

Pediatric department at Maria Hospital inaugurates new mural

GILLES GAGNÉ

MARIA - On May 24, the Baie-des-Chaleurs Health Foundation inaugurated its new soft and luminous mural within the pediatrics department. This work of art was designed and created by artist Caroline Dugas, well-known in the region as Fée Couleurs. It was painted in collaboration with her colleague Kathy Pitre. The mural is entitled The Healthy Forest and extends over two walls of the department's corridor. It transforms the space into a realistic universe dotted with fantasy where children can feel more relaxed and entertained during their hospital stay.

The work represents a set of trees, birds, animals and human beings, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for young patients and their families.

The head of the pediatrics department, Christina Poirier, says "This mural is much more than just a decoration. The mural offers a more pleasant environment for users and staff. It symbolizes hope, com-



Photo: G. Gagné

Kathy Pitre and Caroline Dugas, who drew the mural, donors Isabel Ferlatte, Étienne Arsenault, Marie-Pier Dion and Sébastien Cayouette, were on hand for the inauguration of the pediatrics department mural.

fort and creativity for families who stay there. We are extremely grateful to the Fée Couleurs and the Fondation Santé Baie-des-Chaleurs for this magnificent project".

Asked to describe her work, Caroline Dugas, says "From

one side, we see Gaspé birds in flight. On the backs of five of them are five humans of all ages who fly with them, which makes the work more suitable for all people occupying this space. Everyone is very happy to fly on a bird! On the other

side, we see a beautiful forest made up of real Gaspé trees, among which different animals hide in the Gaspé fauna. All the animals converge on a central scene. In a cleared area, a little boy in a wheelchair reads to the forest animals. This touching

scene is the heart of the mural. I hope that this work will bring a little magic and comfort to all who see it."

The project was funded entirely by the Fondation Santé

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More hemodialysis patients treated in Chandler

NELSON SERGERIE

CHANDLER - More Gaspesian patients requiring hemodialysis care will be able to be treated in the region with the doubling of treatment capacity at the Chandler hospital centre.

The six seats in the treatment unit have been available six days a week since May 27, whereas they had been available only three days a week since the inauguration of the first hemodialysis centre in the Gaspé in November 2013.

As a result, treatment capacity has increased from 12 to 24 patients per week in Chandler, a need indicated by the Centre intégré de santé et



The Chandler hemodialysis centre now operates six days a week.

Photo: Anonymous

de services sociaux (CISSS) de la Gaspésie.

"In the medium term, we

plan to increase this to 20 patients by mid-June. This is excellent news not only for the

Rocher-Percé MRC, but for the whole of the Gaspé region. As a result, patients from the MRC who were receiving care in other satellite units in the Gaspé will be able to receive it in Rocher-Percé. The majority will be repatriated," notes Maxime Bernatchez, Director of Nursing at the CISSS de la Gaspésie.

This relocation of patients will create additional places in the Gaspésie's three other units: Sainte-Anne-des-Monts has six seats, while three are available in Gaspé and Maria.

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

"In the medium term, we're going to repatriate the vast ma-

jority of the hemodialysis patients currently served in Rimouski," says Mr Bernatchez, adding that this should be possible by the autumn.

The team of nephrologists is based in Rimouski, and once patients have been diagnosed, they are transferred to one of the satellite sites in the Gaspé region.

The fact that 37 new nurses have obtained their licence to practise following examination by the Ordre des infirmières is adding resources to enhance the service.

Work to expand the Gaspé centre is continuing and will

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Lobster price drops in the fourth week

Huge quantities caught in Atlantic provinces push the price down

GILLES GAGNÉ

BONAVENTURE – The price of lobster paid to Gaspesian fishermen has fallen sharply since weeks three and four of the 2024 season. The main reason is the huge quantities of shellfish caught by fishermen in the Atlantic provinces.

The price in the fourth week fell to \$6.76 per pound, after the first two weeks at the excellent price of \$8.13, and a third week at \$7.22.

Bill Sheehan, vice-president of E. Gagnon et Fils, the main lobster buyer of the Gaspé Peninsula, says that week four's price trend was not a surprise.

"It is a little lower than we thought but it is the demand and supply game. There is a lot of lobster caught from all the Atlantic Provinces. There is so much lobster caught in Nova Scotia that they (fishermen and processing plants) have to leave some lobster in large traps in the sea because they can't process it. So, they call our Montreal clients and



The catches of the Gaspé Peninsula remain good this year, but the overwhelming volumes landed in the Maritimes reduce the economic impact of the regional lobster on Quebec's and Maine's markets.

Photo: G. Gagné

try to cut prices. It works sometimes. We have two truck trailers ready to leave for Maine this week, and they were cancelled. I don't have the exact reason, but it is probably because our Maine clients were able to get a better deal," explains Bill Sheehan.

Lobster catches have traditionally been significant in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

The fourth Atlantic Province, Newfoundland and Labrador, used to be a minor player in that field, but that has changed.

"One Newfoundland plant reports a 280% increase in landings. Lobster used to be small in Newfoundland but have grown over the last years, like here in the Gaspé Peninsula. The last price offered by a Newfoundland lobster buyer was \$6.06 per

pound," stresses Mr. Sheehan.

A very quiet Asian market

"There is another factor this year regarding Asian markets. We don't see a strong demand from China for live lobster. By paying \$20 per pound last winter for Nova Scotia lobster, some Chinese buyers might have lost interest and they decided to buy less. What is not sold in China (by Nova Scotians or New Brunswickers, who export live lobster by plane to Asia) will go to Montreal or Boston, where we sell a lot," states Bill Sheehan.

He explains that this year is not disastrous so far in the Gaspé Peninsula.

"The catches are good. I don't think they are as good as last year but considering the weather we had (in May), it remains good. The market is difficult. Everything ends up sold, but there is too much lobster on the market. However, a big Nova Scotia zone

is about to close for the season, so it might diminish the quantities," says Mr. Sheehan.

At times, recently, the Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé processing plant couldn't sell the usual quantities of lobster for this time of the year, and workers were called to process it on a Sunday, which is usually a day off for them.

"It remains a good year so far when we look at the average price of the first four weeks of catches. We make up for it with good volumes. Normally, every year, the price will increase around Father's Day, on June 16 this year. Other zones will close and the quantities available will decrease. Father's Day is followed by other events, Canada Day and United States' Independence Day, which contribute to increased demand. The price follows the same curve, we hope that Quebecers will prefer Quebec lobster at an equal price, or even if ours is 25 cents more per pound," concludes Bill Sheehan.

