

The Gaspé Spec

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CASA's 49th AGM draws large crowd

● CYNTHIA DOW

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: The Cascapedia River Museum was the site of the 49th Annual General Meeting for the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) on Thursday, June 20. Despite the very warm temperatures, over 50 people crowded into the room to hear what the non-profit organization has been up to over the past year.

"It's a pleasure being back in Cascapedia - Saint-Jules," Vice-President Stella Briand Kennedy noted. As President Fred Kirch was feeling under the weather, she chaired the meeting. Mr. Kirch joined the event by video link with several others.

Bookkeeper for the organization, Johnny LeGrand, presented the financials, explaining that CASA finished the 2023-24 fiscal year with a surplus of \$8,275, revenue largely gained by managing accounts for several other non-profits. Revenue appears to be down, but that is because funding held in trust by CASA last year is now being directly managed by those other organizations.

The group managed to



Vice-President Stella Briand Kennedy chaired CASA's 49th Annual General Meeting at the Cascapedia River Museum.

Photo: C. Dow

bring in \$1.6 million this past year, with over \$200,000 in the bank at the end of the year and net assets of \$283,000. About 48% of the funding comes from the federal government, with about 40% from the province.

"We did obtain more funding from the provincial government this year (than in previous years)," Mr. LeGrand explained. But he added it is important to keep the provincial funding under 50% of overall revenue in order to

maintain CASA's designation as a federal organization.

He recommended that Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton be maintained as CASA's auditors, and that was approved by the general membership.

Executive Director Allen Richards presented the annual report, using a series of videos prepared by staff members to showcase the wide variety of activities offered by CASA. Those who wish to see the videos can find them on the

Bonfyre website.

The Seniors' Wellness team was up first to talk about the regular meetings they hold from Matapedia to Chandler to stimulate and inform those 50 years of age and older. Several personal remarks were included in the video, including from Sheila Firlotte Campbell of New Richmond, who noted how the CASA team encourages those who have suffered a loss to come out to activities, reducing their isolation. Sally Walker reaches out to house-

bound seniors and ensures they obtain the support they need. Last year, she referred 132 individuals to various services and undertook regular check-ins by phone and home visits.

Ann Kelly's video about the Outdoor Adventure program explained that three times a year she and her husband, Guy Gallibois, take students from New Richmond High, New Carlisle High and Shigawake-Port Daniel schools on overnight camping excursions. Interviews with students indicated the impact the outings have had on nutrition, physical exercise and particularly their social skills. "I like being able to talk to new friends face to face," one student noted. Last year, 120 youth were involved in the adventures.

Over 600 parents, caregivers and children have benefited from the Bright Beginnings program coordinated by Kayla Gallon. The program aims to enhance children's early development and readiness for school, instill healthy nutritional habits and encourage mental well-being.

The Employability program served 471 clients in Avignon,

Cont'd on page 2 ▶

First heatwave of the summer

● NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The hot and very humid weather led to record-breaking high temperatures on June 19 and 20 in the southern Gaspé Peninsula.

According to Environment Canada data, the mercury reached 32.2°C in Cap-d'Espoir on June 20, surpassing the previous record of 24.3°C set in 2001.

In New Carlisle, temperatures climbed to 29.4°C, breaking the record of 28.9°C recorded in 2016.

In Gaspé, the mercury registered 32.2°C, just shy of breaking the 2016 record of 33.3°C, similar to Carleton-sur-Mer where the 31.4°C fell

short of the 32.2°C recorded in 2016.

It was the second consecutive day of high temperatures on the Gaspé Peninsula. On June 19, the temperature reached 32.4°C in New Carlisle, surpassing the 1991 record of 28.5°C.

Another record was set in Cap-d'Espoir with a temperature of 25.7°C, eclipsing the 2016 record of 20.4°C.

Carleton-sur-Mer came within 0.1 degrees of a record, reaching 36.5°C, close to the 2020 record of 36.6°C.

Gaspé, with its 29.6°C, had a longer way to go. An easterly wind halted any increase in temperature during the mid-afternoon. Temperatures rose

a bit in the evening, but it was not enough to break the 2006 record of 33.1°C.

On the northern side of the Peninsula, Cap Madeleine in Sainte-Madeleine-de-la-Rivière-Madeleine recorded a temperature of 29.5°C. A record high temperature of 32.8°C was set in 2006.

Cap-Chat was the "coolest" place, with temperatures barely reaching 24.2°C early on Wednesday. The record high was 32.8°C in 2006.

These record values are not unusual for this time of year.

In 2016, for example, most of the region's weather stations recorded temperatures exceeding 30°C.



On June 19 and 20 high temperature records were broken in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Photo: N. Sergerie

DIOCESE OF GASPÉ: Class action filed

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Diocese of Gaspé is facing a class action lawsuit filed on June 13 for alleged sexual assaults. The claim, filed by Lambert lawyers on behalf of two clients, targets the Corporation épiscopale Catholique Romaine de Gaspé and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Gaspé, and must be authorized by the court in order to proceed.

The first plaintiff alleges to have been assaulted in the 1950s, when he was only five years old by Father Alphonse Anctil, once a week for five years. The second plaintiff, who was an eight-year-old altar boy, claims abuse occurred in the 1960s by Father Wilfrid Provencher almost every day for three years.

The lawsuit seeks compensation for the sexual assaults

and claims that the Church failed to take the necessary measures to prevent or stop the abuse. Anyone, or the heirs of anyone who suffered wrongful acts between May 5, 1922, and the forthcoming judgement is encouraged to join the lawsuit.

"The Diocese of Gaspé takes note of the class action filed on June 14, 2024. We recognize the seriousness of these allegations and take this situation very seriously. The Diocese of Gaspé intends to cooperate fully with the civil and ecclesiastical authorities and take the appropriate measures, knowing that the protection of victims is a priority for us. Out of respect for the judicial process, the Diocese of Gaspé will not be issuing any further comments or interviews at this time," said the Diocese in a brief statement on June 21.

CASA:

▶ **Cont'd from cover**

Bonaventure and Rocher-Percé MRCs. The program serves young workers, but this year also had a special offering, Skills for Success aimed at those 30 to 55 years of age who want to get into the labour market. The activities aim to build confidence and competence to find employment in the region.

Finally, the Homegrown program was highlighted. Fifty-six artists participated in a special showcase at the Paspébiac Cultural Centre this past winter, attracting 162 spectators and 6,200 online views. The cultural program also held six workshops with 78 participants.

Allen Richards indicated that healthcare support has been "a pillar of CASA's mandate since 1975", the goal being to bridge the gap between the healthcare network and the anglophone population. He noted that Shannon Marsh offers mental health support for vulnerable communities.

Irene Buttle Burton spoke up about having difficulties

with service in English at the Rimouski Hospital. "Having to go to Rimouski is horrible," she told the crowd. She was encouraged to get in touch with CASA's Patient Navigator, James Robson, who cannot only help patients make appointments but can also accompany those who have to go to Rimouski for treatment. It was also noted that there is a Patient Navigator in Quebec City, Steve Guimond, who helps those who have to travel to the provincial capital for health care.

Going into the meeting, CASA had seven board members covering five different regions of the Coast: Fred Kirch, Stella Briand Kennedy, Dave Douesnard, Carl Garrett, Tony Conley, Douglas Hunt and Nancy Doddridge.

They elected a new board member, Alfred Cassidy, but are interested in more. Mrs. Kennedy told the crowd, "If you know of anyone who wants to come on the board, they can join at any time of the year." The directors will wait until their first board meeting to elect the officers for the coming year.

Rail: Issues with two calls for tender

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - A new deadline has been added for the opening of tenders for the last of the four major calls for tenders for the rehabilitation of the rail line between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé. Tenders were due to be opened on April 22, but the deadline was extended to May 22, then to June 12 and now July 4.

