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Shigawake Agricultural Fair and Music Festival

GILLES GAGNÉ

SHIGAWAKE – The Shigawake Agricultural Fair and Music Festival took place between August 17 and 20, at the Shigawake fairgrounds. Although it did not attract record crowds, organizers and attendees were able to enjoy a more typical fair, without pandemic restrictions.

The fact that the fair was held a week after the Musique du bout du monde festival instead of at the same time had a positive effect on attendance. It

is a bit early to draw an in-depth wrap-up of the event but it is certainly a great time to show some pictures of the fair. Despite it sometimes raining, attendees came prepared, were patient and everyone remained in good spirits.

The Shigawake Agricultural Fair was founded in 1909 and the Music Festival was added in 2009. In 2009, the Shigawake Agricultural Fair was the oldest such event organized uninterruptedly in Quebec.



The farm animals are always popular with the children at the fair. Eleanor Almond, age 2, especially liked visiting with the pigs.

Photo: Heather Imhoff



Jeffrey Vautier and George Hayes are prime examples of community leaders. When attending the fair, you are likely to see them volunteering in one capacity or another. They also know how to dress for the weather!

Photo: Heather Imhoff



Again this year, the lawn tractor race was a popular event. It started 50 minutes later than scheduled, after heavy rain left the track quite muddy. It forced the 13 participants to adjust their driving to very slippery curves. Dean Dea won the V-twin and 12-14 horsepower category, while Brendan Benwell won the 14 horsepower plus class. The whole event lasted two hours and finished at dusk.

Photo: G. Gagné



The Tots and Wheels pageant was featured for the first time at this year's fair and was a great success. Claire Renouf, age 3, sure has a beautiful garden on wheels.

Photo: Bethany Hayes



Country music fans were delighted to get a chance to see Gaspesian Pamela Rooney perform. Her show in Gaspé had been cancelled a week prior to her Shigawake performance. A fairly large group of followers from her hometown made the trip to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the Shigawake event. They were not disappointed.

Photo: G. Gagné

The lawyer for the former mayor of Chandler will appear before the Disciplinary Council of the Bar

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER - A new chapter is being written in the saga between the former mayor of Chandler, Louisette Langlois, and the Commission municipale du Québec (CMQ) as her attorney, Charles Caza, is summoned to appear before the Quebec Bar's Disciplinary Council.

A disciplinary complaint has been filed against Mr. Caza since he "failed in his obligations of respect and moderation," confirms the Quebec Bar.

The hearing has been set for November 21 and 22.

Details of the complaint will only be available once the hearing has begun.

However, according to the information obtained by SPEC, an investigation was conducted by the syndicate of the Quebec Bar following a complaint.

The complaints in this case are allegedly referring to the abusive actions launched by Mr. Caza in the whole saga surrounding the 180-day suspension of Louisette Langlois between January and July 2021 after a notice of



Photo: N. Sergerie

Charles Caza and Louisette Langlois during the Quebec Municipal Commission hearings in July 2020 in Gaspé.

hearing filed in December 2019 and hearings in July 2020 for 21 breaches of the Code of ethics and professional conduct of elected officials of the Town of Chandler.

The CMQ had retained 20 breaches in December 2020.

The breaches mentioned included the disclosure of confidential information to citizens in November 2018, March 2019 and September 2019, when the mayor allegedly disclosed the names or titles of employees who filed psychological harass-

ment complaints with the CNESST. In addition, in March and May 2019, she allegedly sent an email or a message by Messenger to a citizen containing accounts of lawyers' professional fees, all contrary to article 6 of the code.

The Superior Court dismissed the appeals for judicial review in July 2021 on the grounds that the CMQ rulings were rigorous and its analysis serious in terms of both law and facts.

The case was referred to the Court of Appeal, which

concluded in October 2021 that the motion raised no question of principle, no new question, no question of law subject to conflicting case law or any question deserving consideration of the Court.

In January 2022, the Town of Chandler went to court to claim \$230,411 from the former mayor in the saga surrounding the penalty.

The resolution adopted in January 2021 stressed, among other things, that the charges against Louisette Langlois "were the result of serious or intentional misconduct, with her personal interest predominating, and of having taken actions in an intentional and premeditated manner, all to achieve her ends."

The argument was repeated in the motion to institute proceedings for reimbursement of defence costs filed on January 17, 2022, at the Percé Courthouse.

The Town of Chandler's attorneys mentioned in particular that "the decision rendered (...) on December 21, 2020, is overwhelming with regard to the defendant and establishes that the defendant's acts or omissions are serious faults and/or intentional and/or separable from the performance of her du-

ties." They added that the former elected "has multiplied the procedures, some of which are useless, unfounded and truncated in view of the evidence presented before the CMQ."

This lawsuit against the former mayor is being contested as a motion to have the Town of Chandler's conduct declared abusive and the motion to institute proceedings dismissed has been filed with the Superior Court.

The document filed last April by Mr. Caza specifies that several delays have occurred since June 6, 2022, in the file and that last January, the town's prosecutors presented a new request for an extension to transmit the requested documents.

Subsequently, on March 14, "Attorneys for the Plaintiff indicated that they were still in the process of compiling the responses to the commitments," the document states.

Counsel for Ms. Langlois argued in the motion that "without notice and without having sent the undertakings, counsel for the plaintiff had a subpoena served on April 12, 2023, directly on the defendant to cross-examine her on two separate days, April 20 and 21.

According to Mr. Caza, "such actions constitute manoeuvres to prevent the defendant from having the right to a full and complete defence, with the aim of depriving access to all the documentary and other evidence."

To date, this saga has cost Chandler taxpayers \$341,994.

Chandler reserved the right to adjust his claim.

Should Louisette Langlois' request be rejected, the hearing of the claim would not take place until the winter of 2024.



Photo: Kayla Caplin

New Gesgapegiag council is sworn in

GILLES GAGNÉ

GESGAPEGIAG – On August 21, the councillors and newly elected Chief Roderick Larocque Junior took the oath in order to manage Gesgapegiag for the next four years. The ceremony was held nine days after the August 12 election where Chief Larocque received 217 votes, compared to 182 for Bernard Jerome. From left to right, John Martin, Chief councillor Aaron Condo, Tracy Condo, Shawn Martin, Chief Roderick Larocque, Angélique Condo, Dorothy Gedeon and Preston Paul gathered outside for the photo. Missing from the photo is councillor Shannon Gedeon. John Martin was the chief of Gesgapegiag during the last term but decided not to run for chief this time around. Aaron Condo and Dorothy Gedeon were also members of the last council.





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The Chief Electoral Officer is interested in Chandler

Nelson Sergerie, LJI
CHANDLER - Complaints filed by Chandler citizens with the Chief Electoral Officer (DGE) of Quebec could lead the organization to look into possible irregularities that occurred during the November 2021 election.

According to information received by SPEC, citizens were informed that the DGE was going to investigate these complaints.

