

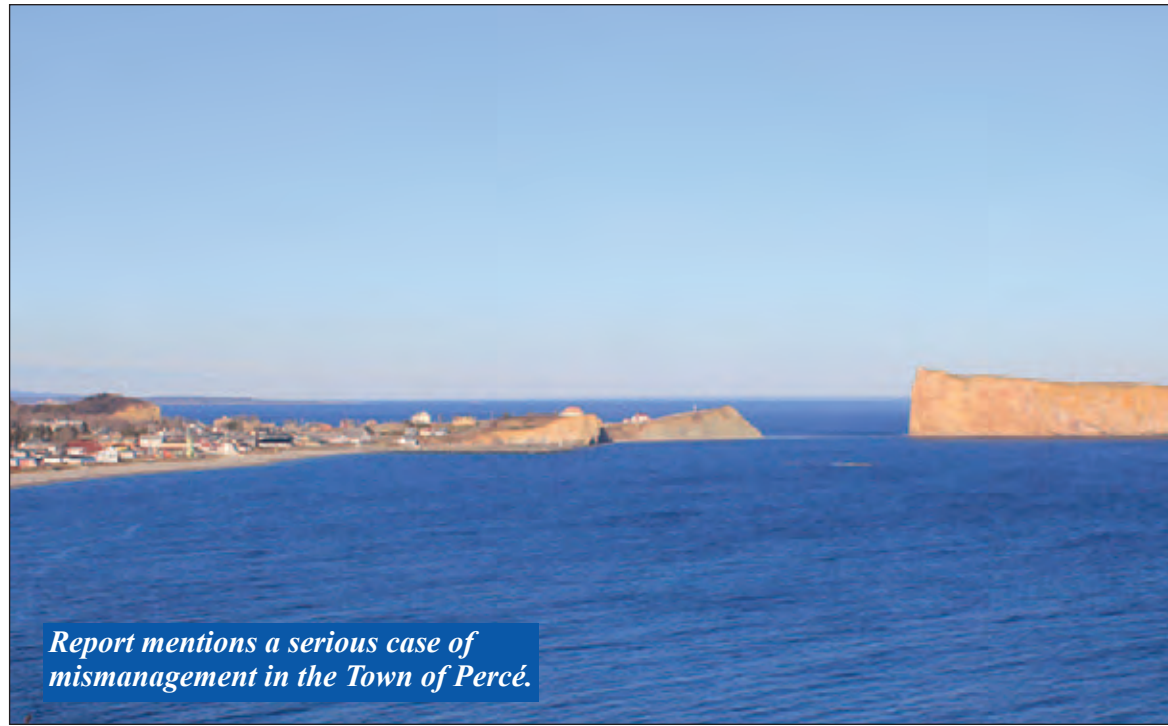
Wrongdoings evident in Percé, according to the Municipal Commission

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ - The Quebec Municipal Commission concludes that wrongdoings were committed in the Town of Percé, but absolves the resigning mayor, Cathy Poirier.

In a report published on the Commission's website on July 12, the Direction des enquêtes et des poursuites en intégrité municipale (DEPIM) concludes from Paragraph 4 of Section 4 of the Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings relating to public bodies that there is a serious case of mismanagement in the Town of Percé.

"We believe that there is a worrying culture regarding compliance with the rules applicable within the Town. This culture is reflected in a flagrant lack of internal control measures and monitoring mechanisms. This is the main



Report mentions a serious case of mismanagement in the Town of Percé.

Photo: G. Gagné

problem identified by the investigation. Thus, the situation in which the Town is currently immersed is caused by numerous dysfunctions, which are only the symptoms of this seri-

ous case of mismanagement and for which accountability cannot be attributed solely to the general management," wrote the president of the Quebec Municipal Commission,

Jean-Philippe Marois, to the interim general manager, Caroline Dégarie, in the letter sent by email on July 12.

The Commission notes that "significant disagreements

persist within the administration and have led to the resignation of several employees. As for the town council, it does not seem to realize the extent of the situation or show any desire to correct it," continued President Marois.

The commission recommends that the Minister of Municipal Affairs ask the commission to appoint an observer to verify whether the measures deployed by the town, including the recommendations contained in the report, are correcting the problem. The observer may recommend the implementation of additional corrective measures.

The president expects the Town and the entire council to actively collaborate in carrying out the observer's mandate if necessary.

