Name five Prime Ministers of Canada (not including any mentioned in this quiz). There have been 23, so far. Note: Some have been elected to office more than once.

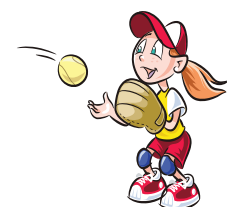


CANADA DAY FESTIVITIES NEW CARLISLE



FRIDAY JUNE 30TH

- | | | |
|--------|-----------|---|
| LEGION | 6 p.m. | Prince and Princess Pageant
(Hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion) |
| GREEN | 6:30 p.m. | Women's Softball Tournament
Beer Garden & Canteen |



SATURDAY JULY 1ST

- | | | |
|-------|---------|--|
| GREEN | 9 a.m. | Women's Softball Tournament |
| NCHS | 11 a.m. | Parade (gathering at 10:30 a.m.)
NEW ROUTE (Leave NCHS, turn on Route 132 and then go down Green Street to the beach) |

(No children under the age of 9 can go on a float without an adult. If you are decorating your ATV as a float in the parade, you must be 16 years old and over, wear a helmet and the ATV must be plated and insured. You will not be able to circulate once the parade is over except to return home immediately.)

- | | | |
|--|----------------|--|
| GREEN | After parade | Welcoming / Raising of the Flag / Singing "O Canada" |
| GREEN | After parade | Lulu Berlu |
| GREEN | Noon | Canada Day Market |
| GREEN | Noon - 4 p.m. | Music - DJ Ash |
| GREEN | 12 - 3 p.m. | Teddy Bear Picnic (12 & under - Free)
Reserved Area - Family Ties - next to canteen
(Light lunch - face painting - games and animation) |
| GREEN Playground | 1 p.m. | Kids Games
• 3-legged race • Stones • Dino dig
• Water balloon toss • Tails-steal the tail |
| GREEN | 1 p.m. | Volleyball Tournament (4 on 4) (\$) 14 yrs old + |
| GREEN | 2 p.m. | Adult Games: Nail Driving (\$) Chainsaw competition |
| GREEN | 6:30-9:30 p.m. | Music - Tammy (Adams) & The Guys |
|  | 9:30 p.m. | Fireworks |
| | 10 p.m. | Bonfire |
| | 10 - 12 p.m. | Music - Jonny Arsenault & Friends |



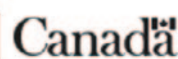
BEER GARDEN (open at 11 a.m.), MASONS CHILI DOGS

- NO BICYCLES WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE SITE
- CAMPING PROHIBITED EVERYWHERE ON THE BEACH AND ON THE GREEN
- NO GLASS BOTTLES WILL BE PERMITTED - NO BACK PACKS

SUNDAY JULY 2ND

- | | | |
|--------|-----------|--|
| GREEN | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Softball Tournament FINALS
Beer Garden & Canteen |
| LEGION | 1 p.m. | Kids Bingo (Free) - ages 4 - 12 |

Avec la participation du gouvernement du Canada. With the participation of the Government of Canada.



