

## Eastern Shores School Board officially launches barbering program

● GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – There has been a shortage of barbers for years in the Gaspé Peninsula, as some of them retired, decided to pursue other careers, or have passed away. Many men in the region must patiently await haircuts, with time slots rarely of their choosing.

Over the past few weeks, Eastern Shores School Board's, Anchor Academic and Vocational Education Centre has begun offering a barbering program. Nine students are participating in the training, which is offered on a flexible schedule, allowing them to maintain employment during the 510-hour Skills Training Certificate (STC).

"I live in Gaspé, and it isn't easy to make an appointment with a barber. You have to reserve an appointment several

weeks in advance! I'm hoping that our program will help to remedy this situation," says Colin Henderson, assistant director of Vocational Training at Eastern Shores School Board.

Officially inaugurated on February 28, the Anchor's barbering course is the only one of its kind east of Quebec City. Most classes are provided in the evenings and on weekends.

The school board invested approximately \$50,000 to adapt a section of the training facility for the barbering class.

"This program represents more than just a new addition to our curriculum; it's a testament to our dedication to meeting the evolving needs of our community. (...) The barbering program holds immense potential to empower individuals with valuable skills and opportunities for personal and professional growth. Whether it's providing essential training for



Barbering teacher Marielle Thériault (back left), along with students Dena Main (seated), Karen Fitzgerald and Tracy Major, appreciate the quality of the barbering facility where the training is offered.

Photo: G. Gagné

aspiring barbers or offering a pathway to meaningful employment, this program has the power to make a real difference in the lives of our students and the communities we serve,"

points out Denise Simoneau, director general of the Eastern Shores School Board.

Ms. Simoneau and Mr. Henderson praised the work of the team that worked to bring

the course to E.S.S.B, including the teacher, Marielle Thériault, Emilie Woods, the English Montreal School Board,

Cont'd on page 7

## Capture of female caribou in the Parc de la Gaspésie to take place shortly

● NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Weather-permitting, operations to capture female caribou in the Parc de la Gaspésie will take place soon.

The Ministry of Wildlife specifies that it is difficult to predict the exact time of the start of the operation, which remains uncertain due to weather conditions and the involvement of helicopters.

The ministry specifies that the targeted period is from February to March, and the teams are closely monitoring conditions to ensure the safety of both the caribou and the personnel involved.

This year only the Mount McGerrigle enclosure will be used.

Almost a year after the first operation, the ministry says that the captures, enclosures, care and monitoring of the



A new operation to capture pregnant caribous is underway.

Photo: Ministry of Wildlife

caribou took place as planned last year.

"Although deaths due to infections beyond our control occurred last summer, they do not call into question the monitoring methods and the conditions of custody," writes the

ministry in response to our questions.

It is specified that the risks of perinatal mortality of natural origin for fawns and females remain.

During the previous operation, conducted between

March 18 and April 6, two of the six female caribou that were captured were pregnant. Unfortunately, none of the fawns survived, and one caribou died from a uterine infection following giving birth.

Of the five caribou released

from the enclosure in August, four quickly joined herds of caribou on different peaks, including Mont Jacques-Cartier. The other caribou was shot by a hunter only a few weeks after her release.

In this regard, the investigation and analysis of the evidence are still ongoing at the Protection de la Faune du Québec and no other information is being released in order to not impact the investigation.

Currently, six caribou, four female and two male, are being monitored using telemetry collars.

Their movements indicate that after the rutting period, the caribou dispersed towards less exposed habitats, under forest cover, and currently form herds of a few dozen.

The caribou population in the Gaspé Peninsula is estimated at between 32 and 36 animals.



# Kristina Michaud once again advocates for the return of VIA Rail’s passenger train service

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – Kristina Michaud, Member of Parliament for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia continues to advocate for the reinstatement of VIA Rail passenger train services in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Additional cuts in the region’s aerial services and nationwide reductions in bus services have convinced Ms. Michaud that VIA Rail, as a public corporation, must increase its efforts to resume the Montreal to Gaspé Peninsula train, even if the return is done in phases.

On Febraury 6, she met with the new president of VIA Rail, Mario Pélouquin, as part of a transpartisan caucus meeting in Ottawa focused on nationwide rail services.

“I felt Mr. Pélouquin’s interest in regional passenger services, in the betterment of services provided to rural regions. I saw there was a good opportunity to further discuss the matter. Mr. Pélouquin says that VIA Rail wants to inspect the line between Matapédia and New Carlisle, which is supposed to be ready later this year. In fact, it was supposed to be ready in 2023 but after talking to representatives of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie, I understand that there is a little part of work still underway (in the Black Cape area of New Richmond). Mr. Pélouquin says that he has not received permission from the Quebec government to inspect that part of the line,” explains Kristina Michaud.

“I invite the Quebec government to give access to VIA Rail for a track inspection. (...) At the same time, Mr. Pélouquin expressed the fact that besides the state of



Photo: Office of Kristina Michaud

*Member of Parliament for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia, Kristina Michaud, urges the federal government to allocate sufficient resources to support VIA Rail.*

the railroad, VIA Rail must make sure that the stations are in good condition and that there is enough staff and enough rolling material to offer the service. I understand from that statement that there are other variables to consider. I just hope that VIA Rail is not trying to find excuses to delay its return to the Gaspé Peninsula,” sums up Ms. Michaud.

“Canada is the weakest of the G7 countries when one looks at the quality of passenger rail transport. In Europe, it is possible to easily get across all the countries, while here, the service is deficient,” she deplors.

During the 2021 electoral campaign, Kristina Michaud added her voice to that of the Coalition of Gaspésians for the Return of the VIA Rail Passenger Train.

In a recent letter sent to federal departments of Transport and Finance, VIA Rail stated that “at a time when airlines and bus carriers are increasingly deserting rural regions, passenger trans-

portation by train is more relevant than ever. What’s more, these connections play a sig-

nificant role in the development of the tourism offer in these regions. The VIA Rail fleet is part of the Canadian landscape, acting as a vital link for remote and Indigenous communities, thereby contributing to regional economies.”

Through that statement, VIA Rail demands significant funding to modernize its railway equipment used along long-distance and regional routes.

The Coalition of Gaspésians for the Return of the VIA Rail Passenger Train and Kristina Michaud are calling for a gradual return from VIA and they believe that the section between Matapédia and New Carlisle can allow this resumption, even if the work is not complete to Gaspé.

In November, Mario Pélouquin met with representatives

of the Coalition and although the details of the discussion remained limited, the two parties are supposed to meet again early in 2024. VIA Rail’s president adopted a tone that sounded more promising than that of his predecessors.

“If the service can be offered to New Carlisle before 2026, this would already be an important step forward for the people here who are massively demanding the return of the train. I also invite the federal government to take out the cheque book and give the resources necessary for VIA to renew its fleet. Canada must stop being the poor relation of the industrialized world in terms of passenger transport by train and the Gaspésie has just as much right to this service as other regions have never ceased to have,” insists Ms. Michaud.

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# Police report

The arson court case of Brandon Metallic, 31, from Listuguj, is nearing its conclusion. The case involves an arson that occurred on the North Shore in May 2021. In November 2023, he was found guilty of arson in one of the two charges against him in connection with incidents that took place on May 29, 2021, at the Baie-Comeau prison.

On February 26, in Baie-Comeau, the date of sentencing was set to be rendered on April 8.

According to the indictment, the Baie-Comeau fire was intentionally or recklessly set in his cell on May 29, 2021. In addition to posing a danger to everyone inside the detention facility, the fire caused property damage.

Brandon Metallic was already sentenced to six months for assaulting a peace officer with a weapon while he was detained in Sept-Îles in June 2021.

The accused was imprisoned in Baie-Comeau following the May 15, 2021 murder of a man and manslaughter of a child. On February 7, 2024, Mr. Metallic was found guilty of non-premeditated murder and manslaughter, in that case. Sentencing will take place on April 18.