Cont'd on page 2

Norman Parent entertains every Monday at the Carleton Marina



Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Mondays are often considered a quiet day for people visiting a tourist region such as the Gaspé Peninsula, as some restaurants and canteens close for the day to give their employees a break. However, at the Marina in Carleton, Mondays are Gaspesian singer and guitar player Norman Parent's happy hours, as the former Miguasha Park paleontology technician, who is now retired, entertains people with his vast repertoire of blues, soul, folk, Québécois and more songs. It has become a magnet for locals and visitors alike. With 50 years of music under his belt, Norman Parent sings several classic hits and sometimes lesser-known songs. Do you want to hear songs by Cat Stevens, BB King or Tom Waits? Do you want to get on the stage and sing with Norman? The Carleton Marina is the place to be on Mondays. When he is available, Norman Parent's nephew, well-known singer Kevin Parent, accompanies his uncle as a sound technician, something he cherishes. Both men will at times sing together. On July 15, Laurent-David Beaulieu, an amateur singer in attendance joined Norman Parent on stage.

In an exceptional gesture, the Commission revealed on February 19 that it was investigating Percé and warned all involved parties of their obligation to participate, under penalty of sanctions.

In the report, the DEPIM indicates that it received disclosures last fall to the effect that the resigning mayor, Cathy Poirier, favours her spouse who occupies the position of director of Urban Planning.

These disclosures were not supported by any factual elements that could be verified.

On October 30, Ghislain Pitre was suspended with pay by the Town while an internal investigation was conducted to shed light on allegations against him, allegations denounced by employees, notes the report.

The commission's report reveals that it was during a meeting at the municipal garage that the complaints about the director of Urban Planning were mentioned, leading to his suspension pending clarification.

The whistleblowers even mentioned that the case would not be publicized if Mr. Pitre resigned or took an early retirement.

A meeting was then held at the mayor's office to inform her of the suspension with pay and the opening of an administrative investigation.

The Town had then ordered an administrative investigation into labour law involving the director from the Therrien, Couture and Joli-Cœur law firm - information that had been revealed to the town council in May.

In its report, the Commission notes that the mayor did not interfere in the internal administrative investigation that

had been suspended at the request of the Permanent Anti-Corruption Unit (UPAC). Once the suspension was in effect, the work environment became tense.

The DEPIM received information that the mayor was responsible for creating a "climate of terror" in the administration offices, which led the union to file a grievance.

The investigation showed that the mayor admitted to experiencing this period with great emotion and that she did indeed commit some of the actions she is accused of - mood swings and certain disapproving actions by the mayor towards employees, particularly whistleblower employees whose identity she knew - while also mentioning that she had apologized to the people concerned.

However, the investigation noted that employee behaviour may have provoked these reactions, in particular, the breach of confidentiality of testimonies given during the investigation by certain employees despite their confidential nature or the withholding of reimbursement of the mayor's expense account.

"In short, the DEPIM investigation shows that the allegations of a "climate of terror" are not only unfounded but also exaggerated. In addition, the investigation shows that employees have engaged in several unjustified conducts toward the mayor that are likely to provoke reactions from her," the report states.

The report also notes that the council meetings following the suspension of the director of Urban Planning are particularly stormy.

"It is clear that citizens have been informed of certain specific allegations related to the suspension of the director of

Urban Planning and are using them to try to discredit the mayor. These situations disrupt the decorum of council meetings and sometimes give rise to disrespectful exchanges," states the Commission's report. The document also mentions serious organizational shortcomings.

"The investigation shows within the municipal administration a worrying culture regarding compliance with applicable rules which, in particular, leads people to exceed their roles and responsibilities," the document states.

The Commission also focused particularly on a grant awarded for the heritage renovation requested by Mr. Pitre.

An agreement was reached in May 2021 between the Ministry of Culture and the Town, with the director of Urban Planning being the sole administrator of the program within the Town.

"In April 2023, the Director of Urban Planning submitted his own grant application for personal renovations, attesting himself to the validity of the work and, in addition, determining approximately the percentage of the grant to which he was entitled. He subsequently submitted his completed file to the person holding the position of Interim Director General (IDG), who also held the position of Treasurer, so that it could be submitted to the council for approval. However, although it seemed obvious that the director of Urban Planning was, at first glance, placed in a problematic situation, the investigation shows that no verification by the IDG was then made to ensure that the application was complete and compliant," notes the Commission.

Due to the Permanent Anti-Corruption Unit (UPAC) in-

vestigation, the Commission believes that intervention would not be appropriate.

Criticisms are also made of the interim director general in this matter.

