

## SCFG brings Amiral tourist train back to New Richmond

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – The Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG) and a subcontractor returned to New Richmond six cars belonging to the Amiral tourist train, which were stranded in Gaspé since 2014, first because of a landslide between Port Daniel and Gascons, and subsequent infrastructure issues.

The Amiral consisted of four passenger cars and two boxcars carrying generators supplying electricity to the train. The locomotive of that train was brought back to New Richmond in 2017 and put back in service a few months later.

“The contractor used two floats for the generators, one per car, and he uses one float long enough for each of the passenger cars, which means four trips between Gaspé and New Richmond,” explains Luc Lévesque, director general of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie.



Photo: Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie

*Passenger cars and boxcars carrying generators for the Amiral tourist train were loaded on floats in Gaspé and transported back to New Richmond over several days starting from May 22.*

Mr. Lévesque adds that the decision to bring the Amiral train to New Richmond was made in 2023 and it was supposed to take place in De-

cember, but was delayed for technical reasons.

“We wanted to bring the cars back to New Richmond essentially to prevent them

being vandalized,” he says.

The line between Port Daniel and Gaspé will not reopen before the end of 2026. The condition of the cars will

be assessed at one point by New Richmond’s Rail GD shop, but not over the short

**Cont'd on page 11**

## Coalition of Gaspesians for Return of the Passenger Train meets with VIA Rail

GILLES GAGNÉ

SAINT-OMER - In hopes of advancing discussions about the resumption of passenger train service in the Gaspé Peninsula, members of the Coalition of the Gaspesians for the Return VIA Rail Passenger Train recently met with two representatives of the public transporter.

The objective of the meeting was to exchange information on developments concerning the gradual return of the passenger train in the Gaspé Peninsula. This meeting was a follow-up to the November 1, 2023, meeting attended by VIA Rail Presi-



*VIA Rail's trains have not circulated east of Matapédia on the Gaspé Peninsula network since the summer of 2013.*

Photo: G. Gagné

dent, Mario Pélouquin.

During the meeting with the VIA Rail representatives,

Denis Boucher, Director, Governmental Affairs, and Ève-Danile Veilleux, Principal

Advisor, Governmental Affairs, the Coalition reiterated its objective of the gradual return of the passenger train as soon as the railway is operational and safe to New Carlisle as a first step and then to Gaspé as soon as possible.

The coalition emphasized the urgent need for resuming the service to meet the needs of Gaspesians, who have been waiting for the return of the passenger train since September of 2013.

The coalition also presented the results of its research and analyzes of last months concerning the four challenges proposed by Mr. Mario Pélouquin, president and chief exec-

utive officer of VIA Rail, on November 1 at his office in Montreal.

Those four challenges are the lack of rolling material, the state of the stations, recruiting staff, and holding talks with the owner of the Matapédia-Gaspé railroad, Quebec’s Ministry of Transport, so that VIA Rail can inspect it and negotiate access.

“VIA Rail representatives confirmed working on the return of the passengers in the Gaspésie, which is excellent news. We see real effort on their part. We are not ready yet to release the results of

**Cont'd on page 11**



# Study confirms the high price of gasoline in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The price of a litre of gasoline before taxes sold in the Gaspé Peninsula was the highest in Quebec over the last decade.

This new information comes from a report by researcher Robert Clark, a professor of economics at Queen's University and affiliated professor in the Department of Applied Economics at HEC Montréal. The report was commissioned by the Minister of Energy, Pierre Fitzgibbon, in an attempt to understand what is happening in the gasoline retail market in Quebec.

The researcher particularly looked at the case of Gaspé, which week after week has top prices, with only Northern Quebec and the Magdalen Islands showing higher prices, due to the higher transport costs to those regions.

Another observation made by the researcher is that the annual profit margin of retailers in Gaspé is the highest in the province in the last decade.

Robert Clark particularly notes that the average margin increased from 9 cents in 2021 to 15.2 cents in 2023, almost double in the space of just two years.

"The margins in the Gaspésie and on the North Shore are almost always among the highest," writes the researcher.

"The idea that prices are higher in some regions than others because companies have to compensate for lower



According to Robert Clark, there is no longer an independent gas station in Gaspé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

volumes with higher prices makes no sense and is probably not the explanation for the higher prices observed," he notes.

The lack of competition in Gaspé seems to be a better explanation. "The theory suggests that these markets may therefore be able to pass on cost increases more easily to consumers and be slower to pass on cost reductions," the researcher continues.

In his research, Mr. Clark specifies that in Gaspé, there are only six gas stations.

In 2014, there was only one independent station, and it closed in 2022.

This report confirms two surveys carried out by the Energy Board over the last five years to the effect that retailers reap more profits in Gaspé than elsewhere in Quebec.

At the start of the year, in a report following increased monitoring of gasoline prices in the Gaspé Peninsula be-

tween October 30 and December 15, 2023, only the estimated retail margins seem to explain the observed price difference, noted the government agency.

Between 2018 and 2023, these margins increased from 9.4 cents/litre to 14.7 cents/litre compared to Quebec as a whole where they increased from 6.5 cents/litre to 10.2 cents/litre for the same period, wrote the management.

This is equivalent to saying that Gaspé retailers have pumped more money into their pockets than their colleagues in other regions of Quebec.

The authority adds that taking into account the value of the operating costs of gas stations, the net retail margins are higher in the Gaspé Peninsula than in Quebec as a whole, with a difference of 3.9 cents/litre on average for the last five years.

In 2019, the Gaspésie Gas Price Monitoring Report indicated that the margin was 9.4 cents/litre in 2019 in the region compared to 4.8 cents/litre in Quebec, which left a higher margin of 4.6 cents/litre.

In its report at the start of the year, the authority noted that the average advertised prices of regular gasoline in the Gaspé Peninsula were generally higher than the average for all of Quebec.

From 2018 to 2023, the Gaspé Peninsula was in first place for the highest prices in Quebec 48% of the time.

For the year 2023 alone, the Gaspé Peninsula was in first place for the highest prices 30% of the time.

After analysis, the authority could not conclude that the higher prices and estimated retail margins for gasoline in the Gaspé Peninsula are caused by specific parameters associated with acquisition costs.

Rather, it noted that retailers applied retail margins higher than those in all other regions of Quebec.