An Ontario snowmobiler suffered serious injuries at approximately 12:20 p.m. on February 27 on Trail 5 in Rivière-Madeleine, Northern Gaspé. The man lost control of his snowmobile on a wooded part of the trail and suffered a serious, but not life-threatening, knee injury, according to the Sûreté du Québec. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Following several recent reports, particularly in the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts sector, Sûreté du Québec police officers are providing Gaspésians with prevention tips regarding itinerant sales. Some travelling salespeople use high-pressure sales tactics and are very insistent and alarmist to influence consumers to buy a product, or sign a contract for a service, that they did not request. Faced with such situations, citizens are invited to exercise great caution and carefully evaluate this type of offer by asking themselves a few questions, such as:

- Who initiated the contact?
- Why don't I have time to consider this offer?
- Why am I unable to discuss this offer with anyone?
- Am I being asked to spend money?

In all cases, people should ask the person to give his or her name, the name of the company or charity they represent, and to produce photo identification and their itinerant salesperson's permit. People must check with the municipality if the person, company or organization has the right to carry out itinerant sales and one should consult the business register to validate the information provided (<http://bit.ly/2GdOLT8>). The police recommend people never give out personal information or copies of invoices or financial statements and refrain from signing anything hastily. People must read everything, especially documents in small print.

People are entitled to a cooling-off period for any contract signed at home and should get information about their rights, notably by contacting the provincial or territorial Consumer Information Office, as providing guidelines is part of the consumer protection legislation.

In the case of suggested renovation work, it would be wise to check the contractor on the building authority's website. <https://www.rbq.gouv.qc.ca/citoyen/construire-ou-renover/entrepreneurs-avoir-des-complaints-in-their-file/complaints-in-progress.html>

The SQ underlines that itinerant sales are not automatically fraudulent, but can serve as a pretext for malicious individuals. Fraud is a criminal act by which a person, by deception, lies or other means, extracts goods, services or money from another person. An offer that's too good to be true probably is.

The Sûreté du Québec therefore invites the public to be vigilant regarding this type of solicitation and reminds citizens that any information on activities of a criminal nature can be communicated at any time, confidentially, to the Criminal Information Centre at 1-800-659-4264.

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# CARLETON-SUR-MER: Ambitious GHG objective

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

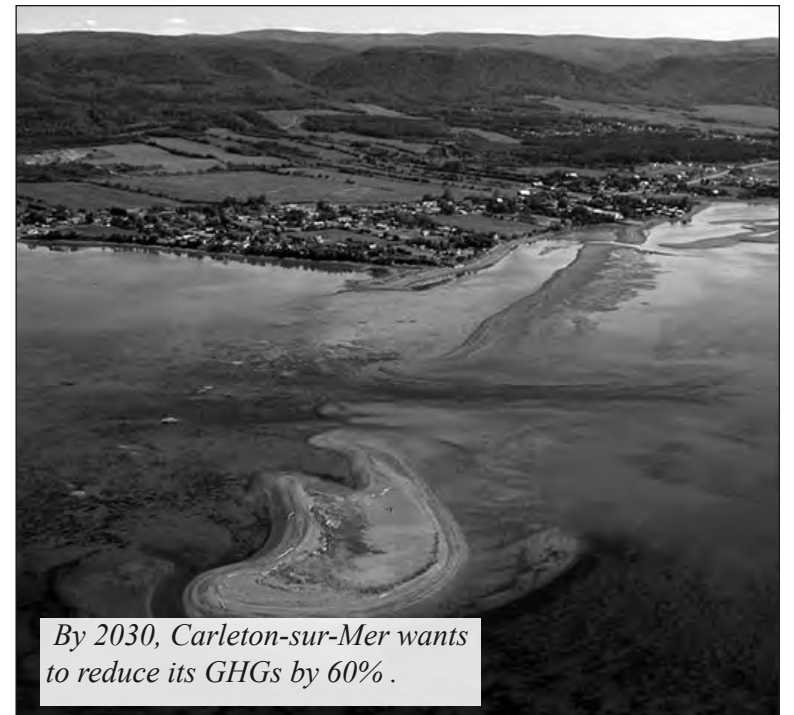
CARLETON-SUR-MER - The Town of Carleton-sur-Mer has set an ambitious objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030, based on the emissions inventory conducted in 2019.

"We have a clear action plan with actions to follow to achieve this target. It's realistic and we're already working on it with the electrification of transportation. We will give mandates to remove fossil fuel energy from buildings. It's an ambitious plan, but it's realistic," says the mayor of Carleton-sur-Mer, Mathieu Lapointe.

Residual materials account for 63% of greenhouse gas emissions, particularly through the municipal campsite.

"We are working very hard on it. We are involved in the creation of the Intermunicipal Residual Materials Management Board. We are hopeful that we will come up with solutions to improve our balance sheet by adding composting," suggests the mayor.

However, implementing composting infrastructure may take some time. "2024 seems unrealistic, but we are making all the necessary ef-



*By 2030, Carleton-sur-Mer wants to reduce its GHGs by 60%.*

Photo: Town of Carleton-sur-Mer

orts to achieve it," says the mayor.

It is a three-year action plan and halfway through a review will be made to assess the progress made.

The town wants to set an example and hopes that citizens will also participate.

"We also want to have a plan on the general scale of the municipality for all greenhouse gas emissions by all residents. This is the second phase that we are thinking about," says Mr. Lapointe.

"We are much more ambitious in our objectives if we compare ourselves to the governments of Quebec and Canada. Few municipalities

have clear targets. We are certainly in the lead in Quebec," believes the mayor.

The process was conducted in collaboration with the Gaspésie Regional Environmental Council.

Greenhouse gas emissions emitted by the town were estimated at 426.94 carbon dioxide equivalents.

Apart from residual materials, 20% of emissions come from buildings and 16% from transportation.

Propane (42%), diesel (26%) and gasoline (10%) constitute the main energy sources of greenhouse gas emissions from municipal activity.

# Citizens fight to keep their bank

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER - Following an announcement by the Caisse populaire Desjardins Centre-sud Gaspésien on February 19, citizens of Newport are mobilizing in an attempt to save their Desjardins ATM, which is due to close on May 24.

Additionally, the Gascons service centre will close on March 28, with the ATM scheduled for removal in May.

"I brought the message that Desjardins' decision to close the Newport counter is unacceptable and that they should never have thought of that. There will no longer be any local services," says the citizens' spokesperson, Luc Legresley, who met the management of the Caisse on

February 23.

Desjardins says the marked reduction in ATM use as justification for the closure.

"If it is Desjardins' position to make decisions without consulting members, it is not respectable," says Mr. Legresley.

Mr. Legresley is inviting the population to express their dissatisfaction. "Desjardins is failing in its first duty, which is to serve the community," adds the spokesperson.

On social media, reactions are unanimous against the decision of the Caisse to remove the counter services.

"We must not forget that seven years ago, there was a meeting at the Newport Golden Age Club where there was talk of closing the Newport service point. It happened but they had made

certain promises to the effect that the Newport window would remain for around ten years," recalls Mr. Legresley.

"I left the counter and went to the ATM. Now, I am asked to go to Accès-D or travel 40 kilometres to make a deposit or a transaction," he says.

"They are not keeping their promises to the Newport community. It's unfortunate," concludes Mr. Legresley.

"It's a decision that hurts our aging population. People in Newport-West are far from Chandler services and Gascons will be closed too. This adds a level of difficulty to being well-served. I told Jovin Caron (director general) of the Caisse that we were going to take a stand and support our population," says the mayor of Chandler, Gilles Daraïche.

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Gilles Gagné

Commentary

François Legault’s strategy: same old, same old

There’s a very popular Radio-Canada comedy show that airs on the weekends. The theme music on the show is from the 1960s. Every time the comedian who imitates François Legault is announced, not only does the theme music sound old, but it is played in slow motion, with an uneven pace, as if the old record player is about to stop.

The radio show, called *À la semaine prochaine* (Come back next week) is often hard on people, yet not entirely without mercy. There is always a strong link with reality. The old and too slow music theme of *Les belles histoires des pays d’en-haut*, a television show recanting the story of the Laurentian region’s colonization about 130 years ago, has been used on the show when imitating François Legault long before he was elected as premier in October 2018.

It was obvious to some scriptwriters, even 10 years ago, that François Legault would always lag a bit.