Shortly before the publication of the report, at the council meeting of July 2 concerning the interim appointment of people to the general management and public works, the DEPIM was informed of the existence of a close relationship between the two people chosen for these positions.

"Since the IDG is called upon, as part of their duties, to supervise the work of the Director of Public Works and to authorize certain expenses, the DEPIM believes that these decisions by the council, under the circumstances, raise concerns about the occurrence of significant conflict of interest situations in the future. At the very least, they place the Municipality in a situation of apparent conflict of interest that is not part of sound management," the report states.

The document concludes that several reprehensible acts were committed against the Town, with several shortcomings in internet control and

monitoring mechanisms.

"The Director General, who held this position from May 2023 to June 2024, was not experienced enough in municipal management to turn around such a failing administration, in the context described above. Thus, the crisis in which the Town is currently immersed is caused by numerous dysfunctions, which are only the symptoms of this serious case of mismanagement and for which the responsibility cannot be attributed solely to the general management. It is nevertheless impossible to ignore the clumsy management of the situation surrounding the decision to suspend the Director of Urban Planning. The DEPIM believes that the meetings held on October 30 in the presence of the whistleblowers, the Director of Urban Planning and the Mayor certainly contributed to the emergence of the tensions subsequently experienced within the administration," the report concludes.

The Town and Jean-François Coderre, the director general at the time, mutually agreed in May to terminate their agreement, which came into effect on June 21.

Quebec Municipal Commission Recommendations:

- Submit the report at the first regular council meeting.
- Immediately deploy the action plan agreed upon at the end of the support with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.
- Mandate a competent resource to implement control and monitoring mechanisms that comply with best practices.
- Offer training to employees and management in ethics and professional conduct, particularly in matters of conflict of interest.
- Mandate a resource to make a diagnosis of human resource needs.
- Recommendation to appoint an observer to check whether the measures deployed correct the issues in the report.

Cathy Poirier reassured by Commission report

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ - The former mayor of Percé, Cathy Poirier, is relieved that the Quebec Municipal Commission's report mentions that she did not interfere in the process surrounding the suspension of the municipality's Urban Planning director.

Cathy Poirier reacted to the report on July 15 following its filing. The document mentions that reprehensible acts occurred in municipal management.

"I received it with relief. The report from the Municipal Commission is the third to take place since last February. I was looking forward to it. We can



read many conclusions and facts that were kept secret until now," says Cathy Poirier.

Over the past few months, at municipal council meetings, several citizens expressed

doubt during question period that the mayor who resigned on July 2 was not involved in the process, despite what the director general at the time, Jean-François Coderre, said.

The director of Urban Planning, Ghislain Pitre, who is Ms. Poirier's spouse, was suspended with pay at the end of October following allegations raised by municipal employees.

"The conclusion is that I did not interfere at all, and the report goes further by mentioning the context of the suspension. I believe that the report did a good job overall. We can see that there have been some fairly serious fail-

ings since last November," notes Ms. Poirier.

The former mayor notes that the situation had become difficult since October.

"The report mentions employee resignations. I can tell you that it is directly linked to this situation. Some employees have been bullied. They have witnessed acts that they could not take responsibility for and they have decided to leave to the detriment of the Town of Percé," she continues.

She also notes that whistleblowers have been very present in the town hall offices.

"This created a climate of

CATHY POIRIER:

▶ *Cont'd from page 2*

mistrust. I was accused of causing a climate of terror. It is terrible to receive the grievance that mentioned it. In the report, it is indicated that it is completely false. It is not only unfounded but exaggerated," says Ms. Poirier. "There has been a lot of manipulation," she adds.

"The town council does not seem to realize the extent of the situation and has not shown any desire to correct it. That speaks for itself. It is also noted that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs had provided support and that, in April, an action plan was filed and that it has not been respected to this day, considering the first action is training on roles and responsibilities. The council has chosen to postpone this training until the fall," mentions Ms. Poirier.

"That is a relief to me

overall because it puts a much broader context than what could be suspected if I refer to the director of urban planning. The investigations are underway," notes Ms. Poirier.

"We can still highlight in the conclusion of the report the clumsy management in the decision to suspend the director of urban planning who was threatened: if he retired, nothing would come out in the media versus if he chose not to retire, there would be an investigation and it would come out in the media. Following that, the investigators will file their reports in due time. For me, the report is satisfactory," sighs the former mayor, mentioning certain elements of the Commission's report.