Gasoline prices: Pierre Fitzgibbon is resistant to setting a maximum price

GILLES GAGNÉ

BONAVENTURE – Quebec's Minister of the Economy, Innovation and Energy, Pierre Fitzgibbon, is resistant to imposing a ceiling price, or maximum price, for gasoline in the Gaspé Peninsula, despite having the authority to do so. This stance comes as the region has displayed the highest average gasoline price in the province for 10 years, with the exception of Northern Quebec.

As the tourist season gets underway in the Gaspé Peninsula, a report prepared by university expert Robert Clark, on behalf of Pierre Fitzgibbon's ministry, demonstrates that the profit margin of gasoline retailers in Gaspé, the town selected by the expert, has increased from 9 to 15.2 cents per litre, a hike of 68.8%, between 2021 and 2023. A fairly similar trend also affects the North Shore region.

During the 2018-2023 period, the profit margin in Gaspé increased from 9.4 cents to 14.7 cents per litre. In Quebec, this margin increased from 6.5 cents to 10.2 cents per litre for

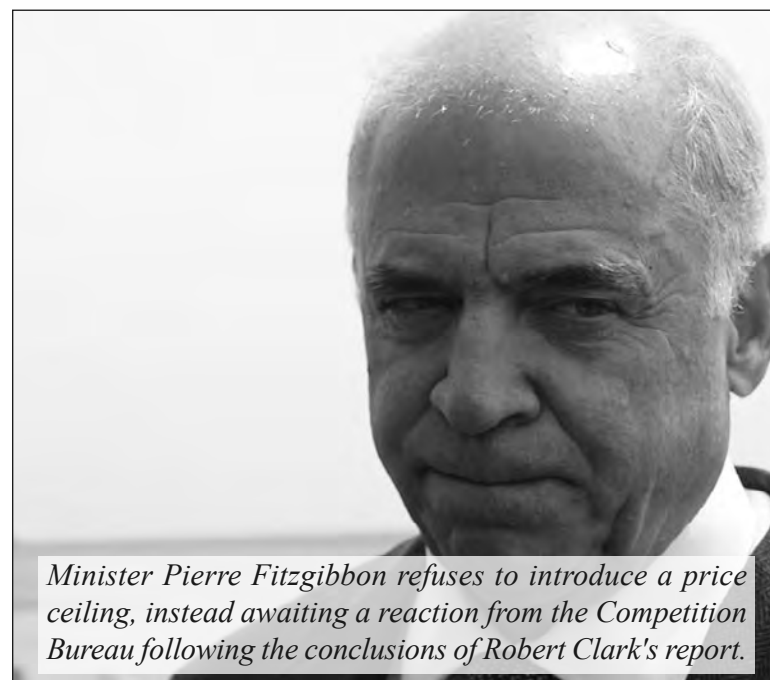
the same period, according to the province's Energy Board, which observes the same trends as Robert Clark's study entitled *Étude sur le marché de la vente au détail de l'essence au Québec* (Study in the gasoline retail market in Quebec).

Despite a higher profit margin of around 45% in the Gaspé Peninsula compared to the Quebec average, Minister Fitzgibbon does not favour action on his part.

"I would have the power to change the price, to set a maximum price. I don't want to do it. (...) I'm waiting for news from the Competition Bureau. We don't want to go there - toward the imposition of a price ceiling. Our job is to monitor the situation. I don't like this concept (price-ceiling)," says Pierre Fitzgibbon, without going any further or deeper in his explanation.

He spent a few hours in Bonaventure on May 27 to meet with the members of the Baie-des-Chaleurs Chamber of Commerce, engaging with them in a speed-dating fashion.

In his report, Robert Clark identifies the lack of competi-



Minister Pierre Fitzgibbon refuses to introduce a price ceiling, instead awaiting a reaction from the Competition Bureau following the conclusions of Robert Clark's report.

Photo: G. Gagné

tion as a key factor in explaining the situation in Gaspé and many other places in Gaspésie, as well as on the North Shore.

"The theory suggests that these markets may therefore be able to pass on cost increases more easily to consumers and be slower to pass on cost reductions," says Clark, who works for Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and at HEC Montréal (Hautes études commerciales).

The presence of a small

number of service stations, only six in Gaspé in particular, would explain the lack of competition between these businesses. There has also been no independent gas station in this town for two years.

Robert Clark's report was submitted to the Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Energy on March 28. It was published on May 16 by this ministry. As the SPEC recently reported, the release of the report led to a simultaneous drop

of 10 cents per litre of fuel in the Gaspé sector.

Robert Clark recommends the abolition of the minimum price resulting from the Petroleum Products Act, a tool praised by Pierre Fitzgibbon "to allow prices to be lowered," he remarked in Bonaventure.

Robert Clark suggests instead establishing a transparency regime that would require gas stations to transmit their changes in fuel prices displayed at the pump on a daily basis, which would be published by the Quebec Energy Board.

In 2023, the Gaspé Peninsula occupied the first position for the highest fuel prices in Quebec 30% of the time. This factor, in particular, contributed to inflating its annual average.

The floor price is seen as a two-edged sword by experts. It allows a reduction in fuel prices, but it can also momentarily lead to very low prices to force the closure of independent retailers, which generally leads to lasting price increases subsequently.

Police report

Marc-André Lavoie, 34, from Nouvelle charged with several violent crimes entered a plea of guilty on 13 of the 17 charges laid against him, following events that occurred in a Miguasha house on January 30. Mr Lavoie last appeared in court on May 16 at the New Carlisle Courthouse, and Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida sentenced him to six-and-a-half years of detention in a federal penitentiary.

“He pleaded guilty on the main charges laid against him, namely break and enter, armed robbery, using a firearm to commit an illegal act, forcible confinement, pointing a firearm, assault, aggravated assault, voluntarily wounding an animal (a dog in that case), plotting, and breach of probation for using a firearm while he was forbidden to do so,” explains criminal prosecutor Cédric Leblanc-Falardeau, based at the New Carlisle Courthouse.

Marc-André Lavoie and his alleged accomplice stormed into a house on Miguasha Road on January 30 at about 1:30 in the morning. An altercation followed. The alleged accomplice is Michael Martin, 35, from Gesgapegiag. Both men were arrested on Indian Drive in Gesgapegiag a few hours after the altercation. Michael Martin has pleaded not guilty and will return to court on June 5 for his preliminary hearing. He faces 18 charges related to the same January 30 event.

