

Gesgapegiag fishermen remove gill nets after reaching an agreement

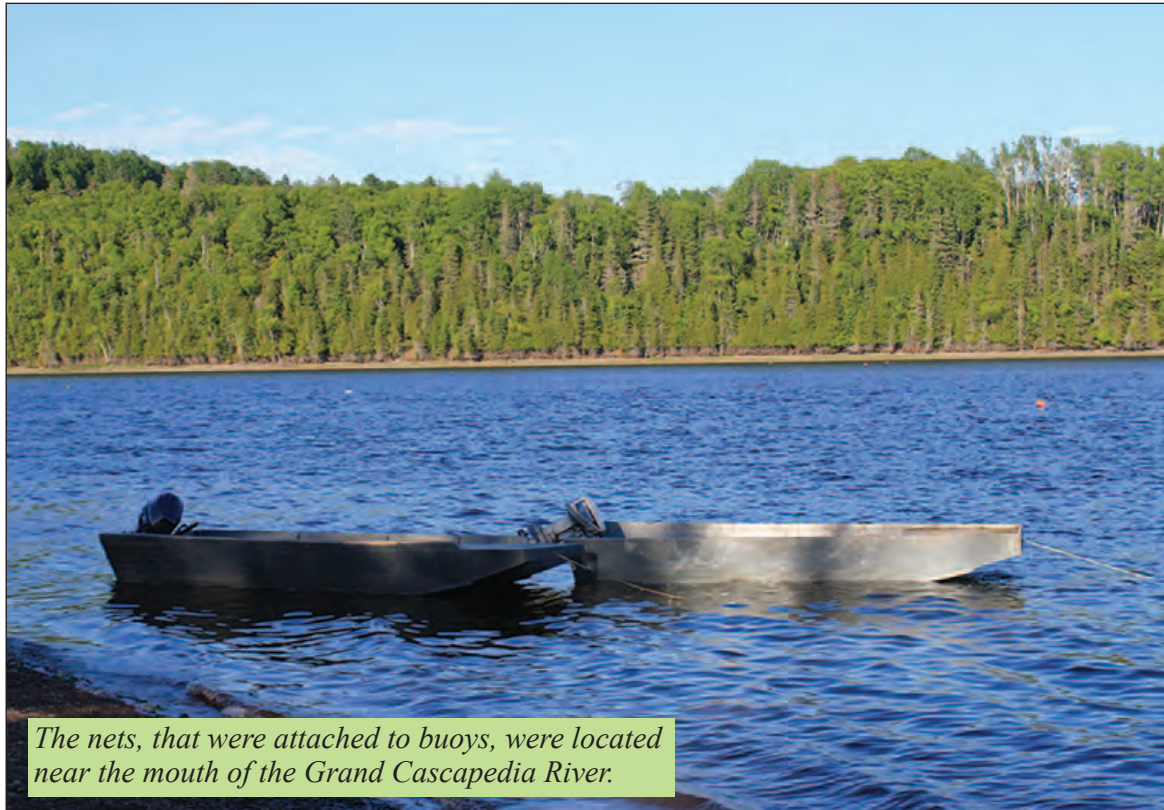
GILLES GAGNÉ

GESGAPEGIAG – On June 13 and 14, the Mi'gmaqs of Gesgapegiag removed the gill nets laid in early June, at the mouth of the Grand Cascapedia River, after the band council reached an agreement with the Quebec Department of the Environment, the Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks.

The deal was reached on June 13 and Chief Roderick Larocque asked the fishermen to pull their nets in the following 24 hours.

He specified in writing that the fishermen, along with the members of the community, including those living on the traditional territory of Gesgapegiag, will be compensated.

Chief Larocque added that community members will be informed about when and how the distribution of compensations will take place.



The nets, that were attached to buoys, were located near the mouth of the Grand Cascapedia River.

Photo: G. Gagné

The gill nets were laid at the mouth of the river, sometimes near the Highway 132 bridge, sometimes downstream, about two weeks before the June 13 agreement.

This was because the previous deal prohibited members of the Mi'gmaq community from using such gear expired on March 31, 2024.

The expiry of the agree-

ment nullified the restrictions regarding gill net fishing, as indicated in a written statement by the chief of Gesgapegiag, Roderick Larocque, posted on social networks on

May 31. It was the second statement by Chief Larocque in 10 days, as a previous message had also informed the members of the Native community of the actions of its leaders in the context of an agreement void.

Since 2009 and prior to June 13, the Gesgapegiag administration and the Government of Quebec had concluded three agreements on the use of gill nets.

These agreements stipulated that the Gesgapegiag band council committed to ensuring that no member of Gesgapegiag practices fishing using gill nets on the Grand Cascapedia and Petite Cascapedia River. The agreements also mentioned that the band administration would not support the actions of its members who use gill nets to fish in any Gaspé Peninsula salmon river.

As a result of the agreements spanning between 2013

Cont'd on page 2

Swallowtail butterflies love puddles

Penny MacWhirter

NEW RICHMOND: - While Lily Geraghty and her two sons were walking along the road in St. Edgar, they came across a dirt pothole and a very unique sight. The pothole was filled with butterflies, about twice as many as the one in the photo. "But a car was approaching and it scared the butterflies. They all flew up. It was amazing to see them all in the air," says an amazed Lily.

On the way back from their walk, the family noticed that about half of the butterflies had returned to the same puddle. This time, with no cars approaching, Lily could get a picture and her children were able to inspect the scene. "We never did figure out what made that particular puddle special, but whatever it was the butterflies liked it!" notes Lily.

She adds, "It was like being in a butterfly room at the zoo but with wild and free butterflies. It was a magical moment that I was so glad to share with my kids."



When butterflies seek out puddles, a behaviour known as puddling they are not only seeking water, but they are also looking for minerals and nutrients they need for survival. The same nutrients in soil and manure that nurture plant growth are essential for butterflies.

Photo: L. Geraghty

Nurses hold demonstrations to criticize the government's privatization of services

GILLES GAGNÉ

NELSON SERGERIE

MARIA – The Eastern Quebec Union of Nurses, Practical Nurses and Respiratory Therapists (SIIEQ), as well as the Quebec's Federation of Health, held four demonstrations between June 10 and 14 to denounce the Quebec Department of Health's drive to privatize services.

The demonstrations took place in Maria, Chandler, Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, where the four hospitals of the Gaspé Peninsula are located. It also provided Isabelle Dumas, the provincial president of the Federation of Health, the opportunity to present union members, who are affiliated, to the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ) an update on the negotiations.

Ms. Dumas and Pier-Luc Bujold, president of the Eastern Quebec Union of Nurses, Practical Nurses and Respiratory Therapists, addressed their concerns on the impact of privatizing health services, especially the measures included in Law 15.

"The government is moving forward with Law 15, which was approved through a gag. We still want to sensi-



Provincial union leader Isabelle Dumas, and regional union leader Pier-Luc Bujold informed their members of the progression of negotiations.

Photo: G. Gagné

tize the public to the negative impact of that privatization. The new agency, Santé Québec, is managed by Ms. (Geneviève) Biron who has been running a private firm for years. The private sector is not the solution in health. We are currently experiencing our third wave of privatization in 20 years, and the results are devastating," explained Isabelle Dumas.

"Based on the results of an IRIS study (Institut de recherche et d'information socioéconomique), it is proven a knee or hip replacement surgery costs one-third more if it is done by a private firm. The

private clinic swings the bill to the government in many cases now. Users still have the impression that the surgery is free because they show their health card, but overall, taxpayers cough up more money for fewer services," affirms Mr. Bujold.

Even if Health Minister Christian Dubé pursues his goal of implementing Santé Québec and using an increasing number of private clinics and hospitals, Isabelle Dumas maintains that the message about the importance of protecting public health services will be communicated over the long term by unions.

Mr. Bujold notes that the money paid to the private sector would be much better invested in the public network. "To improve access to services, improve quality to add staff so that nurses, nursing assistants and respiratory therapists are not always overloaded, because when these professionals are always

overworked, sometimes care cannot be provided. Who pays at the end of all this? It is the population," he affirms.

"It remains important to help the population understand the twisted effect of service privatization and centralization. That centralization will affect people in the regions. The government keeps the right to move staff around, from one region to the other at times," stresses Ms. Dumas.

Regarding the current negotiations between the Quebec government and the unions that have not yet reached an agreement, she points out that the two parties are still talking.