Premier Legault regularly finds ways to strengthen that perception of an outdated leader.

He did it on February 18 when he held a press conference to sum up the long negotiation process that pitted the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) government and Quebec public sector employees. He mainly targeted the "massive" investment his government made to improve working conditions and salaries for teachers. However, despite the "pride" he initially expressed, he quickly followed with a statement to the effect that there will consequently be a large deficit in the government's budget, coming up on March 12, due in part to the recently renewed collective agreements in the education sector.

That pride essentially sounded like passive aggressiveness, especially considering his next statement, "The choice we made to invest massively in public services will have financial consequences." It is hard to put a positive tag on the word "consequences" in that context. He never used that word to describe the financial support given to the controversial Northvolt project.

Choosing a Sunday afternoon, as was the case on February 18, to hold a press conference on such an im-

portant subject as the premier’s assessment of negotiations that were not completed and not voted on, was also not a wise choice. At the time, many local unions were still trying to agree on the fine print of the contract. It was like putting undue pressure on them to sign as soon as possible.

The scheduling and the choice of words were just like most of Mr. Legault’s comments during the Quebec-wide negotiations and strikes that punctuated the fall, when the premier was adding fuel to a fire that didn’t need it.

The CAQ government probably alleged that the journalists on duty on a Sunday afternoon are not the most seasoned ones. Premier François Legault, Education Minister Bernard Drainville and Treasury Board Minister Sonia Lebel probably thought that they would have a field day during a question period led by less experienced press people. They also thought that reactions to an impromptu press conference would only come the following day when other subjects are piling on. Such maneuvers leave a bad impression in people’s minds.

Josée Scalabrini, the president of the Fédération des syndicats de l’enseignement (FSE-CSQ), probably put it best when she reacted to Premier Legault’s statements by saying that "a large majority of our teachers disagree that we just came out of a great negotiation. They've just been told, 'We didn't listen to you, we didn't hear you.'"

She was caught off guard to hear Mr. Legault blame the deficit on the deals the government struck with teachers' unions considering the long period during which the government neglected investing in education and the catching up exercise that is required now.

Remembering Brian Mulroney

The February 29 passing of former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney occurred at a time when it was rather uncommon to see this type of statesman in North America.

A trained lawyer who at one point was selected to run mining giant Iron Ore Company of Canada, Mr. Mulroney made a successful switch to politics in 1983, when he won the Progressive Conservative Party leadership convention, seven years after a failed attempt.

Brian Mulroney’s legacy is complicated. He conducted a flashy 1976 leadership campaign and lost it to Joe Clark. Mr. Mulroney, 37, didn’t know much at the time about politics and thought that his look and confidence could win it for him.

When he tried again in 1983, he had gained busi-

ness and life experience that allowed him to come up with much better arguments, first for the Progressive Conservative Party members at the convention, then as the man who won the general elections of September 4, 1984, against a less than eloquent Liberal Party leader, John Turner, who was carrying the load of 15 years of Pierre Elliot Trudeau’s worn-out regime.

At the Canadian level, Brian Mulroney worked very hard to land the Free Trade Agreement with the United States. It was a highly controversial issue because it caused the closure of hundreds of less competitive plants in Canada, but allowed better-performing industries to increase their production. The agreement was signed in 1989, during his second term’s dawn.

That second term was less stellar for Brian Mulroney. A recession that started in 1990 put his government on the grill, especially considering that it coincided with the imposition of the goods and services tax, on January 1, 1991. His government was also heavily criticized for axing 55% on VIA Rail’s services, on January 15, 1990. In June 1993, he left his successor, Kim Campbell, a party in disarray, and she lost against Jean Chrétien four months later.

Brian Mulroney’s main strength, his capacity to establish personal links with international leaders, allowed him to become a much-appreciated negotiator worldwide.

He could develop friendships with statespeople who were sitting at the extremities of the political spectrum, like the right-wing prime minister of Great Britain, Margaret Thatcher, and American president, Ronald Reagan, as well as the socialist president of France, François Mitterand.

When South African leader Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990 after 26 years of detention deriving from the Apartheid policy, he called Brian Mulroney the following day and thanked him for his effort in fighting discriminatory measures. Mr. Mandela committed to making his first trip to Canada, where he presented his first speech four months later at the House of Commons.

After quitting politics, Brian Mulroney was heavily criticized for playing the role of a middleman in the Airbus scandal, during which he accepted \$225,000 in \$1,000 bills and tried to hide that money from the Canadian Financial Institutions Supervisory Committee (FISC).

However, Canada has not fielded a prime minister of his stature in international affairs since he departed from politics in 1993 and no one currently seems to have that kind of potential. His stature will be sorely missed.

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We are able to accept payment by credit card but because of the phone lines we are not currently able to accept debit card payments.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation while the building was under renovations, we look forward to seeing you in person once again.

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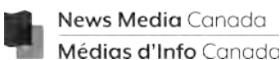


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(Taxes included)  
1-year (paper or digital): \$50  
6-months (paper or digital): \$29  
Outside Canada:  
1-year paper to United States  
\$175, International \$370

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



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



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# Osisko Metals forms a technical committee to develop pit dewatering plan

GILLES GAGNÉ

MURDOCHVILLE - Osisko Metals has announced the creation of a technical consultation committee to assist in developing a plan for the dewatering of the Mount Copper open-pit at the Gaspé Copper mining property in Murdochville.

The dewatering process is necessary to carry out additional drilling at the bottom of the former mine. The committee is led by Osisko Metals' newly-hired environment and sustainable development vice-president, Dr. Ann Lamontagne.

Since the closure in 1999 and the remediation in the mid-2000s of the former Gaspé Copper mine site, the Mount Copper open-pit has flooded. To assess the viability of resuming open-pit mining operations at Gaspé Copper, the pit must be dewatered as soon as possible to allow for improved resource evaluation and geotechnical drilling at greater depths. The company anticipates conducting the dewatering operation over a two-year period.

In a press release, Osisko Metals points out that "it is committed to doing so in a responsible manner that is inclusive of environmental factors and key stakeholders in the region. Following ongoing environmental and engineering studies, Osisko Metals will elaborate a plan in collaboration with the committee and will then go through the necessary steps to obtain permits from government authorities."

The consultation and technical committee is composed of professionals from various organizations, including the Mi'gma'we' Mawio'mi Secretariat, which represents the Aboriginal communities of Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Lisituguj, the Société de gestion des rivières de Gaspé, the Conseil de l'eau du Nord de la Gaspésie, the Gaspé Peninsula Regional Environment Council and a local biologist living in Murdochville.

The company underlines that Osisko Metals' initiative to create the committee was met with positive feedback from members of the committee, and a first working session was held in December 2023. Further meetings with the committee are scheduled for 2024 to review the dewatering plan and receive feedback before sub-



Photo: Osisko Metals

mission to governmental authorities.

The plan will be publicly disclosed to inform local residents of mitigation measures to be implemented.

## Nomination of Ann Lamontagne

Dr. Ann Lamontagne is a civil engineer who obtained her doctoral degree in mining environment from Université Laval in 2001. She has worked in the mining industry for over 25 years as a geotechnical, water management, hydrogeology, and environmental projects consultant.

According to Osisko Metals, she has been involved in the development of several mining projects where her expertise has been used in minimizing environmental risks throughout the mine planning process, from initial design through to closure and reclamation. Dr. Lamontagne has also been involved in many research and development projects with mining companies, including Nouveau Monde Graphite, Troilus Gold and Mason Graphite.

Dr. Lamontagne will be responsible for all aspects of environmental monitoring and impact studies that will be the first step towards permitting the Gaspé Copper project. Her first mandate will be to develop a sound plan for dewatering the Mount Copper pit while ensuring that excess water discharged into the environment will not affect the human communities and fish habitat downstream.

This plan will be based on environmental studies conducted in the fall of 2023, particularly focusing on fish and fish habitats, as well as riparian vegetation. Additionally, a geomorphological study carried out in 2023 aimed to characterize stream banks and flow beds to identify areas prone to ero-

sion and confirm that the introduction of water will not exacerbate bank erosion.