The visit of the investigators is likely to take place very soon. According to what SPEC has learned, bribes including cash and restaurant meals were paid to try to induce people to vote for certain candidates during the last election. The targeted areas are Chandler, Pabos and Newport.

In addition, the DGE is to look into at least one other element that arose during the election in question.

The DGE's communications department refuses to confirm whether an investigation has been opened.

If such allegations are found, section 591 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities regulates this type of situation.

The article says "commits an offence whoever: 1) by himself or through another person, with a view to influencing the vote of an elector, obtains or attempts to obtain his vote or incites them to abstain from voting by promising or granting them any gift, loan, office, employment or other advantage or by making threats; 2) in order to obtain or because he has obtained a gift, loan, office, employment or other advantage, undertakes to abstain from voting or to vote in favour of a candidate".

If ever a person were found guilty, the penalty for this offence, which is a fraudulent electoral practice, is twofold: a fine of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 and the loss of electoral rights for a period of five years, including the right to do partisan work, to vote and to be a candidate in an election.

For an elected person, guilt would result in disqualification from serving as a member of the council of any municipality, since the person becomes ineligible to be a candidate in an election.

The pro-mayor, Bruno-Pierre Godbout, mentioned that the current elected members of the council would not be under investigation.

"What we can mention is that no elected official at the council table has been contacted and has been targeted by this investigation by the DGE. We can conclude that these are probably not people elected in 2021," says Mr. Godbout.

The mayor of Chandler, Gilles Daraïche, is on vacation outside the region.

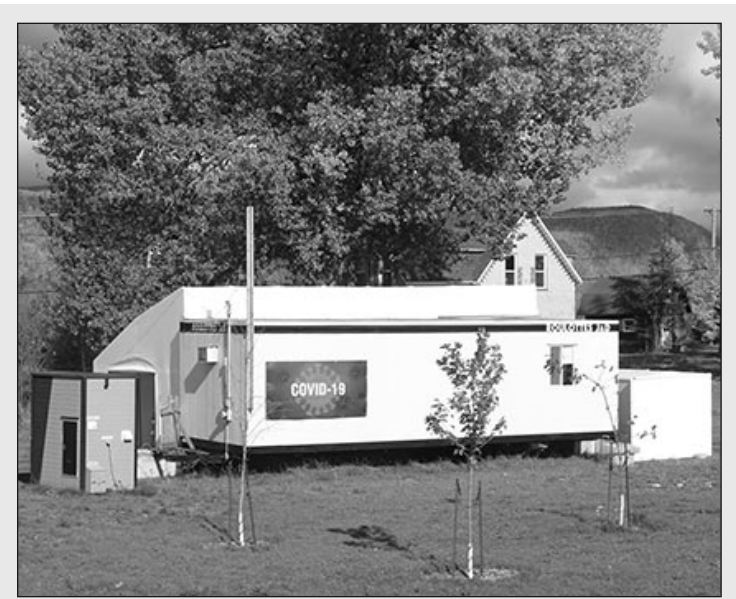


Photo: G. Gagné

Gradual increase in COVID-19 cases

Nelson Sergerie
GASPÉ - The number of cases of COVID-19 continues to rise slowly in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. From just 33 cases during the month of July, 105 cases have been reported up to August 23 among people eligible for screening, according to data from the Institut national de la santé publique du Québec.

In addition, four deaths have been reported since the week of July 23, bringing the total to 151 since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

Police report

On Sunday, August 20, police officers from the RCMP's Marine Security Enforcement Team seized several firearms, as well as numerous magazines and ammunition, on board a sailboat off Pointe-à-la-Renommée, near the Anse-à-Valleau area of the town of Gaspé. Wayne Alfonza Bradford, 63, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was arrested. He has been charged with possession of a prohibited/restricted firearm with ammunition. Further charges may be laid against him.



Photo: RCMP

The Marine Security Enforcement Team (MSET) police officers intercepted the boat during patrol. During verifications, they discovered that the individual had not reported his presence to the Canada Border Services Agency or declared his firearms. In the boat, they discovered a semi-automatic assault rifle and a loaded semi-automatic pistol. They also found around ten prohibited high-capacity magazines and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. He was sent to the New Carlisle prison following his arrest and is waiting for his bail hearing. Pointe-à-la-Renommée is also called Fame Point.

MSET is part of the RCMP's Border Integrity Program and Federal Detachments, which work to protect the marine border. One of the program's main objectives is to fight organized crime and smuggling. To do so, a marine strategy has been put in place with multiple partners such as the Canadian Coast Guard, Canada Border Services Agency, the Canadian Armed Forces, Fisheries and Oceans, as well as international partners.

A fatal accident occurred on August 24, shortly before midnight, when a car struck a pedestrian near the local canteen, in Port Daniel-Gascons. "The emergency services were called to intervene at the site of a collision as a car had hit a pedestrian walking in the middle of Highway 132. The paramedics tried resuscitation manoeuvres and he was driven to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The driver was also sent to the hospital because he was in shock. A technician in accident reconstitution was called to clarify the circumstances of the collision. Highway 132 was partially closed for hours, but one lane was left so that traffic could alternate," explains Sûreté du Québec communication officer, Ève Brochu-Loubert. As the SPEC was reaching its deadline, the name of the victim had not been released. He is a 31-year-old man from Port Daniel. The emergency call was given at 11:30 p.m. in a 90-kilometre per hour zone.

Gabriel Montmagny, 20, from Chandler, faces charges of sexual assault on a minor, assault with a weapon, having uttered death threats and dangerous driving. According to the indictment, the accused strangled and harassed a minor female over a period of twenty days. The alleged acts occurred in January in the MRC of Bonaventure. During the same period, he allegedly threatened to kill two adults in addition to driving a motor vehicle in a dangerous manner. Gabriel Montmagny will return to the New Carlisle Courthouse on October 3 for a pro-forma appearance. Criminal prosecutor, Élisabeth Caron, who is based in Matane, points out that the case will probably only proceed in a few months. Gabriel Montmagny was first charged on June 5. "There is a publication ban effective on every detail that could allow the public to identify the victim," she stresses. She isn't divulging the reasons why she is in charge of the case, as she resides outside the Bonaventure judicial district. However, criminal prosecutors are often requested when the local criminal prosecutors know the accused or someone very close to the accused.

On August 23, Sûreté du Québec police officers from the Avignon MRC detachment arrested a 55-year-old man from Saint Omer for possession of narcotics for the purpose of trafficking, as well as careless storage of firearms. The man was released on a commitment to appear at a date that remains to be determined. He could face various charges related to drug trafficking. A search conducted in his house as well as his two vehicles took place, where police officers found and seized various items. The officers found \$800 in Canadian money, just over 1100 methamphetamine pills, six guns and a cellular phone. The investigation was initiated in June following information received from the public. Police officers and investigators from the Matapedia, New Richmond and the Chandler major crimes investigation team, as well as the canine squad, collaborated in this file.

Sûreté du Québec police officers remind the public that over the next few days, hundreds of thousands of students will return to school. The presence of school buses, pedestrians, cyclists and crossing guards will necessarily increase traffic on the road network. Therefore, police officers from the Sûreté du Québec will intensify their interventions near schools from August 28 to September 8. Road users are urged to be very careful to ensure a safe return to school for all.