The work involves repair-

ing two bridges in Gascons, one between Gascons and Newport, at Pointe-aux-Maquereaux, another in Newport, along with the Douglastown bridge.

Additionally, the bridge between Grande-Rivière and Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé also needs to be replaced. Finally, a retaining wall in Pabos Mills is included in the tender.

Furthermore, the second

call for tenders for nine infrastructure projects, including bridges such as the one over the Grand Pabos River and several retaining walls, notably at Anse-à-Beaufils and Sandy Beach, has been officially cancelled. Only Pomerleau had submitted a bid of \$104 million. In an email response, the ministry wrote that they are currently evaluating possible options for the next step.



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Canadian Navigable Waters Act Notice of work at Newport Harbour

Fisheries and Oceans Canada hereby gives notice that an application has been made to the Minister of Transport, pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*, for approval of the works described herein, its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the said Act, Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Small Crafts Harbours – has deposited with the Minister of Transport on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (<https://common-project-search.canada.ca/>) and under registry number **7214**, or under the NPP File Number **2022-308171**, a description of the following works, its site and plans:

- Newport Harbour including the following structures: commercial dock (demolition), commercial dock (construction), commercial dock (extension), boom (temporary), dyke (temporary access), rock reinforcement (temporary), rock reinforcement (permanent), dredging of the harbour and containment curtain (temporary), silt curtain (temporary) and dredging, located around 48° 17' 11.18" N, 64° 43' 14.80" W, on lots 4 509 247 and 4 509 885, cadastre of Quebec, municipality of Chandler, Gaspé, province of Quebec.

Comments regarding the impact of these works on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above referenced number) or if you do not have access to the Internet, by sending your comments directly to:

Transport Canada, Navigation Protection Program
1550 d'Estimauville Avenue
Québec, QC G1J 0C8

Transport Canada (TC) will not make your comments on a project in the online registry available to the public. However, any information related to a work is considered as unclassified, in the public domain, and may be accessible upon legal request. As such, the information and records provided should not contain confidential or sensitive data. If you wish to provide confidential or sensitive information that you believe should not be made public, please contact TC before submitting it.

However, comments will be considered only if they are in writing (electronic means preferable) and are received not later than 30 days after the publication of this notice. Although all comments related to the above will be considered, no individual responses will be sent.

Posted at Newport, Québec, this 26th day of June, 2024.



Police report

After two postponements, the trial date for Lisette Hautcoeur, 60, from Chandler who was charged in August 2022 with non-premeditated murder, is now set for January 13, 2025, at the Percé Courthouse. This file was called back to court on Monday, June 3, at the opening of the Superior Court session. Criminal prosecutor Anne Joncas Côté is now in charge of the file. Lisette Hautcoeur's trial is expected to begin before a judge and jury in January 2025. She is charged with the murder of Richard Allard, a resident of Chandler. The out-of-jury motions are scheduled to be heard before Judge Guy De Blois on November 6, 7 and 8. At least three weeks are reserved for the trial. The trial would have been scheduled well ahead of June 3, but the preliminary hearing stenographic notes of certain documents and forms were not ready in March. The body of Richard Allard, 64, was found in a residence on Mgr Ross Street East in Chandler on July 16, 2022. Investigators had searched for clues for weeks to zero in on a suspect. Lisette Hautcoeur was finally arrested on August 11. The investigation revealed that she knew the victim.

The preliminary hearing, with summons of witnesses, of Marc-Jules Chouinard, 49, from Rivière-au-Renard, suspected of two counts of manslaughter in the terrible collision that caused two deaths on May 10, 2023, in Rivière-au-Renard is scheduled for October 1 to 4. The man also faces charges of dangerous driving, two counts of dangerous driving causing death and attempted murder. The judge will have to determine whether or not there is enough evidence for the man to stand trial. Marc-Jules Chouinard last appeared in court on June 3 at the Percé Courthouse. Charged with premeditated and non-premeditated murders, his son Simon Dufort-Chouinard, 19, is detained for further proceedings. The violent collision led to the deaths of Gabriel Noël, 19, and Dylan Samuel-Francoeur, 18, both from the Rivière-au-Renard area.

Alcohol could have been a contributing factor in a motorcycle accident on June 16 in Gaspé. "The accident, which prompted the intervention of the emergency services, occurred around 6:30 p.m. on the Montée de Corte-Real. The driver, a man in his fifties, apparently lost control of his motorcycle in a curve before ending up in the ditch. It is possible that a blood sample was taken following the hospitalization," explains Sûreté du Québec communication officer Élisabeth Marquis-Guy. As of June 17, the victim, who was seriously injured, had made progress and his condition had stabilized. It was not known as of June 20 if a blood sample was taken from the man since the Sûreté du Québec didn't want to confirm it and because the medical team was not ready to do it upon the man's arrival at the hospital, given his critical condition.

Various police forces regrouped within the Integrated Arms Trafficking Team struck on June 12 and 13 throughout Quebec with 13 arrests, including a man in his forties from New Carlisle. The man was questioned and released, pending a commitment to appear at a date that will be determined later. The date is unknown but it should be determined soon. Since 2023, police officers of that squad have seized 440 firearms including 62 handguns and 71 3D printed handguns, two long weapons, a submachine gun, 52 3D printers, 32 printed magazines, and 87 silencers including 63 3D printed.

Michael Bourque, 28, from Chandler, charged with break and enter with criminal intent, disguise, extortion and mischief, waived his bail hearing during a mid-June appearance at the Percé Courthouse. The suspect was arrested on May 21 by the City of Laval police force after a five-month run. The suspect was wanted for a violent break-in that occurred on December 18 on Baril Street in Percé. Michael Bourque will return to court on June 28. His alleged accomplices, Jonathan Racette, 29, André Roussy, 37, and Tommy Albert-Lantin, 25, are still in legal proceedings.

Yannick Kakoulas, 46, pleaded guilty to three drug-related charges, close to five months after a drug search in a residence on du Parc Street on January 12 in Grande-Rivière. The individual admitted to having possession of cocaine for trafficking, distribution of cannabis and possession of methamphetamine. The charge of receiving stolen property was withdrawn. Detained since his arrest, Kakoulas saw his sentence of 330 days in prison reduced by 144 days taking into account the preventive time. In addition to three years' probation, the individual cannot possess a firearm for 10 years, or a restricted weapon for life, and he must provide a DNA sample.

With the summer knocking at the door, more than 7,000 tickets targeting speeding were issued on Quebec roads between May 31 and June 6, including several near school zones and construction sites. The tickets were handed out as part of the Concerted National Operation. In addition, 60 tickets were issued for excessive speeding. According to the Sûreté du Québec, the collaboration between the different police forces was very effective, making it possible to target at-risk drivers. This significant police presence, combined with awareness raising among road network users, was particularly designed to change the behaviour of drivers concerning the main cause of collisions leading to serious injuries, namely speed.

The Quebec police services, in collaboration with the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), were united for the operation. In addition to the numerous interventions, police organizations also broadcast prevention messages on social media under the theme "On the road, we drive well!" The chosen angle aimed to empower drivers and remind them that they are all part of the solution. Indeed, they can make a significant difference and actively contribute to improving the road safety record by slowing down.



Participants and the 5th Early Childhood forum.

Photo: Courtesy Family Ties

5th Early Childhood forum highlights challenges and solutions

Carolyn Taylor, assistant to the director, Family Ties

GESGAPEGIAG: - On Wednesday, May 22, the fifth Baie-des-Chaleurs Early Childhood Forum was held at the Galgoasiet Conference Room in Gessgapegiag. This event provided an opportunity for workers from community organizations, health and social services and CPE (centre de la petite enfance) daycares to network, collaborate, exchange ideas and discuss innovative approaches to early childhood services.