“Since Mr. Lavoie was kept in custody since his arrest, he still had 2,212 days to serve in a penitentiary when the sentence was given on May 16. This is about six years and one month,” adds criminal prosecutor Landry-Falardeau.

Régis Savoie, 31, from Kedgwick, New Brunswick, entered a plea of guilty on May 16 at the New Carlisle Courthouse for events that occurred on November 13 in Pointe-à-la-Croix. He was sentenced to serve a five-year penitentiary term by Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida. “He pleaded guilty of firing shots in the windshield of another man’s vehicle, aggravated assault, using a firearm without a permit, leaving a crime scene, dangerous driving, and theft and mischief of less than \$5,000.

Mr. Savoie stole a van on Chemin de la Petite-Rivière-du-Loup in Pointe-à-la-Croix around 2:30 a.m. on November 13, 2023. The owner of the vehicle witnessed the crime and went after the thief, using another car. Along the way, a series of impacts between vehicles took place. As both vehicles were stopped, the witness got out of the car and Mr. Savoie discharged a firearm in his direction. He was arrested shortly after. The criminal prosecutor objected to Régis Savoie’s release. Five years of incarceration makes 1,725 days, less 279 days Régis Savoie had already served when the sentence was rendered, which left him with 1,446 days to serve in a federal penitentiary as of May 16.

A rescue operation for five stranded fishermen was carried out near Grande-Grave along the coast of Forillon Park around 10 a.m. on the morning of May 27.

One of the fishermen used his cellphone to call his uncle who was fishing in the area. The Canadian Coast Guard from Rivière-au-Renard and the Auxiliary Coast Guard from Gaspé were also called to intervene, but the other fishing boat arrived on the scene first and successfully rescued the fishermen, whose boat had capsized.

The fishermen were brought back to the Grande-Grave wharf where they were taken care of by paramedics and taken to the hospital as a precaution. The five men owe their lives to the compact life jackets they were wearing. Strong winds were blowing in the area when the accident occurred. As SPEC was reaching its deadline, an investigation was underway to clarify the cause of the accident.

Jonathan Element, 38, from Gaspé, is back behind bars two months after his mid-March release. At that time, he had served a bit more than two weeks of detention for numerous charges of violence against an ex-partner. Mr. Element is once again detained for having broken his release conditions. He will return to the Percé Courthouse on June 25. Mr. Element is suspected of harassment, assault causing bodily harm, death threats, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose in a public space, driving while impaired and possession of methamphetamine. He was recently apprehended near a residence in a Sandy Beach neighbourhood. Mr. Element had previously broken into the house before leaving the premises. When he returned, several patrol officers were there waiting for him, and he was arrested.



The vehicle was hauled out of the river on May 25.

Photo: Anonymous

Truck remains stuck in salmon pool for over a week

● NELSON SERGERIE

CHANDLER - On May 25, during a dramatic maneuver by authorities and under the watchful eye of about 15 witnesses, a truck, stuck in a salmon pool since May 16 was removed from the waters of the Petit Pabos River in Chandler.

The owner of the Dodge Ram reportedly attempted to cross the river, but his vehicle got stuck in the pool, which is a breeding ground for Atlantic salmon and smelt.

Citizens were concerned about the vehicle's presence, especially since they could see traces of oil and antifreeze leaks.

According to anonymous sources who spoke to magaspésie.ca, wildlife officers were at the scene last week, in an attempt to determine how to remove the vehicle from the river.



On May 25, a Timberjack was mobilized to remove the truck from the river.

Biologists from the Ministry of Wildlife were also

present on May 23, a sign that an investigation would be opened and charges could be laid. If the owner of the truck is found guilty, the fines could be steep.

This is not the first time a motor vehicle has attempted to cross the river and ended up getting stuck. The situation is regularly denounced on social media.

Authorities are looking into the matter to find a permanent solution, as the issue poses a threat to the aquatic fauna in this fragile sector of the river.



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Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Austerity will no longer cut it for Quebec's Liberal Party

During the end-of-May convention held in Bromont, Quebec's Liberal Party interim leader Marc Tanguay called current Premier François Legault "the worst premier in modern Quebec history." The problem is that the party had just invited former premiers Jean Charest and Philippe Couillard to the same convention.

Mr. Charest is best remembered for his lack of political ethics, as he and his supporting cast encouraged Liberal Party fundraising practices that regressed Quebec by 50 years. Contractors could basically buy construction deals through contributions to the party's electoral fund. The way those contributions were designed, like asking a firm's numerous employees to make donations, was also denounced by the Charbonneau Commission.

Among all Quebec premiers who have won a majority government over the last 80 years, Philippe Couillard is the only one who failed to secure a second term for reasons other than resigning or dying. The cause for that is undoubtedly related to his austerity measures, implemented in 2014 and 2015.

When Mr. Couillard won the April 2014 election, the Quebec economy was thriving. However, his government initiated so many budgetary cuts that year and committed to implementing so many more in the future that by November and December 2014, an economic slowdown was knocking at the door. Public sector employees and the private sector were very nervous, not knowing what the short and medium term would bring.

Outside Montreal and Quebec City, regions were fighting to keep their economic tools, such as the Local Development Centres and the Regional Conference of elected officials (CRE). The Couillard government cut \$300 million of regional development money and used it to put together a better fiscal transfer deal for the capital and the metropolis.

In August 2017, an in-depth study revealed that the majority of public residences for seniors were in bad or poor condition and required urgent up-

grades.

A similar study indicated that same year that most of Quebec's schools were in a terrible state.

So, the people who had built modern Quebec and the young generation, which will eventually take over the province, were treated like second-class citizens.

Over the last year of their term, Philippe Couillard and the members of his cabinet obliterated the word austerity from their vocabulary, after witnessing the highly negative perception emanating from its use. They adopted fiscal responsibility instead, even though austerity perfectly fit the economic definition of what they had implemented between 2014 and 2017.

In August 2018, when François Whittom, the Liberal Party candidate in Bonaventure, launched his political platform, he said that improving the region's demography was his priority. He was caught flat-footed during the question period when asked why the government he wanted to represent had cut 95% of the organization, Vivre en Gaspésie, or Living in the Gaspé Peninsula, charged with recruiting newcomers. He was first silent and finally mumbled something to the effect that budgetary cuts were necessary during Philippe Couillard's first term.

Budgetary accountability holds significant importance in today's complex world. However, cutting 95% of an organization that had been able to post a positive balance in interregional population movements since the end of the 2000s was not responsible.

A surplus does not automatically indicate sound management

Today, the Liberal Party of Quebec is trying to position itself as the only party present at the National Assembly, tied to federalism and promoting budgetary responsibility, hence the decision to invite Philippe Couillard to the last convention.