Ms. Poirier believes guardianship could be necessary. "The Commission is asking the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to provide follow-up support and, if necessary, to request the min-

ister for guardianship that could be partial or complete," explains Ms. Poirier, noting that this point is not clear in the report.

Her point of view comes from discussions with the Commission during the report presentation.

Guardianship could involve only human resources management or even complete guardianship.

Now that the report absolves the former elected official, Ms. Poirier is positive she will not run for mayor again.

"Clearly not. I think I gave a lot of my time and energy. I committed to bringing many improvements to the Town of Percé. I left in a context that was the complete opposite of why I got involved. I have other projects in my life now," she concludes.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs, Andrée Laforest, preferred not to comment on the situation in Percé.

PERCÉ:

Ghislain Pitre has been fired

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ - The Town of Percé has fired its Director of Urban Planning, Ghislain Pitre. The municipal council made this decision in a special meeting on July 17, just minutes after reviewing the administrative labour law investigation report commissioned after Mr. Pitre's suspension with pay on October 30 last year.

The resolution adopted by the council does not mention Mr. Pitre's name, as is customary. However, the resolution read by the acting mayor stated that "whereas executive number 06-0510 has been suspended with pay for the purpose of an investigation since October 30, 2023 (...)," which binds the resolution to Mr. Pitre.



Ghislain Pitre was fired on July 17

Photos: N. Sergerie

The resolution states that "the council of the Town of Percé proceeds with the immediate dismissal of the director, that the Percé town council authorizes Ms. Doris Réhel to sign the letter of dismissal for the director in accordance with the mandate given by the resolution, that the council of the Town of Percé serves by bailiff this resolution and the letter of dismissal to the director," read the pro-mayor, Doris Réhel.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of five to one, with councillor Alisson Cahill-Vibert registering her dissent.

"I am against dismissal. I think that an entire internal investigation within the entire municipal apparatus would be necessary. I would have been

in favour of a long-term suspension without pay," says the councillor.

The council did not receive a copy of the report which was presented by the firm a few minutes before the special meeting to avoid leaks of the document, which is said to be around 340 pages long, according to what was learned.

Since the case risks being brought to court, the municipal council made no further comments on the adopted resolution.

Serious allegations surrounding the director of urban planning had led to his suspension. Suspicions of fraud, theft of large sums of money from the municipality and falsification of documents were directed at him, which led to the launch of an administrative investigation.

Sources had indicated that the alleged facts spanned a long period.

The Permanent Anti-Corruption Unit (UPAC) has taken an interest in the matter, and the conclusions of the investigation are still pending.

In addition, the council appointed Michel Fréchette to the position of Director General, a position that had been vacant since Jean-François Coderre's departure on June 21 by mutual agreement with the town.

Mr. Fréchette has extensive

Police report

A July 16 all-terrain vehicle accident in Marsoui, on the north side of the Gaspé Peninsula, claimed the life of a 58-year-old man. "The emergency services received the call at about 6:30 p.m. as an ATV accident was reported on Route de la Rivière in Marsoui. The victim lost control and was thrown from the vehicle. The Sûreté du Québec (SQ) officers and the firefighters intervened on the scene. The victim was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead," explains Sûreté du Québec communication officer Frédéric Deshaies. The victim was travelling alone. Since the case is still under investigation, Officer Deshaies is unable to provide additional details about who called the emergency services. Although the accident occurred several kilometres outside Marsoui, the location was accessible to the emergency services. The SQ no longer releases the names of the victims in such accidents, leaving the task to the Coroner's Office.

Suspected of having committed several thefts in the New Carlisle area, Travis Smith, 36, has failed a second time to appear in court before Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida. The first time, on May 13, he was supposed to settle his criminal files, as he had committed to such an agreement during an earlier court appearance. Travis Smith is charged with theft after being suspected of stealing from cars and garages, as well as breaking and entering. He is also suspected of assaulting a police officer and making death threats against another policeman during his interrogation. The acts he allegedly committed would have taken place from September 2022 until his arrest in May 2023. "An arrest warrant is still in effect for Mr. Smith," specifies criminal prosecutor Cédric Landry Falardeau. He was released following his May 2023 arrest, pending a commitment to appear in court later, which he did until his May 13, 2024, failure to appear.

During the construction break, the Sûreté du Québec is reminding road users and recreational tourism networks that it will intensify its interventions to encourage caution, both on the road network and on water and trails until August 4. "Safety doesn't take a vacation!" underlines the police. This reminder aims to emphasize that all users must follow road and recreational tourism safety rules and exercise caution throughout the year, even while on vacation, to ensure their safety and that of others.