This was the third mobilization held by the Nurses Union, Practical Nurses and Respiratory Therapists from Eastern Quebec on this issue. On May 8 in Gaspé, members of the union gathered at the Birthplace of Canada site. On June 4, a press briefing was given in Carleton on this issue.

GESGAPEGIAG:

Cont'd from cover

and March 31, 2024, the Government of Quebec committed to paying financial assistance of approximately \$1 million annually to the Gesgapegiag band council to support economic development.

A minimum of \$150,000 was allocated each year to community projects, according to the 2013-2023 agreements. Another part of the \$1 million sum was also paid directly to members of the community, the equivalent of \$4,000 per household.

The Ministry of the Environment the Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks had not issued a press release as SPEC was reaching its June 13 deadline.

A first proposal rejected

According to messages communicated by the Gesgapegiag band council, its representatives and those of the Ministry of the Environment, the Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks met for the first time on May 30 to begin negotiations for a new agreement.

As mentioned on May 31 by Chief Larocque, the initial position of the Quebec govern-

ment was to refrain from including individual financial compensation. The government instead wanted an agreement that would create jobs in the field of protection, conservation and education surrounding salmon.

The Gesgapegiag negotiating team rejected this proposal based on the fact that an organization controlled by the band administration was already offering this type of employment and services.

According to a recent survey conducted by the band council, 94% of respondents wanted the band council to renegotiate an agreement with the provincial government.

From May 23 to 25, the band council held a public consultation to hear the opinions of community members on how to use the amounts that could come from a new agreement.

Chief Larocque specified in the communications issued before June 13 that since 2008-2009, he and the councillors have received several complaints about the distribution of money.

They wanted to know how the money should be distributed, how much should be paid and to whom, questioned Mr. Larocque in a May 22 written communication.

Strawberry growers anticipate an excellent season

Nelson Sergerie

SAINT-SIMÉON - The combination of mild weather, adequate precipitation and a winter with little snow are all factors that point to a favourable 2024 strawberry season.

"There's good regrowth this spring. The lack of snow without extreme cold helped the plants get through the winter. We had a good blossoming in the spring, with good vitality in the plants. We dare to hope for a good season," says Pierre Bourdages, co-owner of Ferme Bourdages Tradition in Saint-Siméon.

At Ferme Bourdages, preparatory work is underway and the planting of other crops has been completed.

"We've had a bit of a drought, but the recent rains have helped with growth," notes Mr. Bourdages, who hopes to avoid any late-season frost.

The last two strawberry seasons were difficult. "This year, we're hoping to replenish our accounts. We have high hopes for this season. We're doing everything we can to increase productivity and production. We're hoping that local customers and merchants will come out in full force," says Mr. Bourdages.

If current weather conditions persist, the first Gaspesian strawberries should be available around June 24.

In the meantime, the arrival of foreign workers has been less complicated this year with five workers already on site, and approximately 35 more expected to arrive in late June or early July.

"We had a problem with visas in Mexico, but the government regularized the situation afterwards and it seems to be back to normal, but we have to be on the lookout and do our verifications," says Mr. Bourdages.



It appears the Gaspesian strawberry season will be a good one.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Police report

A 58-year-old man from Port-Daniel-Gascons died on June 10 in the Newport sector of Chandler in a collision between a motorcycle and a car. The accident which cost the life of the motorcycle driver occurred around 9 p.m. on Highway 132. "According to the accident reconstitution expert, the car was turning into a driveway when the motorcycle hit it. The visibility was hampered by thick fog and it is considered to have led to the accident," explains Frédéric Deshaies, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec. The victim was taken to the Chandler hospital where he was pronounced dead.

On June 6, at the New Carlisle Courthouse, Jonathan Rail, 40, from Pointe-à-la-Croix was found guilty of aggravated assault and assault with a weapon, after injuring a person with a knife during an altercation in November 2022 in Pointe-à-la-Croix.

An arrest warrant was issued in November 2023 for Mr. Rail after he failed to appear in court when he was due to hear his verdict after two days of trial. Judge Janick Poirier found that the accused gave a weak testimony with several contradictions. Arrested on April 29 by the RCMP, he will remain in custody until the representations on his sentencing, which are scheduled for October 11 at the New Carlisle Courthouse. Jonathan Rail's lawyer also requested the repatriation of files pending in New Brunswick to New Carlisle for disposal.

Pascal Landry, 34, from Pointe-à-la-Croix, has received a sentence of seven years after admitting to sexual assault on a minor. Judge Janick Poirier criticized the man's acts upon rendering the sentence on June 7 at the New Carlisle Courthouse. The defence asked for a 30-month sentence and criminal prosecutor Cédric Landry Falardeau asked for a sentence of nine years. Despite a guilty plea, on social media Pascal Landry rejected responsibility for the attacks. He did the same thing when commenting on the sexologist and 'pre-sentence' reports. The two interventions were underlined by Judge Poirier. DNA evidence and a recording of the man requesting sex were submitted as evidence by the prosecution.

Suspected of several thefts in New Carlisle, Travis Smith, 36, failed to appear before Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida on May 13 to settle his criminal files, following statements made during a previous court appearance. The individual is charged with theft after being suspected of stealing from cars and garages, as well as break and enters. Travis Smith is also suspected of assaulting a police officer and making death threats against another policeman during his interrogation. The acts allegedly took place from September 2022 until his arrest in May 2023. "An arrest warrant was issued as a result of his failure to appear in court," says criminal prosecutor Cédric Landry Falardeau.

Reilly Brault, 23, from Montreal, charged with assault, waived his bail hearing on June 3 at the New Carlisle Courthouse. He remains detained and his case will return to the orientation and declaration stage on August 12, 2024, according to a decision made by Quebec Court Judge Poirier. Reilly Brault is charged with assault with a weapon following incidents that took place in Listuguj on April 27. He has a criminal record. He was arrested on April 27 with an alleged accomplice in Listuguj after an altercation that occurred on Alder Street. He also faces charges of pointing a gun and causing bodily harm. He appeared in court virtually on April 28.

The victim in this case is aged 24 and he was shot but his life was not threatened. He was hospitalized following the police intervention. The Listuguj Police Department requested the assistance of the Sûreté du Québec major crimes squad at the end of April to conduct the arrest. The Listuguj police officers are also participating in the investigation. According to the Sûreté du Québec, a conflict arose between three men which led to the attack of the 24-year-old man. Reilly Brault is the only person charged so far in this case. The investigation remains active and more charges could be laid.

Stéphanie Lantin-Cyr, 40, from Paspébiac, faces several charges related to identity theft. She is suspected of having obtained personal information in circumstances leading to the usage to commit a criminal act, fraudulently impersonating another individual and fraud of more than \$5,000. All counts only affect one victim. Stéphanie Lantin-Cyr will return to court on August 12.

According to Société de l'assurance-automobile du Québec (SAAQ) statistics, twelve people died on the roads of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands in 2023, which represents an increase of 15.4% compared to the average of 2018 to 2022. However, the number of accidents causing serious injury decreased by 7.4% over the five-year average to stand at 25. The decrease in the number of collisions causing minor injuries is more significant, as it fell by 20.8% compared to the average of the last five years, to reach 329. In the region, a total of 366 people suffered bodily injuries in road collisions last year, which is 19.2% less than the average from 2018 to 2022.

Michael Bourque, 28, from Chandler, was arrested five months and three days after a break-in that occurred on December 18 on Baril Street in Percé. As a result of an arrest warrant, City of Laval police officers arrested Mr. Bourque on May 21. He was later transferred to the Sûreté du Québec, says communication officer Frédéric Deshaies. Detained since his arrest, he faces charges of break and enter with criminal intent, disguise, extortion and mischief. Michael Bourque was back in court on June 10 but his case was postponed.

Another man, Jonathan Racette, was arrested on January 4 after turning himself in at the Sûreté du Québec detachment of Chandler. A man suffered from minor injuries following the December altercation.

On June 6, Sûreté du Québec from the Rocher Percé MRC, carried out a drug bust in Chandler. Brian O'Connor, 45, from Chandler, was arrested and brought in for questioning. He remained detained and appeared on June 7 by videoconference to face charges of possession of narcotics, possession of illicit cannabis and breach of probation. Brian O'Connor could also face charges under the tobacco tax law. The search led to the seizure of more than 200 grams of cannabis, more than 10 grams of hashish, approximately 200 grams of cocaine, more than 900 prescription pills, at least 450 contraband cigarettes and four air guns.