Road safety rules require people to respect posted speed limits. In a school zone, the fine is doubled if the offence is committed within the period specified on the road sign. Road users, including cyclists, are required to respect a buffer distance of five metres when approaching a bus or minibus whose flashing red lights are on or whose mandatory stop signal is deployed.

When traffic is directed by a peace officer, a school crossing guard or a flagman responsible for directing traffic during work, everyone must, despite signs to the contrary, obey their orders and signals. Drivers are obliged to stop when approaching a pedestrian crossing when a pedestrian has entered the yellow or white stripes or has clearly indicated his or her intention to do so.

People should also remember the importance of respecting signage around schools, particularly areas reserved for buses, areas where parking is prohibited and drop-off areas. Many parents drop off their children at school. They must make sure to do so in a safe place to avoid careless maneuvers such as double parking and U-turns.

Additional information on the various regulations can be obtained by consulting the website of the Société de l'Assurance Automobile du Québec (SAAQ) at the following link: <https://saaq.gouv.qc.ca/securite-routiere>.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Pierre Fitzgibbon’s statement regarding compulsory reduction in the number of cars lacks consistency

Economy, Innovation and Energy Minister Pierre Fitzgibbon is known for his controversial remarks. In mid-August, he said that he was “intellectually open” to rebooting the Gentilly-2 nuclear plant and within days said that Quebec must cut the number of cars on its roads in half in order to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets by 2050.

At least he didn’t utter the two statements on the same day. While time and studies will likely prove that refurbishing Gentilly-2 will be exorbitant, money-wise, and not as environmentally friendly as Minister Fitzgibbon thinks, his message to the effect that we must cut in half our car use makes solid sense.

Transport produces around 44% of Quebec’s greenhouse gas emissions, the use of individual cars accounting for about half of the 44%. Statistically, it is by far the easiest source to target if Quebecers are to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. The word “statistically” bears some importance here because, in North America, the use of individual cars is almost sacred.

North Americans are becoming increasingly aware of the need to initiate change and adopt environment-friendly practices, but there is a staggering lack of action to make moves accordingly.

Can we cut in half our car use, for instance? Of course, we can. At first, it will require reflection about our daily routine. Do we have to take our car, or cars in many cases, 13 times per day? What if we plan for the day every morning in order to minimize the number of kilometres covered to satisfy our needs?

Can we redefine those needs? Can we adopt a routine whereby we plan the day’s errands and work travel? Can we adopt active transportation means, like walking and cycling at times? Sure, we can. We will be happy to discover that we can indeed significantly reduce the number of kilometres travelled, as well as reducing vehicle expenses.

We might find that we don’t need that second or third family car after all. By and large, cars represent the main source of collective and individual impoverishment on earth. On average, each car forces its owner to spend a bit over \$10,000 in annual ex-

penses, all this to pay for a tin can, gas, insurance, tires, parts, etc. Human beings like their comfort, and it seems to have no limit sometimes.

Minister Fitzgibbon is part of a government that likes to take shortcuts, a government far from renowned for its thoroughness. On August 16 and over the following days of the controversy he triggered, he failed to provide details about how he foresees the change of habits he seems to advocate for. He mainly added that the government will never restrict the number of cars one person can own.

Following Pierre Fitzgibbon’s remarks, François Legault came to his rescue in part, and mainly to his government’s rescue when he said he is aiming for an incentive-based rather than coercive strategy to reduce the impact of cars.

Fine, but where do you draw the line? Is raising individual car registration fees coercion if the money thus collected goes to better our commuter services, especially in rural regions?

Premier François Legault proved once more that he is behind in mental evolution when he stated that "there are environmentalists proposing to halve the number of cars. Our approach is really to move toward electric cars."

Currently, there are slightly more than six million passenger vehicles registered in Quebec, a number that includes around 170,000 electric cars, according to data compiled at the end of 2022 by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, the SAAQ. By and large, it means that two Quebecers out of three possess a car. It is a lot, considering that children, some seniors who don’t drive anymore and others who don’t possess a driver's licence are included in the total population count. We are in North America after all.

However, if all the gas-propelled automobiles are replaced by electric cars, as Mr. Legault seems to think, we will not improve our overall environmental impact by much. Quebec is lucky to produce relatively clean energy to move the growing number of electric cars, but they still require a lot of manufacturing material, the use of which we must reduce for future generations, as Mother Earth will not provide indefinitely the minerals necessary to make them.

Switching from gas-propelled cars to electric vehicles will do nothing to enhance our cities, towns and villages if we keep designing them for individual automobiles. There is no such thing as a beautiful parking lot.

Lack of advocacy for commuter services

Still following Minister Fitzgibbon’s controversial statements, François Legault rightfully remarked "we have to understand that Quebec is large and, in regions, population density doesn't allow us to have

public transit everywhere, so we still need to be realistic."

However, being realistic also means improving commuter services in rural areas, with smaller vehicles, improving inter-regional transport with buses and trains, making aerial services affordable, favouring the implementation of car-sharing services everywhere and facilitating the return of cab services, even if it takes grants to do so.

Trains and buses not only reduce gas or electricity consumption, when the latter applies, they also represent a way to maximize the use of materials, whether they are metals or more sophisticated parts. Soon, if fact,very soon, not to say that we are already late, the unnecessary use of materials will become a major burden for the planet and, above all, humanity. Premier Legault prefers to minimize the situation by making jokes about his Economy minister’s statement regarding the necessity to reduce the number of cars on Quebec roads. "I know that Pierre has read a lot of environmental reports this summer," he said, when reporters asked him if Mr. Fitzgibbon, whose background is business, had developed an interest in ecology overnight.

Well, it would be reassuring to see Pierre Fitzgibbon becoming greener. Traditionally obsessed with old-style economic development, the kind of development that leaves very little for future generations, he might have developed that interest through his summer readings, as it becomes increasingly evident that tomorrow’s economy will be based on cleaner values. The leaders of tomorrow will choose to leave a much lighter environmental imprint. Moreover, evolved countries will often reject dealing with dinosaurs.

In that regard, without necessarily putting Minister Fitzgibbon in the category of tomorrow’s leaders, it is reassuring to some extent to see him present a broader ecological scope of thoughts. However, his credibility would improve if he could avoid his more than occasional outdated remarks about the way he sees Quebec’s progress, nuclear power being a prime example.

Is this an apocalyptic way of seeing the future? Maybe it is, but a fair share of business leaders, bank and insurance company managers among them, will soon understand, once Wall Street is flooded by the rising Atlantic Ocean, that there are other ways to see tomorrow’s world.

The 2023-24 school year is here on the Coast and schools along the Gaspé Peninsula are gearing up to welcome students. With the summer activities over, it's time for all students to put the throttle down and start this year with new adventures, new friendships, and new challenges.