The construction holiday period represents a time of year when the number of collisions is particularly high. In 2023, during this period, 20 people lost their lives in 15 fatal collisions that occurred on the road network served by the Sûreté du Québec. In addition, four off-road vehicle accidents resulted in four deaths.

About one-third of Quebecers go on vacation during this period, which considerably increases traffic, as well as users on the water or trails.

"The behaviour of each person, whether on the road network, on trails or the water, is an essential factor in the safety of all users. As human life is at the heart of our actions, our police officers, through their presence, will also ensure the application of the various laws and regulations so that everyone can enjoy this moment of relaxation in complete peace of mind," says Sûreté du Québec director general Johanne Beau-soleil in a press release.

The Sûreté du Québec invites vacationers to safely practice their favourite recreational tourism activities. Remember, in particular, that wearing a helmet is obligatory for all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts and that it is strongly recommended to wear a life jacket at all times during aquatic outings.

experience in administration and international work, particularly during the conflict in Rwanda.

As an engaged citizen, he regularly attended municipal council meetings and during the question period asked precise and detailed questions about municipal administration.

Mr. Fréchette preferred not to grant interviews at this stage, as the administrative formalities with the town have not yet been completed.

During this special council meeting, former Mayor Cathy Poirier's resignation letter was filed and the vacancy of the mayoral position was made official.



The new director general of Percé, Michel Fréchette.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

How can Canada prepare for a second Donald Trump term?

During his July 18 nomination speech, Donald Trump, after calmly describing his survival of the July 13 murder attempt, returned to his usual verbal attacks against his opponents, notably calling Nancy Pelosi “crazy”, and targeting current President Joe Biden, again targeted with half-truths and blatant lies.

Those hoping for Donald Trump to adopt a more rigorous approach to broaden his electoral base were probably deeply disappointed. The man remains the same.

Nevertheless, the wind is still in his sails. His political base is more fired up than ever, and undecided voters might lean toward him due to his response following the July 13 murder attempt.

While it's conceivable that the number of Trump supporters may not increase that much, given that the man hasn't changed since the shooting, the countries dealing with the United States must somehow get prepared for a second Republican Party term.

This is the case in Canada, even if Donald Trump hardly talked about his country's northern neighbour recently.

However, it is clear that if he is re-elected, he will not forget Canadians. During his July 18 speech, he and his potential Vice President, J.D. Vance, talked in similar terms of the kind of economic policies they intend to enforce from 2025 onward.

Economic protectionism and diplomatic isolationism are appearing at the forefront of the two men's plans. These plans will target China but also Canada, out of their desire to put economic policies at the service of American workers in the Rust Belt states, like Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Illinois.

Donald Trump was an unpredictable president between 2016 and 2020, and there's no reason to believe that his habits will change by the end of 2024 or the beginning of 2025.

Who remembers March 2018?

Donald Trump doesn't need a trade agreement to modify commerce parameters. Canadian steel

and aluminum producers faced new tariffs just 14 months after Donald Trump took office.

On March 1, 2018, he announced his intention to impose a 25% tariff on steel and a 10% tariff on aluminum imports. A day later, Donald Trump suggested that "trade wars are good and easy to win."

On March 8 of the same year, he signed an order to impose the tariffs, effective 15 days later.

Thus, he has shown little regard for existing agreements. If he believes it will benefit American workers, he will act accordingly.

Most of the time though, Donald Trump's decisions are very short-sighted. American steel and aluminum producers, as well as users of these metals, like companies involved in the automobile industry, were quick to point out then that while the Republican administration was in appearance favouring miners and initial stage processing of steel and aluminum, they had detrimental effects further along the chain. The Canada and United States border sees a wide array of thoroughly advanced metal products cross it every minute. Imposing tariffs blindly on those products the way Trump did was hurting the economy rather than boosting it.

If he is elected, he will want to go faster this time around. He and J.D. Vance are working with a 900-page trade policy document from a highly conservative think tank. The document suggests appointing people in American bureaucracies who are more loyal to Trump, so that civil servants and politicians can speak in unison, and run through less opposition than during the 2016-2020 term. This trade policy document will likely reach its goal more quickly, all that if Trump is re-elected.

Moreover, on July 1, 2026, the CUSMA, the Canada-United-States-Mexico Agreement will enter a new negotiation period. In fact, talks will likely start much earlier, informally at first. Over the spring, Canada's Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, François-Philippe Champagne, has been touring some states that are significant for the Republican Party in an attempt to establish trade links. So, they have almost started.