Heather MacWhirter, director of Family Ties, a family resource centre in New Carlisle, was a member of the organizing committee that put this event together. "The forum offers workers the chance to get to know the range of services offered and work together to best support families with young children. This year, we had 90 participants. As well as presentations on being kind to

ourselves, working with fathers and the co-parenting approach, there was also time for networking which I know was appreciated," states Ms. MacWhirter.

The crucial role played by fathers was emphasized with two testimonies from local men who had accessed services recently. One told of his experience at the birth of his child and underlined the negative impact of excluding fathers and making judgements based on stereotypes. The second spoke about the prompt response he received when requesting support from Convergence, a nonprofit community organization, whose mission is to help men throughout the Gaspé Peninsula. He recommended that other men should ask for help when needed, but said that many find this hard to do or don't know where to turn.

The organizing committee aims to have another Early Childhood Forum in 2026.

Fair Haven Bible Camp New Carlisle, Quebec

Little Campers (A) boys and girls	7 - 9 years	June 30-July 5
Girls Camp	10 - 12 yrs	July 7-12
Little Campers (B) boys and girls	7 - 9 yrs	July 14-19
Boys Camp	10 - 12 yrs	July 21-26
Teen Camp	13 - 18 yrs	July 28-Aug 2

ACTIVITIES:

Beach Time,
Group Games,
Field Sports,
Water Sports,
Picnics,
Hikes, Camp
Fires, Truck Time,
Crafts and
Chapel

\$140 (includes \$30 non-refundable registration fee).

To reserve: etransfer your registration fee to rose.roussy@gmail.com or mail payment to Nelson Roussy, 371 rte 132 east, New Richmond, QC, G0C 2B0

Include camper's name and which camp they are attending.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

The ups and downs of opposition parties at the National Assembly

The parliamentary session that ended on June 7 at the National Assembly was extremely tough for the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) government, but it was also a trying period for two of the three opposition parties, namely the Liberal Party and Québec solidaire.

The Liberal Party is the official opposition at the National Assembly because of its 19 seats. However, those 19 seats are essentially concentrated in the West Island sector of Montreal, with one seat in the Outaouais region. To the public, the Liberal Party essentially represents a partial section of Quebec's metropolis.

Over the last months, some Liberal Members of the National Assembly made noticeable interventions during debate periods. André Fortin, who is based in Outaouais, attempted to secure a doctor's appointment using the new tool unveiled by Health Minister Christian Dubé, only to find out that he couldn't get an answer, let alone an appointment. Mr. Fortin's late winter attempt made a well-publicized impact, as it significantly embarrassed Minister Dubé.

However, the Liberal Party's interim leader Marc Tanguay has had difficulty playing an inspirational role since the forced departure of former leader Dominique Anglade, who was shown the exit following the electoral defeat of October 2022.

The Liberal Party leadership race will officially start in January 2025 and will be concluded by the leadership vote on June 14 of the same year. By then, Marc Tanguay will have been an interim leader for two-and-a-half years, an extremely long interim term for a party that has so far failed to set itself apart from the other parties over recent years.

Marc Tanguay insists on saying that the Liberal Party is now the only federalist party in Quebec, based on the assumption that François Legault, as a former sovereigntist, might be tempted one day to get back to the separatist side.

Mr. Tanguay also affirms that the Liberal Party is the party of the economy, a claim that has been contested, albeit often awkwardly, by the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ). The Liberals have made it clear that the defence of secularism is not their forte. On the other hand, they have not been clear on the defence of the French language, which is not well perceived in a province where 85% of the population is francophone.

It is reasonable to think that the leadership race was placed that late in the four-year term of the current government to make sure that more than one candidate would compete.

As of June 21, the former Montreal mayor Denis Coderre confirmed that he will enter the race, even if he can hardly personify the renewal needed by the party.

The MNA (Member of the National Assembly) for Marguerite-Bourgeoys, former businessman Frédéric Beauchemin, has also confirmed that he will give it a try, as well as Charles Milliard, who was until June 14 president and chief executive officer of Quebec's Federation of Chambers of Commerce.

On the other hand, Karl Blackburn, former Lib-

eral MNA and current president of Québec's Employers' Council, announced on June 17 that he will not enter the race as he is battling cancer.

Who else might join the race? Two Liberal Party of Canada Members of Parliament, Joel Lightbound and François-Philippe Champagne, could be interested. Mr. Champagne is above all interested in the succession of Justin Trudeau should he decide to step down before the 2025 electoral campaign.

Québec solidaire's crisis

Québec solidaire experienced a major crisis at the end of April when the party's co-spokesperson, Émilise Lessard-Therrien, resigned from her five months after being chosen to take over Manon Massé's role. Ms. Lessard-Therrien felt that her vision for the party was neglected by the other spokesperson and main leader, Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois.

Denounced by the party's youngest members and feminist wing, Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois deployed his strategic talent and temporarily calmed down dissidents. He suggested modifying some points of the party platform that sounded more radical, like the nationalization of the forestry industry that would give Québec solidaire access to power, and he received the nod of a majority of members in a Saguenay meeting. To put it short, in order to unify the party, he opted for what is usually described as pragmatism.

Within the walls of the National Assembly though, Québec solidaire has shone on a couple of occasions, notably when the party's position related to the necessity to stop evictions of seniors from their apartment was essentially copied by Housing Minister France-Élaine Duranceau and adopted.

Québec solidaire will nevertheless face another test over the fall when the party will hold another convention. By then, members will have found another female spokesperson, likely Marwah Rizqy. That convention will provide an occasion for disgruntled members to express their worry about the abandonment of some of the party's original left-wing, or interventionist orientations.

The leaders will also have to prove that Québec solidaire is more than a party of urban centres, where its 12 seats are located. Emilise Lessard-Therrien had proven that the party could make breakthroughs in rural regions, namely in Temiscamingue. Her departure creates a void in that regard.

The Parti québécois' resurgence

With popular support hovering between 30 and 32%, which is good enough for the lead, based on surveys, the Parti québécois (PQ) has avoided extinction, which was a real possibility during the first term of the CAQ government.

PQ leader Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon regularly scores points with his calm and inspired interventions at the National Assembly, a statesman approach that is appreciated by a large cross-section of the population.

These interventions, along with those of the party's three other MNAs, address issues of significant concern to the public to the extent that we tend to forget that the PQ can only count on four Members, all men, at the National Assembly.

The party can count on two solid and experienced debaters from the rural areas, Pascal Bérubé from Matapédia-Matane and Joël Arseneau of the Magdalen Islands. Their ability to deal with a high number of complicated files, in health, education, public transport and children's detrimental screen time, regularly keeps CAQ Members on their toes.

However, Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon will face way more pressure, come the resumption of parliamentary work on September 10. He will be the target of attacks from the CAQ and other parties. The leader will also have to avoid the temptation of being arrogant, a trait that has led to the important decline of François Legault and other cabinet members since the spring of 2023.

There is not much to say for now about Quebec's Conservative Party. Leader Éric Duhaime remains a fierce debater, but he must still prove that his party is more than a group of people frustrated by the enforcement of the pandemic's sanitary measures.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My mum continues to enjoy seeing the news from "down home". She is excited when I bring it to her, and although she doesn't know many of the people in the paper, she feels the familiarity of reading about the Gaspé coast.

She will be 99 years old at the end of June, and it's nice to know that reading your paper brings a smile to her face.

*Enjoy the summer. Kind regards,
Judy Macaulay, North Gower, Ontario.*

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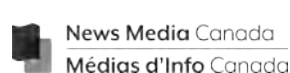


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Chandler's first surplus in nearly a quarter century

NELSON SERGERIE

CHANDLER - The Town of Chandler has achieved something that hasn't been seen in nearly a quarter century.

The town recorded a surplus of \$689,412 for its 2023 financial year.

The last time such a high surplus was seen was in 2002 when the Gaspésia paper mill still contributed \$1.2 million to the town's coffers. The mill, closed at the time, was in the middle of a modernization project.