Students today have several choices and decisions to make. They will have to work hard and be guided as they work towards their future. Always be proud of your studies and let your performance speak for itself.

Keep in mind that success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out

Now is the time to learn as much as you can while you are young, before your life becomes too busy. Keep in mind that anyone who has never made a mistake, also has never tried anything new.

Ken Ross, New Carlisle, Quebec.

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The Percé Geoparc is going through a difficult period

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PERCÉ - The Percé Geoparc must restructure its finances to ensure its long-term viability.

In a press release issued on August 22, the board of directors reaffirms "its commitment to the financial structuring and preservation of the Geoparc's UNESCO world status."

The Geoparc recognizes that financial challenges exist, but concrete measures are underway to respond to these issues since the arrival in May of the director general, Nathalie Spooner.

The board "confirms that it intends, in the near future, to implement a detailed restructuring plan in close collaboration with the stakeholders. This plan aims to ensure the long-term financial viability of the organization."

However, the organization has not provided any informa-



Photo: Percé Geoparc facebook

The Percé Geoparc is going through a financial turmoil

tion on the state of the site's finances.

The board also notes among the challenges ahead is the renewal of the workers' collective agreement and "is determined to balance the in-

terests of the organization and its employees while ensuring the financial sustainability of the Geoparc."

As for the mention of the "yellow card" received from UNESCO, the Geoparc re-

mains resolutely committed to UNESCO standards and requirements.

"The necessary actions are underway to remedy the shortcomings identified and ensure that the Geoparc continues to meet the criteria to maintain its designation," states the board of directors.

"We are confident that, through concerted action and informed decisions, the Geoparc will continue to prosper and contribute to the region's influence," concludes the statement, which also mentioned that no interviews would be granted.

Last December, the UNESCO certification was renewed for the next two years, until April 2024.

Two UNESCO evaluators had visited Percé in June 2022 to assess the site since the first four-year certification, issued in April 2018.

The renewal is for two years rather than four due to

certain elements that need to be modified.

The impact of the pandemic had slowed the mandates included in the plans.

This statement released by the board of directors stems from an article in the daily newspaper, Le Soleil, where it was written that the director hired in May has announced her departure for September.

In her resignation letter, Ms. Spooner indicates that the Geoparc is "technically bankrupt" and in need of short-term restructuring.

A collective agreement up for renewal and forthcoming investments in the campground were also obstacles to the future, the letter read.

However, Ms. Spooner confided to the daily newspaper that she is confident that the situation will recover, but that a turnaround is needed, with expenses much higher than income.

GASPÉ MUNICIPAL UPDATE:

More information needed about Gaspé pur plaisir

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - A budget of \$82,000 for the "Gaspé pur plaisir" employee recruitment strategy was not well received on August 21 at the Gaspé municipal council.

For a rare occasion in a Town of Gaspé public meeting, a councillor registered his dissent and the project was adopted by a five-to-one majority.

"It was technical details. In the fund, since the beginning of the mandate, the councillor positioned himself against the resolution. It is not because he disagrees with the strategy or the budget, but he wanted more details," says the mayor, Daniel Côté.

He mentions that since the beginning of the mandate in November 2021, a provincial electoral campaign where the director at the time, Stéphane Sainte-Croix, was elected to the National Assembly and the municipal respondent in this file, Jérôme Tardif, left to work for the MNA.

"The timing has never been perfect. But we're going to speed things up and we're going to have this meeting to look not only at Gaspé's pur plaisir strategy, but also all of Destination Gaspé's work," continues the mayor, who notes that he sits on the organization's board of directors with a coun-



Photo: Facebook, Roger Saint-Laurent

Councillor James Keays expressed reservations about the budget granted to Gaspé pur plaisir.

cillor and the town's director general.

"I don't think he lacks confidence, but he wants to have all the details and we will organize so that he has all the details and the next time he will vote like the rest of the council," says Mr. Côté.

But Councillor James Keays isn't so quick to jump ahead. "I feel that we needed more information in order to make an informed decision in this case. It is, therefore, false and premature to claim that I will vote in favour, like the rest of the council, in a subsequent vote," says Mr. Keays in reaction to the mayor's remarks.

"In the meantime, I will continue to ask important questions and to exercise my right to vote guided by my convictions and the interest of the cit-

izens of Gaspé," he states.

Although the strategy mentions worker recruitment in its title, it goes further with a global vision of development.

"We're taking money from the community wind farms. We used it in a global strategy to attract investors, workers and tourists. The money is used for that," says the mayor.

Mayor Côté to finish his term

Following the surprise departure of the mayor of Sept-Iles, lawyer Steeve Beaupré, to occupy what he described as a "dream job," running a legal organization in the middle of a first term, Daniel Côté has no intention of leaving his position, even if an attractive unsolicited offer were made.

"Ten years ago, I was offered my dream job and I have

been doing it for 10 years. I intend to go until the end of the current term. I will honour my contract with the population. I don't know yet whether my contract will be renewed or not in two years. I will ask myself the question when the time comes, and the people will have to decide. But for now I've been living my dream job for 10 years and I'm going to live it until the end of the mandate," says Mayor Côté.

More money for Mont Béchervaise

Good news for taxpayers has come from Ottawa.

The burden on citizens for chalet repairs at the Mont Béchervaise ski centre will be reduced as Canada Economic Development is increasing its contribution from \$295,000 to \$342,000.

The bids were 17% higher than the estimates, in particular to adapt the chalet for people with reduced mobility as well as the repair of the balconies and the addition of an automatic ticket office outside for a total bill, including plans of \$456,000.

Nevertheless, the town decided to go ahead with the project, once again soliciting donors. The Côte-de-Gaspé MRC provided \$25,000, which lowered the town's share from \$98,000 to \$89,000.

"I am very happy with this outcome. Honestly, I expected to get support from the MRC but, it is a nice surprise to see that Canada Economic Development was able to adjust to the costs associated with inflation and the massive increase in construction costs," says the mayor. The work has begun.

CNESST continues its investigation into the Percé fire department

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The CNESST is continuing its investigation following a fire that ravaged a Cap d'Espoir residence in July. The organization met with the fire department and the Town of Percé on July 25 and with Grande-Rivière on August 3, in order to gather information and documents following a complaint lodged against Percé firefighters.

According to information obtained by SPEC, a Percé firefighter tried to get firefighters onto the roof of the burning house, which could have endangered their lives. As far as we know, had it not been for the intervention of experienced firefighters, the situation could have turned tragic.

The CNESST is reportedly questioning the qualifications of some of the firefighters.

A lobster tagged in the Gaspé Peninsula reaches the coast of Maine alive

GILLES GAGNÉ

PORT DANIEL – A lobster initially caught and tagged in the Gaspé Peninsula was caught a second time near Bangor, Maine, alive, with the marketing tag on it, and two elastic bands around its claws. The lobster was caught in Maine by someone close to or by Jacob Knowles, a well-known TikTok-Toker in the United States.

Jacob Knowles often shares lobster fishing stories and videos. He is known to enjoy sharing behind the scene videos of where lobsters come from. He had a run for his money on August 20 when he started looking for the origins of a lobster bearing a tag from the Gaspé Peninsula.