Bonaventure Mayor Roch Audet resigns.

Photo: Town of Bonaventure

Bonaventure: Roch Audet resigns

NELSON SERGERIE

BONAVENTURE - On June 4, during a press conference, the mayor of Bonaventure, Roch Audet, announced his resignation.

"The time has come for me to bow out. I will be leaving my position as mayor of the Town of Bonaventure on July 2, 2024. Serving the citizens of Bonaventure has been an immense honour," the mayor said at the outset of his speech.

The resigning mayor leaves at a time when relations with his council have been strained for several months. Five municipal employees in management positions have left their positions in the last year and he has not held his seat on the council for three months. The outgoing mayor says he ran for municipal politics to make his town a dynamic place for the whole family.

"Being mayor is a demanding role that comes with its share of challenges and responsibilities. The pressure can be intense, but it is also motivating, in most cases. It is not with a light heart that I make the decision to leave during my term. It is for my physical and mental health," says the mayor, who has been in office for ten and a half years.

"There comes a time when you have to know where your

place is," he replied when asked if he had bowed to popular pressure, when relations with his council were tense, either with municipal employees or even among certain citizens regularly present at council meetings.

The pressure had perhaps become too great to stay in office until the next election in 2025.

The mayor draws a parallel with football. "If you can't make passes, if your receivers aren't there to catch them, what's the point of continuing?" says the elected official.

Over the past year, with the help of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, work was underway to refocus everyone's work, but nothing had changed.

"Was the trust of the council and the population there? I didn't feel it," says the mayor.

"Between now and July 2, I will make sure that we finalize files such as obligations, signatures, and transfers of responsibilities for the mayor's position. I want to make sure that everything is correct," says Mr. Audet.

A pro-mayor will act on an interim basis, and the council will decide the next steps.

Since the general election is more than a year away, a vote will have to be held to choose a new mayor.



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Gilles Gagné

Commentary

The CAQ government goes all in with the Third link project

The June 13 announcement made by the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) government stating that the Third link project between Lévis and Quebec City is back at the top of the priority list is proof that Premier François Legault has not received a compass since last Christmas when he wished to receive one after falling behind in the polls.

This government has changed its position about this bridge initiative at least twice since coming into power in 2018. That is not counting the modified versions of the project, notably a third standard bridge alongside the Pierre-Laporte and Quebec bridges, two bridges using Île d'Orléans as a land break, a tunnel from downtown Lévis to downtown Quebec City, a tunnel between a point located east of the Lauzon shipyard and the Charlesbourg suburb and a single bridge located just west of Île d'Orléans.

On June 13, François Legault, flanked by Transport Minister Geneviève Guilbault, Education Minister Bernard Drainville and Jonatan Julien, who is Quebec's Infrastructure Minister and the minister responsible for the Capitale Nationale région, announced that they opted for a three-kilometre bridge spanning between a spot east of the Lauzon point and the port of Québec City.

So, the huge structure would pass just west of Île d'Orléans and its approaches would stretch over a total distance of 11 kilometres.

From downtown, the new bridge would get in the way and partially block the sight of Île d'Orléans!

The use of the word "would" is important here because it is far from a done deal, given the recent history of the project.

Currently, the CAQ government has used project drafts to justify the Third link or, as it happened in April 2023, to abandon it.

Pre-feasibility and feasibility studies remain to be carried out. In-depth technical assessments also have to be realized, especially considering the new location of the bridge. In order to allow Quebec City to greet the largest cruise ships, a clearance of 75 metres is required under the bridge, which will add to the technical difficulty and the cost.

The cost! If a medium-sized bridge linking Île d'Orléans and the Beauport suburb of Quebec City is supposed to cost close to \$2.8 billion, despite passing over a rather stable section of the Saint Lawrence River, imagine a much longer, wider and higher bridge spanning over deep and tumultuous water, characterized by very strong currents and tides. Will it be \$10 billion, or \$25 billion of a mid-way point?

Inflation will have a lot of time to kick in between now and the sod-turning ceremony. That is without counting the inflationary factors that will manifest during the multi-year construction phase.

The Gaspé Peninsula is used as a means to justify the project

When he presented the preliminary outline of the project, Premier Legault waved his longtime ar-

gument that the Third link was necessary to deal with traffic jams in the capital area which is between the south and north shores of the Saint Lawrence River.

Recent studies from independent road traffic experts clearly showed that most traffic jams between the two shores were essentially caused by works on the two existing bridges and inadequate commuter systems.

Studies and media reports have shown that the transit time between the two sides of the Saint Lawrence River is reasonable, given the cities' size.

Moreover, the same studies show that an eastern third link would cut no more than five minutes of that transit time between Lévis and Quebec City.

So François Legault used another argument on June 13 to justify a third bridge - the economic security of the project. What if major repairs are required on the Pierre-Laporte bridge forcing its complete closure?

How would the Eastern Quebec regions like the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence be served in such a context?

The two regions certainly get some goods from the Quebec City area, but a quick survey of Gaspé Peninsula businesses would probably demonstrate that we get most of our supplies from the Montreal area. A highly hypothetical closure of the Pierre-Laporte bridge would not leave us without alternatives.

Currently, the old Quebec bridge is closed to truck traffic because of the low clearance between the deck and the structure. Such a modification can be made, at a much lower cost than a new structure, before the sod-turning ceremony for the Third link but Premier Legault failed to mention that aspect. His economic argument is mediocre. Would he consider erecting backup bridges in other Quebec cities and towns depending solely on one such structure for its economic vitality?

Will the people of the Trois-Rivières region and the area across the Saint Lawrence River, like Bécancour, which hosts one of the most important industrial parks in the province, claim that they need a backup structure in case a ship strikes the Laviolette bridge?

The political situation

François Legault's government has veered a few times on this issue. People might remember Transport Minister Geneviève Guilbault, almost hidden behind voluminous studies in April 2023, stating that the Third link project was a symbol of blindness and a denial of science.

In November, the CAQ almost buried the Quebec City tramway project when the mandate of studying it was handed out to the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ), the province's manager of its citizens' pension plan. The conclusion of CPDQ was clear: a tramway was the best way to deal with the capital's rising traffic jams.

So, the Quebec City municipal administration was right before November and therefore forced to waste seven-and-a-half months of venture planning because of François Legault's ill-conception of commuter transport.

Now, the premier commits to carrying out the tramway and Third link projects! By sticking to the Third link, the CAQ government is losing sight of common sense. The party is trying to save its seven seats on the south shore, namely in Lévis and its surrounding area. The tramway initiative might also save some seats on the Quebec City side.

However, elsewhere in Quebec, the Third link is seen as a costly and unnecessary structure. All recent studies, including that of the Caisse de dépôt et placement, reach the same conclusion: there are

other solutions. It is good news for the people who are tired of the CAQ government but bad news for sound money management.

The Third link and tramway files even convinced Canada's Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre to take a stand immediately upon learning that both projects were back on the CAQ list of priorities.

Mr. Poilievre promised that a federal government run by the Conservatives would cut the \$1.4 billion grant announced for the tramway by the Liberal Party Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Pierre Poilievre also promised on X (Twitter) that the Third link initiative would receive solid funding from a Conservative Party government, whether that bridge includes lanes for public commuting transport or not. Justin Trudeau committed to supporting the Third link solely if commuting is part of it.

Through a twisted way of calculation, Mr. Poilievre affirmed that every Quebec City area household would see its debt load increase by \$28,000 if the tramway project materializes! He waived the occasion to apply his calculation to the Third link project though.

This is purely dishonest, as if the tramway cost, which hovers around \$8 billion, will be 100% paid by Quebec City taxpayers. In the current agreement reached between the municipal, provincial and federal governments, the local administration is only supposed to pay 10% of the bill!

Moreover, Pierre Lelièvre once more showed his capacity to contradict himself. When he talks about housing, he blames the mayors of Montreal and Quebec City, among others, for not putting emphasis on placing new units near metro or bus stations! So, in housing, commuting services are serving his position, but not when dealing with traffic jams, where the individual car users must rule.

The next Quebec election is only scheduled for October 2026. Sometimes, when an electoral campaign starts, political analysts wonder what the ballot question, the question that could have an impact on the final poll results, will be.