Furthermore, water quality analyses have been completed at the Mount Copper pit, indicating that the water meets environmental criteria for safe discharge. Additional water quality analyses at strategic downstream locations will be undertaken to ensure that the dewatering process does not negatively impact fish and their habitat.

Osisko Metals is aware that the York River, located about three kilometres downstream from the site, is an important salmon river and that this resource must be protected.

"We are committed to developing the Gaspé Copper project in collaboration with all stakeholders in the region while meeting the highest standards of environmental management. We are very pleased that Dr. Ann Lamontagne is joining the Osisko Metals team and her expertise will significantly assist the company in achieving those goals," underlines Robert Wares, president and chief executive officer of Osisko Metals.

## Demand for copper is increasing

"With the global demand for copper set to increase dramatically in the coming decade, the time is now to advance a project such as Gaspé Copper towards production. We are pleased that the community response to the project has been positive and collaborative so far, and we believe that the dewatering committee is an important initiative towards devising a plan that brings more environmental professionals to the table and takes stakeholders' concerns into consideration," adds Mr. Wares.

Osisko Metals acquired full ownership of the former Gaspé

Copper Mine from Glencore Canada Corporation in July 2023. The underground copper mine closed in October 1999. Open pit mines were also exploited by Noranda Mines, the owner of the Murdochville industrial facility, between 1954 and the 1980s. The copper smelter adjacent to the mines was closed in April 2002.

Acquiring the Gaspé Copper Mine required an investment of US\$25 million in 2022.

Upon that acquisition, Osisko Metals also committed to investing \$55 million in exploration between the beginning of 2022 and March 2026.

Last year, close to half of that amount had already been invested, but Osisko has not provided a recent update on those expenses. The \$55 million is in Canadian currency.

Osisko Metals started a thorough exploration campaign in Murdochville in March 2022. The company is focused on resource evaluation of what is called the Mount Copper Expansion Project.


So far, based on the drillings carried out in 2022, a copper

deposit of 456 million tons of mineralized ore was evaluated. It is low-grade copper ore, with a concentration of 0.31%. If the mine is reopened, such a deposit would yield 1.4 million metric tons of pure copper, the equivalent of 3.1 billion pounds. The copper ore would be concentrated in Murdochville but then sent to an existing smelter, as Osisko Metals doesn't want to build another one in the Gaspé Peninsula. The ore would likely be processed by Glencore's smelter in Rouyn-Noranda, the Horne division. Selling the ore to Glencore is part of the March 2022 agreement.


The price of copper has increased significantly since 1999 and has been hovering regularly around \$4.00 in American currency over the past two years, roughly five times more than when the Murdochville mine closed. As of February 28, the price was US\$3.83.

Robert Wares expects a price of at least \$4.00 per pound before launching the reopening of the Mount Copper open pit mine, which would require an investment of \$1 billion. Five years of preparation work are necessary before approval by the company.


Based on the details revealed in March 2022, Osisko Metals' \$55 million investment must be earmarked for exploration, development and environmental expenditures, including permitting expenditures, over a period of four years, which commenced on March 25, 2022, with a minimum of \$20 million to be incurred by March 25, 2024.




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Parks Canada wishes to inform the public of its intention to grant a new Licence of Occupation for the food counter at the Visitor and Discovery Centre in Forillon National Park, for the 2024 summer season and two (2) subsequent seasons, in order to enrich the activity and experience offer to visitors.

Parks Canada is interested in hearing from other proponents who would like to submit a project to occupy this space, for a comparative evaluation. Any proponent wishing to submit a proposal must demonstrate their ability to offer this service for the stated duration. Parks Canada will begin by evaluating the skills and qualifications to carry out such projects.

For more information or to find out how to apply, visit: <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/qc/forillon/info>, or contact Émilie Desbois at [emilie.desbois@pc.gc.ca](mailto:emilie.desbois@pc.gc.ca). Final proposals must be received by noon on March 20.

Page 5, March 6, 2024 - Spec

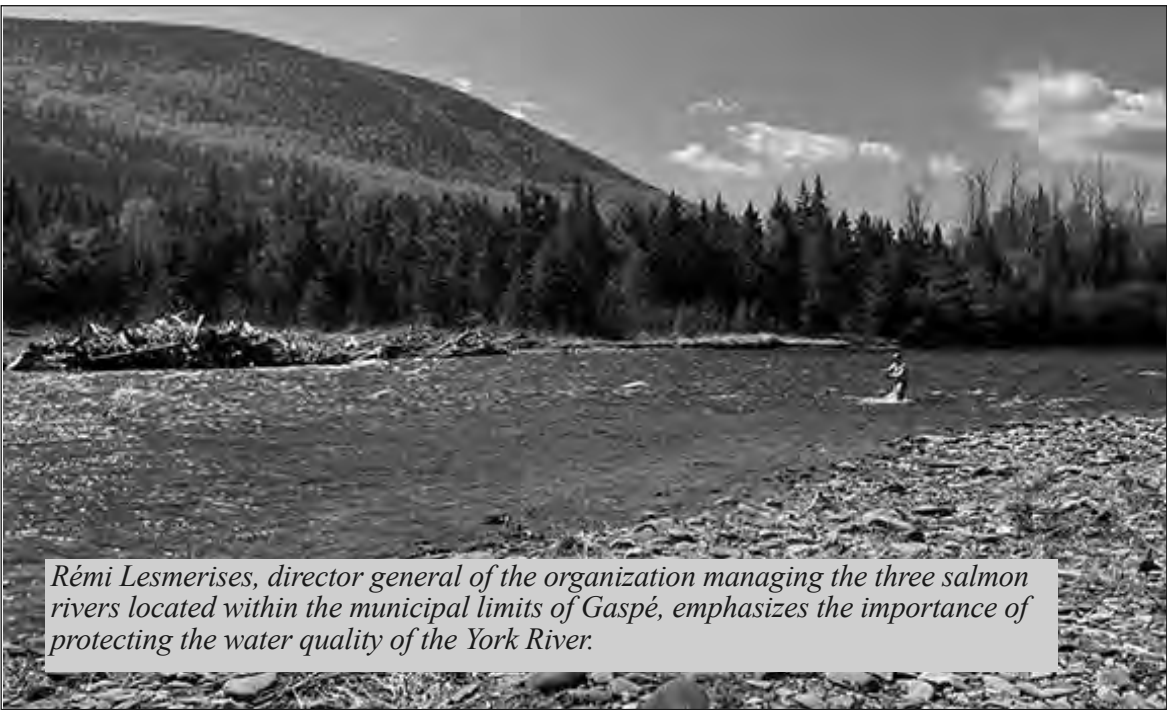
# Managers of the York River will closely monitor the dewatering of the Mount Copper open-pit

GILLES GAGNÉ

MURDOCHVILLE: The planned dewatering operation for the Mount Copper open-pit in Murdochville by Osisko Metals will be closely monitored by the Société de gestion des rivières du Grand Gaspé, the organization managing salmon fishing on the York, Dartmouth and Saint John rivers.

Rémi Lesmerises, the general director of the management society, sits on the technical consultation committee overseeing the dewatering operation and intends to keep a close eye on the process. Osisko Metals wants to undertake the operation as soon as possible.

“Our concerns are still present. We want the dewatering operation to have no impact on the habitat of the York River and no impact in terms of its water quality,” says Mr. Lesmerises.



Rémi Lesmerises, director general of the organization managing the three salmon rivers located within the municipal limits of Gaspé, emphasizes the importance of protecting the water quality of the York River.

Photo: Société de gestion des rivières de Gaspé

The position of Mount Copper will have an impact on the water flow of the Porphyre Brook, which is a tributary of the York River, he points out.

“Officially, Lake York is the head of the York River, located three kilometres east

of Murdochville. However, important brooks feed the river and the water contained in the open-pit mine will be sent to the Porphyre bBrook, one of those brooks. Salmon spawn in those brooks west of the York River. The dewatering operation will increase

the water flow of the Porphyre Brook. The impact will be easily noticeable. The dewatering must therefore be as progressive as possible,” explains Mr. Lesmerises.

In terms of the salmon population and water flow, the York River is the largest

of the three rivers managed by Mr. Lesmerises and his staff.