It speaks volumes about the party's lack of inspiration and reflection shortcomings regarding what its orientations could be.

How about some originality? What should the party's new trademark, or trademarks be, the factors that will allow citizens to differentiate it from the other parties?

Being nostalgic about the \$7 billion surplus left by the Liberal Party to the Coalition avenir Québec in 2018 is futile. Most Quebecers have quickly forgotten that surplus because the government's investment needs amounted to tens of billions of dollars in 2018 to repair hospitals, schools, seniors'

residences, roads and bridges neglected over a couple of previous decades.

The Liberal Party was not the only party responsible for that mess. Most of the previous governments, from Lucien Bouchard, who had also promoted austerity between 1995 and 2001, to Pauline Marois, including Jean Charest, were negligent in maintaining infrastructure. Bernard Landry had better respect for public roads, buildings and service but he was only there for two years and three months. He completed the term of Lucien Bouchard before losing the 2003 election.

There are other ways of assessing a government than solely looking at the size of the surplus.

A year-and-a-half after winning the 2018 election, Premier François Legault dealt with the pandemic, which generated huge costs for the health and education systems.

The CAQ government was also forced to cope with a worldwide high inflation rate, something that hadn't been experienced since the mid-1970s. That government can hardly be blamed for the way public finances were administered between 2020 and 2022.

The situation is different now. Liberal Party leader Marc Tanguay is right to point a finger at the \$11 billion deficit announced in March by current Finance Minister Éric Girard.

The deficit would have been smaller had the CAQ government avoided sending cheques worth close to \$7 billion to a very wide range of taxpayers, even those earning high salaries, prior to the 2022 election, thus fueling the inflation rate. Another \$7 billion round of tax breaks, which also included high-income people who didn't need it, would have lowered the anticipated deficit for 2024-2025.

However, as long as the Liberal Party officials will stick to criticizing the CAQ essentially on such arguments, and expect that an austerity position will propel them to power, the party will not be perceived as a contender.

The recent Pallas Data poll nevertheless revealed at the end of April that popular support now reaches 23% for the Liberal Party, an 8% rise compared to the previous consultation. The CAQ is now in third position at 20%, with the Parti Québécois leading with 33%.

There is a bit of room for hope for the Liberal Party. The leadership race will take place a year down the road, roughly 15 months prior to the next electoral campaign and will thus appear more often on the public scene. The party will nevertheless need more than budgetary responsibility to secure victory.

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

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

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

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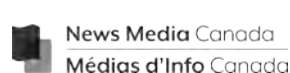


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A difficult shrimp fishing season

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - While the shrimp fishing season is progressing as planned, the bleak outlook from the start has become a reality.

Only four fishermen out of the thirty or so Quebec fleet have taken to the sea since the start of the season and, according to the Quebec Office of Shrimp Fishermen, no other shrimp fishermen intend to put their boat in the water.

Catch rates are “okay” in the Esquiman and Estuary sectors, but few fishermen have allocations in these areas.

“In the Sept-Îles area, it remains catastrophic. It was already last year and it's even worse this year. We had a fisherman who went out to try last week, and it confirmed the anemic catch rates,” mentions the director of the office, Patrice Element.

In the Anticosti area, a fisherman went there. “Without saying that it's extraordinary, there is a little more shrimp landings than in Sept-Îles,” adds Mr. Element.

Faced with less-than-ideal success, Mr. Element does not believe that any other fisherman will bother putting



Photo: N. Sergerie

Shrimp boats are a rare sight this fishing season.

their boats in the water.

The possibility of capturing the quota of 3,060 metric tonnes is a mirage.

“It's almost impossible because with the catch rates we have and the number of boats fishing, even if the fishermen harvested the entire quota, they won't have time to catch everything,” he said.

“A third of Quebec's quotas are in the Sept-Îles zone and it is very unlikely that there will be significant fishing in this zone. We can already say that almost all of the quotas in the Sept-Îles zone will stay in the water,” continues Mr. Element.

The director hasn't received any indication that there will be any support assistance from the federal government for the fishermen.

The future remains uncertain, especially since Ottawa has still not announced the next steps for the redfish fishing which should normally begin on June 15.

“The climate is extremely gloomy among fishermen in general with the situation of the fleet. In the case of shrimp fishermen, probably half the fleet is technically bankrupt. There's not much positive going on these days,” laments the director.

Economic spinoffs from tourism continue to increase

Nelson Sergerie

MONT-JOLI - According to data for the April 2023 to March 2024 tourism season, the Gaspé Peninsula was visited by 864,000 people, generating economic spinoffs totalling \$525.5 million.

While the tourist attendance component only increased by 1% in the region compared to the previous year, the economic impact increased by 18%.

“We are very happy,” notes the director of Tourisme Gaspésie, Joëlle Ross, in reference to the tourist statistics.

The statistics show a constant growth in both the number of tourists and the economic spinoffs from their time spent on the Gaspé Peninsula.

“We are not 100% complete. There is still room in the Gaspésie. I think, that for this summer, it is important to book and plan your vacation according to what you want to do,” notes Ms. Ross.

With Mother Nature wreaking havoc last year, causing a summer with more than usual precipitation and little snow during the first part of winter, businesses have been forced to think of ways to adapt.

“We are on the seaside most of the time. We have to adapt to this new reality. You have to have plans A, B and even C. We are not safe from a forest fire or a road closure. You always have to think about it. We didn't think about it 10 years ago, but now we no longer have a choice,” says the director.

Tourisme Gaspésie has an annual budget of \$5 million and the organization is in excellent financial health.

“We were part of the regional tourist associations which were lucky in Quebec. During the pandemic, we managed to hold onto our promotional campaigns. We didn't spend money that wasn't necessary and had a good summer but you still have to be careful. That doesn't mean that the years to come will be good,” analyzes Ms. Ross.

The upcoming summer looks positive. “I think it's going to be like last summer. People have a little less money. We are a region far from major centres. You have to be careful and greet people in the right way. We always have good intentions, but the reality is completely different,” suggests the director.

In the last year, \$1 million was invested in promoting the destination, all seasons combined, and \$1 million was provided as a subsidy through development programs.

The organization which has 681 members, an increase of 2%, held its general meeting virtually on May 23, with two new members sitting on the board of directors.

Chocolatier Carl Pelletier from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts has been named president of Tourisme Gaspésie.



Photo: N. Sergerie

The Haldimand No. 4 well, near Forest Street in Gaspé.