In its 2019 report, the authority noted that for the previous five years, the Gaspésie was in 19% of cases, the region displaying the highest price in Quebec.

For 2019, the percentage stood at 34% until November when the authority noted that the price had decreased, which corresponds to the time when increased price monitoring was launched.

Note: When researcher Clark's report was published in Quebec on May 15, the price of a litre of gasoline had fallen by 10 cents in Gaspé.

Among the researcher's other recommendations, cancel the minimum price set by the Petroleum Products Act and establish a gasoline price transparency regime that would require service stations to transmit their changes to the price of gasoline displayed at the pump daily at the Energy Board.

The Clark report was forwarded to the Competition Bureau.

## The Océanic will be in Paspébiac in September

Nelson Sergerie

PASPÉBIAC - The Rimouski hockey team, Océanic will hold its two traditional regional hockey exhibition games in Paspébiac this year.

The games between the Océanic and the Chicoutimi Saguenéens will take place on September 6 and 7 at the Paspébiac sports complex, however further details are not yet available.

Rimouski will be hosting the Memorial Cup Final this year, and the club will be looking to take part in the major Canadian junior hockey event.

A recent press release stated, "The town is extremely proud to be hosting an event of this scale for the first time in its municipality."

The Océanic's visit to Paspébiac comes following an announcement by Chandler promoters saying they would be taking a break this year, but intend to return to Chandler with a vengeance in 2025 and 2026.

Chandler Mayor Gilles Daraïche held discussions with the promoters in April, and the town is prepared to take on a large part of the organization for the games.

A list was requested, but never submitted, according to the mayor, who points out that the economic benefits of such an event are considerable. A list of tasks to carry out in order to host games was requested but never submitted, according to mayor Daraïche, who points out that the economic benefits of such an event are considerable.



The Océanic will play two exhibition games in Paspébiac in September.

Photo: Archives

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux

**ENTRY INTO FORCE OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT RESPECTING FAMILY LAW REFORM WITH REGARD TO FILIATION AND AMENDING THE CIVIL CODE IN RELATION TO PERSONALITY RIGHTS AND CIVIL STATUS**

**ON JUNE 8, 2024, THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO KNOW ONE'S ORIGINS WILL COME INTO FORCE.**

Main changes brought about by these provisions:

- First-degree descendants of deceased adoptees aged 14 and over and grandparents of origin will be added to the list of those eligible to obtain information, backgrounds, disclosures and reunion services;
- Refusals to disclose identity registered by a parent of origin for adoptions completed before June 16, 2018 will cease to have effect on the adoptee's eighteenth birthday;
- Adoptees, and their first-degree descendants if deceased, will be able to obtain a copy of the original birth certificate and adoption judgments;
- The rules governing reunions between original siblings have been modified, and the concept of concordance has been abolished.

Finally, the rules governing the communication of medical information requested by a doctor will be more flexible.

**As of June 8, 2024, official forms for requesting backgrounds, disclosures and reunion services will be available on Québec.ca.**

**For more information on the subject, or to contact the entities responsible for providing services, visit Québec.ca/Bill2.**

Québec

# Police report

Court of Appeal judges Jocelyn Rancourt, Benoit Moore and Sophie Lavallée have refused to overturn the guilty verdict against Clarence Lemieux, 74, from Barachois, who was sentenced to six months less a day in prison for sexual assault dating back to a period between January 1, 1988 and January 23, 1991.

On June 4, 2021, the former teacher was found guilty by Quebec Court Judge Denis Paradis of touching the victim, who was between 14 and 17 years old at the time and inciting the adolescent to touch him while he was in a position of authority. He was between 38 and 41 at the time of the incidents. The 2021 verdict was rendered at the Percé Courthouse. The adolescent remained in contact with his former teacher for years after the assault and went on to work for him at one point. The Court of Appeal determined that the identity of the victim and any indicators that could identify him cannot be revealed.

Gabriel Babineau, Clarence Lemieux's attorney, described Judge Denis Paradis' decision as unreasonable, for not having given the same weight to the defence's evidence, compared to that submitted by the criminal prosecutor and his incomprehension of it which led to the verdict. The Court of Appeal judges remarked that, even if the plaintiff was at times confused about some dates and the order of events, his testimony about what happened between 1988 and 1991, the victim's testimony was explainable and reasonable. On May 17, the Court of Appeal rejected the defence's request. A previous civil litigation between the two men reminded the victim of being assaulted by the suspect, whose lawyer claimed that the victim filed for an appeal as revenge. Clarence Lemieux was taken into custody following the ruling.

On May 15, two people were arrested in the Rivière-au-Renard sector of Gaspé following an operation to counter drug trafficking. A 55-year-old woman and a 22-year-old man were arrested during the operation. The search of an apartment on Renard Boulevard West led to the seizure of more than 23 grams of cocaine, 60 grams of illicit cannabis, Cialis pills, two methamphetamine pills, 2,400 contraband cigarettes and more than \$4,000 in cash. Following questioning, the two suspects were released and are scheduled to appear in court at a later date. Information provided by the public led the police to carry out this search.

Arrested on May 15 by the Sûreté du Québec after a drug operation in Chandler, Kevin Dea, 36, remains incarcerated following his May 16 appearance at the Percé Courthouse. Currently accused of breach of probation, the suspect who has a lengthy criminal record will likely see the number of charges against him increase at his next appearance, which is scheduled for June 28 at the Percé Courthouse. His alleged accomplice, Steve Duguay, 37, is suspected of possession of drugs for the purpose of trafficking, and was released for further proceedings under several conditions, including a curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. The two men were arrested after searches of two residences and three cars resulting in the seizure of cannabis, cocaine, prescription medication, ecstasy and other items.



The offices of the Association des aînés de la MRC du Rocher-Percé in Chandler.

Photo: Facebook

## Québec Ombudsman looks into the Association des aînés de Rocher-Percé

NELSON SERGERIE

CHANDLER - The Permanent Anti-Corruption Unit (UPAC) has found no wrongdoing by the Association des aînés de la MRC du Rocher-Percé in Chandler regarding a billing issue with the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS).

In an email, UPAC confirmed that "after investigation, there is nothing to lead us to believe that criminal offences have been committed. This investigation is therefore closed as far as we are concerned," the agency stated.