“It is our biggest source of revenue but money is not the main aspect of the issue here. The York River is an invaluable gem and we must protect it. Affecting the habitat and lowering the water quality are out of the question. We intend to follow the analyses as closely as possible,” he adds.

Osisko Mining’s management expects that the dewatering process will take two years. Tens of millions of litres of water are contained in the former open pit mine.

Rémi Lesmerises refrains from specifying a time frame for the dewatering operation. “I just hope that it will take as long as possible. The longer it takes, the lesser the impact will be on the river. We have a good quality of water and we want to maintain it,” he insists.

## Fisheries: Help still requested from Ottawa

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Fishermen, stakeholders and politicians at the local and provincial levels continue to demand financial assistance from the federal government to deal with the crisis that is ravaging the fishing industry.

“It takes extra help. We cannot go through this crisis with companies worth several million dollars that are under loans, loan guarantees or things like that, that the banker calls, that the house is mortgaged. Some people risk losing their homes. It will take direct aid,” notes the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté.

Among his suggestions is the idea of licence buybacks, licence conversion towards more abundant species and revising redfish quotas to allocate more to shrimp and turbot boats.

“There is no single solution that can solve everything, but a combination of possible solutions that could give a helping hand to our manufacturers, our fishermen and our processors,” says Mr. Côté.

Even though the crisis has been ongoing for eight months, the mayor indicated that people had to wait for the decision of the Minister of Fisheries, Diane Lebou

thillier, rendered at the end of January.

The Member of Parliament for the Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine specified that the relaunch of redfish fishing would occur in two phases: phase one will be transitional lasting two years with a minimum quota of 25,000 tonnes and allocations of 10% reserved for shrimp fishermen in difficulty faced with declining stocks and 10% for Indigenous communities.

Ms. Lebouthillier also announced a quota of 3,060 tonnes of shrimp. “The fishermen and processors indicated that it was not worth going out with the quotas on the table. We need to go back to the drawing board. There must be additional quotas in redfish and the decision made overall in this area must be reviewed. We could not have requested decisions from Quebec before having the quotas,” says the mayor.

He is calling for more help from Ottawa “which is the great architect behind the decisions made and the current crisis,” notes the mayor.

“In the context where there are other fisheries in difficulty, diversification requires other species,” says Mr. Côté. “It’s clear that red-



The director of the MRC de la Côte-de-Gaspé, Bruno Bernatchez; the prefect of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, Daniel Côté; and the director of the Association of captain-owners of the Gaspésie, Claudio Bernatchez.

Photo: N. Sergerie

fish are in overabundance. It’s clear that seals are in overabundance. We see a lobster migration. There are fewer and fewer in Maine and more and more in northern Gaspésie and on the North Shore. There may be adjustments to allow those who are experiencing the crisis head-on to survive. Even if only temporary permits! Let’s be creative,” adds the mayor.

Mr. Côté, who is also prefect of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, made this new comment at a time when an assessment was presented on the actions undertaken over the last six months by the MRC.

The MRC has invested more than \$1.4 million with various partners to support the industry in crisis.

Five measures are in place, or in the process of being implemented, including financial aid for personalized support for businesses, support for the shrimp fishing fleet in restructuring, the hiring of a psychosocial resource dedicated to the fishing sector, and the study on the economic impact of fisheries in the MRC.

However, the director general of the MRC, Bruno Bernatchez, insists on an investment of \$492,000 allow-

ing the hiring of a resource to diversify businesses. “We expect a lot from this action in the industry and we are giving ourselves three years,” says Mr. Bernatchez.

Furthermore, the MRC wishes to hold a forum on the economy of the fishing sector.

The director of the Gaspé Peninsula Association of Captains and Owners also spoke on behalf of the industry, looking toward the future. “How, at the end of the crisis, this industry will have equipped itself with means and mechanisms to ensure that it avoids reliving crises,” notes Claudio Bernatchez.

He too is demanding resources from Ottawa so that the industry can get through this crisis. “The fight is not over. It is extremely important to continue to support each other in this,” adds the captains’ representative.

Furthermore, the Government of Quebec has allocated \$3.7 million to support the sector during the crisis.

The Marine Fisheries Sectoral Committee will receive more than \$2.6 million to carry out a continuing training plan, with commitments of \$370,000 with 15 companies this year.

Cont'd on page 7



## BARBERING:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

Zachary Cyr, Kaneesha Smith, Christine Grenier, Rachel Adams, Lori-Ann Hayes, Linda Woodman, Trevor Renouf and Jane Bradbury.

Future barber Dena Main, who will soon move to Paspébiac, has dreamed of taking a barbering program since she finished school 31 years ago. "I took it because I love styling hair. When I get my barber shop set up, I will have people come to it, but I also want to serve elders and people who can't go out. It is a dream come true."

Karen Fitzgerald, who lives in Port Daniel, was two days away from starting her barbering salon on February 28. "It is something I really wanted to do. It doesn't feel like work. It is an opportu-



*Shannon Day enjoys the comfort of a new barbering chair, while student Tracy Major looks on.*

Photo: G. Gagné

nity. I am starting on March 1. I already have a couple of people waiting to take a chance on me. They are so supportive and are willing to let me better my skills by

doing their hair," she said, smiling.

Hope Town's Tracy Major has been cutting hair for friends for a while but wanted to refine her technique. "I al-

ways loved to do hair. I want to master the clippers. I always used scissors. With a clipper, I was making mistakes. For me, doing hair is also a way to be creative."

## FISHERIES:

▶ *Cont'd from page 6*

The Ministry of the Economy is paying \$452,000 for economic development projects in Côte-de-Gaspé.

MAPAQ (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) has granted \$156,000 to the Association of Captains and Owners and \$89,700 to the AQIP (Quebec Association of the Fishing Industry).

"The question of quotas and the absence of direct measures for the fishermen remain problematic. I hope that Ms. Lebouthillier will revisit her position and find a way to provide substantial assistance to help our communities get through this difficult period," comments Stéphane Sainte-Croix, Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé.

## Gasse Électrique Inc. – A Business Portrait

Antoni Gasse founded Gasse Électrique inc. in 2018, at Nouvelle. Justin Simoneau, who joined the team in 2020, quickly showed his mettle and has become a co-owner in the beginning of 2023. A meeting with Antoni and Justin about the business.

### IN WHAT WAY IS YOUR BUSINESS UNIQUE ?

"As far as efficiency is concerned" affirmed Justin. We have a good operational structure which allows us to serve our clients well. We can meet their needs rapidly." According to Antoni, Gasse Électrique inc. is also outstanding due to its young and dynamic team plus another important asset: "We do not lack manpower. Employees come to us and don't see why they should leave. Quality of life is essential for us and we are very flexible. Our vision is to have the right persons for the right job."

### HOW DID SUPPORT FROM THE SADC HELP YOU?

Antoni had a loan from the SADC Youth Strategy Program to purchase a building with office space and a garage to store the equipment. "The building is a great advantage, underlined Justin. We can have an inventory. That make us much more efficient." The business also obtained financing from the SADC for accounting support to optimize its management model. This support allowed Gasse Électrique inc. to have a dashboard and to reorganize its administration.

### TELL US ABOUT A NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENT OF WHICH YOU ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD.

"Just having gone through the pandemic is a victory in itself!" mentioned Antoni. "We were not as financially sound as we are now." Antoni and Justin said that they are very proud of the subsequent growth of the business. "Over the last two years now, we managed to hire good employees and we completed our partnership" said Justin. "We purchased two additional service vehicles and hired an extraordinary administrative assistant. We concluded structuring business partnerships. The company, which has grown, has allowed us to obtain interesting and stimulating contracts."

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ANYONE WHO IS CONSIDERING STARTING UP A BUSINESS IN THE BAIE-DES-CHALEURS REGION?

"Partner with someone who comes from here!" said Justin, laughing. Originally from Quebec City, he appreciates being in business with someone from the area who knows everyone. On the other hand, he has an external viewpoint which is a complement to a local viewpoint. More seriously however, according to him, to embark in a business, you have to know how to delve into it, you "need a head on your shoulders and you have to take good advice." He added that quality and painstaking attention to detail are especially important in a small area. "There is extra pressure because of that."