Upon taking office in 2021, Mayor Gilles Daraïche called for tighter spending. "I took action by asking each department to respect its budget. We tightened the belt. We compressed spending to achieve a result that was acceptable to the public," says the mayor, mentioning, in particular, the renewal of the collective agreement, and increases in insurance costs, the Sûreté du Québec or residual materials which have had an impact on municipal finances.

The surplus is intended to provide a comfortable cushion against unforeseen events.

"Just because we have a



Chandler Mayor Gilles Daraïche.

\$689,000 surplus doesn't mean we're going to start spending. We still have unforeseen events such as broken equipment or the development of the town. That takes money," notes the mayor.

The mayor played a role in the surplus. "It's not normal for a town like ours not to have an accumulated surplus. There was too much spending in the past. I'm not accusing anyone. Just the position of mayor, the elected representatives had expense accounts of

\$30,000 or \$35,000. I don't have an expense account. I do my business anyway. I meet with people by videoconference and I'll come to the municipal hall to talk politics," says Mr. Daraïche.

Legal troubles for Raynald Leblanc

Another Chandler councillor is facing legal issues. Raynald Leblanc was arrested last April in connection with a case of domestic violence. He was released on a promise to



Photos: N. Sergerie

Councillor Raynald Leblanc must face justice.

appear in court on September 16. The councillor is charged with assault and harassment. Regarding the latter charge, the alleged incidents occurred between August 21 and April 25.

Mr. Leblanc previously received conditional and unconditional discharges for past incidents involving violence and breach of conduct.

As these actions do not affect his role as an elected official, the mayor prefers not

to comment on the case.

It is with noting that Councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout is also before the courts on charges of fraud, forgery and employment, and possession or trafficking of a document for acts committed when he was pro-mayor between February 1 and July 31, 2021.

The UPAQ (The Unité permanente anticorruption) estimates the amount of the fraud to be around \$10,000.

46th Baie-des-Chaleurs International Car Rally to take place from June 28 to 30

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND - The 46th Baie-des-Chaleurs International Car Rally will take place between June 28 and 30 in New Richmond and in the surrounding communities.

Event spokesperson Danny Hudon confirms that there are close to 40 teams from six countries registered as of June 20, which is a good participation rate but not a record. According to him the Baie-des-Chaleurs event remains well-rated in the world of car rallies.

"Last year, we had 48 teams. Normally, our standard is around 35 to 40 entries. Elsewhere in the country, when they get 30 teams, the organizers are very satisfied. The date of our event helps as well as, plus holding an event that is part of the North American-Central American Circuit. Our rally is part of their championship. It gives them points if they come here," explains Mr.

Hudon.

He wasn't expecting many more registrations as of June 20. "When we reach 40 registrations, normally, we don't get many more, maybe one more. At this date, it doesn't move up much. We have teams from six countries: Canada, the United States, Mexico, France, Spain and England," he adds.

Eighteen races of various sizes covering 220 kilometres will be held between midday Saturday and Sunday.

"Friday is the day of free trials. The schedule has changed. A few years ago, we held the Camp Brûlé event on Friday night. We moved it to Saturday night. The Fifth Range jump now takes place from Sunday around noon and over the afternoon," says Danny Hudon.

The Baie-des-Chaleurs International Car Rally organizers work with a budget of about \$150,000. About 150 volunteers make it possible. The event's website provides a



Photo: D. Bujold

The Fifth Range jump remains one of the most spectacular spots of the Baie-des-Chaleurs Car Rally.

spectator guide that can be helpful for attendees.

Danny Hudon, who is also a big rally fan, is eager to watch the performance of a seasoned veteran who partici-

pated in the Baie-des-Chaleurs event in the 1990s and who reached the podium several times.

"Antoine Lestage is back. His last presence here goes

back to 2017. It will be interesting to see him compete against the young generation. I am sure I will not be the only one to keep an eye on him," he concludes.

Private developers want to convince Hydro-Québec that they can help add 10,000 MW of wind power

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – Private developers of wind farms want to convince Hydro-Québec that they can contribute to achieving the objective of adding 10,000 megawatts of wind energy by 2035, as set by the utility on May 24 to increase production and decarbonize the economy.

These developers, such as the company Innergex, from Longueuil, took advantage of the Renewable Energies Forum held from June 11 to 13 in Carleton to meet with Hydro-Québec representatives. Their goal was to showcase their expertise and capacity to assist the public corporation in adding these 10,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity over the next 11 years.

Michel Letellier, president and CEO of Innergex, believes that private developers can play a crucial role, especially as Hydro-Québec plans to use transmission lines with a capacity of 735 kilovolts for future wind farm ventures. This was not, or hardly, the case with the arrival of the first 4,000 megawatts of wind energy, a development carried out since 2003 by private developers selling their production to Hydro-Québec.

Mr. Letellier uses an analogy to emphasize that Hydro-Québec would have every advantage in integrating companies like Innergex as co-



Photos: G. Gagné

Michel Letellier, of Innergex, believes that Hydro-Québec has everything to gain by integrating private developers into the ownership of wind farms to come by 2035.

owners of the wind farms in its attempt to develop 10,000 MW by 2035. The Innergex portfolio reaches a production capacity of 4,328 MW of renewable energy across Canada and, globally, an amount largely generated by wind turbines.

“It’s as if HQ (Hydro-Québec) has realized that wind power is really important for decarbonization. From now on, they unblock the transmission lines, the 735-kilovolt lines. They open them (for projects associated with 10,000 MW). Before, wind power was not really important to Hydro-Québec. Now, if

we want to have energy to decarbonize the economy and accommodate large industries, we have no choice but to accelerate wind development. Where are the resources and the power transportation highway? They are in wind power and this is the big revelation. This is where Hydro-Québec took a strategic turn. They (its leaders) are ready to accept wind power on the highway. We no longer have to drive on the country road. We no longer have to drive on the small forest road,” illustrates Mr. Letellier.

Until now, Quebec wind farms have mainly been built on the outskirts of major transmission lines, which has often limited their size, due to the capacity of these smaller power lines.

It is admitted by Hydro-Québec that it will be necessary to increase the capacity of the transmission lines in the Rivière-du-Loup sector, going towards the east of Lower Saint Lawrence and the Gaspé Peninsula, if other major wind farm projects are expected to see the light of day there.

The people at Innergex believe this bottleneck that limits the construction of major wind farms is even present in the Lévis sector, and from there towards the east.

“It’s expensive to integrate these major projects in order to make the network more reliable. To enter 735 kilovolts, it takes large wind farms, to amortize all these infrastructures,” specifies Michel Letellier.

This relevance of the wind

energy sector entices him to work patiently to convince the leaders of Hydro-Québec to leave a place for the private sector in the deployment of 10,000 MW.

Since the May 24 announcement, the Hydro-Québec management has indicated that the private sector would have a place in this deployment, but it remains somewhat vague. Developers do not know exactly whether their services will be retained as consultants or partners in the ownership of future wind farms.

“We see it as an opportunity. It has been proven that Innergex can develop sustainable projects with indigenous and non-indigenous people. I think that Hydro-Québec will leave room for the private sector in future development. We invite them to do it,” underlines Michel Letellier.

“In his speech, the president of Hydro-Québec, Michael Sabia, talks about inviting and making room for the private sector in a call for a tender process, in order to be competitive. Customers want competitive energy. We have in Quebec the least expensive energy in North America,” he adds.

In fact, he recalls, 3,000 of the 10,000 MW targeted by Hydro-Québec have already been allocated through recent calls for tenders, although the wind farms remain to be erected.

The imminent renewal of existing wind farms

Between now and the next 12 years, the agreements between the owners of the first Quebec wind farms, which were basically erected between 2004 and 2013, and Hydro-Québec will have to be renewed.