CANADA QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Justin Trudeau
2. Red and white
3. Ottawa
4. Toronto
5. O Canada
6. Mary Simon (since July 26, 2021)
7. Maple
8. Quebec (1,500,000 sq. km)
9. Prince Edward Island (5,500 sq. km)
10. Ontario (Almost 15,000,000)
11. John A. Macdonald
12. Baffin Island (over 500,000 sq. km)
13. Mount Logan
14. French and English
15. Sir Wilfrid Laurier
16. Beaver
17. From sea to sea
18. Mackenzie River (1,738 km)
19. 10 provinces and 3 territories (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavut)
20. Superior
21. Lacrosse
22. Ice hockey
23. 18
24. CN Tower
25. New Brunswick
26. Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic
27. July 1 / Anniversary of Confederation
28. Kim Campbell
29. Newfoundland
30. Beothuks
31. Marc Garneau
32. The Quiet Revolution
33. Coureurs des bois/Voyageurs
34. R.C.M.P. (Royal Canadian Mounted Police)
35. Roman Catholic (Christianity is the largest religion in Canada with Catholicism being its largest denomination.)
- (Names in bold are in quiz.)
- John A. Macdonald, Alexander Mackenzie, John Abbott, John Sparrow David Thompson, Mackenzie Bowell, Charles Tupper, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Robert Borden, Arthur Meighen, William Lyon Mackenzie King, Arthur Meighan, R.B. Bennett, Louis St. Laurent, John Diefenbaker, Lester Pearson, Pierre Trudeau, Joe Clark, John Turner, Brian Mulroney, Kim Campbell, Jean Chretien, Paul Martin, Stephen Harper, Justin Trudeau

Decision expected in early July for the Fort Prével Golf Club

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - Discussions for a possible partnership between the Fort Prével Golf Club and the JGS group are progressing to the point where a resolution could occur in early July.

"We presented last Sunday (June 11) the progress of discussions with the JGS Group, which made us a purchase or acquisition offer last February. Over the past few months, we have spent several working sessions where we have looked at the ins and outs of such an offer and to see to what extent the conditions and guarantees submitted would do the trick for both sides," mentions Gilles Pelletier who is the spokesperson for the Relance Fort-Prével Strategic Committee.

After hearing the status of the discussions, 90% of the members granted the committee with the mandate to continue the discussions. According to Mr. Pelletier, this will allow the companies "to get to the drafting and presen-

tation of an agreement in principle in the coming weeks."

Legal counsel is working on submitting a proposal in early July. Asked about what such an agreement will contain, Mr. Pelletier remains discreet.

"At the moment, the discussions are progressing well and we will see in the next two or three weeks if things can be formalized in an agreement," states Mr. Pelletier.

Jean-François Fortin, who is the co-owner and manager of the Groupe JGS assets in Eastern Quebec, confirms that the negotiations are well advanced.

"We are not far from an agreement in principle," he says.

"With this agreement, we hope for the future of Fort-Prével, the maintenance of assets and the modernization of recreational tourism of the place for the entire community of Gaspé, Percé and visitors," adds Mr. Fortin.

In the interview, the word "purchase" was mentioned by Mr. Fortin.

He was asked to clarify his thoughts on whether he intended to get his hands on 100% of Fort-Prével's assets.

"In fact, this is what is to be marked out in the agreement, but effectively, it is a purchase with commitments and with constraints and rules that will be marked out in a notarized agreement and a partnership to the extent where the members of Fort-Prével continue to guide, orient and participate in the decisions of the future of the site," specifies Mr. Fortin who wishes to make a joint announcement at the beginning of July.

In February, the members put basic conditions on the table: maintain the recreational tourism and family component of the site, the golf activities and capitalize on the military history of the place, conditions that the promoter said he was ready to accept.

Fort Prével updated its business and development plan in phases last fall.

Phase 1 of the upgrade con-

sists of improving the golf clubhouse and inn. These upgrades should cost \$2.24 million.

Phase 2 consists of highlighting the site which was used during the Second World War with a reception structure focusing on the facilities that were in place at the time, and how they were used to defend the region and Canada against German invaders. Phase 2 also includes the installation of

water games for children and the upgrading of the accommodation component by offering more upscale facilities in order to generate more income. Phase 2 is now estimated at \$2.79 million.

JGS group already owns three properties in the east: the Gaspésiana hotel in Sainte-Flavie, the Boule Rock Golf Club in Métis-sur-Mer and Aquamer in Carleton-sur-Mer.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



A newspaper with soul

The Gaspé Spec has soul and that makes it important and meaningful to its Gaspesian readers. When referring to the soul, we more commonly hear it in the context of religion – the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being regarded as immortal. In contrast, saying the SPEC has soul means that it has emotional or intellectual energy or intensity revealed in the pages of the SPEC going back to its inception in 1975. If you could look back to issues of the paper written over the years, it would give you a portrait of the people and environment of the Gaspé, with a focus, but not exclusivity, on the anglophone community.