This time around, two years and three months before election day, it looks as if the Quebec ballot question is already determined!

In the meantime, Premier Legault will have a lot of time to explain why he once more contradicted himself in the Third link saga, a project that has very slim chances of getting off the ground. The CAQ government's inability to have a global vision of Quebec stakes is also a considerable deadweight for that party.

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Constraints force Cime Aventure to limit its activities

GILLES GAGNÉ

BONAVENTURE – Cime Aventure, must limit its canoe and kayak excursions on the Bonaventure River in 2024, compared to 2023, by reducing the number of registrations by 43% and 33% respectively for two of its three most popular routes.

These constraints are a result of an agreement negotiated at the last minute, with the Ministry of Wildlife, concluding on June 7, the date of opening of Cime's activities, specifies the firm's director general, Élodie Brideau.

This agreement, referred to as a "business authorization" by the parties involved, leaves little room for maneuver for her company, notes Ms. Brideau, due to its late signing date.

"The reasoning of the Ministry (of Wildlife) is that we must satisfy sports fishermen and not base restrictions on scientific data or facts," she summarizes.

The reductions of 43% and 33% on the courses called the Populaire and the Matinale, as well as a reduction in capacity of 68% for tube descents will not be counterbalanced by a 17% increase in registration fees for another river descent called the Familiale.

"We expect a 10% drop in anticipated total income... There will be a 25% drop in hours worked. We had to adopt a 12% price increase on La Populaire," explains Ms. Brideau, adding that the company will employ 45 people this year, instead of 60.

Overall, the number of canoes and kayaks likely to be found daily on one or the other of the Cime routes will be 245 this year instead of 260 in 2020, including the 15 canoes that can descend the sector of the Big West section of the river. However, the use of only 40 tubes, instead of 125, also makes a big difference in the company's revenues, emphasizes Élodie Brideau, recalling that "the tubes are now unprofitable."

A fight in court since 2021

The Ministry of Wildlife and Cime Aventure has been fighting in court since the summer of 2021. The conflict arose from the very high traffic in the summer of 2020, the first summer of the pandemic,



Photo: G. Gagné

Élodie Brideau notes that restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Wildlife are forcing Cime to reduce hours worked by 25% in 2024, with a proportional effect on the number of employees, which goes from 60 to 45.

during which the number of excursionists on the Bonaventure River exploded, like the rest of the tourism sector in the Gaspé Peninsula.

The situation was denounced by the administrators of the Bonaventure River ZEC, the organization managing salmon fishing. The ZEC is also considered by the Ministry of Wildlife as its prime contact in the river.

The case was heard from April 4 to 6, 2023, before Judge Alexander Pless of the Superior Court. The judge rendered a split decision in February 2024.

On the one hand, Alexander Pless ruled that the Ministry of Wildlife had not sufficiently consulted Cime management before imposing traffic limits. He particularly underlined that the "ministry does not seem to have taken into consideration the impact of independent users," that is to say people not doing business with Cime but still going down the river.

"Since it (the ministry) reduced Cime's access and not that of other users, in particular fishermen and autonomous excursionists, it is tempting to conclude that the ministry was of the opinion that Cime was responsible for the conflicts," noted the judge.

"Since it is not possible to know the reasons for the ministry's decision, it is not possible to conclude that Cime

had a chance to be heard on the determining elements," he stressed, referring to the way the 2021 business authorization was imposed on the company.

Alexander Pless further indicated that the number of salmon fishing days on the Bonaventure River increased from 4,246 in 2002 to 8,823 in 2021. A constant number of canoeists over that period would have led to incidents between fishermen and excursionists just the same, wrote Alexander Pless in his decision.

The judge, however, rejected the constitutional argument put forward by Cime, which claimed the Ministry of Wildlife did not have jurisdiction over the Bonaventure River because it is a navigable watercourse, therefore under federal jurisdiction.

This argument was appealed by Cime in March. The document sent to the Court of Appeal argues "that the trial judge erred when he described the dominant objective of the Authorization Contract (business authorization) imposed on the appellant as being the management of public lands and the wildlife management, while "the main characteristic" and the dominant objective of this authorization contract is to regulate navigation activities.

Élodie Brideau expects that the briefs of both parties will be filed in the Court of Appeal before the end of 2024, that the case will be heard around the spring of 2025 and that a judgment will be rendered in the fall of 2025.

In 2021, 2022 and 2023, Cime Aventure operated its excursions according to the norms of 2020 because it obtained a temporary court order protecting the agreement of that year (2020). The company did not file for a similar tribunal court procedure this year.

Cime Aventure also operates a campsite, restaurant, and presents live shows.

The Cime Aventure case has piqued the interest of similar businesses, as well as the many annual canoe and kayak enthusiasts in Quebec.



Photo: facebook

Gaspé receives an award for the Rivière-au-Renard Fisheries Capital project

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Town of Gaspé has won another award for its Rivière-au-Renard Fisheries Capital project.

This time, it received the Municipal Ovation award from the Union of Québec Municipalities (UMQ) in the Urban planning, development, transportation and mobility category. The award was presented on May 24 during the UMQ Conference in Montreal.

In existence since 2005, the awards acknowledge original solutions to meet the needs of communities. One

hundred and ten projects were submitted to the committee.

The criteria that guided the jury's decision included innovativeness, optimization of resources, benefits and impact on the fight against climate change. Gaspé has previously won two awards in the past with TCiTé and the Charter of Landscapes.

In April, Gaspé received the Public Space Development Award from the Rues principales network, which recognized the project for successfully highlighting local identity while demonstrating resilience in the face of climate change.

Fewer jobs in May 2024 compared to 2023

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Approximately 2,000 jobs were created in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands in May, but the region is still far from the employment situation of May 2023.

According to Statistics Canada, 35,200 people were employed last month, compared to 33,200 in April. Of this number, 28,200 were full-time positions and 7,000 were part-time roles.

The number of unemployed individuals decreased by 300 to 3,700.

The unemployment rate stood at 9.5%, down from 10.8% in April.

However, compared to the same period last year, there was a marked decrease in the number of people working. In May 2023, there were 39,300 people employed, 3,300 unemployed, and an unemployment rate of 7.8%.

May was a dry month

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Gaspé experienced a much drier-than-normal May. According to Environment Canada, only 48 millimetres of rain fell at the Michel-Pouliot airport, which is 48% of the normal 92 millimetres.

Of the 48 millimetres, 25 fell on May 23 and 24, leaving low amounts for the rest of the month.

There was no measurable snowfall, whereas the normal amount is 5 centimetres.

The total snowfall for the 2023-2024 season is 375 centimetres, which is slightly above the normal 372 centimetres.

Temperature-wise, Gaspé remained within the normal range, averaging 8.6°C, which is one degree above the historical average.

THEGASPEPEC.COM

GASPÉ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Mural creates a sense of community and belonging

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - A new fresco was painted on two walls of Gaspé Elementary School to create a sense of belonging to both the school and the region, a project that emerged about three years ago.

The artistic creation by Mylène Henry and Annie Deslongchamps was inaugurated on June 13.

“The project dates back several years. There had been graffiti on the school and we wanted to hide it and, ultimately, we didn’t choose that area because we wanted it to be more visible. We are trying to develop a sense of belonging and this mural project involved young people with their school,” says Marie-Philippe Lucas, Gaspé Elementary French second language teacher.

“Our school covers from Forillon to Douglastown. We asked the artists to integrate all corners of the communities,” adds Chelsea Flowers, Community Development Agent for Gaspé Elementary, Belle Anse Elementary and Gaspé Polyvalent schools.

One hundred and eighteen students participated in the artwork. “Grades three to six followed workshops with artists, but kindergarten students aged 4, right up to grade six students all participated in the mural,” adds Ms. Flowers.

“The prekindergarten and kindergarten students each painted a brick from part of the whale. The first and second grade students painted the inside of the flowers. From grades three to six, the artists decided to draw birds, boats and fish. The students, in the preparatory activities, chose a shape, coloured it and reproduced their drawing on the mural,” says Ms. Lucas.