However, the case was transferred to the Québec Ombudsman "after observing certain practices that could fall within its mandate," notes the UPAC in its email.

"The Québec Ombudsman's

interventions are conducted privately. I cannot therefore confirm or deny the information provided," replied Carole-Anne Huot of the organization's communications office.

According to information released in October 2023, invoices had been issued for services rendered in the name of deceased individuals prompting UPAC to launch an investigation.

This situation was known to many, but no one dared to denounce it publicly for fear of reprisals.

The Auditor General, who has been looking into the governance and contract management of the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS, also received complaints before she launched her investigation in the spring of 2021.

According to a source fa-

miliar with the matter, given the nature of the information forwarded to the Auditor General's office, the actions taken went beyond the administrative framework as they involved financial matters, which explains UPAC's intervention at the time.

The CISSS also looked into the matter. "The samples analyzed by an internal audit of the CISSS de la Gaspésie did not confirm the allegations made regarding the billing of the Association des aînés to the CISSS de la Gaspésie," the organization wrote when the facts were made public.

"However, the CISSS assures that it will continue to be vigilant in validating invoicing. Continuous improvement of our administrative performance processes remains a priority," concluded the CISSS.



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH FROM 4PM TO 6PM

At Family Ties: 208A Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle, G0C 1Z0



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Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Making up for past mistakes in housing; the job remains to be polished

Sometimes, criticizing a law that doesn't make sense yields results. Between the fall of 2023 and February of this year, Quebec's Housing Minister France-Élaine Duranceau was heavily criticized for tabling Bill 31, which fought lease transfers, despite that tool's usefulness in keeping rents affordable.

Minister Duranceau received some much-deserved flak at the time for adding that if tenants wanted to secure their apartment or rental house, they just had to invest in real estate!

As a former real estate agent who was investigated by Quebec's Ethics Commissioner for allegedly maintaining close links with her former associate, Ms. Duranceau could have avoided such a statement.

She was also recognized during her last years before entering politics as an expert in house flipping, a practice consisting of buying a house, investing in its repairs and selling it at a much higher price, a phenomenon regularly criticized for its impact on the price of rent, which have skyrocketed over the last five years.

Opposition parties denounced Minister Duranceau's lack of empathy for tenants, especially after Bill 31 became law in February. Some members of the National Assembly suggested that she should leave her position, that she was ill-prepared for the job, in the context of a serious housing shortage, or no matter the situation.

She was obviously not going to resign, given another context, that of the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) trailing seriously behind the Parti québécois in polls.

Had Premier François Legault asked her to step down, she would probably have left politics. The following by-election would have been a serious test for the CAQ, a test that could have meant a loss, another one given the devastating results obtained in the Jean-Talon riding in October after the resignation of Joëlle Boutin. Officially Ms. Boutin left for

family reasons but more likely because she was disappointed after having been left out of the cabinet. Mr. Legault didn't want a repetition of that scenario.

Late in 2023, some rumours circulated to the effect that the premier was considering a demotion for Minister Duranceau, who seemed unable to communicate her upcoming Bill 31.

She made additional blunders since the fall but one has to consider that her initial view on how to solve the housing crisis must be dealt with fitting perfectly with François Legault's apparent ignorance of the magnitude of the housing crisis. He admitted the existence of the housing shortage on April 19, 2022, despite its manifestation years prior to that and the warnings sent to that effect a decade before the shortage occurred.

Let's also remember that last year François Legault was praising the fact that Quebec rents were following an upswing. He was glad that they were getting close to Ontario's, as he seemed obsessed with a desire to see Quebec match its neighbouring province's statistics. He forgets that affordable housing is a positive sign for a society. Citizens putting almost all the financial resources they have in their mortgage or in their rent is a societal handicap.

The orientations France-Élaine displayed since her nomination to the cabinet in October 2022 were perfectly consistent with her party's philosophy. The problem was that she didn't belong to François Legault's boys' club, that and her blunt way of communicating. She has not completely lost her knack for blunders when she awkwardly tied the housing shortage to immigration, while the crisis started way before the sharp increase in the influx of immigrants.

Still some leg work required to alleviate pressure in housing

Minister Duranceau still has a long way to go before being considered a friend of tenants. She rightfully foresees a major stride stemming from the May 22 tabling of Bill 65, which could be adopted before the end of the National Assembly session on June 7.

The bill would ban certain categories of evictions over the next three years, or once the vacancy rate for the province's urban centres reaches three per cent. The meaning of urban centres remains to be defined though. What if the vacancy rate of Montreal and Quebec City reaches or surpasses 3% but the vacancy rate of Gaspé remains at 1% or under, as it is currently the case?

The categories under moratorium are evicting a tenant to subdivide a dwelling, expand it or change

its use. A municipality can ask to be exempt from the ban. Recuperating a dwelling to have a landlord's family move in would still be permitted.

Bill 65 confers protection for seniors, as it is an extension of a previous bill adopted when Québec Solidaire's former Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Françoise David was still in active politics. The bill is in fact referred to as Law Françoise David.

A sign that elected politicians can work together no matter the party sometimes, Québec solidaire MNAs housing experts Christine Labrie and Andrés Fontecilla worked on Bill 65's draft with Minister Duranceau.

Bill 65 would consequently provide better protection for low-income seniors, something Québec solidaire attempted to do last year but which was refused by the CAQ. What a change some polls can make, sometimes...

Hence, seniors aged 65 and over would get protection from evictions and repossessions if they have spent at least 10 years in their dwelling and if their income is at 125% or lower of the level eligible for subsidized housing.

The current "Françoise David Law" protection places the seniors' threshold at age 70 and older. People who are currently eligible receive subsidized housing.

If the bill is adopted before the end of the National Assembly session, it will be retroactive to May 22, the day it was tabled.

So, this is progress. However, additional progress is needed. Tenants' rights have been weakened over the years.

In tourism-oriented regions, some landlords still kick tenants out for the summer to rent the lodgings out to visitors for a much higher price. In a housing shortage situation and skyrocketing rents, many tenants don't dare exert their rights, for fear that they might lose their case or that the landlord will later make their life miserable.

Some landlords adopt a positive approach and ask the government to implement a rent subsidy for people receiving social security.