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# Local newspapers produce game-changing coverage

“We have boots on the ground, and often our stories get picked up by larger media.”

Nikki Mantell, publisher, Low Down to Hull and Back News

**COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS** do a lot with a little. The result is game-changing coverage that not only informs the immediate regions they serve, but reflects the issues that contribute to the public conversations on a provincial and national scale.

While large media outlets were debating the possible ramifications of Bill 21, Quebec’s so-called secularism law that prohibits civil servants and other public-sector workers from wearing religious clothing or jewelry, the editor of *The Low Down to Hull and Back News* was interviewing Grade 3 teacher, Fatemeh Anvari, in the little town of Chelsea, Que., in the Outaouais region. She had just been fired for wearing a hijab.

“That’s one of the stories that wouldn’t get picked up if we wouldn’t do them,” said *The Low Down*’s publisher Nikki Mantell.

The story, broken by a newsroom with a staff of three, was picked up by the *Ottawa Citizen*, *The Globe and Mail*, the *National Post* and international outlets, including *Newsweek* and *The Guardian*.

It put a human face on Quebec’s often-virulent secularism debate. And, as Mantell put it, “changed the discourse.”

Mantell continued: “Before *The Low Down* published Ms. Fatemeh’s story, support for Bill 21 was hovering around 64 per cent. Following the story, which every major news outlet in Canada picked up, support for the bill dropped to 55 per cent.”

In another corner of the province, in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region west of Montreal, when Bill 96 threatened to strip small bilingual towns of their dual-language status, the mayor of one of those tiny communities appeared set to let the deadline for the municipal council to affirm its will to keep the status expire. The local English-language paper in the region, *The 1019 Report*, questioned the mayor. On repeated occasions that spanned months, the mayor refused to commit whether council would vote on the needed resolution.

In response to the coverage, residents in the tiny town of 120 grew concerned. Two reporters with *The 1019 Report* started working the phones and going door to door. By the time they were done, the paper reported on the results of an exhaustive survey: a clear majority of residents of the island community of Île Cadieux wanted the town to keep its official bilingual status.

“Most of the residents credit the paper” when the resolution was finally renewed, said *The 1019 Report*’s editor Brenda O’Farrell, adding that large media outlets would never have bothered to do the legwork.

“We spread ourselves thin. We work really hard. And we’re good at stretching a buck,” said Mantell. “We put our hearts and souls into this.”

This is the type of journalism the Local Journalism Initiative helps produce. The federal funding program provides resources to hire journalists who produce civic content – coverage of health, education, rights, public policy and other essential issues.

It also ensures that members of Quebec’s English-speaking community continue to be informed. As Lily Ryan, publisher of *The Aylmer Bulletin* and the *West Quebec Post*, points out, as the province’s language of business and politics is French, English-language papers offer the minority community the opportunity to stay in touch with what is going on in their communities and government decisions.



BY THE NUMBERS	10,815	4	518
	Number of LJI articles on civic issues produced at QCNA publications between April 2019 and February 2024. SOURCE: QCNA	Number of community newspapers launched in Quebec serving the English-speaking community since 2020. SOURCE: QCNA	Number of local news operations that closed between 2008 and Feb. 1, 2024 SOURCE: LOCAL NEWS RESEARCH PROJECT
			547
			800
			1269
			4800
			The number of job cuts announced by Quebec television network TVA in November 2023. SOURCE: TVA
			The number of job cuts announced by CBC in December 2023. SOURCE: CBC
			Number of media jobs eliminated in Canada during first year of the COVID pandemic. SOURCE: LOCAL NEWS RESEARCH PROJECT
			The number of job cuts announced by Bell Media in February 2024. SOURCE: BELL MEDIA
PAID ADVERTISING CONTENT SUPPLIED BY QCNA			





# Community newspapers emerging as last journalistic soldiers standing

**LAST MONTH**, Bell Media announced its largest workforce restructuring in 30 years, laying off 4,800 workers.

In December, CBC/Radio-Canada announced plans to cut 800 jobs.

One month earlier, Quebec television network TVA cut 547 jobs.

Earlier in 2023, Postmedia, one of the largest media companies in Canada with a daily newspaper in almost every major city in the country, announced it was cutting 10 per cent of its staff, just the latest in a long string of downsizing moves that has spanned more than a decade. The cuts planned for Quebec went much deeper.

Almost every month, evidence of the continuing shift in the media landscape can be seen. And the result is fewer and fewer journalists reporting the stories that keep Canadians informed.

But in many communities a singular journalistic soldier remains standing: The community newspaper. These small, often privately-owned outlets are the last providers of reliable, professional local news.

“Community newspapers aren’t just filling the gap, they’re the whole fabric,” said veteran journalist and president of the Quebec Community Newspaper Association Brenda O’Farrell.

That is why support for community newspapers is so important, O’Farrell says. As the media landscape continues to shift, the role these news outlets play is not only crucial, but gaining importance.

And they need to be supported by initiatives like the federal government’s Local Journalism Initiative, O’Farrell explains, referring to the funding program that helps qualified outlets hire reporters in communities across the country. But readers in these communities, have to do their part, too, she added, by subscribing to papers that offer that option, especially in Quebec where the minority-language community needs to maintain access to information in English.

Without programs like LJI and reader support, many community papers would struggle to survive.

Since 2012, journalist Marie-Ève Martel has tracked community news outlet closures across Quebec.

“For the moment, I’ve counted more than 80,” she reported late last year, after the abrupt shuttering of the Montreal daily *Metro* and its offshoots in several Montreal suburbs and Quebec City.

Each closure represents not only jobs lost, but “a hole in our social cement,” as Martel describes it.

Local media “makes us more informed, more aware and more likely to vote,” she said.

“CBC and the *Ottawa Citizen* aren’t going to cover a byelection in Chelsea,” said Nikki Mantell, the publisher of *The Low Down to Hull and Back News*, which covers the small towns in the Gatineau hills. “We have boots on the ground, and often our stories get picked up by larger media.”

“Local papers are where you hear about the most important things — health care, schools, getting your roads paved, the environment,” said Sharon McCully, publisher of *The Record* in Sherbrooke and the *Brome County News*, two papers that cover about 30 municipalities for the English-speaking community in the Eastern Townships. “These are stories that impact people directly.”

*“Community newspapers aren’t just filling the gap, they’re the whole fabric.”*

Brenda O’Farrell, journalist and QCNA president



# Fishermen and MAPAQ iron out loan details

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Fishermen and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ) are reviewing the terms of repayment for loans granted during the crisis affecting the fishing sector.

“There are indeed files being analyzed at the regional management level of MAPAQ,” confirms the Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé and government assistant for fisheries, Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

Quebec’s Minister of Fisheries, André Lamontagne, had previously stated that the government would support fishermen during the crisis.

“We will do everything we can to make effective use of all the tools at our disposal and do everything possible to pro-

mote, in one way or another, measures which will put a balm – so to speak – on the current problems experienced by our communities,” adds Mr. Sainte-Croix.

On February 27, all stakeholders in the field unanimously requested federal aid to get through this crisis.

“It takes extra help. We cannot go through this crisis with companies worth several million dollars that are under loans, loan guarantees or things like that... that the banker calls... that the house is mortgaged. Some people are at risk of losing their homes. It’s going to take direct aid,” repeats the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté.

Considering how climate change is impacting the Gulf and the marine ecosystem, Mr. Sainte-Croix believes that a thorough reflection is neces-



Photo: N. Sergerie

sary.

“The fishing industry is at a crossroads. We are talking in

the short term about what we are experiencing in terms of turbot or shrimp boats. We must look further and what we are currently experiencing risks becoming a more and more present phenomenon. I hope that as governments, both federal and provincial, we can reflect on the future of things to see the bad news coming and be equipped to support our communities in these challenges,” adds the MNA.

Marketing redfish remains a challenge, especially if minimum quotas are increased beyond the floor of 25,000 tonnes announced by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Diane Lebouthillier.

“We are waiting for final information and, for our part, we are working on how to put in place measures to ensure the most efficient marketing possible in the short, medium and long term for this resource,” indicates Mr. Sainte-Croix.