The rain delayed the design of the mural somewhat but the inauguration was able to take place before the end of

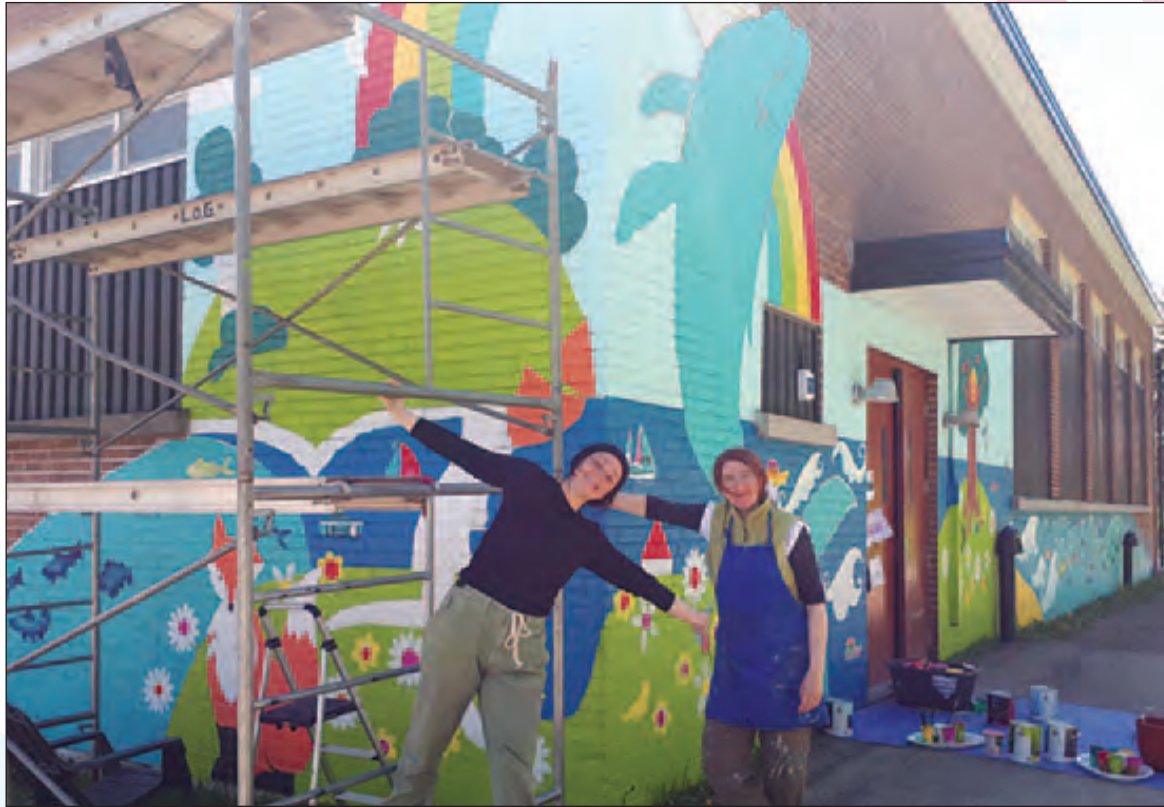


Photo: N. Sergerie

Artists Annie Deslongchamps and Mylène Henry during the creation of the mural.

the school year.

The artists were chosen for their past work that represented the Gaspé. “Chelsea told us about the mural project. We had in mind to represent the area and we said to ourselves that Mylène Henry does it very well in her paintings and she is an artist that we both love. Her colour palette... There is something naive in her paintings and with a child it represented both,” explains Ms. Lucas.

Mylène Henry accepted and enlisted the help of Annie Deslongchamps. “The creation is theirs, and Chelsea and Beryl Boyle (the school principal) directed them in the theme and design,” says Ms. Lucas.

This project did not only involve the entire school (staff and students) but local businesses also played a role.

“Gaspé Décor gave a discount on paint and Outillage Gaspé lent the scaffolding,” says Ms. Flowers, who does not wish to reveal the cost of the project.

“It went very well. The artists are very attentive to the

children and adapt quickly to the children’s requests. The children’s commitment was exemplary. The sixth-grade children who will leave a mark before leaving for high school feel privileged to be part of this big project,” says Ms. Lucas.

“Chelsea was persistent.

She contacted me a few times. I told myself I would accept the project if I was in a team with someone. I found Annie in Percé, who is an illustrator and graphic designer, and who already had a lot of experience creating murals. We submitted a bid and it worked,” says Mylène Henry who has an art

gallery in Percé.

Designing a mural on brick brings its share of challenges. “We asked the team to clean everything with a pressure washer and to make a white coat to prepare the surface. It takes a lot of paint to get into every little crack with a brush,” says Annie Deslongchamps.

“We discover the involvement of the entire school in the project. It’s not just an order. It’s really a beautiful project,” adds Ms. Deslongchamps.

Integrating the children’s works into the large mural was not complicated. The design of bubbles allowed the children to place their works in the spaces.

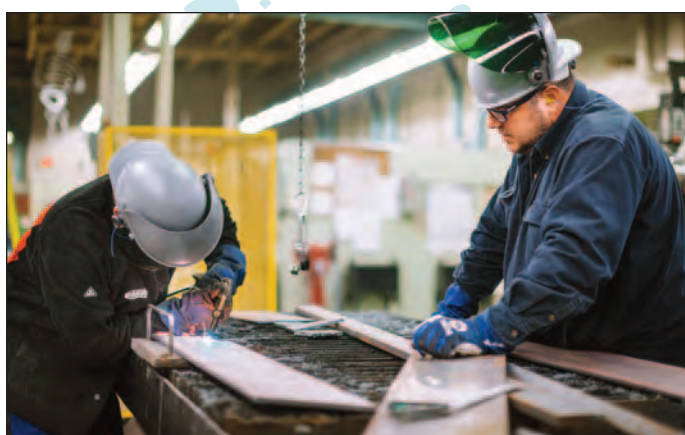
The conservation of the mural was considered from the beginning because the school has been a victim of graffiti in the past.

The artists plan to add a protective coating on the wall. The coating will allow the school to easily wash off any graffiti attempts.

Elements of the mural will serve as inspiration for creating a school mascot.



Photo: Gaspé Elementary



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The Maria Hospital emergency department file moves forward

NELSON SERGERIE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - There has been a major turnaround in the Maria hospital file, with the Quebec government approving the initial steps towards redeveloping the emergency and intensive care departments, even though the project is not included in the Quebec Infrastructure Plan (QIP).

On June 6, the Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Catherine Blouin, told SPEC that the Minister of Health, Christian Dubé, had given the go-ahead for the first phases of an expansion to house the two departments.

"This is excellent news," she says, considering that normally, the first steps are only taken once the project has been included in the QIP.

"My colleague, the Minister of Health, Christian Dubé, recently authorized the CEO of the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS to carry out several studies required for this project. These studies have to be carried out anyway. By being able to go



The MNA for Bonaventure had good news regarding the Maria hospital file.

Photo: N. Sergerie

ahead now, we won't lose the year before the next QIP," says Ms. Blouin.

The authorized studies are technical, covering the electro-mechanical, structural and civil components of the facility.

"For example, is the electrical system powerful enough to handle the expansion? Will the water and sewage systems need to be adjusted to accommodate the extension? We're looking at very specific cases

to see how the extension will fit in with the existing building," she adds.

"This will give us a better idea of the cost, the work required and the timetable. The project will be even more mature when the time comes for the QIP next year," she adds.

Calls for tender are being prepared, and details will be announced once the CISSS has done its work.

"It's good news to have a way through after several dis-

cussions with the Health Cabinet, my colleague the Minister and his team and, of course, the premier's office. We've found a way through so as not to waste any time," she says.

Ms. Blouin notes that the needs at the Maria hospital are great and justifies taking action immediately instead of waiting for the next QIP.

"We had an exceptional situation, somewhat similar to what is happening in Drummondville. It's an exceptional situation and that's why we're providing an exceptional solution. Emergency and intensive care at the hospital can move on to a new phase," explains Ms. Blouin.

Last September, the CISSS Board of Directors stepped up the pressure on the Quebec government to include the project in the 2024 Quebec Infrastructure Plan.

The adopted resolution called on the board of directors and its president to take steps to ensure that the Maria emergency project was included in the QIP, and to take steps to obtain strategic sup-

port to ensure that the project was recognized as a regional priority.

Regional politicians and the nurses' union had strong reactions when the project was not included in the QIP when the budget was tabled in March.

The project, which had been on the table since 2018, obtained "clinical relevance" status in autumn 2022, meaning that the Ministry of Health recognized the need.