Bill 65 remains for now a three-year trial. What if the vacancy rate reaches 3%? Will seniors still keep their protection? That has to be sorted out.

We must remember that both levels of government ignored for years, even decades, the relevance of supplying affordable social housing.

Moreover, a lot of people have individually settled over the years for much more space in their dwelling which contributes to the housing crisis.

The reflection process must therefore take two forms: individual and collective.

**SPEC hours**

The Spec office at 208B Gérard D. Levesque is open to clientele Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please use the **front door**.

It is important to note that we are able to check voice-mail but the direct line into the office still requires some repairs, so it is essential when calling to leave your name and number, along with a brief message.

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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# CARIBOU PLAN: The Haute-Gaspésie fears for its economic development

NELSON SERGERIE

SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS - The Haute-Gaspésie MRC fears that its economic development will suffer due to the caribou protection strategy presented on April 30 by the Quebec government in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

Guy Bernatchez, the prefect of the most devitalized MRC in Quebec, analyzed the documents presented as part of the 90-day consultation and was stunned by what he discovered in the documents.

"It's incomprehensible. When we analyzed the strategy, we were stunned. Were we blown away by the magnitude of the situation? Do they want to make us a second Forillon Park in the long term, without it being an expropriation? If access to our territory is taken away, what do we have left?" says Guy Bernatchez.

The map which restricts activities to ensure the protection of the caribou practically covers the area from the St. Lawrence River to a sector far south of the Parc de la Gaspésie.

In other words, it's practically the entire MRC that has seen its activities developed in the mountains for more than a decade being stopped.

"A concrete example: off-trail snowmobiling. We know that we are a popular destination. All our hotels and restaurants are practically full to capacity in winter. In the conservation area north of the Parc de la Gaspésie, on free territory, the playground mainly used by the sports enthusiasts is subject to many restrictions in the face of human activity," explains the prefect.

A year ago, the Haute-Gaspésie MRC launched a development plan for Haute-Gaspésie and Chic-Chocs.

"This is why we are asking to be more involved in consultation with senior officials to explain to them what is desired. It is possible to protect caribou while maintaining a minimum of economic activities. The hinterland is our locomotive for attracting tourism," mentions Mr. Bernatchez.

"We told the ministry at the beginning of March, when we asked for a regional strategy, that we were having a consultation here. But that was not considered in the plan," he notes.

"The people who speak in the media don't even live in Haute-Gaspésie and don't care about the socio-economic impacts that we will experience. This really needs to be taken into consideration. We must remain realistic," points out the prefect.

Mr. Bernatchez asks that the consultation be extended until December, as June and



Photo: N. Sergerie

The prefect of Haute-Gaspésie, Guy Bernatchez.

July are not suitable for consulting all interested parties.

For the prefect, the current issue is clear. "Our future is at stake. This has been going on for several years. It's not a few more months that will make

the difference. I think we need to take the time for the future of future generations and the MRC de la Haute-Gaspésie," says Mr. Bernatchez. "We hope that we will be heard," he adds.

# Grande-Rivière mayor believes Blue Zone will soon be announced

NELSON SERGERIE

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - The mayor of Grande-Rivière, Gino Cyr, is convinced that the Quebec government will soon announce the Innovation Blue Zone for the Rocher-Percé MRC, as well as for Rimouski.

Mr. Cyr was commenting on the latest developments after the Quebec government announced a fourth zone, focused on aeronautics, in the Montreal area.

"We're still waiting to hear when the zone will be designated. In terms of our follow-up, at the administrative level, we have nothing more to do. There were a few conditions to be met, and it seems to be on the desk of the Minister of the Economy," says Mayor Cyr.

He would not speculate on the exact timing of an announcement.

"The Minister announced in 2024 that two zones would be announced. Then there was the aerospace zone. We hope to be the fifth designated zone. The shopping list we were asked for has been put to-



Photo: N. Sergerie

Grande-Rivière Mayor Gino Cyr.

gether. It's up to the politicians to decide what happens next," notes the mayor.

The aerospace zone involves investments of \$415 million, but the Blue Zone would require even greater investments.

"A zone is an economic development vision for 15 to 20 years. We currently have projects worth around \$1.5 billion for the Gaspésie, Bas-Saint-Laurent and the rest of Quebec

for the zone. For an announcement to be made, there had to be winning conditions, including foreign investment. These conditions have been met," says Mr. Cyr.

The next step is the creation of an exclusive board of directors for the Blue Zone, which should happen by the end of the month.

The Quebec Municipal Commission was contacted in February regarding certain ac-

counting irregularities surrounding the Société de promotion économique de Rimouski and its director, Martin Beaulieu, who is the CEO of the Blue Zone.

The letter sent obtained by Radio-Canada noted the non-compliance with contractual management rules, poor governance and the lack of accountability in addition to the proximity between SOPER and Novarium, an initiative to develop the Zone pole blue.

"The fact that the Blue Zone Board of Directors is in place and working with the stakeholders and having the means to hire people will enable us to really work on the project," says Mr. Cyr, leaving the "local authorities" to get organized.

"There's been a gray period and everything needs to be adjusted. That's one of the reasons we're holding a board meeting at the end of the month to send out a clear message that all the players are active and to ensure that all the projects currently on the table

continue," concludes Mr. Cyr.

Several stakeholders will be involved in the zone, including the maritime regions, educational institutions such as the Université du Québec à Rimouski, research centres, businesses, large companies, start-ups and the ports of Montreal, Trois-Rivières and Quebec City.

The Blue Zone aims to federate and deploy the blue and sustainable innovation ecosystem in Rimouski and Grande-Rivière, drawing on expertise in marine resource development, marine engineering and intelligent navigation.

It is dedicated to accelerating the blue economy and democratizing the knowledge associated with it.

It would bring together over 600 researchers and 1,000 companies with cutting-edge expertise.

It would coordinate the support and marketing of innovative projects with high growth potential from across Quebec, Canada and abroad.

# First Nations representatives discuss media and reconciliation at Carleton’s International Journalism Festival

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – Carleton’s second International Journalism Festival, which was held between May 16 and 19, featured two discussions about First Nations issues. Panels were organized to address important matters as whether media coverage sufficiently tackles Native stakes and the path leading to reconciliation.