He first acknowledged that there was “some Canadian stuff on it,” it being the tag and Canadian stuff allegedly being some information in French. Some TikTok followers also teased him about the way he pronounces Gaspé, Gaspee.

Since tags show a website and a trackable alphanumeric

code referring to the fisherman who tagged the lobster’s claw, he looked it up online only to find that it came from the Gaspé Peninsula. The region’s tracking program was implemented in 2012.

On the TikTok post, it is possible to see that the lobster was first caught by owner Sonia Perry or a crew member from the Serge Perry no. 3 fishing boat based in Griffon Cove, town of Gaspé.

After understanding that it is not an illegal lobster and that the purpose of the tag is to let people know where the lobster was caught, but not to track its movements in the water, Jacob Knowles then started reflecting on how it was possible for the lobster to reach Maine alive. He finds it impossible for a lobster to have covered the 800 miles separating Griffon Cove and the coast near Bangor crawling, all the more considering that his claws were bound by elastic bands. At one point he, nevertheless, suggests that crawling looks like the only explanation.

Another suggestion is that

the lobster was imported from Canada by a United States buyer. He thinks at one point that the tracking program is made for lobster sellers. But why did it go back to the ocean, he also asks?

“Let me know your thoughts,” concludes his initial TikTok intervention, which tends to prove that he will likely do a follow-up, which remained to be done as of August 25.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of people reacted to the TikTok video, including many Gaspeians and, among them, someone related to the lobster boat crew member.

Some people suggest that the lobster was bought by an American who decided to set it free in the ocean. Other people remarked that the buyer didn’t do a favour to the lobster by leaving the tag and the elastic bands around the lobster’s claws.

By August 23, the Gaspé Peninsula lobster video had been seen 1.5 million times. Considering that Jacob



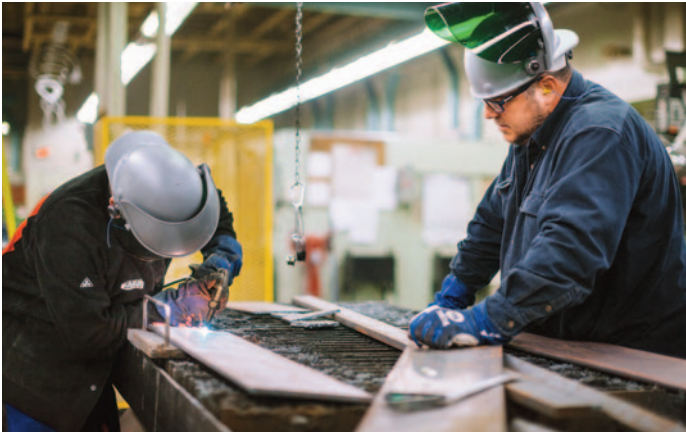
American TikToker Jacob Knowles is attempting to re-trace the route taken by a lobster tagged in the Gaspé Peninsula and found in Bangor, Maine.

Photo: TikTok

Knowles has 2.3 million followers, chances are that the number of views will keep climbing for a while.

Jacob Knowles is currently

considered one of the popular influencers south of the border. He is also well-known for his eye-catching Instagram pictures, and sports fishing videos.



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DISCOVER MORE

March organized between New Carlisle and Paspébiac to celebrate Ukraine's independence

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE
GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – Six people participated in an August 24 march between New Carlisle and Paspébiac to mark the anniversary of Ukraine's independence. The European country's independence occurred on August 24, 1991, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The march was organized by Olena Kulik Polonska, who is of Ukraine origin, but immigrated to Canada 27 years ago and married a Gaspesian.

Russia attacked Ukraine in the wee hours of February 24, 2022, a year and half ago, forcing her 89-year-old mother to leave Ukraine and seek refuge in Canada.

"It touches me because my mother was forced to leave Ukraine a year and a half ago following the beginning of the war. She was completely up-



Photo: Martin Dubé

The group of walkers left Espace René-Lévesque shortly after 10 a.m. on August 24.

rooted and moved in with us to Canada. She is safe, but it is mentally difficult for her. She tries to help people there. She knits for Ukraine and she wanted to walk. She's always looking for something to occupy her so that she doesn't think about the fact that she

won't be able to go back home," explains Ms. Kulik.

In Ukraine, she was self-employed and still works in accounting. "We decided to walk for Ukraine to raise funds to help people on the ground," says Ms. Kulik.

She launched a fundraising

campaign on social networks for the people who would like to donate money that will be used to buy medical supplies and direct humanitarian aid.

The August 24 march covered a distance of five kilometres, from the Espace René-Lévesque building in

New Carlisle to the Au Bon Cornet ice cream store in Paspébiac. At the end of the march, the \$1,000 goal set by Ms. Kulik was well surpassed, in fact the amount raised reached \$1,150, thanks to \$140 received during the event. Olena Kulik's goal was not necessarily having a lot of people, "but just getting the message across that the war is still there and the people still need help."

Olena Kulik Polonska and her husband, Martin Dubé, bought a house in Hope Town three years ago. They currently live there six months a year but plan to settle permanently in the near future.

People who still want to donate to Ms. Kulik Polonska's cause can visit gofundme.com and type in SAVE LIVES in UKRAINE. All money raised will be sent to Ukraine for medical and humanitarian aid.

A difficult season for strawberry producers

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

SAINT-SIMÉON - Incessant rain has been catastrophic for Bourdages Tradition farm in Saint-Siméon, which is experiencing strawberry losses of 40%.

"It's a record season in terms of the challenges we've had. The temperature is very, very, very humid. It rains almost every day. It is hard to keep up with the harvest and there is a lot of rot in the fields. The 2023 summer strawberry season is problematic," says Bourdages Tradition co-owner Pierre Bourdages.

This 40% estimate represents losses in revenue, productivity and efficiency since the fruit produced had to be disposed of.

However, there is some hope with the arrival of the

fall strawberries.

"It's in the early stages but we're struggling to meet demand from stores. We have very little of them and they are having difficulty ripening because there is not much sunshine and the plants are waterlogged. The rain keeps them moist. It's too much. The roots have trouble coping with excess water. Productivity is affected, that's for sure," continues Mr. Bourdages.

The indirect impacts are significant since the company had to send back foreign workers after a peak of 36 workers from Mexico.

"We still have eight. We had to let them go because the weather, yields and productivity are difficult. We've reduced our workforce in the field," says the co-owner.

The situation is not unique to the Gaspé Peninsula.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Strawberry farms are experiencing catastrophic losses.

On grocery store shelves, local strawberries are in short supply and strawberries from Quebec have little presence in the region. "My colleagues in other regions have a lot of difficulty. Customers tell me they have trouble getting strawberries from Quebec. I

think it's a general problem in vegetable production," says Bourdages.

The coming years will be challenging as climate change will have an impact on production, according to what Mr. Bourdages learned during a training session held

last year.