30 problematic oil wells in the Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - According to a Government of Quebec survey dated March 31, there are 30 problematic oil wells in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands.

The information was made available after a request for information was made to the Ministry of the Economy, Innovation and Energy following the advertisement of a call for interest on the department's online tendering site.

The Quebec government launched the call for interest to determine the interest and capacity of companies in conducting corrective work and definitive well closures.

This approach will establish a call for tenders model which could be attractive on the market, with the goal of correcting the problems linked to inactive wells under the responsibility of the ministry.

When problems are noted that could present a risk, the ministry says it takes action to

avoid any issues for the environment as well as the health and safety of individuals.

Problematic wells have been subject to risk mitigation measures such as installing socks to absorb oil flow or the installation of a fence to restrict access to a well. The measures are temporary, until the definitive closure of the wells, which are closely monitored until the final corrective work is carried out.

Two years ago, the government of Quebec adopted a law ending the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the province, effectively closing the chapter on the controversial exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons, in the region particularly in the Gaspé area where there was never any social acceptability.

When the law was adopted, the government of Quebec announced that it would lead to the permanent closure of 62 oil wells. At the time, Quebec allocated \$33 million for their rehabilitation.



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Statistics Canada issues new report: Vast majority of eligible children were in English schools in 2021

CYNTHIA DOW

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - In mid-May, Statistics Canada released a new report on the number of students attending English-language schools across Quebec. Entitled “Maps and key facts on schooling in English-language schools in Québec, 2021” the report gives a geographical breakdown of the proportion of eligible children attending English schools across the province.

The 2021 census was the first one which gathered data on the language of instruction of Official Language (English and French) minority children across the country. The report on Quebec shows that, in the Gaspésie area, the vast majority of children eligible to attend school in English are in fact going to school in English.

The report notes that to be eligible to attend English-language schools, children must have at least one parent who attended an English-language primary school in Canada, or a sibling who attended an English-language primary or secondary school in Canada.

These restrictions came into effect with the passage of the original Charter of the French Language in 1977, and have led to a dramatic impact on English schools



The report states that 340 children across the region aged between 5 and 17 years of age who are eligible for English language schooling have never attended school in English in Canada or Québec.

across the province, which previously were able to admit francophone and allophone children.

Across Quebec, an average of 76.2% of the 230,075 eligible children are in English schools. In the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region, the percentage is a tiny bit higher at 76.4%. A total of 1,440 children in the region are eligible to attend school in English.

Looking at the details, the New Richmond area stands out as significantly different from the rest of the region: with only 58% of eligible children attending school in English in 2021. This contrasts strongly with Hope Town where, at the time of the study, 100% of eligible

children were enrolled in English school, New Carlisle, where the rate was 90%, and Gesgapegiag where the rate was 86%. Gaspé had the fourth highest rate at 79%.

Similar to New Richmond, just over half of eligible children in the Magdalen Islands attended school in

English (54%) in 2021, including 100% enrolment of eligible children in Grosse Île.

The report states that 340 children across the region aged between 5 and 17 years of age who are eligible for English language schooling have never attended school in English in Canada or Québec.

The report was the topic of the call-in portion of CBC’s Radio Noon program on May 28. Callers to the show indicated a number of reasons why they had chosen French language schooling for their children. Some wanted to ensure their children become fluently bilingual, while others believed that their children’s English language skills were good enough since they spoke English at home. For others, proximity to their children’s school was a major issue. Some CBC listeners also expressed the perception that their local French school has more resources available for special needs and extracurricular activities.

SPEC would love to hear from our readers about this issue. Let us know why you chose either the English or the French system to educate your child. Email us at specs@globetrotter.net.

If you would like to have a look at the report, it is available online at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/89-657-x/89-657-x2024003-eng.pdf?st=0B6Zw0II>

Who is eligible to receive instruction in English in Québec?

The Ministère de l’Éducation is more precise than the Statistics Canada report.

According to their website, a certificate of eligibility is generally issued to children:

- who have received the major part of their elementary or secondary school instruction in English in Canada;
- whose brother or sister did the major part of his or her elementary or secondary studies in English in Canada;
- whose father or mother did the major part of his or her elementary studies in English in Canada;
- whose father or mother attended school in Québec after August 26, 1977, and could have been declared eligible for instruction in English at that time.

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Chaleur Bay area loses two beloved “book bag ladies”

CYNTHIA DOW

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - When Anne MacWhirter and Lally Mackenzie (née) Mitchell passed away earlier this spring, their loss was mourned by many in the Chaleur Bay area. They both created lasting legacies with their work on various community initiatives.

Anne passed away on March 18 at 76 years of age, while Lally was 83 when she passed away on April 11.

The two educators had much in common: both were from Ontario: Lally from Toronto and Anne from Larnark. They both worked for the Eastern Shores School Board, and they both ran Bed and Breakfast accommodations in their spare time.

Known to many young parents as the “book bag ladies,” Lally and Anne collaborated to create the Born to Read program which included providing new parents with bags of books for their toddlers, including “Mother Goose”.

“Now three local CLSCs and the community of Gesgapegiag have adopted this program,” Heather MacWhirter, the Executive Director of Family Ties in New Carlisle, told SPEC. She believes the initiative first took root in the late 1980s.



Photo: Courtesy Kathy MacKenzie

Lally MacKenzie tutored many students over the years including her granddaughter, Rebecca Sullivan, pictured here, who she helped with her French and English.

Born to Read now also includes a “welcome baby” book delivered in the first 24 hours after the baby’s birth, a bag of books at four months, and an additional five books and school materials when the child reaches four years of age.

“Both Anne and Lally recognized the importance of reading to children at an early age, and of having books in the home,” Shirley Duncan told SPEC. Over the years, in her various roles within the Eastern Shores School Board, Mrs. Duncan worked with both of the educators.

She noted that Lally, who

was in charge of Early Childhood Education for the Board, was much appreciated by all the principals and teachers who worked with her. “Lally had tremendous rapport with the teachers and students and was always willing to go anywhere at any time when called upon. She had a special charisma that endeared her to children, and they appreciated her help with any learning difficulties they might have.”

The Early Childhood Coordinator for Family Ties, Amie Major, told SPEC, “Lally noticed gaps. She saw that there was not much for

children’s literacy before pre-k and kindergarten.” Besides her involvement in the Born to Read program, Lally also started play school on Sundays, using the alphabet as a basis for activities.

Every fall, Lally asked Family Ties to identify a family that could use a special lift at Christmas. She would then prepare their Christmas meal, and buy gifts for the whole family, all done anonymously.