As early as spring 2022, the Clinical and Real Estate Master Plan showed that the hospital, which was built in 1952, was no longer adapted to modern practices, especially in the emergency department, where the most recent renovations date back to 1972.

In June 2018, the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS adopted a resolution to move forward with a new building to replace the current facility built in 1954, a scenario that dates back even before the creation of the CISSS.

In the meantime, priority was given to modernizing the emergency department.

Maria Hospital: reactions are unanimous

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - Unsurprisingly, regional politicians and the Eastern Quebec Union of Nurses, Practical Nurses and Respiratory Therapists are pleased with the announcement that the preliminary studies for the construction of a new wing to house the emergency and intensive care departments at Maria Hospital is being considered.

Martin Pelletier, the chief executive officer of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centres (CISSS), is delighted considering that the project was not included in the Quebec Infrastructure Plan (QIP) in last spring's budget.

"What we need to work on is the technical side of things, and that's why we've been given the go-ahead to carry out technical studies on the constraints of an expansion. What we still had to do was the functional and technical aspects, and we're going to do part of that study now," explains Mr. Pelletier.

The project has been on the table since 2018 and already



Martin Pelletier, CEO of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services.

Photo: N. Sergerie

had clinical relevance status with the Ministry of Health. In addition, certain aspects were already being looked at. "As soon as we have a go for a major project like this, it's an integral part of the analysis we're going to carry out. We hadn't done these studies specifically," says Mr. Pelletier.

"With the authorization we've just received, we'll be issuing calls for tender to hire the professionals who will carry out the studies. In September or October, the professionals will start working in the field.

If we take the period from September to April, when we get the authorization for next year's QIP, we could easily gain five or six months. That could be a year we're going to save," notes the CEO.

If the project is included in the QIP as early as 2025, it could take three to five years to complete.

"This project has to be included in the QIP before we can go to tenders for its construction," the CEO points out. A similar project was completed in Gaspé in 2021 at a

cost of nearly \$32 million.

"I don't have the figures, but it's certainly on a much larger scale than Gaspé," estimated Mr. Pelletier.

Mathieu Lapointe, the prefect of Avignon says this phase is good news. "It's not part of the QIP, but we won't be wasting any time. This will allow the CISSS to move forward and be better prepared next year. This year will have served to move the project forward. It's as if it had been included in the QIP," adds the prefect.

In the meantime, the prefect will be making sure that the current emergency department, which is considered to be obsolete, will have the necessary work done to get it through in the meantime.

His colleague from Bonaventure, prefect Éric Dubé, also spoke of the excellent news. "It makes up for the fact that we weren't in the QIP. I hope we won't lose a year on this important project for the region," says Mr. Dubé.

"I hope that next year when the budget is announced, we will be transferred to the QIP," he added.

The Eastern Quebec Nurses, Auxiliary Nurses and Respiratory Therapists Union, which has repeatedly criticized the dilapidated state of the Maria emergency department, is also pleased to hear the news.

"In recent months, we carried out health and safety inspections and it was completely inappropriate for patients and workers. It was very dangerous to work there," says union president Pier-Luc Bujold.

Among the problems, Mr. Bujold maintains that there are cupboards that are not locked with emergency equipment and medication accessible to patients.

He also points out that the spaces are too small and that there is a lack of ergonomics. "We'll have to keep an eye on things to ensure that they get done as quickly as possible. Some things need to be corrected immediately in the current emergency. There must be temporary investments in health and safety. Nurses can't stay in this environment waiting for a new building," he says.

A petition to obtain a nephrologist in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ- Jean Lapointe, who has been fighting for the development of hemodialysis services in the Gaspé region for the past 10 years, is launching a new battle.

The Gaspé resident launched a petition on June 10 calling for a nephrologist in the region.

The bilingual petition states that "whereas the region covered by the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS (Integrated Health and Social Services Centres) is the only one in Quebec not to have a nephrologist assigned to its territory under the Plan d'effectifs médicaux (PEM); considering patients requiring follow-up by a nephrologist must travel to Rimouski for a face-to-face appointment, forcing them to travel long hours; we, the signatories, are asking the Quebec government to add at least one nephrologist position for the Gaspésie territory in the PEM.

"We're the only region in Quebec without a nephrologist," says Mr. Lapointe when

asked why he has launched this campaign. He believes that the region's needs require this addition.

"If they open more time slots in Chandler, it's because there's a need for more space. If they open up more slots, they're going to need a nephrologist," he says.

Mr. Lapointe plans to travel throughout the Gaspé Peninsula to gather signatures for his petition.

He is optimistic about persuading the Quebec government to add this specialty to its PEM.

"I've slowly started to convince Quebec (the government). It's going to take time, but things will move forward," he believes.

Mr. Lapointe intends to submit his petition at the end of the summer. "I'm expecting 15,000 to 20,000 signatures," he says confidently, "We need them."

In April, the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS indicated that it was considering the possibility of serving the four centres in Maria, Chandler, Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.



Jean Lapointe during his first campaign to create a hemodialysis centre in Gaspé in 2015.

Photo: N. Sergerie

President and chief executive officer of the CISSS, Martin Pelletier, mentioned at the time that the current volume of clientele did not justify the presence of such a full-time specialist, adding that telemedicine was well-developed.

However, the number of people with needs is increasing, and there may come a time when demand will justify it.

The Gaspé hemodialysis centre is currently under construction, which will eventually make it possible to offer a fourth chair in a department that can accommodate six, depending on how needs evolve.

The six chairs in the Chandler care unit have been available six days a week since the end of May, doubling treat-

ment capacity from 12 to 24 patients a week.

With this increase in treatment capacity, some 40 places will now be available for hemodialysis in the Gaspé region.

A nephrologist is a medical specialist responsible for diagnosing and treating all kidney diseases that affect blood filtration, the kidneys' primary function.

Another setback for Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Site historique maritime du phare de Cap-des-Rosiers is facing another setback. The organization applied to have two Canada Summer Job positions to provide guided tours of the historic lighthouse, but the application was refused by the Government of Canada.

"This year, we've been

turned down for summer jobs by Services Canada. This means we can't hire two employees for the summer because we don't have the financial means to pay a salary for 40 hours a week," says Véronique Giteau, President of the Association.

As a result, the site will only be staffed four days a week, from Friday to Monday, by the volunteer commit-

tee and only a virtual tour of the lighthouse will be available.

"We're already working hard, and this will add an extra workload for the summer," says the president.

The site has received summer job funding for the last 10 years. "We were told that there were a lot of requests this year and that the funds were insufficient to meet the demands," says Ms. Giteau, who is in contact with the office of Federal Member of Parliament Diane Lebouthillier.

Ms. Lebouthillier has assured the committee that they have her support. "I'm aware of some of the issues surrounding student employment at the Site historique maritime du phare de Cap-des-Rosiers site under the Canada Summer Jobs program. This situation is unacceptable. My team is already in contact with the site committee and the office of my colleague responsible for the program, Minister (Randy) Boissonnault. Summer after summer, I have always made sure that the Site has the number of student jobs it needs. I can assure you

that this will also be the case this summer," stated Ms. Lebouthillier in an email.

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the site will be open without any services. This is yet another setback for the site, which saw its season come to an abrupt end last year when the structure was closed to the public from July 13 and on, following an inspection by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which found that the infrastructure had deteriorated, posing safety concerns for visitors. The decision was made on July 12, following a conference call with the Site historique maritime du phare de Cap-des-Rosiers.

Since then, necessary repairs have been carried out to reopen the lighthouse, however, another issue has arisen for the site's management committee. "There is only the lighthouse building, which is classified as a heritage monument. The buildings around it, in particular the building housing the machinery that operates the lighthouse and the old foghorn, etc., are not listed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. They have closed off

access and there will be no budget released for these buildings, which is a pity because we used to show them," says Ms. Giteau.