"The coming years will see much more drought and floods. We'll be dealing with excess water and more severe droughts. We'll have to deal with these extremes. We'll have to adapt our working methods," he says.

For example: corn varieties that were traditionally only ready in mid-August are now ready at the end of July in the same place. "We can see that the weather is warming up," notes Mr. Bourdages.

To date, 221 millimetres of rain (as of August 23) has been measured by Environment Canada in New Carlisle, compared to a normal 66 millimetres in August.

Since June 1, 401 millimetres has fallen: twice as much as normal. Usually from June 1 to August 31, the region receives an average of 232 millimetres.



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Carleton-sur-Mer: arena repairs are behind schedule

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER – Scheduled to open this fall, the Carleton-sur-Mer arena will not be open to the public until January 2024.

Delays in the delivery of materials, particularly panels from Europe, are to blame.

“It changes. Some changes have been made in the sequence of work to try to adjust, but that has an impact on the project schedule,” explains Carleton-sur-mer mayor, Mathieu Lapointe.

Talks are underway to obtain ice time at the New Richmond and Nouvelle arenas, so that youth will be able to play hockey.

The parking lot, which was removed from the project, will have to be redone, and the search for a solution is underway.

“During the work, we noticed that the level of the parking lot was too high in relation to the building. We have to make corrections because we have a drainage issue causing rainwater to enter the building,” explains the mayor.

When the project was launched, it came as a surprise that there was more lead and asbestos than expected, and that additional sheet metal had not been assessed.

The overall budget of \$6.5 million, including plans and specifications, should be respected, because there was a cushion of \$450,000 to cover contingencies.

The good news is that the Quebec government assistance under the PAFIRS program has been increased by \$575,000 for a total assistance of \$2.5 million.

The town will not use the extra money to do additional work. Instead, it will be used to reduce the bill for taxpayers.

Housing

The town has applied to Ottawa for \$1.9 million in support from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing Acceleration Fund.

The average annual construction rate in recent years has been around 20 housing units, but the town wants to increase the rate of new construction.

“We are proposing a plan to double this construction to reach 124 new units, i.e. add 64 units more than the natural trend and to achieve this, we have proposed a game plan to CMHC and we are waiting to see if they will support us in this,” explains the mayor.

The money could be used to acquire land, develop streets with services, or provide in-



Photo: Carleton-sur-Mer website

The Carleton-sur-Mer arena will remain closed this fall

centives for construction. In its plan, Carleton-sur-Mer would like to develop an eco-district. The need for housing is now estimated at 115 units for the next three years.

Fire Protection

The reorganization of the fire protection service is one step closer, as talks progress between Carleton-sur-Mer and its neighbours in Maria, Nouvelle and Escuminac.

The four municipalities are committed to working together as the three fire department directors are due to retire. Carleton-sur-Mer would be responsible for managing the service.

“We are working out the details of the agreement to see how it will materialize on the ground. There is still a possi-

bility of going back but, for the moment, the municipalities have said they are ready to move forward,” says the mayor.

The work of evaluating the fire station and equipment has been completed. “There’s no need to change vehicles, fire stations, etc.. It’s all part of the way we do things. It’s really in the way we do things, in terms of firefighter training and prevention, for example,” says Mr. Lapointe.

Quai des arts

The future of the Quai des arts, which was taken over by the Town of Carleton two years ago, is being reviewed. The cultural establishment is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. It is considered an important component of the cultural

scene as several organizations are located there.

“We want to see how we can work together and improve our ways of doing things to make it even more attractive as a building and cultural space in Carleton-sur-Mer,” says Mr. Lapointe on the objectives of the analysis carried out by a consultant.

Users of the Quai des arts and organizations will be consulted. The report is expected in November for implementation in 2024.

Some \$50,000 has been invested in redoing the reception area which is also the information centre for tourists, and \$200,000 worth of work is underway on the establishment’s air conditioning.

“We can no longer have replacement parts for these units, which use gas that we can no longer buy now. We’re replacing four units,” says the mayor. A fifth unit was already changed.

Councillor Sylvie Tremblay, who is in seat number five, submitted her resignation at the last municipal council meeting. She is leaving because she will be working outside the region. The municipality has one month to launch the electoral process which should culminate in a by-election, if necessary, towards the end of November.

Caribou: The Quebec government replies to Environnement Vert Plus

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Ministry of the Environment, the Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks is responding to Environnement Vert Plus’ July 24 questioning of the operation to place pregnant caribou in maternity enclosures.

The Environnement Vert Plus made several suggestions that could justify the failure of the capture operation and the birth of the calves.

In an email sent to magaspesie.ca, the ministry wanted to “rectify the facts”.

Environnement Vert Plus suggested that the drug injected into the female caribou during the capture procedure could be responsible for the premature death of the calves.

The ministry replies “that there is no link to be made between the use of sedative veterinary products during winter captures and the death of calves in the spring. The pregnancies were carried to term.

The results of the necropsies carried out on the calves show in both cases a perinatal bacterial infection. In the first case, an intestinal rupture is suspected. The cause remains unknown, but trauma is not excluded. In the second case, an infection of the umbilicus would be the cause. This kind of sad phenomena is also observed in farm animals, in zoo animals and could even have occurred in nature. Fatal bacterial infections have also occurred in other caribou enclosures, in Quebec and elsewhere.

On the question relating to the female caribou which died of complications after giving birth, the Ministry mentions that “preliminary results reveal that she died of acute toxic metritis, namely a possible obstetric complication during parturition in deer and other ruminants in captivity, and even in the wild. The veterinarians responsible for the file and the veterinarian who carried out the necropsy on site report that

this type of uterine infection can kill an animal very quickly. The rapid evolution of this condition poses a challenge of detection and treatment, making the prognosis of such a condition often poor. Obstetrical complications are part of the risks associated with keeping animals in captivity, and can also occur in the wild.”

According to the results of the necropsy performed on the first calf, the cause of death would be a probable intestinal rupture with secondary septic peritonitis. The second calve died of sepsis linked to an infection with E.coli bacteria.

Regarding the fact that it was not necessary to administer sedatives to cover short distances between their capture and the enclosure, the ministry specified that “the helicopter transport of caribou remains a complex operation involving risks for the personnel on board and the pilot as well as for caribou which can struggle despite physical restraint. From the point of view of ani-

mal welfare, sedation also reduces animal stress as well as the risk of hyperthermia, which is very harmful to the health of the fetus. This approach was adopted jointly by the veterinarians, wildlife technicians and biologists assigned to the planning and execution of the operations. A similar approach has been used successfully in other caribou enclosure projects in Quebec and elsewhere. All sedations took place under veterinary supervision. (...) Conducting such a large-scale operation without any form of sedation could be questioned by an animal ethics committee, the sedation of animals being considered here as a refinement of techniques.”

In addition, the ministry assures that the people who made up the capture team were experienced and “the procedures applied are based on the standard operating procedures for woodland caribou produced by the ministry.”

Environnement Vert Plus mentioned that the ministry

was considering the Bonaventure Bioparc breeding and release project, the ministry indicates that it has not held discussions to implement such a project.