# Chandler Councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout must resign

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER - The Quebec Municipal Commission has initiated legal action in the Superior Court, seeking a declaration of provisional incapacity against Chandler councillor, Bruno-Pierre Godbout, who is the Newport Ward councillor, and serving as the pro-mayor of Chandler as well.

Mr. Godbout voluntarily complied with the request and has since tendered his resignation.

The Commission points out that the administrative investigation against the elected official is complete, leading to the filing of the petition. The case is scheduled to be heard on April 4 at the Percé Courthouse.

On January 17, Mr. Godbout was charged with fraud, forgery and use, possession or trafficking of a document. The request for a declaration of provisional incapacity stemmed from these charges. The accused is set to appear at the Percé Courthouse to address these criminal charges on April 22.

The Permanent Anti-Corruption Unit (UPAC) emphasized that its investigation revealed that between February 1 and July 31, 2021, while acting as pro-mayor during the Quebec Municipal Commission’s suspension of

former mayor, Louisette Langlois, Mr. Godbout produced and used false expense reimbursement requests.

UPAC estimated the fraudulent amount to be approximately \$10,000.

In the court document, the municipal commission states that jurisprudence establishes the burden to be met for such a request to be filed, namely serious reproaches if prima facie evidence shows that these acts appear to have been committed, and if the public interest justifies temporarily relieving the elected official concerned by determining the link between the reproached acts and the performance of his duties and the extent to which these acts bring the administration of the municipality into disrepute.

The petition states that for the fraud charge, the maximum penalty is 14 years in prison, while the production of a false document carries a maximum penalty of 10 years and the same for the forgery of a document.

The Commission notes that the elected official faces charges punishable by two years of imprisonment or more, which gives the power to the Superior Court to provisionally declare Mr. Godbout incapable of exercising any function related to his office as a member of the municipal council, based on

Section 305.1 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities.

Since Mr. Godbout filed an act of acquiescence to the request signed on February 19, the Municipal Commission requests that he be declared temporarily incapable of exercising the function of member of the council of any municipality in Quebec, i.e. until a stay of the proceedings, acquittal or the end of his term.

The mayor and councillors were informed of the discussions between the Quebec Municipal Commission and the councillor.

“Mr. Godbout was very transparent,” stated the mayor of Chandler, Gilles Daraïche.

“The Municipal Commission presented him with three scenarios. He chose the scenario of resigning during the

proceedings. He could have chosen scenario two or three and it would have cost the town much more, as in a trial that we know about, but he chose the scenario which will cost much less for the Town of Chandler,” adds the mayor.

Mr. Daraïche is indirectly referring to the legal saga involving the former mayor of Chandler, Louisette Langlois, whose legal expenses exceed \$350,000.

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# Still no solution when it comes to air transportation

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

**GASPÉ** - The Government of Quebec continues to search for the right solution to provide the regions with air transportation services and, in that regard, the Air Transport Committee held a meeting on February 20 in Quebec City.

The president of the committee on air transportation within the Union of Quebec Municipalities and the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, is starting to get the impression that the solutions are not forthcoming.

“It appears that we are always at the mercy of what carriers want and can offer us as a service. It appears that the clientele is not always there. In Gaspé, there has been a fairly pronounced drop in customers over the last few months because there is still uncertainty,” says Daniel Côté.

The \$500 program or the 30% discount on tickets does not seem to reflect reality. “This program seems too complicated, so it ran out of \$500 tickets. And few people apply for reimbursement because people don't know about this program. In short, there are plenty of problems,” notes the mayor.

Yves Montigny, who chairs the Quebec government committee, and is the Member of the National Assembly for René-Lévesque, is aware of the problem.

Mr. Montigny mentions that, in January, ticket sales increased by 30% in several destinations in Quebec, but admits at the same time that Gaspé has not experienced

this growth.

“The PAAR program (Regional Air Access Program) is having an effect, but it is not having an effect everywhere. We see it in Gaspé, Mont-Joli and Baie-Comeau where we must adapt it. We want to improve it to ensure better service and better frequency,” says Mr. Montigny, who believes that the program must be revised.

“We want to ensure that the changes we are going to make correspond to the real needs of Quebec citizens. We are in consultations,” he said.

According to Mr. Côté, the Quebec Government intends to adopt an air strategy.

The mayor suggests using Premier François Legault's idea, who mentioned a possible solution during his visit to Gaspé last November. At the time the premier had promised seven days a week service imposed on carriers by the government, in each region of Quebec with tickets at \$500 round trip and that the province would subsidize the deficits.

“I say it clearly, even if it doesn't make the carriers happy, I expect that Mr. Legault's promise materializes,” states the mayor.

“What the Premier said in Gaspé makes a lot of sense. We are working on that. We are working to have regular service to major airports in Quebec,” says Mr. Montigny. “We are working to put in place means to find a way with one or more carriers so that services can be improved in the coming weeks and months,” specifies Mr. Montigny.

However, it remains to be



Photo: N. Sergerie

seen what the carriers will do as Mr. Côté notes that they do not want to have anything imposed on them.

“We have to be able to agree because the Quebec government has decided to take on this important issue. There is also an important issue. This must be done with companies because it is private companies that transport. You have to get along with them. It's not always easy. We have the same objective of finding common ground with businesses to better serve important destinations which have experienced a drop in traffic,” indicates Mr. Montigny.

For its part, the Parti Québécois is once again calling for a real plan to ensure effective air services for the regions of Quebec.

The Parti Québécois transport spokesperson, Joël Arseneau, notes that the

been so bad in air transportation,” notes the opposition representative.

According to Mr. Joël Arseneau, the \$500 ticket program is not working, as he's noted a visible decrease in ridership, particularly in Gaspé.

Out of a target of 166,000 tickets, only 73,000 tickets were sold in two years.

The elected official notes that the Air Transport Committee set up by the CAQ is not working.

“At each meeting, we go around the table and it's like going in circles because everyone's interests don't align perfectly. The government is not capable of getting the best from its participants,” adds the MNA for the Magdalen Islands.

Air transportation has been the subject of reflection since February 2018, when Philippe Couillard's Liberal government held the first forum on the issue.

## A collision between a school bus and a car leaves two injured

Nelson Sergerie


**SAINTE-THÉRÈSE-DE-GASPÉ** - A collision between a school bus and a car on the morning of February 28 in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé ended, fortunately, without any serious injuries. The incident occurred around 8 a.m. on the Route des Cyr.

According to the Sûreté du Québec, the driver of the car lost control and hit the snow bank before colliding with the school bus.

The ten children on the bus were not injured. Both drivers were taken to the hospital as a preventative measure but had no apparent injuries. Parents picked up their children.

Preliminary findings suggest that the accident was due to weather conditions.





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# Another successful Wakeham-York winter Carnival

ANDY PATTERSON

YORK: - From February 9 to 17, Wakeham-York celebrated its 53rd winter carnival bringing together the community for lots of fun and entertainment.

The carnival kicked off on Friday night with a huge bonfire along with fireworks, followed by a lively dance performed by Coco and Dodo.

On Saturday, dozens of adults and children participated in a variety of events as part of Family Day. The day began with family snowshoeing followed by the annual masquerade during which the judges struggled to determine the winners from the various categories. Subsequent competitions for the whole family included tea boiling, ice bowling, nail driving, tug of war and hockey skills. The weather was gorgeous and everyone had a wonderful time.

Sunday afternoon the carnival committee welcomed the largest crowd of the week at the annual BINGO. Over 120 people packed into the community hall hoping to win one of the many prizes



Judges struggled to determine the winners of the masquerade.

Photo: Courtesy of Andy Patterson

The committee was formed in 1971 when a group of committed volunteers came together to build a full-size hockey rink and rink-house. For the past 53 years, successive committees have maintained the rink, which is usually the first outside ice surface opening in the fall, and the last one to close in spring. The profits from the annual carnival go exclusively towards maintaining the skating rink, which is very well used by the community, aged 3 to 73!

Once again, the carnival was a huge success. The committee is grateful to the many sponsors and local businesses for their support, along with the participants and volunteers who make the carnival such a success each year.