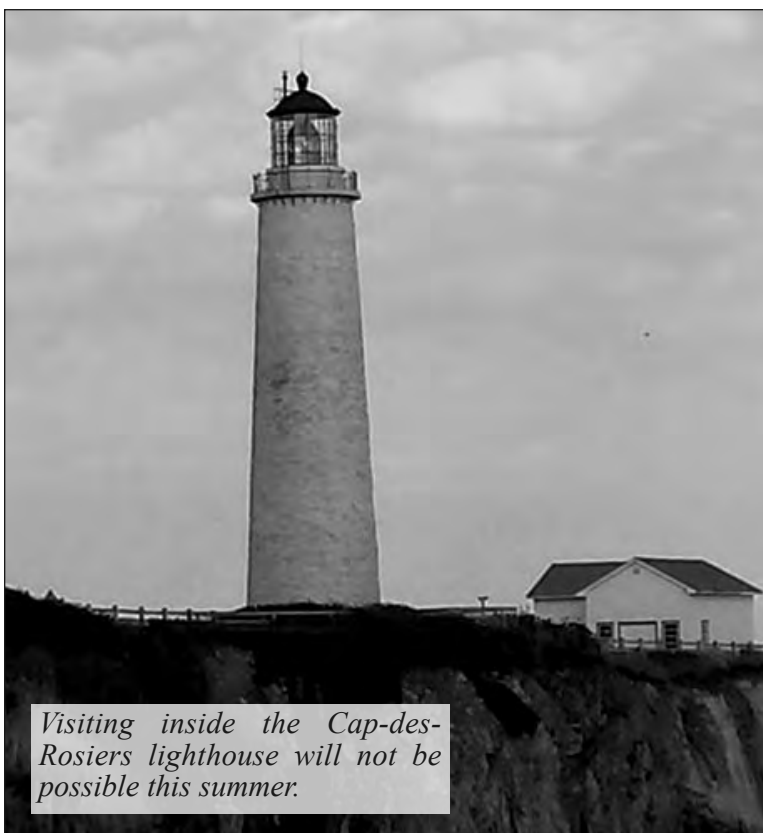
Fisheries and Oceans Canada was contacted but has not yet explained the situation.

The lighthouse was built between 1853 and 1858 and is still a landmark at the entrance to the St. Lawrence River and is still registered as a navigational reference point.

The site receives approximately 8,000 visitors a year, who pay to visit the lighthouse. It is a major calling card for Cap-des-Rosiers and a major source of income for the committee maintaining the site.

Before the latest incident, the site was closed for structural problems following an inspection in September 2016. Emergency work was carried out in 2017 to ensure visitors' safety. At the time, restoration work was estimated at \$6.5 million.

The Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse was designated a National Historic Site on June 11, 1973, and a Heritage Building on March 31, 1994.



Visiting inside the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse will not be possible this summer.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Another good season is expected at Parc Forillon

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - On May 31, Forillon Park opened its gates, commencing the 2024 tourist season.

Forillon, which is part of the Parks Canada network, continues to be a popular tourist destination with camping reservations at the same level as in 2023, so far 5,600 reservations have been made since May 31, for a total of 16,500 overnight stays.

"It's going really well. It's comparable to last year at this point. We're expecting a season similar to 2023," notes Acting Visitor Experience Manager Nadia Brodeur.

Last year, the park had approximately 24,000 overnight stays.

"We've noticed that our alternative accommodations

are very popular. July and August are almost fully booked. In June, September and October, there's still plenty of room. As for regular camping, there's still room for the whole season, even the high season," states Ms. Brodeur, urging people to book quickly.

In addition to discovery activities and animated heritage sites, cultural and sporting events will be held, including the Mawiomí, the traditional gathering of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg, which will take place on July 6, near the North Sector Visitor and Discovery Centre; the Festival Musique du Bout du Monde daybreak show at Cap-Bon-Ami with Martin Léon, poet, composer, arranger and producer of inspired music, accompanied by the exceptional pianist

Martin Lizotte; and the Ultra Trail Forillon, a trail running event organized by Événements Gaspesia, will be back for a second edition on September 21 and 22.

Two businesses will be adding their services, while the new owners of Croisières Baie de Gaspé will be offering a new lunch box package for cruises, and Café de la Traverse will be opening another café in the park at the DesRosiers reception.

A park is first and foremost a place for preserving nature, and the Resource Conservation team will continue to collect data in the field.

"For several years now, there has been an ecological integrity monitoring program in place, representing over 700 measurements nationwide. In Forillon, some fif-

teen measures are taken, with several associated sub-measures. This program makes it possible to measure the park's state of health, but also to orient priorities and guide restoration measures to protect the park's integrity," explains biologist Daniel Sigouin, who is the Interim Manager of Resource Conservation.

While measures have been taken since the park's creation in the 1970s, the program has been in place since 2008.

"We're already seeing changes in the environment, in the different populations - some of which may be attributable to climate change," notes Mr. Sigouin.

The park is still studying the impact of climate change on its territory.

"We're also conducting

long-term monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures we've put in place. This allows us to measure whether the restoration actions we've implemented are effective and should be replicated elsewhere, or whether there are improvements to be made," says Mr. Sigouin.

Various monitoring activities, such as those related to watercourses or the rate of forest decomposition, will help assess the park's various ecosystems.

Visits to the Forillon banding station with the Observatoire d'Oiseaux de Rimouski will also be back.

From August to September, this guided activity will offer visitors the chance to observe a variety of birds up close and learn more about the station's role in monitoring bird populations.

A very difficult winter for the International Appalachian Trail on the Côte-de-Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The windy winter experienced by the Gaspé Peninsula in December wreaked havoc on the International Appalachian Trail in the Côte-de-Gaspé, with 30% of the trails blocked by fallen trees.

The local management committee of the Côte-de-Gaspé International Appalachian Trail observed the trail conditions during routine inspections after the snow melted.

"We have the complete picture following the snowmelt for the inspection that is done on foot. The inspection revealed significant damage following the storm of December 20. "That's more than 30% of the section from Forillon Park to Grande-Vallée, or around 30

kilometres of windfall," notes the president of the local committee of the Côte-de-Gaspé International Appalachian Trail, Jean-Marc Hardy.

Such extensive damage is unprecedented for the organization.

"Usually, our volunteers are faced with a much simpler situation: trees here and there that have fallen on the trail. That's normal. It's (this time around) a situation that goes beyond the capacity of our volunteers who are not chainsaw professionals," notes Mr. Hardy.

The cleanup work has begun and the committee is waiting for funding confirmations.

The Côte-de-Gaspé MRC has already given its support and other responses are expected.



December winds caused significant damage to the trail between Forillon and Grande-Vallée.

Photo: Courtesy SIA Côte-de-Gaspé

"The work should begin as soon as we have all the answers." We expect that by mid-July it should be completed," hopes the local president, who also praises the work of the volunteers.

"As soon as we have con-

firmation of the funding sources, we will hire professionals. We estimate the costs between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Fortunately, this is an exceptional situation," says Mr. Hardy, while year after year, the normally the volunteers manage to do the work for about \$5,000.

However, this is the second consecutive year the trail has suffered damage from severe winter winds and causing higher maintenance fees.

"We hope this won't happen every year. In 2022, there were significant winds, but it wasn't quite as bad as this year. Last year, the costs were around \$15,000," calculates the president.

Climate change worries the organization as storms could become increasingly

strong in the future. "We are doing a review and seeing how we could make the trail less vulnerable," Mr. Hardy mentioned.

Logging activities could also be a contributor to the damage that has occurred.

"Wherever there is logging, we have 30 metres of protection on each side. But that is not enough because as soon as trees are cut, the edge is subject to windfall. The main problem areas should be resolved in the coming years. We hope that the nature of the forest will be more resistant to climate change," hopes Mr. Hardy.

The Haute-Gaspésie section has also experienced wind-related damage..

"For the other areas, it seems to be less problematic," he mentioned, as the trail spans 650 kilometres from Forillon Park to Matapédia.

The organization's difficulty is obtaining funds to carry out preventive maintenance on the trail. "We managed to highlight the exceptional nature, otherwise, when we talk about regular maintenance, if we didn't have our loyal volunteers, we would have problems because we don't have financial assistance for the maintenance of the trail. It's always the same problem," criticizes the president.

No mayoral veto on Percé tourist tax

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - The municipal office has confirmed that Percé's mayor did not exercise her right of veto on the council's June 4 resolution ending the appeal of the June 2023 Superior Court decision invalidating the tourist tax.

The decision was made in the absence of Town of Percé Mayor, Cathy Poirier, who had 96 hours to oppose the resolution, as provided for in Article 53, paragraph 2 of the Cities and Towns Act.

Had she used her veto, the resolution would have had to be on the agenda at the next municipal council meeting.



Mayor Cathy Poirier did not apply her veto.