These agreements generally had a duration of 20 years and the next renewal concerns the Baie-des-Sables wind

farm, near Matane. The agreement will expire in December 2026. Innergex owns this wind farm, and others, for a total of 589.5 MW of capacity. After Baie-des-Sables, Innergex will have to renew the Anse-à-Valleau and Carleton wind farms, inaugurated in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

Questioned by the Gaspé SPEC regarding these renewals, Michel Letellier specifies that a smooth transition is necessary to maximize production.

“In theory, for the same resource, we could benefit from a gain of 30% in terms of capturing green energy from the wind if we replaced all current equipment with new equipment, but wind is not equal everywhere. So, in 2026, we will have better, more powerful machines, which means a greater range to take advantage of the wind resource,” he explains.

“At Innergex, we would (however) like a more integrated version of these agreement renewals. We do not want to dismantle machines that are still viable for the benefit of short-term financial gain. To contribute to decarbonization, we must maximize the use of the machine. We would like to have a long-term transition, to make a hybrid transition. Instead of dismantling and not producing for a year or two, we could renew in the long term, think of a hybrid model in which we could have old and new turbines coexist,” explains Mr. Letellier.

“The simplest thing is to throw everything away and start again with new machines. But the (production) site will be there in 5, 10 or 15 years and there will be no interruption in production. We subcontract, locally, the repair of these turbines, which makes it possible to develop a regional maintenance economy, and to create a pool of spare parts,” he concludes.



The electricity sales agreements affecting several wind farms will be renewed shortly. Innergex advocates a gradual approach to replacing equipment in this regard to avoid production breakdowns.





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The collaboration with the Mi'gmaq praised by Innergex' president and CEO

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - Michel Letellier the president and CEO of Innergex was recognized as Quebec's renewable energy personality of the year, he was honoured at the Renewable Energies Conference held in Carleton on June 11 to 13, organized by the Nergica research centre in Gaspé.

Upon receiving his award in front of 400 stakeholders in Quebec's renewable energy

sector, Mr. Letellier promptly thanked the First Nations of the Gaspé Peninsula and of the North Shore.

"I couldn't thank enough the communities of Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj for their trust in our capacity to develop a wind farm project with them," he said, referring to the Mesgig Ugju's'n project, planned between 2012 and 2014 and built in the backcountry of Escuminac between 2014 and the end of

2016. The capacity of that wind farm reaches 150 MW.

That first venture will be followed by a second project, Mesgig Ugju's'n 2, which is expected to receive environmental approval in the coming weeks. It will also be built in the backcountry of Escuminac. Its capacity will reach 102.24 MW and its construction will require an investment of \$250 million, with First Nations holding 50% ownership.

Innergex is also collaborating with the Innu of the North Shore in a 300 MW wind farm venture called Peschu Mapeu, which will be up and running in 2029.

"It is the first time that the Innu community of Pessamit has participated in an economic project that includes non-native communities. We, at Innergex, are part of that venture Innergex, as well as the Manicouagan MRC. Pessamit never received any com-

pensation agreement, despite the fact that 30% of Hydro-Québec (power dam) assets are located on the traditional territory of the community," stresses Michel Letellier.

"It is also the first time the communities are called upon to make decisions on these projects. Young people see this type of project as a way of planning the long-term development of the community. We have to listen and respect them," he sums up.

Listuguj Police Department to benefit from new station

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ – The 16 officers of the Listuguj Police Department will move to a brand new station before the end of the current summer. The construction of the building started a year-and-a-half ago at the intersection of Highway 132 and Riverside Drive.

The cost of the building reached \$7 million, "everything included, like the equipment", points out Peter Arsenault, director of the Listuguj Public Safety Directorate.

"Construction began at the tail end of 2022, with the environmental study, the study of the ground and excavation," says Mr. Arsenault. The construction of the building was awarded to LFG Construction by the end of the 2022-2023 winter. The contractor's head office is in Saint-Omer, with operations based in New Richmond's industrial park.

The decision to locate the new building at a major intersection was deliberate, mentions Peter Arsenault, noting that the current police station is near a school zone and a daycare, which is inconvenient during emergency intervention.

"The new building offers direct access to Highway 132 and direct access to the main arteries of the traffic. When we first began the construction of the present police station that was in 2022 and there weren't as many buildings in that area. Buildings have been under construction in that zone since then and it was becoming unsafe to answer emergency calls," explains Mr. Arsenault.

The relocation of the police station will occur gradually for operational reasons, he specifies.

"We are looking at mid-July for the first move. We will begin the administrative move, and bring in the furniture. In early to mid-August, we will move the files and we expect to be in full operation by late August to early September," says Peter Arsenault. The new facility will house several administrative offices, a room for the patrol squad, service rooms to be used by the victims of crimes, secure interrogation rooms, and a meeting room. There will also be holding cells and identification rooms.



The new police station represents an investment of \$7 million, equipment included.

Photo: G. Gagné

CANADA DAY FESTIVITIES NEW CARLISLE

THURSDAY 27TH - SUNDAY 30TH

GREEN
(See event schedule)

Women's 2ND Annual Softball Tournament
↳ Beer Garden

FRIDAY 28TH - SUNDAY 30TH

GREEN 1 pm **OMNIUM Gaspésien Volleyball Tournament**
(Categories: Competitive, Recreational & Youth)
↳ Beer Garden

MONDAY JULY 1ST

GREEN 10 am **OMNIUM Volleyball Tournament (FINALS)**

NCHS 11 am **Parade (gathering at 10:30 am)**
****NEW ROUTE** (Leave NCHS, turn on the 132 and then down Green street to the beach)**
(No children under the age of 9 can go on a float without an adult. If you are decorating your ATV as a float in the parade, you must be 16 years old and over, wear a helmet and the ATV must be plated and insured. You will not be able to circulate once the parade is over except to return home immediately)

GREEN After parade **Welcoming / Raising of the Flag / Singing "O Canada"**

GREEN Noon **Canada Day Market**
(Pre-register with Townhall @ 418-752-3141)

GREEN Noon - 2 pm **Lulu Berlu**

GREEN Noon - 4 pm **Music with DJ**

GREEN - Reserved area (*Family Ties)(next to canteen) 12 - 3 pm **Teddy Bear Picnic (12 & under - Free)**
(Light lunch - face painting - games and animation)

GREEN 2 pm **Adult Games**
↳ Nail Driving (\$) ↳ Chainsaw competition

GREEN 7 - 9:30 pm **Music - Tammy (Adams) & The Honky Tonk Band**

GREEN 7 pm **Men's Softball Game - METS vs. ASTROS**

8:30 pm **Men's Softball Game - BRAVES vs. ATHLETICS**

9:30 pm **Fireworks**

10 - Midnight **Music - Tammy (Adams) & The Honky Tonk Band**

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The CASA Staff and Board of Directors would like to wish everyone a

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CASA

Happy Canada Day!

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Town of Gaspé update: Summer jobs at Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse - Gaspé steps up

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Town of Gaspé is providing \$2,500 in assistance to the Site historique maritime du phare de Cap-des-Rosiers to enable the hiring of staff for the tourist season.

The town is stepping in to fill the gap left by Ottawa, when the organization's request for Canada Summer Jobs was denied.

"We think it's irresponsible to let volunteers manage an infrastructure of this scale on their own. It's the highest lighthouse in Canada. If the federal government says 'no', we say 'yes'. If the federal cheque arrives later, I'll invite the volunteers to cash it. It'll give them some breathing room for the next few years," says the Mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, adding that he was not happy that the committee did not receive any federal assistance.

Last week, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Diane Lebovillier implied she was seeking a solution to this issue. The mayor does not believe that the town's decision to invest in place of Ottawa sets a precedent. "What's dangerous is abandoning a heritage monument like this. We haven't made any long-term commitments because we're going to let the federal government assume its responsibilities. The tourist season is starting. I'm pleased that Ms. Lebovillier wants to find a solution," says the mayor.