Come the CUSMA negotiations (CUSMA is called USCMA south of the border), Donald Trump, who brags about being a transactional president, will undoubtedly ask for new concessions, more perilous for Canada than if talks are conducted by Joe Biden, who also has a protectionist side, but who is more predictable as a human being, and conscious of the importance that both sides will be satisfied if they make gains. Such a vision usually augurs better for future talks.

Unidimensional trade negotiations under Donald Trump could have a huge impact on Canada if we are ill-prepared. We must consequently develop new partnerships with other countries in order to diversify our markets and our sources of products. Selecting more predictable countries would be well-advised. Canada and the United States' exchanges slightly surpass \$2 billion every day. Both countries have the longest common border of all the countries in the world and they have the highest exchanges.

It would also be ill-advised for regions depending heavily on exports, like the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, to think that such talks will not affect us.

The region sells most of its fishery products, lumber and windmill blades to the United States. The Gaspé Peninsula has also become over the years a producer of electricity through its wind farms.

In the latter case, deals are signed with the States, most of the time individually, and it looks rather improbable that Donald Trump, an enemy of wind energy, could intervene in that field. However, his pro-coal and pro-hydrocarbon stance might convince him to at least try.

Immigration

Donald Trump and his conservative supporters are committed to sending asylum seekers back to their home countries, such as Guatemala and El Salvador. With approximately 11 million undocumented migrants in the United States, the question arises: Where will these individuals go if they don't wish to return to their countries of origin?

Canada may appear as a viable option for asylum seekers in this context. The Roxham Road issue was largely created by Donald Trump's position about immigration during his first term. It would be foolish for the Government of Canada not to prepare for the immigration consequences of a potential Trump return.

While a victory for Biden in November is still possible, it currently seems unlikely. The Washington Post, one of the top newspapers in the United States, reported in mid-July that former president Barack Obama is considering pressuring Mr. Biden to step down, given his diminishing confidence in Biden's chances. Mr. Obama has reportedly spoken to Biden only once since his disastrous debate on June 27. Whether Obama's influence will have a significant impact on Biden remains to be seen.




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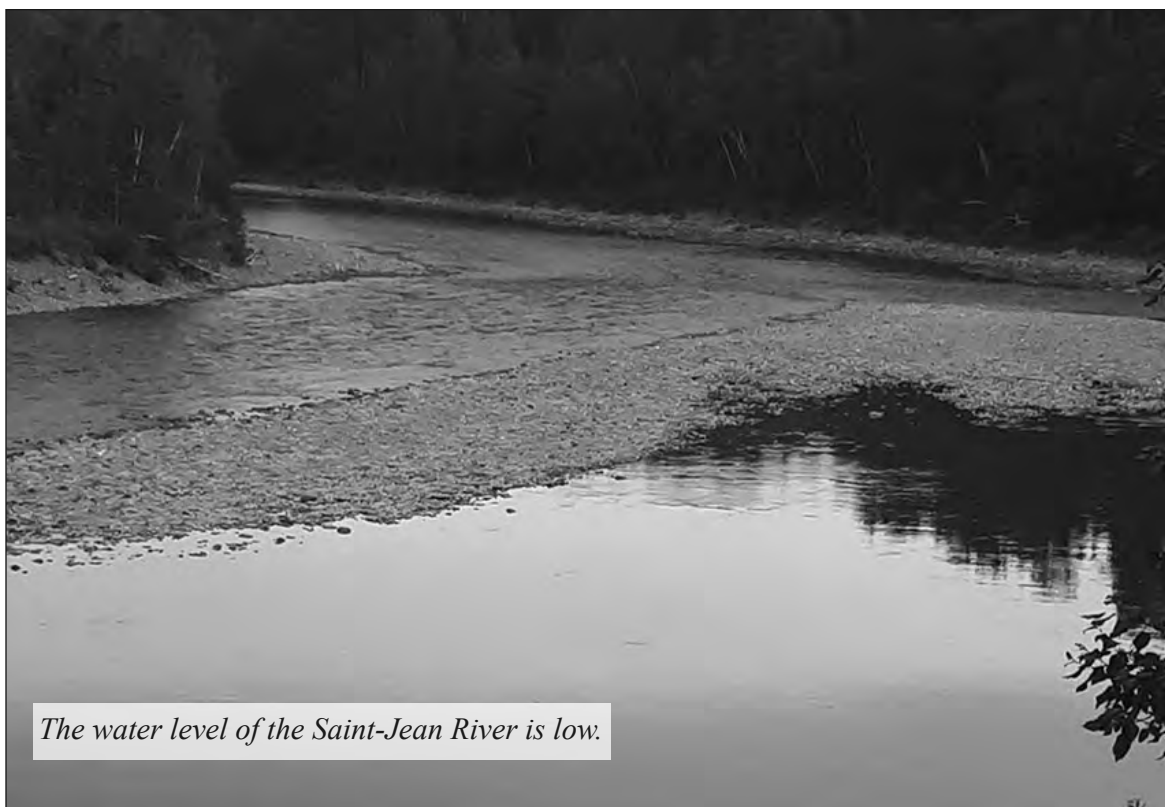