She carried this out until last year. “She was something, a truly beautiful woman,” Heather MacWhirter told SPEC.

For her part, Anne’s role in literacy efforts included presiding over the Home and School Association for many years. She was particularly good at sourcing materials and books for various literacy programs. “She would go up to Montreal for Home and School meetings, and come back loaded with books and all sorts of things for the children,” Heather MacWhirter told SPEC.

Over the years, Anne also shared a lot of programming ideas with the team at Family Ties, adding significantly to the variety of services offered. She held literacy workshops and, according to Shirley Duncan, became an expert at teaching children with dyslexia and other learning difficulties.

Mrs. Duncan acknowledged the amazing impact both women had in their adoptive communities. “Those two influenced thousands of children over the years. Their legacy will live on in the people they taught.”



Photo: Courtesy Gordon MacWhirter

Anne’s husband, Gordon MacWhirter, presented her with flowers this past Valentine’s Day. “I said ‘Yes’ again,” Anne said in an online post.

Mayor discusses air transportation with Federal Transport Minister

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, took advantage of his meetings at the Quebec Union of Municipalities conference from May 22 to 24 in Montreal to discuss regional air transportation with Federal Transport Minister Pablo Rodriguez.

According to Daniel Côté, the minister is aware of the issues and has been a good listener, but hasn’t made any commitments.

“For example, the safety standards are the same in regional airports as in international airports, but there is no question of looking at that side. The standardization of norms imposed on regional carriers is the same as national carriers, which adds a burden to our carriers, but they do not want to look at that side,” says Mr. Côté.

The mayor suggested subsidizing regional air services. “There are hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies paid to VIA Rail to serve regions of Canada. If we do it by rail, why can’t we open a small door by air? The only answer I have is ‘We’ll think about it,’” says the mayor.

Mr. Côté noted that the government of Quebec is experimenting with various measures such as \$500 tickets even though it is outside its sector of jurisdiction.



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Moose in the Gaspé Peninsula are not as affected by winter ticks

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - A study that has been underway since 2019 in four Quebec regions and part of New Brunswick shows that young moose in the Gaspé Peninsula are faring better against the winter tick.

The data acquisition phase is complete, but the analysis is ongoing.

Results concerning the mortality rate of moose calves since the start of the project are now available.

One of the areas studied was Forillon Park. "What we know is that this is the place where mortality was the lowest in the project. There was only one moose death linked to a tick, out of 31 marked calves. It only represents 3%," notes Marie-Claude

Richer, a biologist at the Ministry of Wildlife in the Gaspé office.

In other regions, the average mortality rate ranged between 10 and 30%.

"There is one exception. The highest figure is 90% in the Capitale-nationale. This is a place where it was hit harder," notes the biologist.

Several aspects will be analyzed to better understand the data.

"It is linked to the climatic conditions and the density of moose. The study will determine the factors that can influence survival and other aspects concerning ticks," mentions Ms. Richer.

In a region like the Gaspé Peninsula, which has a very high moose rate of 10 animals per 10 square kilome-

tres, this density can present challenges for the animals.

"The high density means that the tick can be more present. The moose is the host of the winter tick. The tick attaches itself much more to moose than to other species. This can support a tick population," explains Ms. Richer.

Long, rainy summers, an early spring and a late fall are factors that promote tick survival.

"This promotes the survival of female ticks and eggs. Subsequently, the larvae can attach themselves to moose and cause damage to moose at the end of winter when their physical condition is at its lowest. This is when the effect of the tick is most pronounced on moose, espe-



A moose in Forillon Park.

Photo: N. Sergerie

cially calves," mentions the biologist.

The results on the behav-

our of the moose calves, as well as the tick itself, will be known at a later date.

Alzheimer's Society's Memory Race raises close to \$15,000

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND - Between May 25 and 27, you may have spotted runners along Highway 132 between Pointe-à-la-Garde and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, via Gaspé. The 32 runners were participating in the Alzheimer Memory Race to raise money for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Alzheimer's Society.

The relay race covered close to 525 kilometres, with the runners being divided into teams and running relays between two specific points, such as Pointe-à-la-Garde to Bonaventure. Each participant covered distances of five or 10 kilometres.

Audrey Cyr, communication officer for the Alzheimer's Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, often referred to as SAGIM, its French acronym, explains that while some donations are still pending, she is confident that \$15,000 will be reached, surpassing the original goal of \$10,000.

"We have collected \$12,500 so far with the donations still to come from our sponsor, Pharmacie Jean-Coutu. Last year, we raised \$25,000 but we also received \$9,000 from the Grande-Rivière annual seafood supper organized to support a specific organization, which changes



Runner and organizer Claude Blais is seen in the photo running in Black Cape.

Photo: G. Gagné

every year. In 2023, it was our turn. We knew that we wouldn't be able to match last year's total. This year's results are very satisfying," explains Ms. Cyr.

The specific goal of the Memory Race is to support the services offered by the SAGIM and to raise money that will be invested in the organization's long-term endowment fund.

"This fund is earmarked to develop new services that we cannot offer with our regular budget. We put the money in that fund and we only use the interest to make those long-term improvements," specifies Maude Cyr.

The region's Alzheimer's Society also organizes a

Memory Walk, which is now held in September, while it previously was held at the end of May.

"It is our major fundraiser. The Memory Race is of a smaller scale. We received support for the Sûreté du Québec during the Memory Race. There was a motorcycle accompanying the runners during the legs (of the race). Claude Blais is a retired Sûreté du Québec officer and some active officers also ran for us. Claude is a board member of SAGIM and an athlete. Like others, he is not scared of taking many relays and accumulating kilometres. Some runners covered as many as 30 and 40 kilometres during the race. Claude has a

lot of drive and provides us with a lot of support," says Maude Cyr.

Over \$300,000 in the endowment fund and English-language services

Claude Blais mentions that "this event allows the bridge between generations. It's inspiring to see young runners getting involved for the well-being of people, often of a certain age, who live with Alzheimer's disease."

Four years after its opening, the SAGIM endowment fund has a sum of \$305,000 to its credit. The honorary president of this year's Memory Race was pharmacist Mélissa Loisel, owner of Pharmacie Jean Coutu in Paspébiac. The Jean Coutu network of pharmacies is the official Memory Race sponsor.

"As you know, Alzheimer's disease is increasing everywhere, including in our region. That's why we are deploying such efforts to raise money," says Maude Cyr.

The Alzheimer Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands offers services in English.