The ministry concludes by saying it will monitor the effects of the measures deployed over time, and will assess the relevance of making adjustments if necessary. It cannot be ruled out that a combination of measures may be necessary to mitigate various demographic parameters or mortality factors.

For the government body, “the capture was not a failure - on the contrary, the animals reacted very well and the females quickly made their mark in the enclosures. The pregnancies of the females were completed in the enclosures and the calves died after birth.”

In addition, the caribou that remain in the enclosure are doing well. They are observed daily and feed mainly on the natural vegetation present in the enclosures.

Bringing books to the community

DIANE SKINNER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW CARLISLE: You may have seen a distinctive blue van driving through your community during the summer months. As part of a partnership between the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA), the MRC of Bonaventure and COMPLICE (a program devoted to school perseverance and educational success for Gaspesian and Magdalen Island youth) the BiblioNook (a bookmobile) may have visited your town.

The BiblioNook made its rounds until August 19, visiting the communities of New Carlisle, St. Elzéar, Paspebiac, Hope, Hope Town, St-Godefroi and Shigawake on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and sometimes Saturdays. The van also visited day camps. During the summer of 2023, Laurence Morrier was tasked with running this project.

Families had free access to borrow English and French books, with materials to suit the age group 0 -12 years. Scholastic Publishing and Educational Corporation advocates summer reading for students in order to maintain reading skills which they term the “Reading Imperative.” Besides, as award-winning and best-selling author Kate Morton states, “Reading is one of life’s great pleasures.”

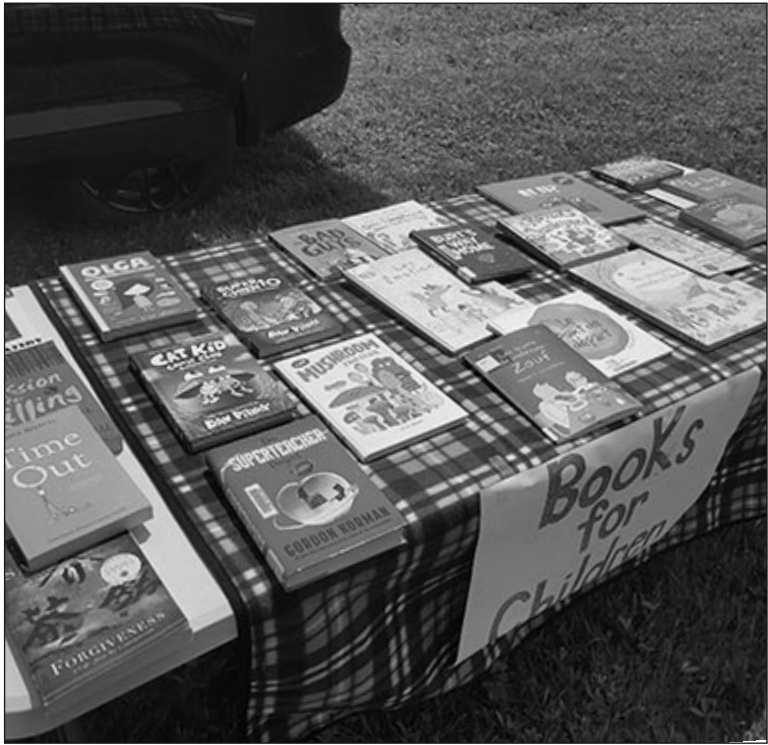
Participants were able to follow the Biblionook’s schedule on its facebook page. On rainy days, the Biblionook was available on call.

When the Biblionook van stopped in each community, books were displayed and made available for families to browse on site or borrow. Families could also take advantage of the nice weather and play board games during the Biblionook’s visit.

CASA Project Manager, Juliana Beebe, tells SPEC that the idea for a mobile reading unit “stemmed from a variety of community partners over the last several years who felt there was a need to bridge the gap of access to books during the summer months between school years. After brewing for a while, the idea became viable when funding came through via the Cultural Policy of the MRC



You may have seen the BiblioNook van in your community bringing books for children ages 0 – 12 which can be borrowed at no charge.



Photos: Laurence Morrier

Project animator Laurence Morrier sets up books and board games for children and their families to enjoy.

of Bonaventure which allowed a coordinator (my role) to be hired.” Ms. Beebe’s primary role as coordinator was to prepare and develop the pilot project.

The Biblionook summer 2023 book collection was provided through loans or donations from various partners including: Réseau Biblio, René-Lévesque School Board, Anchor Adult Education Centre and an impressive number of books donated by individuals in various communities. Overall, about 200 books were

loaned to the community and over 100 books were donated to children during the final weeks of the project.

The intent is to make this initiative sustainable and recurring every summer. Juliana reflects that families were very receptive to this project and she hopes that Biblionook is able to “hit the road” every summer. Watch for announcements from CASA in late spring 2024.

*Summer is for reading
good books,
In cozy little nooks.*

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Milestones

Dear Spec readers, allow me to reflect on the past 15 years. I have been writing for The Gaspé Spec for 15 years (My very first article, Can you go home again? was published on August 20, 2008) and what began as one article tentatively submitted evolved over the years into a great number of articles, Tourist Guides and a Reflections column where I get to share my thoughts and opinions with you. When I say “a great number of articles” by my estimation that would be about 2,000!

Time flies and all things change, including us. Since that first article fifteen years ago, well, we are all that many years older. There have been changes, life events, and milestones. People have passed away, while babies have arrived to fill our hearts. As C.S. Lewis wrote, “Isn’t it funny how day by day nothing changes but when you look back everything is different.”

Over the years I have written articles on a huge variety of topics, but my absolute favourites have been “the way we were” type articles; the culture, history, traditions and habits of Gaspesians from now and years ago. Because I am “bi-cultural” (born and raised in Toronto) but having both parents from the Gaspé, spending every summer on the Gaspé Peninsula and living here for some years, the Gaspé is as much my home as Toronto.

Articles about harvest suppers, picking berries, outhouses, wood burning stoves, beach days, the importance of grandparents, kerosene lamps, wringer washers, hanging out laundry, cod fishing, quilt-making and Robin’s store where you could buy just about anything are just a few that come to mind. These are the articles that have meant the most to me. Writing different types of stories allowed me to reminisce and keep those memories alive.

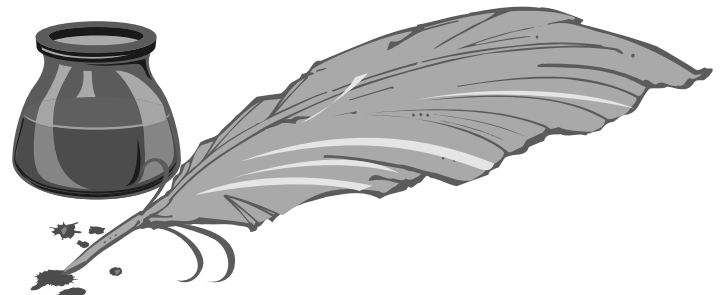
Some of us, especially those of a certain age, may say from time to time that we were lucky to be born when we were. We feel it was the best of times: more freedom, more outdoor play, a simpler and less materialistic way of living and no screens, except the square box which was our black and white tv. The uncertainty of these times makes the past even more precious.