Next year's carnival is already in the planning stage and will take place from February 7 to 15, 2025.

carnival, the organizing committee hosted their annual breakfast, serving over 130 people! Following breakfast was the snowmobile poker rally, which had 73 sledders registered. Participants followed one of two trails, all arriving at "Reed's Camp" for lunch. Once the snowmobile rally had been com-

pleted, participants returned to the hall for food and refreshments, and the drawing of prizes. To conclude the wonderful day, there was another lively dance with music from local musician, Nash Stanley.

The carnival is organized by a volunteer committee, called the York Youth Center.

## Special thanks to all those who sponsored the Wakeham-York Winter Carnival

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York River Seniors  
York Women's Institute



Seventy-three people registered for the snowmobile poker rally.



On Sunday, over 120 people attended the annual bingo.



# Announcements



## In Memory

### DUMARESQ: Gail

Gail it's been such a long time and we miss you so.

*Let this be a loving reminder  
That someone is missing today,  
Someone our hearts still hold on to,  
As we travel along life's way.  
Someone who made life so special,  
For all those who gather here,  
Someone who won't be forgotten,  
But cherished from year to year.  
And now, as we pause to remember,  
Let us all fondly recall,  
How dearly each of us loved her,  
And oh, how she loved us all!*

Loved, missed and cherished each and every day Ron and the family.





### MCWHIRTER: Lindsay

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away March 2, 2016

*Goodbyes are not forever,  
Goodbyes are not the end.  
They simply mean we'll miss you,  
Until we meet again.*

Always remembered and sadly missed by your wife Viola Mcwhirter and family.

Deadline for  
this page is  
Wednesday at 4 p.m



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COAST ROUND-UP

**PORT DANIEL:**  
**Three Star Golden Age Club**  
**Tuesdays:** Pétanque from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Cost is \$3.

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

**HOPE TOWN:**  
**Sports Club Gift Bingo**  
**March 22:** The Hope Town Sports club will be holding a gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Centre. Everyone welcome. Bring your dabbers.

**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.

**March 23:** A double header, Darts and Shuffleboard Tournament, will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion in New Carlisle, starting at 11 a.m. Register before March 21 at 8 p.m. with Stephen at 418-752-8159. (No late registrations will be accepted.) Darts is singles and shuffleboard is teams of two. You do not have to play in both

events. \$25 per player.  
**April 2:** General meeting at 7 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**  
**Book Room**

Please be advised that the book room is now open. Anyone who needs assistance can contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**  
**50+ Club**

**Tuesdays:** Grocery bingo every Tuesday at 7 p.m. \$10 for three cards. Extra cards are \$1 each.

**ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:**  
**The winners for the week of February 1 to 3 are:** Karl Harvey, Julie Arsenault and Car X Pert.

**The winners for the week of February 4 are:** Francoise Cyr, Shawn Harrison, Jacqueline Poirier, Terry Cole Barter, Nancy Valois, Patricia Gorret and

Daniel Cormier.  
**The winners for the week of February 11 are:** Sonia Dubé, Michel Goulet, Mireille Cyr, Viviane Leblanc, Lucille Willett, Laurie Langlois-Vignet and Daniel Bernard.

**The winners for the week of February 18 are:** Francis Barriault, Joyette Bourdages, Mariette Thibodeau, Mariette Thibodeau, Marc Nellis,

Marie-Line Landry, Marlène Miville and Francis Leblanc.  
**The winners for the week of February 25 are:** Gaston Cavanagh, Carlos Farinha, Jacqueline Curnew, Bernard Jerome and Bruno Couture.

**UNITED CHURCH**  
**HOPE TOWN**  
**Sunday, March 10**  
10 a.m. Service

**UNITED CHURCH**  
**NEW RICHMOND**  
**Sunday, March 10**  
10 a.m. Service

**PARISH OF**  
**GASPÉ**

**Sunday, March 10**  
**St. Paul's - Gaspé**  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**Every Wednesday**  
**St. Paul's - Gaspé**  
10 a.m. BCP Morning Prayer

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Sunday, March 10**  
**NEW CARLISLE**  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Annual Vestry Meeting  
**PORT DANIEL**  
10 a.m. Morning Prayer



**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, think about collaborating on a fun project with someone close to you. Find out if anyone needs help on something they may be working on if you don't have a project in mind.  
**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
An excitement concerning work goals or a business venture may compel you to take some action to get your ideas heard by higher-ups, Taurus. The audience will be receptive.  
**GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, trying to resolve issues in a relationship this week may leave you feeling unsettled. It might be that you are trying to avoid sensitive topics

that you will have to address eventually.  
**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, if you are feeling content with yourself and life in general lately, that is excellent. Embrace this positive state of mind and take the necessary steps to continue the good feelings.  
**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, this week you may be feeling nostalgic or sentimental. Look over old photographs or watch family movies for a bit. If you want to take it further, reach out to childhood friends.  
**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Find new activities that you can add to your daily routine, Virgo. This may be a sport, hobby or even a new club. Add

a dose of creativity to each and every day for good effects.  
**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Uncertainty regarding long-term plans may be driving emotions of shyness, Libra. If you are having trouble, plan excursions or events with friends you trust.  
**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, encouragement comes from people you may not feel are on your team. Take all of the support you can get as you start plowing through some long-term goals.  
**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
It's always the right time to tell others how much they mean to you, Sagittarius. It will not take grand gestures to do so,

merely your loving words.  
**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Your busy schedule this week has everything feeling more hectic even if it really isn't, Capricorn. Carve out some time to sit quietly or enjoy some alone time to refresh.  
**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
This week you may be feeling especially charitable, Aquarius. Open your heart up to others who may need some extra support. This may be a stranger or someone you know.  
**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Some news from a family member may catch you off-guard, Pisces. You'll soon recover when you learn that it is extremely happy news. You

may even get good news of your own.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**  
**MARCH 3**  
**Camila Cabello, Singer (27)**  
**MARCH 4**  
**Draymond Green, Athlete (34)**  
**MARCH 5**  
**Matt Lucas, Comic (50)**  
**MARCH 6**  
**Shaquille O'Neal, Athlete (52)**  
**MARCH 7**  
**Bryan Cranston, Actor (68)**  
**MARCH 8**  
**Benny Blanco, Music Producer (36)**  
**MARCH 9**  
**Khaby Lame, TikTok Star (24)**

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# On his way to the Quebec Games: Chase Cleary's journey

**ELAINE SEXTON**

Chase Cleary, a 13 year old resident of Cascapedia-St-Jules, and son of Jamie Cleary and Ashley Milligan, has been selected to join the Est-De-Quebec Masculin Hockey team for the Quebec Games in Sherbrooke. The games will run from March 1 to March 9, promising a memorable March break for Chase and his team.

Chase's passion for hockey

Since putting skates on at the age of two he instantly

fell in love with the game of hockey. He began playing at the age of four for New Richmond where he began showing determination to excel in the game that he loves. He also played for Les Gladiateurs de la Baie des Chaleurs during his M-11 season and part of his M-13, which regrouped kids from Escuminac to Paspébiac.

Since 2022, Chase has been playing for La Structure integree des Albatros Est-de-Quebec. He is presently playing in the M-15 AAA division which is composed of hockey play-

ers all born in the year 2010 from the Lower Saint Lawrence to the Gaspé Peninsula.

His determination and love for the game have led him to participate in spring and summer leagues, even travelling as far as Boston, Massachusetts, in the United States for tournaments. Ashley adds: "Since a young age, Chase has always told us that he will keep pushing himself to have every experience he

can in the game that he loves."

In December 2023, Chase was invited to try out for the Est-de-Quebec team in Matane, where it was a week-end that pushed them physically, mentally and emotionally. In January, he was selected to join the team alongside 17 other youth aged 13-14 from the Lower Saint Lawrence and the Gaspé Peninsula. Starting February 29, he embarks on his journey with one destination in mind - Sherbrooke, for an unforgettable March Break. He will participate in the opening ceremonies on March 1 with many other athletes from 19 disciplines and 2,500 volunteers. Once there he will play a guaranteed three games with the goal of winning gold with teammates. He is preparing to live a memorable hockey experience within his hockey career!



Photo: Intégrée des Albatros Est-du-Québec

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