"Amy Roussy provides services in English, from the Chandler office. People can call our Gaspé office, for example, and be transferred to Amy if they wish to talk to her," adds Ms. Cyr.

According to experts, neurocognitive troubles are expected to increase considerably over the next ten to fifteen years. SAGIM takes these studies seriously and puts forward financing activities to ensure the quality of its short and long-term services, she concludes.

Unemployment rate falls

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ- Economic activity continues to pick up as the unemployment rate fell by 1.3% to 10.8% in April in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

Approximately 1,800 jobs were created in April, bringing the total to 33,200. However, this figure conceals a significant drop in the number of jobs, which stood at 36,800 in April 2023.

There were 26,500 full-time jobs in the region last month, which is 3,800 fewer than at the same time last year.

Part-time jobs remain relatively stable from one year to the next: 6,600 this year compared to 6,500 a year ago.

The unemployment rate was 9.1% in April 2023.

L'Émergence offers workplace training to deal with domestic violence

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - L'Émergence, the shelter and assistance centre for abused women located in Maria, recently launched a program to equip and support Gaspé Peninsula-based employers and employees. The organization's goal consists of promoting the safe management of domestic violence situations in the workplace.

A tragic murder in Saint-Omer, a sector of Carleton-sur-Mer, on May 5, 2022, triggered the creation of this program. The program is called PASSE, an acronym that stands for Prevent, Act, Secure, Support and Evaluate. Employers and employees are offered a two-hour training course free of charge in the workplace.

The program, also available in English, includes a theoretical component on the different forms of domestic violence and possible support from managers and work colleagues. Two videos presenting the testimony of a female domestic violence victim and that of the employer David Comeau are also part of it.

Mr. Comeau, owner of Carleton's Manoir Belle Plage, is the ambassador of this training program.

On May 5, 2022, he and his employees were devastated by the femicide of Monique Landry, who had been working at the Manoir Belle Plage for 22 years. She was a deeply appreciated team supervisor.

She was stabbed in the shower by her husband, a few



Photos: G. Gagné

Clinical expert Sophie Duguay, inn owner David Comeau and L'Émergence director general Nancy Gough hope that the employers throughout the Gaspé Peninsula will consider training their staff to detect domestic violence.

days after telling him that they needed to break up. She called the emergency services from home despite her wounds. She lost consciousness during her transfer to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Her husband hung himself following the murder.

David Comeau says both he and the staff were tremendously shocked.

Overcoming guilt

"I had both knees on the ground. (...) I even thought about closing my business after the tragedy. It really is a terrible shock. She is a colleague who had more than 20 years of experience in the

company, who was a department head, who had a lot of people under her wing," he explains.

He felt guilty for a long time after Monique Landry's death. "During her last day of work, before her death, she received many phone calls from her husband. She was preoccupied but she never complained. I wondered for a long time if I could have detected her problems before the murder and if my actions could have changed her fate. It still happens today. Maybe it wouldn't. I think that if she and I had followed the Emergence training, it would probably have changed the course of events. She would have understood something," he now says.

He also thinks that Monique Landry's colleagues could also have noticed something wrong.

"She never complained, however, she spent a lot of time here. She worked even during her vacation period, not putting her hours on her time sheet. That was also a sign that she was not happy at home. We realize it now," he says with emotion.

Mr. Comeau transformed his guilt into action by contacting L'Émergence, of which he is today an administrator, the only man to sit on the organization's board.

"I had a visceral need to get involved. The cause really motivated me. Light springs from chaos and, for me, light was the PASSE program," he assures.

"I will never know how to say it loud enough: 'Companies must use this training,'" adds David Comeau.

Workplaces, a safety net

The director of L'Émergence, Nancy Gough, explains that the idea of the PASSE program emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic when violence in marital and post-separation situations was exacerbated.

"This has fueled our desire to act even further upstream to inform, raise awareness and train those women who suffer violence, because everyone, in our own way, can play a vital role and prevent femicide, save lives and safely support a woman who is experiencing domestic vio-

HEMODIALYSIS:

Cont'd from cover

add one chair to the three in place once the work is completed to treat two more patients.

The facilities, which will be located in the former emergency department, will be designed to accommodate up to six chairs when required.

"We are aware of the vulnerability of our population, which is aging. It's a wise move as an organization to plan for the future, so that we can maintain our proximity to the population," explains the CISSS's Director of Nursing.

lence," she believes.

Ms. Gough argues that professional environments have a role to play in preventing domestic violence and helping victims.

The workplace can be recognized as a safety net for these women. It is often a place where the woman feels safe, a place which is conducive to confessions if the winning conditions are put in place, she adds.

The training is offered by clinical expert Sophie Duguay, who has worked 15 years at L'Émergence, the last two as head of the organization's clinic.

"One of the training's goals is to provide tools to workers, so that they feel safe when they leave the workplace. The program is constantly upgraded with the experience we gather along the way," points out Ms. Duguay.

Since the new Health and Safety at Work Act came into force in October 2021, employers and workers have a role to play in "identifying the risks linked to violence and stopping it in the workplace," specifies the Commission for Standards, Equity, Health and Safety at Work (CNESSST).

"The woman in this situation does not need to be told what to do. Often they feel ashamed. They want to protect their loved ones," explains David Comeau. What they need is to know that there is someone there to listen to them when the time comes, he assures.

MURAL:

Cont'd from cover

Baie-des-Chaleurs and represents an investment of nearly \$25,000, including the upstream repair and preparation of the walls as well as the artwork itself.

The Baie-des-Chaleurs Health Foundation spokesperson Amy Chloé Bernard thanks, on behalf of her board members, the generosity of donors who have contributed to the pediatrics department for several years.

"Their involvement in the community makes it possible for the foundation to pursue its mission - to land and implement projects like this for 35 years," points out Ms. Bernard.



Nancy Gough explains that the pandemic led to a surge in domestic violence.

Announcements



Obituaries



DUGUAY: Kenneth Elwood

January 16, 1935 - December 24, 2023

In the early morning of December 24, 2023, Kenneth (Ken) Duguay, a loving and true husband, caring Dad, proud Grandpa/Papa, devoted brother, father-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle, friend and neighbour passed away peacefully at Maria Hospital.

Ken was born in the picturesque village of Gascons. He was the third eldest of seven children to parents Edward and Annie (Assels) Duguay. Ken then moved to Shigawake. He worked in the Murdochville mines where he received his apprenticeship as an electrician. He then went on to work as a master electrician in Elliot Lake, Blind River, Mount Wright and Port Cartier. He moved home to Shigawake and went on to have a successful career as an electrician, as well as, a teacher of mechanics, welding and carpentry at Gaspé and Bonaventure Polyvalent Schools until his retirement in 1998. Then he turned to what he loved: working in the woods, hunting, fishing and spending time with his family.