Gesgapegiag’s Jeannette Maltan Martin, who is the community communication officer and supervisor of policies, participated in both discussions as a panelist. She was accompanied by Innu researcher and journalist Sylvie Ambroise and Jérôme Gil-Couture, a Native journalist working for Espaces autochtones, Radio-Canada’s network covering Aboriginal affairs.

In the forum questioning whether the media is doing enough to cover First Nations’ affairs, several questions were asked by Radio-Canada journalists Isabelle Larose and Roxanne Langlois to Jeannette Martin about how to approach Gesgapegiag when covering specific issues.

“What is the best time to reach out to you when we have



Photo: G. Gagné

*Jérôme Gil-Couture, an Innu journalist working for Espaces autochtones; Sylvie Ambroise, an Innu journalist and researcher; and Jeannette Maltan Martin, supervisor of policies and communication officer in Gesgapegiag discussed how to increase media coverage on First Nations issues.*

to cover a specific issue?” asked Isabelle Larose.

“You have to understand that the notion of time is not the same in our community. We might need more time to answer when dealing with a situation,” replied Jeannette

Martin.

She also explained that what is considered of public interest to non-Native journalists may not be assessed the same way within the community.

“We evaluate files based on the interest for our community

members, not the interest of the people living outside the community,” pointed out Jeannette Martin.

Sylvie Ambroise, an Innu from the North Shore who has worked as a researcher and journalist for APTN (Aborigi-

nal Peoples Television Network), Radio-Canada and who now works for a radio station, CKAU-FM, stated that such a diversified background helps her tremendously. Such a background must be spread to a larger cross-section of the Native communities.

“We have to offer different opportunities to our youth interested in informing our people. Through better communication, we will collectively benefit from that, Natives and non-Natives,” she stated.

A Native journalist from the Innu community of Mash-teuiatsh, Lac-Saint-Jean, Jérôme Gil-Couture, remarked that, as time passes, the number of trained Native journalists increases. “It is therefore easier to get coverage from people who understand our issues because they have experienced some of the problems we have to solve,” he said.

Working for Espaces autochtones, the Aboriginal branch of Radio-Canada, Mr. Gil-Couture added that a situation is tackled differently, not predominantly negatively as it is often the case for non-Native journalists when First Nations press people cover the news.

## Diane Skinner shortlisted for Best Sports Page




Journalist Diane Skinner has been shortlisted in the QCNA Better Newspaper Contest in the Best Sports Page category for her article *Hiking the Mount Albert Loop Rugged and Unspoiled Gaspesian Beauty*

We at The Gaspé Spec wish Diane Skinner good luck, and thank her for her years of contributions to our paper.

Results will be announced in the Quebec Community Newspaper Association Annual General Meeting on June 28.

Elaine Sexton,  
President, The  
Gaspé Spec





## ANNUAL GENERAL Meeting

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# Chief Supreme Court Judge Wagner visits journalism festival and considers return to the Gaspé Peninsula with fellow judges

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – During his recent stay in the Gaspé Peninsula, where he participated in Carleton’s second International Journalism Festival, Canada’s Chief Justice Richard Wagner, who heads the Supreme Court, received an invitation to return with fellow judges and spend a week working on decisions from one of the region’s courthouses. He replied that the invitation was something worth considering.

Judge Wagner was interviewed on the main stage of the Journalism Festival by former Radio-Canada/CBC and TVA journalist Shu Anh Pham, who now works for the Quebec Federation of Labour.

During Ms. Pham’s interview, Judge Wagner talked about the innovations launched by the Supreme Court over recent years, notably the fact that he and his eight colleagues decided to decentralize their work, spending a week in Winnipeg in September 2019 and another week in Quebec City in mid-September 2022.

Someone in the audience asked him if such a work session could be held in the Gaspé Peninsula. They also suggested that Alexis Deschênes, the president of the Quebec Bar for the Lower Saint Lawrence and Gaspé Peninsula-Magdalen Islands regions, will surely ask Judge Wagner if such a presence could take place.

“It would be possible. We have to think about it,” said Judge Wagner, who added that the first work session in Winnipeg was marked by a significant success.

“It was the first time in 144 years that the Supreme Court of Canada held hearings outside of Ottawa. I made sure that it would not be the last,” replied Richard

Wagner.

In Winnipeg, besides working on decisions that had to be rendered eventually and meeting with Manitobans and some communities, the nine Supreme Court judges heard two appeals.

In Carleton, the SPEC met briefly with Judge Wagner and asked him if the Supreme Court of Canada would genuinely consider coming to the Gaspé Peninsula, given that meeting with people in a rural area has not been done by the nine judges, whose first two work sessions outside Ottawa took place in urban centres.

“We will think about it. It might not be with the nine judges, we can also come as a reduced team,” said Richard Wagner, referring to the fact that some cases examined by the Supreme Court do not mobilize all the judges.

## A long tradition of law practice in the Wagner family

Richard Wagner is the son of Claude Wagner, who served as Quebec’s Attorney General from October 1964 to June 1965 and as Minister of Justice from June 1965 to June 1966. He represented the constituency of Montréal-Verdun in the Liberal Party government of Jean Lesage and after the latter’s defeat in 1966, when the riding name was simply Verdun.

As part of his duties, Claude Wagner attended the official opening of the current New Carlisle Courthouse in the mid-1960s. In January 1970, he ran for the leadership of the Liberal Party of Quebec but lost to Robert Bourassa.

The older generation might as well remember that in 1972, Claude Wagner ran successfully for the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada in the riding of Saint-



Photo: G. Gagné

After his interview on the main stage, Chief Justice of Canada, Richard Wagner, gave additional interviews to journalists and met people who wanted to talk to him. Here, he chats with CHNC morning man Octave Thibault.

Hyacinthe. However, in February 1976, he lost the leadership race of that party to Joe Clark. Brian Mulroney, who became prime minister of Canada in 1984, also lost the 1976 race.

Richard Wagner started practicing law in 1980 after obtaining his degree from the University of Ottawa. After practicing articling for 24 years, specializing mainly in professional liability, commercial litigation and class action lawsuits, he was appointed a judge of Quebec’s Superior Court in 2004 and was appointed to the Quebec Court of Appeal seven years later.