The pages of the SPEC give us or have given us articles about people, places and things that matter to the people who live here or have lived here, since many of our readers live away. It is their way of maintaining a connection to their ancestral home. By the number of readers who subscribe from other places around Canada and the world, it tells us that it is still important for them.

A newspaper is comprised of a variety of types of journalism – "hard" news (which includes political, provincial and municipal/local news), editorials and reflections (journalist reactions and opinions to the goings-on that affect readers); articles that cover history, culture and environment; the much loved Lighter Side page; recipes; announcements; police reports and, of course, ads. Ads are a necessary part of any paper. We also welcome Letters to the Editor from readers. The guidelines for letters are included on page 4 of the paper each week.

At times the balance of these different parts of the paper change depending on what is happening on the peninsula. Hard news tells us about what is occurring in every linguistic community because we are all interconnected on the Gaspé not a hierarchy, more like a web of connectedness.

Keep reading and subscribing to the SPEC because we will cease to exist without your support. Some of the articles are intellectual and factual, and some have more emotional content. Enjoy all the articles because they may serve a different purpose but with one aim. That is to keep us all connected through the pages of The Gaspé Spec.

Pride Month Canada: Recognizing diversity

DIANE SKINNER

Pride Month is recognized in June in Canada. It is an acknowledgement of the diversity of individuals within the 2SLGBTQ+ communities. LGBTQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning or queer. Recently there has been an addition of 2S at the beginning of LGBTQ+. The two-spirit term (2S) is used by some Indigenous people to describe Native people in their communities who consider themselves to be a third gender, a person who embodies both masculine and feminine spirits.

Pride Month is now a celebration, however, it first started with protest movements and the demand for equal rights for gays and lesbians. That fight for equality is still ongoing. Over the years, Pride events have become more mainstream with governments and corporations endorsing the celebrations.

In Canada, the first demonstrations took place in Vancouver and Ottawa in 1971, over 50 years ago! Just two years later Pride events were held in several Canadian cities, including Montreal, Ottawa, Saskatoon, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg. The demonstrations were effective in raising awareness and changing the understanding of the diversity that exists.



Photo: Metro

The rainbow flag has become a recognized symbol for the Pride movement.

As of 2023, Pride Month is officially recognized in Australia, Canada, Cuba, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The rainbow flag has become a recognized visual symbol for the Pride movement. It was designed by a man named Gilbert Baker in 1978 in San Francisco. The original design had eight colours, each symbolizing something different.

Pride Month aims to inform and encourage understanding and acceptance of those who had to hide who they were in the past. Awareness is vital so that all identities are represented and deserving of respect.

LGBT+ Baie des Chaleurs is a local organization that offers resources and support for

all communities – Aboriginal, francophone, anglophone and allophone (a person whose mother tongue is not English or French) in the Bay of Chaleur area, including the Avignon and Bonaventure MRCs. This includes 24 municipalities and two Aboriginal communities. According to their website, their mission is to "defend the rights and interests of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, Two-Spirit, queer, intersex, asexual, and questioning individuals, recognized under the acronym 2SLGBTQIA+" by "working on promoting the personal and social well-being of LGBT+ youth, adults, and elders living in the Bay of Chaleur region by offering services and activities that meet their needs." For more information, you can email info@lgbt-bdc.net