The transfer of the lighthouse from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to Parks Canada remains one of Gaspé's demands.

"It's part of Parks Canada's mission to manage heritage infrastructures. The lighthouse is



The Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse receives support from the Town of Gaspé

Photos: N. Sergerie

connected to Forillon Park, and it would be part of Parks Canada's mission to manage federal heritage infrastructure rather than leaving it to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which doesn't look after it and doesn't really need it, and leaving it in the hands of a committee of volunteers who pull out all the stops and do what they can," says the mayor.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada refutes the comments made last week by volunteers from the Site historique maritime du phare de Cap-des-Rosiers (Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse maritime historic site) that the department no longer maintains the building adjacent to the lighthouse.

In response to a SPEC email, the department stated that the secondary buildings are an integral part of the site.

The ministry added that it has never suggested that it would stop maintaining them.

The building houses the mechanism for operating the lighthouse as well as the old

fog horn.

Anse-au-Griffon fishing harbour

Another issue that Gaspé would like to see resolved after nearly 10 years of demands is the dredging of the Anse-au-Griffon fishing harbour.

The wharf was transferred from the federal government to the municipality in December 2016. The silting issue, however, existed prior to the transfer.

The town is asking Ottawa

to do the work. "The wharf is used by lobster boats. There is a lot of silting. Since the infrastructure belongs to the town after having been shoved down its throat by Fisheries and Oceans, we're looking at the costs, the technical issues, the environmental issues, and it's too big for us to take care of. We're asking Fisheries and Oceans to dredge it for us and once that's done, we may be in the clear for several years. We'll keep pushing the issue until we get a positive response," warns the mayor.

Rue des Touristes

Nearly eight years after the devastating storm of December 2016, the work to protect Rue des Touristes in the Anse-à-Valleau sector remains an issue between the province and the town.

Civil security is refusing to protect the entire street, preferring instead to secure only the problematic section.

"I understand that they want to pay for the small section directly affected by the erosion, but if you just riprap a small section, there will be erosion to the left and right of the planned riprap. That's why you need a wider riprap. Some civil ser-

vants at the Ministry of Civil Protection just don't get it," says the mayor.

The mayor plans to push the issue at the political level to secure funding for 75% of the costs.

Environmental studies need to be carried out before any work can be considered.

The realistic target for this work appears to be 2026, ten years after the storm.

The town commissioned an engineering study for \$645,000 to prepare the plans and specifications for the work.

Rue du Ruisseau Dean

Rumours have been circulating that Rue du Ruisseau Dean will never be repaired. "We're continuing to press ahead with the drainage work on the street. It's a huge pipe that needs to be changed. We're in the environmental process.

We're continuing to move forward. It's long. It's complicated. It's heavy. I know it's just a culvert. We're in fish habitat, and it requires not only provincial but also federal authorization. It's expensive," reassures the mayor.

The street has been closed since Fiona hit in September 2022.

Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse: Ottawa releases the funds

Nelson Sergerie

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - Service Canada has finally released \$20,401 for four jobs totalling 1,120 hours at the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse National Historic Site.

The federal assistance was granted as part of the second phase of investments and confirmed by Member of Parliament (MP) for Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Diane Lebovillier's team, on June 20 in the afternoon. According to her office, the organization will receive what it asked for.

The news had been somewhat leaked by the site president, Virginie Giteau, who noted receiving "good news" from the MP's office.

"It was confirmed to me by the riding director, but we still don't have anything on the Services Canada Summer Jobs portal, or any emails or letters to confirm it," said Ms. Giteau the morning of June 20 before the official confirmation received by the MP's office. However, the information was transmitted in the late afternoon.

"We're opening on Saturday (June 22). Certainly, we won't have a guide to take us up to the lighthouse," she notes.

Faced with the absence of federal funding in May, employees hired in April had been told to look for other options, which they did.

"We'll have to start recruiting again," despairs the President, in a context of labour shortages. In the best-case scenario, visits could resume in early July.

"To qualify for the subsidy, you need a minimum of six weeks full-time. If we find someone too late, we can't benefit from the subsidy. That would put us into deficit," the president explained.

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, is delighted with this development, especially since the town had allocated \$2,500 last Monday due to Ottawa's initial refusal.

"We gave the green light with the municipal grant to hire people. If they receive financial assistance from the federal government, they'll be able to put it towards their jobs and the municipal money can be used for other things," says the mayor.

"Normally, it's not the role of a municipality to support federal infrastructure. We're all familiar with the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse and the federal government's lack of interest in maintaining it. That's why we've come to make up for it this year," he explains.

Last week, Diane Lebovillier assured that despite a negative response from Services Canada, she was going to do everything she could to ensure that the organization received the money it needed to operate this summer.



Rue du Ruisseau Dean has been closed for almost two years.

Ottawa launches phase two of Newport wharf reconstruction

NELSON SERGERIE

CHANDLER - The second phase of the Newport wharf reconstruction will take place at the end of the fishing season.

The federal government has released the funds needed to continue the rehabilitation of the infrastructure, which is clearly in need of some love.

The MP (Member of Parliament) for Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Minister for Fisheries, Diane Lebouthillier, visited Newport on June 13 to announce that calls for tenders will be launched in the coming days.

"I didn't announce any figures this morning because we have to go to tender in the next few days. We want the work to start this fall," says Ms. Lebouthillier.

Phase two focuses on the lobster fishing area. The work will involve removing the existing structure. Dredging was carried out on the east side during phase one, which will enable the wharf to be compacted by several metres.

All the lobster boats will be able to use this new area, and the remaining part will be for crab boats.

There are two other phases to the project, and the Newport Harbour Authority is hoping for rapid announcements.

"We're on schedule for phase two. There's always



Luc Legresley, President of the Newport Port Association.

Photo: N. Sergerie

work to be done for small craft harbours. I'm making it a priority because it's an important development tool for fishing, processing, repair, construction and shipyards. We're working very hard to get more money to invest in our infrastructure," says the MP.

"Phase three is the most outdated part and is closed. We're also talking about protection to keep the waves out. We have no choice but to protect the inside of the quay and the boats. When we say quickly, we can't wait for it to fall. It's empty underneath. It's dangerous," says Luc Legresley, President of the Harbour Authority.

"That doesn't mean Ottawa couldn't do both at the same time," says Mr. Legresley when

asked about the time frame for the work.

The total cost of the four phases of work could reach \$20 million. He hopes that Ottawa will continue to invest quickly to renovate and meet all the needs.

During the announcement, Raoul Grenier, who has been working for the port of Newport for decades as a volunteer, urges Ottawa to do more to support harbour authorities.

"There is work being done and meetings being held with harbour associations. It's happening all across Canada. We also see with the infrastructure and all the people involved, it's important to have people working there. There's also work to be done with the fishing indus-

try. We need to have discussions to ensure that we have the best possible organizations to see all the spin-offs," says Ms. Lebouthillier, faced with the scale of the task ahead.

"Ideally, I'd like to see a regional organization that could represent the entire region so that we can set priorities. That's part of the discussions and the work that needs to be done," says the minister.

Meanwhile, the Rivière-au-Renard wharf is in bad shape. The breakwater has suffered major damage and needs to be repaired, and the last section of the wharf has also suffered damage and is inaccessible to boats and vehicles.

The Minister is aware of the problems but, according to her, the issue is becoming political. "We hope and need to adopt the budget by the end of the parliamentary session. To pass the budget, we need the support of all parliamentarians. I deplore the fact that the Conservative Party and the Bloc Québécois are telling us that they are going to vote against the budget. I hope that everyone will be able to see how important port infrastructure is for the community and that the various parties will support our budget," says Ms. Lebouthillier.