Photo: N. Sergerie

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

It is important to have some deep conversations with a romantic partner to get to the root of issues that have come up, Aries. You may have an even deeper relationship after a discussion.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, if a particularly large purchase is on the horizon, you may need to adapt your budget accordingly. Start making small changes now so you'll have the extra cash.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Suddenly you are more mysterious than in the past, Gemini. You may be able to use this allure to make some new friends or networking contacts.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Practical visions run through your mind this week, Cancer. They include redecorat-



ing options or how to make the backyard more functional.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

You may have a desire to spend a lot of time with your family over the next few days, but at least one person is not enamored with interacting with you, Leo. You'll get to the bottom of it.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, recognition of your efforts at work could lead to some welcome news on the financial front. It can be tempting to spend that money in advance, but wait until you receive the news to start spending.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, this is a week to deal with any legal matters that you may have, including trusts and even real estate. Once these issues are settled, you can move on to some fun things.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you have an uncanny ability to blend both intellect and intuition when you make decisions. It helps form plans that have high chances of success in your career and life.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Relationships will become more solid and enduring this week, Sagittarius. You even may be able to work through a long-standing bit of tension with someone close to you.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

A newfound interest in nutrition and health inspires you to make changes to your diet and exercise routine, Capricorn. Alternative thera-

pies also could be drawing your attention.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, perhaps you are thinking about expanding your horizons by taking classes in a creative pursuit, such as writing or music. These activities can benefit your mind in many ways.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Now might be a good time to start thinking about financial investments, Pisces. Work with other people who may offer recommendations on which avenues to pursue.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- JUNE 16**
Jonah Marais, Singer (26)
- JUNE 17**
KJ Apa, Actor (27)
- JUNE 18**
Richard Madden, Actor (38)
- JUNE 19**
Macklemore, Rapper (41)
- JUNE 20**
Nicole Kidman, Actress (57)
- JUNE 21**
Chris Pratt, Actor (45)
- JUNE 22**
Cyndi Lauper, Singer (71)



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Girls Camp	10 - 12 yrs	July 7-12
Little Campers (B) <i>boys and girls</i>	7 - 9 yrs	July 14-19
Boys Camp	10 - 12 yrs	July 21-26
Teen Camp	13 - 18 yrs	July 28-Aug 2

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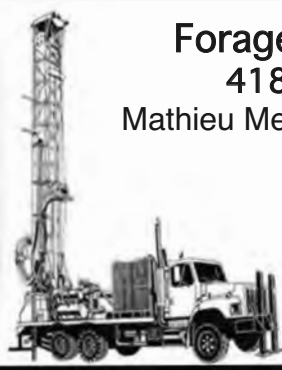


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Announcements



Obituary



PALMER: Patricia

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our sister Patricia Palmer at the Wales Home in Richmond, Quebec.

Daughter of the late Herbert and Florence Palmer; twin sister of Carol (Nelson); sister to Bartlett (Jacqueline), Ken (late Ida) and Elliott (late Diane). Burial will take place July 12, at St. Andrews York, a graveside service at 2 p.m.

*Peaceful be thy sleep dear sister,
It is sweet to breath thy name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.*



In Memory

SIMON-ROBERTS: Vera

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

*The love you gave us for many years,
Will never from us depart.*

*Though you have gone beyond our reach,
You are always in our hearts.*

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

WYLIE: Viola

Bridge of love

*There is a bridge of memory,
From earth to heaven above.*

It keeps you near us,

It's called the bridge of love.

May you always walk in sunshine,

And god's love around you flow.

For happiness you gave us,

No one will ever know.

It broke our hearts to lose you,

But you did not go alone.

For part of us went with you,

The day called God you home.

Sadly, missed and will never be forgotten. Love your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Happy Birthday



Happy 30th Birthday, Derek! Have a great day.

Love from Granny, Grampy and Dad and everyone else back home.




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Covering Port Daniel to New Richmond

Deadline to submit an announcement is Wednesday at 4 p.m

COAST ROUND-UP

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

YORK:

York ACW

July 20: The York ACW will be holding its Summer Sale and Afternoon Tea beginning at 2 p.m. at the York River Community Hall (702 Boul de York Ouest). There will be handicrafts, baked goods, mystery parcels and a white elephant table. Afternoon tea will be served for \$7.

PORT DANIEL:

St. James Anglican Church

July 8 and August 5: Gift bingo with gift cards and money, starting at 7 p.m. at the Shigawake Community Centre. \$20 a series, canteen service available.

PORT DANIEL:

Three Star Golden Age Club

Tuesdays: Pétanque from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Cost is \$3.

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Centre

July 25: The Shigawake community centre will be

holding a Strawberry social tea with bake sale at the Shigawake Community Centre, more details to follow.

HOPE TOWN:

Sports Club

July 20: Hope Town Sports club will be hosting a gift bingo at 7 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Centre.

HOPE:

Hope Baptist Church

Sundays: Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. Worship service beginning at 11 a.m.

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 July and August.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Meetings

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Breaking of Bread for believers. 2 p.m. Gospel meeting and Sunday School.

Thursdays:

7 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. Everyone welcome! For more information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Cascapedia River Museum

July 4: The Cascapedia River Museum will be hosting a temporary exhibit by Thérèse Gallant, entitled "Cascapedia-St-Jules the Beautiful". Thérèse offers an array of lovely scenes of the town, the river and the surrounding mountains. Opening night will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This exhibition will be in place until August 1. Light refreshments will be served.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club

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

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.

Info-Collecte Blood Drive Calender

BONAVENTURE

July 22: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the François Thibault School gym.

NEW RICHMOND

July 23: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Centre Sportif Jean-Marie Jobin skating rink.

GRANDE RIVIÈRE

July 24: 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Complexe sportif Desjardins.

GASPÉ

July 25: 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles Pavillon des sports, gym.

UNITED CHURCH NEW RICHMOND Sunday, June 23

10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN

Sunday, June 23

2 p.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, June 23

New Carlisle

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Hope Town
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Port Daniel
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, June 23

St. Matthew's-Peninsula
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Every Wednesday St. Paul's - Gaspé

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Carleton campus English teacher, Steven Parent, receives an honourable mention

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – Gaspesian English teacher, Steven Parent, received an honourable mention highlighting his teaching excellence and professionalism during the 43rd Conference of the Association québécoise de pédagogie collégiale (AQPC) held on June 6 in Gatineau.

Teaching English as a second language at the Carleton-sur-Mer campus of the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles for slightly more than twenty years, Steven Parent has stood out for his quality as an ambassador for sustainable development, as well as for his use of teaching to address the concerns of the student community regarding a sustainable future.

In recent years, Steven Parent has implemented an innovative educational approach to integrate the sustainable development goals of the United Nations into the training programs of Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles.

With the support of the Fédération des cégeps, he travelled in 2023 to the Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology in Malta and to the UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre (UNESCO) in Bonn, Germany, with the aim of better understanding the integration of the sustainable development goals (SDGs)



Photo: Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

Steven Parent has taught at the Carleton Cégep for nearly 25 years.

into college education. On May 1, he was invited to present this approach at the Colleges and Institutes Canada conference in Calgary, Alberta.

Several study programs at Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles have followed suit by integrating the SDGs into courses. Three campuses have already held educational days on this theme. The Cégep was inspired by the work of Steven Parent to make it a strategic orientation in its latest strategic plan.

A native of Nouvelle, Mr.

Parent thus promotes educational innovation and strengthens the link between

teaching and the exceptional natural environment of the Cégep. His dedication to students and his constant concern for their success has been recognized on numerous occasions. He is also a pioneer of outdoor education and a faithful user of outdoor classes.

In a press release, the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles gave recognition stating, "We warmly congratulate this dedicated and innovative teacher for this well deserved distinction. His commitment and passion make him an inspiring example for the entire college community."

Every year, each CEGEP in Quebec sets up a selection committee whose role is to designate a teaching person who has contributed significantly to the development of their establishment. These honourable mentions are awarded on the occasion of the AQPC annual conference.

The acronym UNEVOC is a combination of "UNESCO" and "vocational education". It was first used in 1992 in an agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Germany on the former "International Project on Technical and Vocational Education". The Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles has been a member of that network since 2004.

The region's only higher education establishment, the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, consists of four campuses, one being Quebec's National School of Fisheries. Its offering includes pre-university, technical and professional training. The Cégep stands out for the quality of its teaching in an exceptional environment, the diversity of its programs, its research activities, its continuing education offering and its international dynamism. Its enrollment increased for the year 2023-2024.

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