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**

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you will likely be giving much thought to your future and strategies that may increase your financial security. Reach out to your network for advice.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, if communication has been difficult in the past, you will find that things change for the better in the days to come. You will gain a deeper understanding of others.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, useful information reaches you this week, which helps you make important decisions about your finances. Use this opportunity to make changes.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, a social gathering presents you with an opportunity to meet new friends who may become valued business contacts. Treat every introduction with care.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may be wondering what the next few months will hold for you. It is impossible to know all the details, but there are strong indications that there is a big change coming.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Career goals may come together even further this week, Virgo. This enables you to move into a position that will not compromise your needs or ideals.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you want to make a new start but may just need a little push to get you moving. Thankfully, your mind is clear from distractions that normally might derail your plans.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, soul searching is to be expected due to the positioning of the planets this week. Once you figure out your true goals you may be surprised at what you discover.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Take time out from some of the exciting things that have been happening to you, Sagittarius. Figure out if you're satisfied in your career. You may decide to make changes.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

A new understanding with others comes from improved communication and more flexibility, Capricorn. Optimism and understanding will spill into all areas of your life.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Your mind is on family and those close to you right now, Aquarius. Any decisions you make in the weeks ahead will be focused on the priority people in your life.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20


Information about investments and career potential may come to you soon. Take everything with a grain of salt until you can investigate.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- JUNE 25: Ricky Gervais, Comic (62)**
- JUNE 26: Aubrey Plaza, Actress (39)**
- JUNE 27: H.E.R., Singer (26)**
- JUNE 28: Elon Musk, Entrepreneur (52)**
- JUNE 29: Camila Mendes, Actress (29)**
- JUNE 30: Michael Phelps, Athlete (38)**
- JULY 1: Pamela Anderson, Actress (56)**

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



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



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

Electricity - Plumbing
Automation
Industrial computing
Counter sales

CLOTURE KENNEDY
INSTALLATION DE CLOTURES
DÉVELOPPEMENT



EXCAVATION • KENNEDY

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

GASPÉ, DOUGLASTOWN

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

Announcements



Obituary



BUDD: Todd Allan

It is with immense sadness we share the sudden passing of Todd Allan Budd on January 6, 2023, at the age of 57 in Calgary, Alberta.

Todd was predeceased by his father Gary Budd and survived by his soulmate Tammie Cudmore, his mother Dorothy Steele Budd, brothers Steven and Kenny, sister Lori, as well as his nephews and nieces.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Todd's life during a graveside funeral at New Richmond's St. Andrew's United Church on July 8, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Todd's good humour and generous spirit touched everyone he met. He was always ready for adventure; the first to offer a helping hand and showed love through his kind gestures.

Always the life and storyteller of the party, Todd would have wanted us to celebrate his life in exactly this way, telling tales and sharing laughs. In fulfillment of that wish, we invite you to celebrate Todd's fun-loving spirit by joining us after the service and be sure to bring your favourite memory of Todd to share.



MILLER: Brigid (Drody)

January 1, 1937 - November 5, 2022

MILLER: Richard

November 14, 1963 - February 3, 2017

A funeral service for Brigid (Drody) Miller and Richard Miller, son of James Miller and the late Brigid, will be held on July 18, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church in Douglastown. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. followed by a funeral service at 10:30 a.m. and cemetery burial after the service.

Family and friends are welcome to stay for light refreshments at Trachy Hall after the service.

Announcement Prices

Obituary and Wedding

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

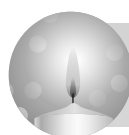
➔ **\$40**
(picture + \$5)

All other Announcements

➔ **\$30**
(picture + \$5)

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

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



Funeral and Burial



LEPAGE: Vane William

We invite you to the funeral and burial of our beloved father and grandfather Vane William LePage (1925-2023), who passed away in January of this year. The service will take place at St. Peter's Anglican Church in St Georges-de-Malbaie on Saturday July 8, 2023, at 2 p.m.

A reception with refreshments will follow the service within the adjacent church hall.

Donations can be made to the church in lieu of flowers



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

The Gaspé Spec - Obituary Guide

(Please note that paragraphs can be added or removed as needed.)