Ken served as Mayor of Shigawake from 1987 to 2013, 26 years which he enjoyed immensely. Ken became a director of the Agricultural Society and was so happy to see the current direction progressing so well. Ken was a founding member of the Gaspesia Cultural Association which offered many activities to Shigawake's youth over the years. A resident of Shigawake referred to him as "A pillar of the community and a role model for all. His capacity for service in the community was very inspiring."

Ken will forever be remembered as a kind, generous and hardworking man who was so very proud of his Gaspesian roots and family.

Ken is survived by his loving and cherished wife of 42 wonderful years, Sarah (Sullivan) Duguay. He was the proudest of Dads and leaves behind to mourn his son Darrel (Ondina), his daughters Shelley (Louise) and Crystal (Lewis), who loved him dearly.

Ken adored his grandchildren. He was Grandpa and Papa to Anna, Amelia, Rhea, Graham, and Alexandra, who will always remember him as the best Grandpa and Papa ever. As Graham (grandson) would say, "Papa, my hero."

Ken is predeceased by his parents Edward Duguay and Annie (Assels) Duguay, son Mark (Guylaine) Duguay, who he missed dearly. Also brothers Omer (Margaret) Duguay and Winston (Joan) Duguay.

Ken was a loyal and loving brother to Ruth (Ralph, deceased), Gloria (Elton, deceased), Ethel (Bob), and Wilma; brother-in-law Ken Mann

(Sheila, deceased); sisters-in-law, Marcelle Sullivan (Bill, deceased) and Veryl (deceased) (Tom deceased); former wife, Freda Huntington; nieces; nephews; cousins; and lifelong friends who he considered family.

There is no way to express how sorry we feel about his passing. Ken was without exception, as Ken Mann (brother-in-law) expressed, a friend and so often a mentor to all. Ken so often generously shared his incredible knowledge about how to make, do or repair anything electrical, construction, wood-working and most importantly how to be a better person.

A celebration of Kenneth (Ken) Duguay's life will take place at Saint Paul's Anglican Church, Shigawake on June 28, 2024, at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.



MAJOR: Hilda Ruby Stella Hayes

April 24, 1938 - May 18, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, which occurred at Maria Hospital on May 18, 2024, at the age of 86 years.

Predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Ervin Major; brothers Carl, Henry, John, Jules, Alec; sisters Jenny and Joyce.

She leaves behind her beloved daughters Karen (Dan) and Diane; grandchildren Rebecca (Kate), Caleb (Anais), Luke (Mary) and Chase; as well as great-grandson Logan.

Mom was a wonderful mother who was always there when we needed her most, offering support, wisdom and love. Mom was a great cook, gardener, and lover of pets. She loved watching Dr. Pol and Hope for Wildlife on television. A friend to many, she was a cherished member of the community in Niagara Falls, Ontario and the Gaspé Coast.

Visitation was held at the Réjean Bélanger Funeral Home in Paspébiac, on Thursday, May 30,

2024. Visiting hours were from 1 to 2 p.m. with a Celebration Of Life at 2 p.m., followed by the burial at the Bayview Cemetery in Hope. Family and friends were then welcomed for refreshments at Hilda's.

Donations can be made in memory of Hilda Hayes to the CHSLD in New Carlisle.

Professional services were entrusted to the Réjean Bélanger Funeral Home in Paspébiac inc., a subsidiary of the HG Division.



RENOUF: Velda Caron

My most precious sister Velda passed away peacefully May 4, 2024, at Maria Hospital. She leaves behind her husband Claude, sister Donna, and brother Vaughan.

Velda enjoyed cooking, baking, her pugs Scotty and Molly, along with walking and talking to her sister on the phone. Velda loved to work in her yard and was especially proud of all the flowers and trees.

She is now in her forever home, but she will be fondly remembered by her husband, sister and brother.

Thank-you to all who sent cards, flowers, condolences and phone calls, not forgetting the doctors, nurses and staff of the third and fourth floor of Maria Hospital.

Claude, Donna and Vaughan.

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

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

In memory: 150 words - \$35
 150-250 words - \$45

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Covering Port Daniel to New Richmond

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:
York River Community Hall
June 17: The Annual General Meeting for the York River Community Hall will be held at 7 p.m. at the Hall, 702 Boulevard York west. It is important for the public to attend and help support our beautiful hall. Two members from those attending will be chosen at this meeting to sit on the committee and represent the public.

PORT DANIEL:
Three Star Golden Age Club
Tuesdays: Pétanque from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every

Tuesday evening. Cost is \$3.

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 June, 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.

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

CASCADEPEDIA-ST-JULES:
Book Room
Please be advised that the book room is now **closed until September**. Anyone who needs assistance can contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

CASCADEPEDIA-ST-JULES:
50+ Club
Tuesdays: Grocery bingo every Tuesday at 7 p.m. \$10 for three cards. Extra cards are \$1 each.
June 16: Father's Day brunch from 9 a.m. to 12

p.m. 13+ \$16, 7-12 \$8 and 0-6 free.

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

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

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:
The winners for the week of May 1-4 are: Jules Cyr, Bonnie Bujold, Jean-Claude Lévesque and Marc-André Pineault.

The winners for the week of May 5 are: Patrick Cyr, Yves Leblanc, Marlene Robertson, Caroline Leblanc, Régis Cormier, Marc Dimock and Lisette Bourdages.

The winners of the week of May 12 are: Pierrette Babin, Tod Cochrane, Judith Gagnon, Nancy Arbour, Richard Pardiac, Léon Arsenault and Adrienne Poirier.

The winners for the week of May 19 are: Gilles Leblanc, Lauretta Boudreau, Brigitte Gravel, Justine Normandeau, Clément Bernard, James Brash and Brigitte Langanière.

The winners for the week of May 26 to 31: Jennifer Willett, Jules Cyr, Simon Bujold, John Lapointe, Lucille Ferlatt and Marie-Hélène Lagacé.

ANGLICAN CHURCH

OF CANADA
Sunday, June 9
New Carlisle
10 a.m. Morning prayer
Hope Town
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Port Daniel
10 a.m. Morning Prayer

PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, June 9
St Philip - St John, Sandy Beach
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist


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

UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, June 9
2 p.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, June 9
10 a.m. Service


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