In October 2012, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. He was named the Court’s Chief Justice on December 18, 2017. At his Supreme Court welcoming ceremony, Richard Wagner emphasizes the need for more transparency in the justice system, “Judges and courts must adjust and must explain who they are, what they do and how they do it,” he then stated.

Backing up his statement with actions, he has given interviews since being appointed Chief Justice six-and-a-half years ago, a very rare occurrence among his predecessors.

He is also known for having ensured the principle of judicial independence between the Supreme Court of Canada and the Ministry of Justice. He therefore signed an agreement in that regard with Canada’s former Justice Minister David Lametti in 2019.

On January 21, 2021,

Richard Wagner assumed the role of Administrator of Canada, following a workplace investigation of Rideau Hall and the resignation of Julie Payette as Governor General of Canada. According to royal letters issued in 1947, the chief justice of Canada is the ex officio principal deputy to the governor general. He ceased holding office as administrator on July 26, 2021, following Mary Simon’s appointment as governor general.

Two of Judge Wagner’s children are also lawyers.

## Annual General Meeting of the expropriated people of Forillon

The association of the expropriated people of Forillon and their descendants are inviting you to a meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 7 p.m. at the Auberge de La petite école in Cap-aux-os. Please pass this invitation on to friends and family.



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# Federal funding will support the electrification of RéGÎM

NELSON SERGERIE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - Ottawa is investing \$5.5 million to electrify the fleet of the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (RéGÎM) and another organization serving part of Métis in the Lower Saint Lawrence.

For the RéGÎM, the funding represents \$5 million, which could fund the acquisition of 21 buses, including 10 for accessible paratransit and 11 regular buses, along with 12 charging facilities and 38 charging stations, including 18 for quick charging.

In addition, some of the funding will also be used to support a feasibility study on public transportation in the region.

“This is excellent news for sustainable travel for the entire region,” says the Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouthillier, who made the announcement in Carleton-sur-Mer on May 17.

The problem will be to get our hands on electric buses and put them into service by the end of 2025.

“The type of bus we need is currently very rarely available on the market. Will we succeed in acquiring them by the end of 2025? We’ll keep our fingers crossed, but we cannot rein-



Photos: N. Sergerie

vent the supply chain,” notes the president of RéGÎM, Daniel Côté.

According to mandates from when the RéGÎM was formed in 2012, it cannot own its own buses and therefore must subcontract the supply of buses through contracts.

Discussions will have to be held with the Quebec Ministry of Transport. “We must finish settling before saying that we are deploying everything with great fanfare,” said the president.

It takes \$13 million to electrify the entire fleet, according to data collected a year ago.

“We are in discussions with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities via the Green Fund, and there are discussions with the provincial govern-

ment to finish securing the \$13 million. Without this \$5 million, we would not be able to move forward with the subsequent stages,” explains Mr. Côté.

With the constraints of operating an electric vehicle, everything has been thought of. “The location of the charging stations is planned according to the trips. Everything is well organized according to the autonomy of the vehicles. The study was done a year or two ago. It was done based on autonomy at that time but we know that autonomy is getting better and better. The network will be optimal when we put it in place,” says Mr. Côté.

The terminals will be placed on municipal land and can be used by municipalities.

The president repeats that we must see to increasing the tax on gasoline in the Gaspé Peninsula to cope with the expected reduction in income due to the progression of the electrification of cars.

Currently, one cent per litre of gasoline sold in the Gaspésie goes to the RéGÎM, an element obtained from Quebec during the creation of the organization in 2012.

“Today, go get a penny per litre of gasoline. You have to go through provincial authorization and there is no way to obtain it. It’s more difficult to finance our operations, even though it’s our main income,” says Mr. Côté.

Quebec refers organizations to the registration tax, but the management is very expen-

sive. “To reopen a file with the SAAQ (Société de l’assurance automobile du Québec), it costs \$200,000 to collect the tax on registration and it is \$60,000 per year per MRC to have the right to collect the tax in management fees. Everything we collect in registration tax we will pay in management fees. It doesn’t work for us. To finance our network, it involves the gas tax,” says Mr. Côté, who is also the mayor of Gaspé.

The RéGÎM began its reflection on the electrification of its operations in 2019.

“We want to continue to be a model in Quebec and Canada in terms of rural public transportation. We want to continue to be. We want to continue to reduce our environmental footprint. With electrification, we are no longer stuck with constraints with fuel-powered vehicles. With electric vehicles, we can drive more kilometres for the same cost, which will make it possible to offer more services,” notes Mr. Côté.

Currently, the RéGÎM operates 21 buses under contract with private carriers, serving 15 regular routes and special circuits.

“With the aging of the population, offering more services for elderly people who will no longer be able to drive their car can break the isolation. For me, it is a great pride to offer this project on a Canadian scale,” notes MP Diane Lebouthillier.

## CÉGEP DE LA GASPÉSIE ET DES ÎLES: 82% of buildings are in good condition

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - According to the Annual Management Plan for Public Infrastructure Investments, 82% of Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles buildings are in good condition.

To be exact, this means that 19 of the 23 buildings are in good condition.

The study is a result of a protocol established by the Quebec Government in which CEGEPs must participate every year.

The residences at the Gaspé campus are the only establishments that received an “F” grade.

“We are in the process of renovating them to improve their quality and add addi-

tional places. We are in the fourth year of a five-year project. At the end of this work, the rating will certainly be evaluated upwards,” indicates Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles spokesperson, Sarah Gonthier.

“On the residences on the Gaspé campus, the total renovation over five years represents \$17 million. In this case, a special allocation of \$7 million from the Ministry of Higher Education was granted, and another additional envelope was obtained,” indicates Ms. Gonthier.

The Denise-Leblanc pavilion which is managed by the local campus, received a “D”. It is the only portion of the

Cegep’s campus that was not renovated during the 2018 work.

The envelope of money for maintenance has limits. This means that strategic choices must be made when renovating.

“For the year 2023-2024, for repairs, transformation and coverage of the asset maintenance deficit, we have a total of \$1.8 million,” states Ms. Gonthier.

“To help us, we are following a 10-year plan, required by the ministry to know where we are heading in our projects. We have projects on each of our campuses in order to maintain the good condition of all of our infrastructures and not find ourselves in cate-



Photos: N. Sergerie

gories D and F,” explains the spokesperson.