Paragraph 1: In this paragraph you should list the full name, date and place of your loved one's birth and death, cause of death (optional), as well as the name of parents.

Paragraph 2: In this paragraph you can give a brief biography of the deceased, including if desired the schools that they attended.

Paragraph 3: In this paragraph you can list employment history, any special awards received and notable accomplishments.

Paragraph 4: In this paragraph you can list information about church or religious affiliations, any organizations or clubs, as well as any hobbies or interests that the deceased was a part of or enjoyed.

Paragraph 5: This paragraph can be used to give any information about your loved ones personality, their quirks or funny stories.

Paragraph 6: Paragraph 6 is where you will list surviving family, friends and other relatives as well as any predeceased family. It is important to note that regardless of family situations or relationships with other family members, the obituary should include accurate information for historical purposes, as once it is published it can be used as a reference for future generations. It should not exclude anyone for personal reasons.

Paragraph 7: The last paragraph is usually reserved to let friends and family know about funeral arrangements such as visitation date, time and location it is also where you can indicate where family and friends can make donations in memory of your deceased loved one. Example: In lieu of flowers a donation in their memory can be made to

**Please note that there are many ways to write an obituary. There are no set rules that must be followed. It is recommended to view samples of obituaries online or in your local paper. Find a style that would fit your loved one and make them proud.*

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 handi-crafts, 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 gasp22@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 gasp45@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.

CORNER OF THE BEACH: Historical Society

The Corner of the Beach Historical Society is pleased to present a series of eight concerts every Wednesday of July and August at the Corner of the Beach Cultural Museum (former St. Luke Anglican Church). The church will be entirely lit with more than 200 candles for the occasion. The full schedule is available on the Musée culturel de Coin-du-Banc Facebook page.

July 5: Zoé Jean-Deslaurier in concert beginning at 9 p.m.

July 12: Julien Lebreux in concert beginning at 9 p.m.

July 19: Pierre Michaud in concert beginning at 9 p.m.

July 26: Yvette Thériault, Carmen Léger and Monique Allen in concert

beginning at 9 p.m.

August 2: Claude Hurtubise trio in concert beginning at 9 p.m.

August 9: Flore Laurentienne solo in concert beginning at 9 p.m.

August 16: Char in concert beginning at 9 p.m.

August 23: Ibal Zadok on sitar and Shawn Mativetsy on tabla in concert beginning at 9 p.m.

PORT DANIEL:

St. James Anglican Church

July 6: Gift card 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 eemcmillan93@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:

Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre

July 4: Open House Activity to open the 2023 Tourist season beginning at 1 p.m. with the unveiling of a new exhibit called "Back to Nature" in collaboration with Family Ties. Held in the basement conference room. Join us and the participants of the creative workshops. Snacks and refreshments will be served and entry is free!

NEW CARLISLE:

Spec AGM

September 12: Save the date! Spec AGM, more details to follow.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64

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

September 5: 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.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50 Plus Club

July 8: BBQ from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$15 per adult, \$10 for children between 5 and 12 years old and free for children under 5.

HEMA QUEBEC :

Blood Drive

July 31: Bonaventure from 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

August 1: New Richmond from 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

August 2: Grande-Riviere from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

August 3: Gaspé from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information about objectives and locations please visit: hema-quebec.qc.ca

*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 thegaspespec.com

\$46
taxes included

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Your gift Message: _____

1 year: Canada \$46 6 months: \$25

Ancient Mi'gmaq game celebrated at National Indigenous Peoples Day

CYNTHIA DOW

On June 21, Wejgwapniag School held its annual powwow. This celebration is to honour the end of the school year and to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Students, staff and community members gathered in the

school gym to participate in drumming and dancing and to enjoy the lovely arts and crafts that were for sale. The members of the Gesgapegiag Fire Department also prepared a community BBQ.