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The water level of the Saint-Jean River is low.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Very little rain in July

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - According to Environment Canada's readings at the Gaspé airport, only 6.9 millimetres of rain fell on Gaspé between July 1 and 16.

In New Carlisle, 21 millimetres of rain was recorded by Environment Canada, which is considered quite low for being halfway through the month.

"This is not unheard of because, in 2016, we had a similar situation and, in 2005, it happened in the second half of the month. It's not unheard of, but it's still not common to have so little precipitation," explains meteorologist Simon Legault.

This most recent shortage of precipitation follows three relatively dry months. "We're thinking of April and May, which were quite below normal. June was a little better. Overall, that's still a good deficit in precipitation and we're seeing it in the rivers of the Gaspé Peninsula," says Mr. Legault.

The driest July on record was 2005 with a total of 28 millimetres.

"We're certainly going to get more precipitation by the end of the month. We're going to hope for some, but not too much that it goes to the other extreme," says the meteorologist.

Since April, Gaspé has received 172 millimetres of precipitation, the normal being 261 millimetres, excluding the rain received since the beginning of July.

Public Health warns of a new drug in the region

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ - On July 18, the Public Health Department of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands announced the presence of a new substance, protonitazene, in counterfeit tablets circulating in the region.

Some known facts about protonitazene are that it is a synthetic opioid, two to four times more powerful than fentanyl. Individuals using psychoactive substances such as cocaine, amphetamines, GHB and similar drugs are at risk if they unknowingly consume it. As of July 18, no deaths have been linked to this substance in the region.

The regional Public Health Department advises the community to remain vigilant and report any unusual poisoning by calling (418) 368-2443, ext. 5435. The organization cautions individuals using drugs to avoid consuming alone and, if in a group, avoid consuming all at the same time. The Public Health Department also asks people to reduce the drug dose to test its effects and make sure that drug users have naloxone accessible and the users know how to administer it in case of an overdose. In the event of an overdose, call 911 immediately.

The Public Health Department reminds the public that the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act provides immunity from prosecution for simple possession to witnesses of an overdose.

Here is a list of organizations distributing free naloxone in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands:

- Centre Émilie Gamelin (Chandler): (418) 689-6100
- Centre Accalmie (Pointe-à-la-Croix): (418) 788-2406
- GASP des Monts (Ste-Anne-des-Monts): 1-877-619-7223
- Mi-Chemin (Gaspé and Carleton-sur-mer): (418) 368-6676
- Open area (Aire ouverte) (Gaspé): (581) 886-5725
- Open area (Aire ouverte) (Grande-Rivière): (418) 616-7370
- Maison à Damase (Îles-de-la-Madeleine): (418) 986-6631
- Carrefour Unité (Îles-de-la-Madeleine): (418) 986-2233

The Public Health Department also reminds people that there a list of pharmacies distributing free naloxone can be found at: <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/sites/default/files/cartes/naloxone/index.html>

Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse needs to be transferred to Parks Canada insists Gaspé mayor