The objective is to offer

staff and students a pleasant working and studying environment.



# Moulin des Plourde in Rivière-au-Renard needs repairs

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Moulin des Plourde heritage site in Rivière-au-Renard will undergo a rejuvenation with an investment of \$268,000 from the Town of Gaspé.

“There is quite significant water infiltration in the Moulin des Plourde. It is a heritage building that has belonged to the Town of Gaspé for several years. Unfortunately, there was a shortage of volunteers at the time which meant that there was no longer any interpretation. There is a desire on the part of the council to do something interesting with this building,” explains the mayor, Daniel Côté.

The roof will need to be repaired and other related works will be carried out with this investment.

The town has not ruled out including this site in the broader fisheries interpretation component with the Rivière-au-Renard, Fishing Capital project.

“It would indeed be a beautiful site with the maritime side on one side and more forest on the other. There



Credit: Ministry of Culture website

*The Moulin des Plourde in Rivière-au-Renard.*

is quite a lot of forestry history in the area. It could be highlighted. In this period of economic slump in the Rivière-au-Renard sector, we will find all kinds of ways to revive the economy. If we are able to bring tourists to spend an extra day or two in Rivière-au-Renard, it would be a balm on the gaping wound from which the business people are

suffering,” says the elected official.

Reviving the maritime link would also be another way to boost the sector’s economy.

According to the Ministry of Culture website, the Plourde mill is of heritage interest for its historical value based on its age.

In operation for nearly 80 years, the Plourde mill is one

of the last remaining traditional sawmills in the region. The mill was built from 1907 to 1909 in Rivière-au-Renard by carpenter Georges Plourde. In addition to its function as a sawmill, the building originally served as a “bardoiserie” (shingle mill) and a grain mill.

Plourde prepared the construction timber needed for its contracts. He also produced

cedar shingles for nearby fishermen and farmers. The Plourde mill operated from May to October and provided work for approximately six employees in the workshop. Around ten loggers ensured the supply of logs during the winter.

The appearance of new construction materials, the absence of replacements and the obsolescence of the equipment led to the closure of the mill in 1986.

The building bears witness to an important local industry at the beginning of the 20th century.

In fact, the Plourde mill was the only one powered by steam in the Gaspé Peninsula at the time of its construction. The mill was cited as a heritage building in 1998.

The building was acquired in the early 2000s by the Beau-Village Group.

The nonprofit organization created an ecomuseum on the wood sawing and shingle processing industry in the Gaspé region.

Two restoration campaigns were carried out in 2001/2002 and in 2003/2004.

# Riôtel Group acquires Hostellerie Baie Bleue

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON-SUR-MER – The Groupe Riôtel Hospitalité, based in Matane, has acquired one of the largest hotels in the Gaspé Peninsula, the Hostellerie Baie Bleue, in Carleton-sur-Mer, an establishment with 109 rooms, suites and lofts, as well as seven chalets.

The exact transaction amount remains undisclosed, but it includes the Gaspé Peninsula Convention Centre, located in the back part of the hotel.

With this acquisition, Groupe Riôtel expands its accommodation capacity from 230 to 339 units and increases its employee count to 450, including the 129 staff members from Hostellerie Baie bleue.

The president of the Groupe Riôtel, François Rioux, explains that acquiring Hostellerie Baie bleue aligns with their strategy to offer more accommodations in the Bay of Chaleur area, thus retaining their customer base and offering enhanced packages.

“We only had 30 rooms in



*The recent transaction between Groupe Riôtel and Hostellerie Baie Bleue includes the acquisition of the Gaspésie Convention Centre, which was opened in 2009. Additionally, the Riôtel Group already operates a convention centre at its Matane location.*

Credit: G. Gagné

Bonaventure. We have tried on various occasions to increase our capacity in the Bay of Chaleur area. With 120 rooms in Matane and 80 in Percé, it was difficult for our customers to stay with us, to use our accommodations throughout their trip,” explains Mr. Rioux.

The inclusion of the Gaspésie Convention Centre, adjacent and physically linked to the Hostellerie Baie bleue,

played a significant role in François Rioux’ decision to acquire the business.

“It was a condition for the transaction. I really wanted to own the convention centre because it is an important factor in operating the resort to its potential,” points out Mr. Rioux.

The acquisition of the convention centre implies a second transaction, as it was owned by a not-for-profit or-

ganization at the outset of its opening.

The convention centre received a grant covering 95% of its building cost when it was announced in December 2001. A sum of \$7.9 million was earmarked for the building. It took a few years before construction started because the location of the convention centre remained undecided for years.

In 2005, the former mayor

of Carleton, Michel Lacroix, was rooting for a convention centre to be located within the local golf course.

Similarly, Groupe Riôtel will continue its efforts to acquire or build establishments in Quebec and Rimouski.

“We are further along in Quebec than in Rimouski. In Rimouski, we have asked an architect to prepare some plans,” he says at the moment.

The Groupe Riôtel is part of a consortium called Groupe Rioux, which also includes a real estate division, a modular home manufacturing plant, and a general construction contractor.

The Groupe Rioux had previously invested in Carleton-sur-Mer and Maria by acquiring the firm Habitations Mont-Carleton in 2022, specializing in modular house manufacturing. Since 2023, Auberge des Caps has also become a part of the company, providing accommodations for some of the employees of Habitations Mont-Carleton.

“We can also use it to accommodate Baie bleue employees, as needed,” emphasizes François Rioux.

ADMIRAL:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

term, specifies Luc Lévesque.

“We have a lot to do to bring the freight train back to Port Daniel, and we are also keeping a close eye on the Transports Québec track upgrading work. We are active in that file as well. We are still interested in acquiring Budd cars (automotive passenger cars) and we plan to use them first because they are less costly to operate and more versatile,” says Mr. Lévesque.

Moving the passenger cars between Gaspé and New Richmond cost approximately \$100,000.

The Amiral train was mainly used to carry cruise ship passengers between Gaspé and Percé in 2013 and 2014.

TRAIN:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

our research but it will come soon,” points out Cynthia Patterson, the main spokesperson of the Coalition.