At a press briefing, Ms. Lebouthillier also announced \$650,000 in investments from

the Quebec Fisheries Fund for eight projects in eastern Quebec.

The public assistance will generate total investments of \$1.8 million.

Seven of the eight projects are located in the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence.

E. Gagnon et Fils is receiving a total of \$100,000 out of a \$1 million project to acquire a new lobster processing line.

Five companies are receiving \$76,000 for the acquisition and installation of a monitoring system on fishing boats to track a number of vessel parameters.

Pêcheries Richard Desbois is receiving a second contribution for a second vessel. These projects total \$85,000.

A final company is receiving slightly less, \$70,000, for the installation of the same equipment.

The Quebec Fisheries Fund receives a 70% contribution from Ottawa and 30% from Quebec.

The fund has been extended until 2026, with \$8 million remaining. "We are currently analyzing the possibility of a Fisheries Fund 2.0. With climate change as a priority, we'll need more data with artificial intelligence and digital fishing," says Ms. Lebouthillier, adding that the program "is a good development tool."

Domestic violence at the heart of Youth Protection's message this year

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - On June 18, when Youth Protection directors from Quebec's regions collaboratively presented their 21st annual report, domestic violence was a topic of concern.

In the Magdalen Islands and Gaspé Peninsula, the number of signaled cases rose to 2,072, an increase of 100. However, the number of retained cases remains almost unchanged, from 679 last year to 678 this year.

Of these, 49 reports involved domestic violence, however, the statistic is incomplete since this data was compiled during the year. This situation represents 3.72% of the cases handled by the Youth Protection (DPJ).

"This is a major problem and social issue in both the Gaspé and the Magdalen Is-



Director of Youth Protection for Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Michelle Frenette.

Photo: N. Sergerie

lands. We also wanted to highlight the changes made to the law to enable us to properly identify and provide services and tools to families," says Michelle Frenette, Director of

Youth Protection for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

The impact on young people who witness domestic violence is significant.

"Whether it's direct or indirect, everything to do with shock and post-traumatic stress, risks in terms of physical abuse, behaviour or schooling. All these types of consequences can also be attributable to children exposed to domestic violence. It has a major impact," says Jenny Cloutier, the person in charge of reporting youths with problems.

Again this year, of the cases involving children taken into care by the DPJ in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands region, 32.75% were due to psychological abuse, and 30.27% to neglect.

Children 6 to 12 represented 37.76% of retained reports, followed closely by children aged 0 to 5 at 34.51%.

Reports retained by MRC were as follows: Côte-de-Gaspé (146), Avignon (110),

Rocher-Percé (105), Bonaventure (104), and Haute-Gaspésie (93). In the Madeleine Islands, 44 cases were retained.

In the MRC of Bonaventure and the Magdalen Islands there was an increase in the number of reports compared to the previous year. The situation is stable in the MRCs of Avignon and Côte-de-Gaspé. In the Rocher-Percé and Haute-Gaspésie MRCs, the number of reports decreased.

Significant increases were observed in the communities of Listuguj and Gesgapegiag, with 42 and 33 retained cases respectively.

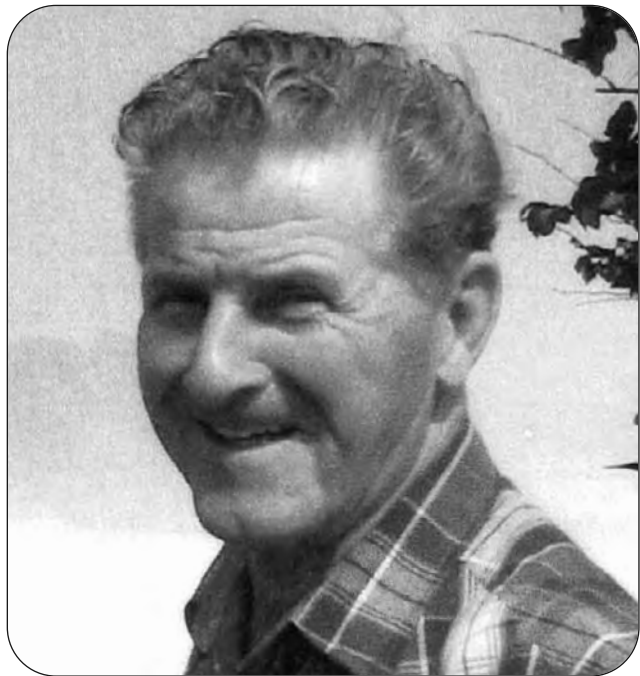
Both communities are responsible for case management, with case workers hired in collaboration with the Director of Youth Protection.

Cont'd on page 16

Announcements



Obituaries



BOURGET: Robert

July 23, 1931, – January 20, 2024

The community of Port Daniel and surrounding communities were saddened to hear of Robert's death which occurred on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at his home, with his family by his side.

Robert was born in Grande Rivière, Quebec to Joseph Bourget and Blanche Plante. In his late teens, Robert moved to Port Daniel where he met and married Regina Langlois (deceased). Together they raised three children, Richard, Jean Guy and Johanne.

Robert worked as a carpenter in the area for about 20 years. After gaining much experience in carpentry Robert founded his own company Gestion Robert Bourget Inc. He moved to Montreal where he worked in construction for eight years. Upon returning to Port Daniel, he continued to work in construction until 2013, when he relinquished his company.

Robert loved his family dearly. His children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were his reason for living. Even when the cancer was getting rough, when the young children came to see him, all sickness was pushed aside so he could gain special memories to carry with him.

Robert was predeceased by his parents, Joseph Bourget and Blanche Plante; brothers Walter and Raymond; and sisters May, Therese

and Louise.

Robert is survived by his second wife: Lorna Journeau; brother: Louis; sister: Marie; children: Richard, Jean Guy and Johanne; stepchildren: Byron, Sheri-Lee and Stephen; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; step-grandchildren; step-great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Dr. Stephanie Ferland and the many nurses who cared for Robert during his final months.

Visitation will take place July 6, 2024, at Notre Dame de Mont-Carmel Church, Port Daniel at 10 a.m. Funeral service will follow at 11 a.m.



HOLLAND: Bert

The family of Bert Holland of Douglastown is saddened to announce his death in Ottawa, Ontario on March 23, 2024, after a brief illness. He was 95.

The fourth of ten children born to Emery Holland and Annie McAuley, Bert outlived them all: Ruby, Willard, Jean (Eli Dion), Marguerite, Julia (Hartley Briand), Francis (Betty Briand), Alvah (Blenda Briand), Lewis, and Arnold (Giselle Bélanger).

He was married to Phyllis Kirouac for 65 years, until her passing in 2020. They had four daughters: Gwen (Jay Thornton), Laura (Tyran Morris), Jeanine (Bob Young), and Barbara (Darko Lisak); four grandsons: Evan Morris, Ryan Morris (Victoria Traiches), Dejan Lisak, and Cormick Holland; and one great-grandson, Vincent Morris.

Bert loved fiddle music, pickup trucks, puz-

zles, Westerns, and scalding hot tea. He will be fondly remembered by his friends, family, and many nieces and nephews. The funeral will be at 1 p.m. on July 20, at St. Veronica's Parish in Dorval, with interment in Douglastown to take place at a later date.

LANGEVIN: Jean (née) Lodge

February 1, 1942 – June 2, 2024

Passed away at the Caressant Care & Retirement Home in Marmora, Ontario. Predeceased by husband, Adrien Langevin and brother, John Barrington Lodge.

Leaving to mourn daughters: Lynne (Tony Mayer) of Whitby, Ontario and Kelly (Art Kyle) of Marmora, Ontario; grandchildren: Morgan Mayer and Payton Kyle; sisters: Eudra Hoorweg-Lodge (Alfred LaFleur) of Sturgeon Falls, Ontario and Marlene Goodenough (Laurent Noël) of Saint Felix de Kingsey, Québec.

A Celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Obituary - 150 words - \$50
 150-250 words - \$55
 250+ words - quote will be provided
In memory: 150 words - \$35
 150-250 words - \$45
Funeral, Celebration of Life, Card of Thanks, Engagement, Birth, Prayer, Birthday - \$35
Wedding - \$55

All photos are an additional \$10

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Announcements



Celebration of life



GIRARD: Allan

August 1, 1976 - May 19, 2024

A celebration of life in honour of Allan Girard will be held at the Douglastown school on Saturday, August 3, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

All Allan's family and friends are invited to attend. We will gather to share some of our favourite memories and stories as we remember, Allan, who will be missed by so many, but espe-

cially by his girlfriend: Louise; father: Philip JR (Willa); mother: Vivian (Chester); son: Aidan (Emma); brother: Shawn (Kathleen); stepbrother: Jarod (Tracey); stepsister: Jana (Steeve) and his three nieces: Elsie, Adeline, and Sophie.

A light meal and other refreshments will be served. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Gaspé Cancer Foundation in memory of Allan.



In Memory

HOCQUARD: Charles W.

August 19, 1931 - June 28, 2018

In loving memory of Charles W. Hocquard.

We will always love you,

Till we meet again.

Loved always and forever in our hearts. Sheila, Marlene, Steven (Mary Lynn), Brent (Janique), grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

Happy Anniversary



Albert McWhirter and Jean Campbell
Married June 24, 1960.

*Wishing our parents a very happy
64th anniversary!*

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World Kidney Cancer Day - June 20

Kay Ross (Karen)

The theme of World Kidney Cancer Day was “We need to listen”. The following article can be of use to any patient with a disease, condition or cancer.

A second opinion means seeing another healthcare professional or specialist. The referred doctor will give his or her view on the diagnosis and treatment.

A patient might want to see another doctor to: confirm a diagnosis; find out if there are other treatment options; support what the patient has already been told about their condition, or because the patient does not feel listened to by their current doctor.

A patient should consider a second opinion after they have asked their current doctor to explain the diagnosis and treatment plan thoroughly. If the patient is unhappy, they should discuss this openly as well. Sometimes a second opinion may not be necessary if the patient’s current doctor provides clear explanations and addresses their concerns.

The patient will require a new referral from a healthcare professional to see a different doctor. The family doctor can also request a second opinion on the patient’s behalf but only



Photo: K. Ross

Karen and David Ross.

with their consent.

David had to request a second opinion early on in his journey. At the time, the local doctor felt that his situation was inoperable, and the only drug treatment available had been ineffective in shrinking the tumour. This would mean that he had maybe a year left to live. The referred doctor suggested another surgical approach and it was very successful. David was then declared no evidence of disease and this gave him time before the next recurrence to be able to access a trial drug that prolonged his life for six

and a half years. Six and a half more years to spend with family and friends, years of good quality of life – those were the years you might have seen him biking from Port Daniel to New Carlisle every day when we visited our much-loved Gaspesian peninsula.

Patients seeking second opinions may experience some waiting time as they have already seen a doctor. They also need to be aware that a second opinion may require travelling to another hospital or city. They might also have to consider the potential

delay in treatment, especially if the patient has a pressing medical issue.

If the patient has not fully understood what the current doctor said, it might help to ask the doctor to go over it again. The patient should not feel embarrassed about not understanding or needing the information to be repeated. After the patient has been diagnosed, they may have learned more about the condition and now have questions or concerns. The patient might need to talk this over with a specialist.

To help prepare for a second opinion appointment, the patient needs to make a note of all the symptoms and treatments they have had, write down the questions they want to ask, ask someone to go with them for moral support and to help take in the information the specialist provides.

Being equipped with knowledge about kidney cancer and treatment options allows the patient to advocate for their own care.

The International Kidney Cancer Coalition has developed a Shared Decision Aid for kidney cancer patients, caregivers and their families.

Shared decision-making involves open communication

with the healthcare professional. Even if there is only one treatment available, understanding what’s happening to their body empowers them with knowledge and helps the patient feel more in control.

Shared decision-making is a process which ensures patients are supported to make informed decisions about their care and treatment. The conversation brings together the clinician’s expertise, such as treatment options, evidence, risks and benefits with what the patient knows best, their preferences, personal circumstances, goals, values and beliefs.

The patient should always check the credentials of who they are listening to and check facts against their source. They should also search outside social media and create a trusted list of resources to quickly verify information.

Knowledge can help to make important decisions about the patient’s health. However, if the information they are absorbing is inaccurate, it can be very harmful.

To prevent misinformation, it is always best to consult the most reliable websites such as well-known health charities,

Cont'd on page 16

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.

YORK:

Gaspé County W.I.

September 7: Gaspé County W.I. will be hosting the annual W.I. fair, at York River Community Hall, 702 York Boulevard West. The hall will open at 3 p.m. for public viewing of all the exhibits and a delicious salad supper awaits you at 4:45 p.m. with takeouts also available. Cost: Adults: \$15; Children under 12: \$10. Everyone is welcome.

PORT DANIEL:

Three Star Golden Age Club

Tuesdays: Pétaque from

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Cost is \$3.

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, fifteen service available.

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.



**UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, June 30
10 a.m. Service**

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, June 30
10 a.m. Service**

**ANGLICAN
CHURCH
OF CANADA**

**Sunday, June 30
New Carlisle**

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Shigawake

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ

**Sunday, June 30
St. Paul's Gaspé**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

DPJ:
▶ Cont'd from Page 12

"Over the past few years, we've been doing a lot of public awareness campaigns about child protection and outreach work. We work closely with them to identify children's needs. The partnership with Listuguj and Gesgapegiag is really very important," notes Ms. Frenette.

This awareness campaign is reflected in the statistics. "When there's an increase in the number of reports, it's not necessarily negative. It may

reflect distress in our society, but it may also reflect a wider safety net of people who want to call to say they are concerned about a child. That doesn't mean we're going to keep them in youth protection. They may be children we can offer other services to," explains the Director of Youth Protection.

Many efforts have been made in recent years to equip communities to support children's needs.

In terms of case processing, urgent cases relating to children's safety are addressed within the legally stipulated time frames.

Non-urgent cases are handled differently. "Code 3 cases, where we can intervene a little later in the situation, if there is a wait, we will monitor. We'll have a caseworker regularly check situations to see if we need to reprioritize a child or send a caseworker," says the director.

The target is two weeks, but the current wait time is closer to 20 days.

The DPJ lacks resources to provide adequate services in required cases.

"We have slightly more in the follow-up sector than in the referral sector. Once a referral has been made and as-

sessed, it's very fragile. Follow-up is where we work very hard to find solutions. We want to find people to work in youth protection. It's complex work, but it's very exciting," says Ms. Frenette, who points out that it's a daily job.

The waiting lists are affected by the labour shortage.

121 youths received services under the Youth Criminal

Justice Act. Assaults and threats account for almost half of the cases handled. There were 11 sexual offences, such as photo-sharing. Mischief and arson also accounted for 11 cases. Theft accounted for nine cases.

The DPJ is in constant need of foster families throughout the Gaspé Peninsula to keep children in their communities.

KIDNEY:
▶ Cont'd from Page 15

national health services or government sites.

When looking for information online, these questions should be asked. Is the information;

Accurate and impartial – who has written or published it?

Is it evidence-based and up-to-date? – When was it published?

Is it regularly reviewed, and is it relevant to the patient?

Does it cite evidence sources?

Kidney Cancer Canada/Cancer du Rein Canada can work closely with the patients, caregivers and families to help provide support and

resources as well as high-quality information for people affected with kidney cancer.

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with kidney cancer or is living with kidney cancer, please tell them about us. We are here to help. We can be reached at kidneycancer-canada.ca or cancerdurein-canada.ca or 1-866-598-7166.



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