A popular exhibit was put on by Hank Martin and William Jerome, who ex-

plained the ancient game of Waltès. This game of chance is played with flat bone dice, a flat wooden bowl, and a series of sticks which players win or lose by tossing the dice in the bowl.

A CBC report from 2016 noted that the game is making a comeback throughout the Mi'gmaq Nation, and that legend indicates it was so popular it is even played in the Spirit World.

Artists and crafters displayed their wares on tables all along the gym wall, including Theresa Caplin, who had help from her great-nephew Gavin Caplin-Jerome. Ms. Caplin and many other artisans will also be selling their works of art at the upcoming Mawiomi, which should take place at the end of July.

On July 1 the Mi'gmawei Mi'majuagan cultural program will be offering activities of all kinds at the Apo'oon'



Photo: C. Dow

Theresa Caplin and her great-nephew Gavin Caplin-Jerome manned her table at the event at Wejgwapniag School.



Peyton Jerome gets a lesson in Waltès playing from Hank Martin as Wanda and William Jerome look on.

ma'tultinej building at the eastern end of the community, formerly the Jehovah's Witness hall. You can enjoy work-

shops, music, food and the chance to win prizes. For more information you can contact janie.savage@gesgapegiag.ca

Strawberries will be available by early July

Nelson Sergerie

SAINT-SIMÉON - Strawberries from the Gaspé Peninsula should be on grocery store shelves around July 5, according to Pierre Bourdages who is co-owner of Ferme Bourdages, who notes a slight delay compared to last year. "What we are waiting for is sunshine to finish the flowering part and the pollination. We started having berries develop. We are waiting for the sun so that they can grow and turn red," says Mr. Bourdages.

The particular spring with heavy rains and hot weather followed by cool weather had a slight impact on production. "Too much water is not good. It prevents pollination. This will cause some mold problems in the medium and long term. Not enough water, we are able to irrigate. The cold weather extended the ripening time as June was cooler and wetter. It's only a few days difference," says Mr. Bourdages.

It is difficult to predict the performance of the 2023 season. "We should have a pretty good production. It may not be a record year in terms of volume, but we will be there to supply grocery stores, sell strawberries locally and do our processing. We will be there to provide the products that customers will need," concludes Mr. Bourdages. The farm will again employ around forty foreign workers. Several have already arrived, with all foreign workers getting here for the peak production period.



Business & Professional Directory



DIANE LBOUTHILLIER
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



AXIO
ARPEUTEURS - 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



LFG
CONSTRUCTION

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

constructionlfg.com

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

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

BUILDINGS ENERGY AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC



ENERGY
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

WHAT MAKES US
DRIVEN TO BE DIFFERENT?

www.shipENERGY.com



DISCOVER MORE

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

 **AUBERGE MARCHAND**
LODGING • RESTAURANT
FINE PRODUCTS
530, boulevard Perron
Maria, Quebec
1-888-959-3766
aubergedumarchand.com

OCEANVIEW TERRASSE
CONCERT HALL
GASPESIAN CUISINE
EXHIBITION HALL


557, boulevard du Griffon
L'Anse-au-Griffon, Quebec
info@culturegriffon.ca
facebook.com/culturegriffon
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 INTERPRÔVINCIAL
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
For more information, please contact the Town Hall at 418-752-3141
www.new-carlisle.ca

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

 **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.

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

 **the Gaspesian way**
DISCOVER OUR COAST

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

 **uniprix**
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**


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

 **GARAGE PIZZERIA**
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**

 **CARREFOUR GASPÉ**
39, montée Sandy Beach
Gaspé, Quebec
CARREFOURGASPE.COM

 **CATHERINE BLOUIN**
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BONAVENTURE

 **ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC**

 **Gaspé The Romantic Region**

Plan your Gaspesian vacation with Walter Willett's travel/history guidebook to the Gaspé Peninsula!
Visit www.gasperoadtrip.com to order your copy or email walter@gasperoadtrip.com

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

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

Photo: Nancy Coulombe