I have also enjoyed interviewing so many different people for articles, people I would otherwise have never known. Interviewing is a very specific and unique way of getting to know someone. It is not an interrogation, but a gentler way of getting to know the other person.

My favourite question is the one I always ask at the end of an interview: “Is there anything you would like readers to know that I have not asked about?” This is often where the interview truly begins. In my experience, people will then tell about events or thoughts that will inform readers about who they really are.

All writing includes rewriting and, often, time runs out for this crucial step. Weekly newspapers have non-negotiable deadlines. Some journalists never, ever reread their published articles because there are almost always things they would want to change.

When my first article was published on August 20, 2008, I met a woman in town who told me she really enjoyed that article. I thanked her for that because it has kept me writing for 15 years and that, dear readers, was one of my important and memorable milestones.



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ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you may want to move your relationship in a different direction, but your partner is resistant. This could be a conflict, or something that opens up a dialogue.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you might feel like doing all you can to make a problem go away, and think that acting immediately is the way to go. But ponder a few options beforehand.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, a professional opportunity that seems to have many positive financial outcomes actually could have a down side to it. It's best if you do your research before acting.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
You may think that others do not understand you, Cancer. But that may be a good thing. You can focus on explaining your position and maybe make a few friends along the way.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you tend to be attracted to things that tempt fate or may even be considered forbidden. When others want you to walk the straight and narrow for a bit, it could be tough.

HOROSCOPES

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, an opportunity to get away presents itself. Enjoy this much-needed respite and don't be afraid to go the extra mile to ensure the trip is as memorable as possible.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
You may want to do it all, Libra, but sometimes you have to let others know you have limits. When you don't, it is easy to get taken advantage of or run yourself ragged.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, are you ready for an adventure? Identify some new hobbies and then learn all you can about getting out there and doing those types of activities with frequency.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
A loved one may want to be more cozy with you this week, but you're content to have ample space and do your own thing, Sagittarius. Let your views be

heard on this situation.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you may want to tell a loved one what they want to hear right now to make a difficult situation go away. However, that only postpones the inevitable tough talk.


AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
You have been feeling like it is time to break away from your regular routine, Aquarius. It could be because there has been added stress on your shoulders. A vacation may be needed.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
There are some limits to doing all of the work on your own, Pisces. First off, you may lack the time and the expertise. Bring on helpers this week if anyone is available.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
AUGUST 27: Aaron Paul, Actor (44)
AUGUST 28: Jack Black, Actor (54)
AUGUST 29: Liam Payne, Singer (30)
AUGUST 30: Cameron Diaz, Actress (51)
AUGUST 31: Sara Ramirez, Actress (48)
SEPTEMBER 1: Zendaya, Actress (27)
SEPTEMBER 2: Keanu Reeves, Actor (59)

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FOR SALE: House for sale with a large garage with loft above, and land for sale. Located on Rte du Nord-Ouest, Cascapedia-St-Jules, Quebec. For information call Dwight at 604-872-5681 or 418-392-7147 (4/4)

FOR SALE: Land for Sale in Hope Town, Quebec - 300,087.6 square metres of woodland, situated in Hopetown, Quebec, on the Gaspé Coast; two lots frontage along the north side of the 2nd Range two X 150,043.8 square metres along McRae Lane; the 2nd Range is paved; 1 mile distance from the Bay of Chaleur and Rte 132; 1 hour distance from Percé Rock; asking price - \$40,000; Email johnrobertross73@gmail.com (6/10)

COAST ROUND-UP

GASPÉ:
W.I. Fair
September 9: Gaspé County W.I. will be hosting the annual W.I. Fair, at the York River Community Hall, 702 York Boulevard West. The hall is open at 3 p.m. for public view-

ing of all the exhibits and a delicious salad supper awaits you at 4:45 p.m. with takeouts also available. Cost: Adults \$15; children \$10 (12 and younger). We look forward to seeing lots of people participate in our local W.I. craft fair and supper again this year.

HOPE TOWN:
Sports and Recreation Club
September 17: 20th annual Terry Fox Walk at the Hope Town Community Centre. Registration beginning at 12:30 p.m. and the walk will begin at 1 p.m. Two walking options are available. Option one: Walk begins at the Community Centre east along the 132, north along the Chemin du Vieux Moulin, across Le Petit 2 and then south on Route Ten- nier, ending at the Community Centre. Option two: Walk, the distance you are comfortable with along the sidewalk in the Municipal Park. Free lunch will be provided for all participants, followed by music with Vern Huntington in the park during the afternoon. Please join us for this worthwhile cause.
September 22: Gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Centre. Bring your dabbers.

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

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.

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 Sor- rel, New Carlisle.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:
50+ Club
Tuesdays: Grocery bingo every Tuesday beginning Sep- tember 5 at 7 p.m. \$10 for three cards. Extra cards are \$1 each.
September 16: Harvest bingo beginning at 1 p.m. \$10 for three cards, and extra cards are \$1 each.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:
River Museum
Hear the stories of the world famous salmon river and dis- cover the life-cycle of the At- lantic Salmon. Open Monday to Friday until **August 31**, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. **September 4 to 14** open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Tea Room will also

be open on **Tuesdays** from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. For more infor- mation please call 418-392- 5079.

POSTCARDS
Coalition of Gaspesians for the return of the passenger train
Gaspesians are invited to take part in the Coalition's post card campaign for the return of passenger train. Post cards can be found at the following locations.
Gaspé: Imprimerie du havre and Photo Cassidy; Barachois: Thompson General Store; Percé: Nath & compagnie;
Grand Riviere: 200 Grand Allée Est.; **Chandler:** Uniprix Laurent Carbonneau; New- port: Ultramar; **Port Daniel:** 494 Highway 132; **Hope Town:** Municipal office; **Hope:** Municipal office;

Paspebiac: Municipal office, Jean Coutu and IGA;
New Carlisle: Municipal of- fice and Petro-Canada;
Bonaventure: Uniprix and IGA;
St-Simeon: Petro-Canada;
Caplan: Jean Coutu; **New Richmond:** Municipal office and Jean Coutu; Maria: COOP;
Carleton-sur-mer: Municipal office and Marché Viens Metro;
Saint-Omer: Irving; Nou- velle: Marché Richelieu and Crevier; **Point a la Garde:** Depanneur Harnois; **Matape- dia:** Matapedia Station.
For more detailed information please consult the Coalition's website at www.gaspetrain.org/postcard

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NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, September 3
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**Municipality of
New Carlisle**
 Mayor: David Thibault
Councillors: Clyde Flowers, Brent Hocquard,
Cathy Lise Belisle, Cindy Carney,
Stephen Leberre, Robert Benwell
For more information,
please contact the
Town Hall at
418-752-3141
www.new-carlisle.ca

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