In its budget of April 16, the federal government has granted new funding to allow VIA Rail to replace its aging rail park on routes outside the Quebec City-Windsor Corridor. The amount reaches \$462.4 million, with \$56 million earmarked for the passenger trains serving First Nation communities.

Mario Pélouquin was initially supposed to come to the Gaspé Peninsula at the end of January or early February but is now planning on visiting in July.

The Coalition and VIA Rail intend to meet regularly to monitor the advancements in this file, in the meantime, the Coalition will continue its information campaign with the public.

The Coalition of the Gaspésians for the Return of the VIA Rail Passenger Train is a nonprofit organization founded in 2013. Its mission is the full recovery of the passenger train service between Matapédia and Gaspé.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

You may have a chance to get to know someone better this week, Aries. Trust your instincts rather than listening to what is running through the rumor mill.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may be ready to shake things up in regard to your social life or even with a professional pursuit. Work out the path you want to take.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Following your curiosity may lead you down some interesting paths, Gemini. Things can change on a moment's notice, so be prepared to respond.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

An intellectual debate could grow somewhat tiresome this week, Cancer. You need to know when to pull out of the conversation to help maintain your mental well-being.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Have an important conversation with a loved one, Leo. You need to clear up a misunderstanding that has been growing more significant. Once you take care of this, smooth sailing awaits.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

You may want to rely on someone else to bring some stability and comfort to your life, Virgo. Now may be the time to seek out a new relationship.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, have a good time over the next couple of weeks. You deserve it. Recognize that fun interactions do not necessarily have to be shallow experiences. You can learn something new even while being entertained.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

It might feel like your peer group has shifted in a way that no longer gels with you, Scorpio. It may be time to find some new friends who share your current interests.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

You may seek validation from peers or even people on social media if you feel like you are being inhibited by current insecurities, Sagittarius. Others can corroborate your value.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Proactive changes you make this week may improve your love life, Capricorn. That can be a good thing if you have encountered relationship issues lately.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, setting out on an impulsive adventure could be worth the effort right now. It can be refreshing to spend time outside your usual surroundings.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Putting up a tough front may be a protection strategy right now, Pisces. Over time, you may need to let your guard down and ask for some help if the situation is chronic.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- MAY 26 Stevie Nicks, Singer (76)
- MAY 27 Lily-Rose Depp, Actress (25)
- MAY 28 Jake Johnson, Actor (46)
- MAY 29 Carmelo Anthony, Retired Athlete (40)
- MAY 30 Sean Giambrone, Actor (25)
- MAY 31 Clint Eastwood, Director (94)
- JUNE 1 Tom Holland, Actor (28)



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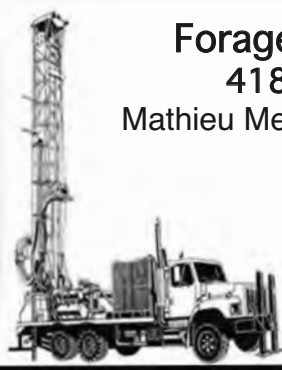


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# Announcements



## Celebration of life



### SYVRET: E. Joyce Hayes

Joyce passed away on January 29, 2024. The funeral Service and Burial will take place June 5, 2024 at St. Andrew's United Church located at 388 Route 132, Hope Town, Quebec.

The visitation will begin at 1 p.m., with the fu-

neral service to commence at 2 p.m. with Rev. Pierre Momberg officiating the service. Burial to follow at the Bayview Cemetery.

All are welcome to an open house for light refreshments at Joyce's summer home "Mr. Bean's", 351 Route 132 Hope, Quebec

Arrangements by Salon Funéraire Réjean Bélanger inc., a subsidiary of the HG Division.



**Obituary - 150 words - \$50**  
150-250 words - \$55  
250+ words - quote will be provided

**In memory: 150 words - \$35**  
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**Wedding - \$55**

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*Covering Port Daniel to New Richmond*

# COAST ROUND-UP

COAST ROUND-UP: \$8 per week  
CLASSIFIED: \$8 per week

**COAST ROUND-UP**

**HALDIMAND:**  
**Camp Fort Haldimand**  
**June 1:** Camp Fort Haldimand will be hosting a Spring Yard and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fort Haldimand Camp. Tables can be rented by emailing: forthaldimand@gmail.com (the cost is \$10 per table). The Camp is accepting donations of items to be sold in the yard sale, they can be dropped off at the Camp on Saturday, May 25, between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. or Saturday, June 1, between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. Donations of baked goods for the Camp's bake table can be brought to the Camp on Saturday, June 1 beginning at 8 a.m.

**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.

**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**  
Legion memberships are available for \$45. Returning and new members welcome. Please be advised that there will be no monthly meetings for J

**NEW RICHMOND:**  
**Yard Sale**  
**June 15:** There will be a community yard sale, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 462 Route 132 East, New Richmond (east Black Cape).

**NEW RICHMOND:**  
**Cultural Association (La Boutique)**  
**May 31 - June 1:** Garage Sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Saint Andrew's United Church Hall, 215 Perron Ouest, New Richmond. Accepting donations for this sale on May 29 and 30 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Deb at 418-392-4508 or Sharon at 418-392-5771.  
**June 4 - 8:** - Artisans can bring in their items by appointment to 210 Perron

Ouest, New Richmond. If you are a new Artisan, please call the above contacts for an appointment.  
**June 10:** La Boutique will open for the season.

**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**  
**Book Room**  
Please be advised that the book room is now closed until September. 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.  
**June 16:** Father's Day brunch from 9 a.m. to 12

p.m. 13+ \$16, 7-12 \$8 and 0-6 free  
**July 6:** BBQ from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 13+ \$16, 7-12 \$8 and 0-6 free  
**August 17:** BBQ from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 13+ \$16, 7-12 \$8 and 0-6 free

**UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN**  
**Sunday, June 2**  
10 a.m. Service

**UNITED CHURCH NEW RICHMOND**  
**Sunday, June 2**  
10 a.m. Service

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA**



**Sunday, June 2**  
**New Carlisle**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
**Hope Town**  
10 a.m. Morning Prayer  
**Shigawake**  
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**PARISH OF GASPÉ**

**Sunday, June 2**  
**St. Andrew's - York**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

Do you have an upcoming event?  
Send all your announcements to  
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