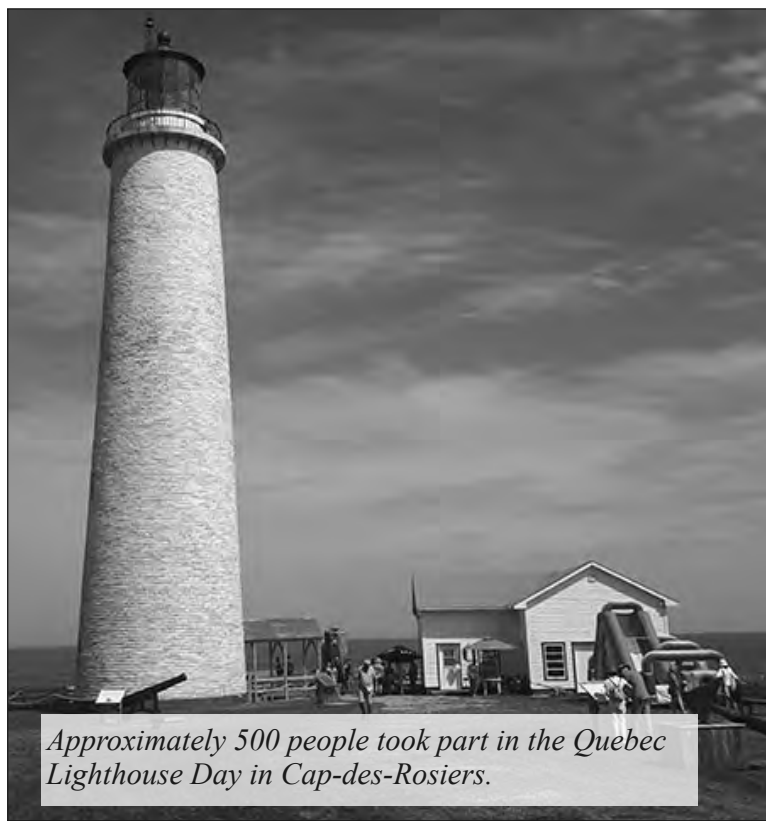
NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ: The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, took advantage of Quebec Lighthouse Day on July 13 to make this request again.

"There is minimal maintenance being done but a major overhaul must be done if we want to make it sustainable. Fisheries and Oceans will tell us that there is no budget for that. It is not their job to take care of that. They should transfer it to Parks Canada. It is Parks Canada's job to maintain federal heritage monuments," says the mayor.

He pointed out that Forillon Park already manages the Cap-Gaspé and Pointe-au-Père lighthouses near Rimouski.

"Why wouldn't they manage the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse, which is adjacent to the Forillon Park territory? We only have to expand the Foril-



Approximately 500 people took part in the Quebec Lighthouse Day in Cap-des-Rosiers.

Photo: N. Sergerie

lon Park territory by a small bit. The Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse is part of the park and Parks Canada can maintain it

as is their mission. They maintain them across the country. Why not the highest in the country? Why do we always

have to beg for help from a ministry that doesn't care? Let's make the transfer and stop talking about it!" says Mr. Côté, who has been demanding the change for several years.

The Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouthillier, is staying the course.

On the sidelines of a press briefing on July 16 in Rivière-au-Renard, Ms. Lebouthillier, who is also the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, stated she hasn't changed her mind.

"I've been giving you the same answer since 2015. It's always the same. The Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse is important, but we have investments to make in small boat harbours. We're going to make sure that the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse is accessible for

tourism in the summer and I've always kept my promise," stated Ms. Lebouthillier, who has the lighthouse under her ministry's responsibility.

Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté is not surprised by the minister's position. "We won't give up. She knows that I can be tiresome with this file and I will continue to be. I will always remain polite, but I will simply remain tiresome," notes the mayor.

The Town of Gaspé is determined, no matter how long it takes to make progress on the file. "There is a logic behind it. No one has closed the door on us at the cabinet meeting, except the two main people concerned (Steven Guilbault, Minister responsible for Parks Canada and Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Cont'd on page 10

Phase 3 of the Newport fishing harbour renovations to be funded by the federal government

NELSON SERGERIE

CHANDLER - The Newport Port Authority is pleased with the federal government's announcement of funding for Phase 3 of the fishing harbour renovations, considering Phase 2 has not yet begun.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Diane Lebouthillier, announced the contribution to Phase 3 on July 16 in Rivière-au-Renard as part of \$50 million funding for small craft harbours in Quebec for the next three years.

This amount is included in the \$463 million allocated in the 2024 budget for the next three years, which is in addition to the \$90 million invested annually.

"This is excellent news. What is interesting is that we were hoping that Phase 3 would be announced as quickly as possible because there is \$463 million in the budget. We are one of the priorities. We clapped our hands. We are very happy," says the president of the Port Authority, Luc Legresley.

Phase 3 aims to protect all the upgraded facilities as there is too much wave movement inside the harbour.

"It is still safe, but not safe enough for the boats. The work will secure what is done in Phase 1 and Phase 2 and, normally, there should no longer be as much movement of the boats and waves inside



Photo: N. Sergerie

This wharf will be demolished and replaced in Phase 2.

the wharf," explains the president.

The design of the plans for Phase 2 is almost complete, and the project is ready to go to tender.

"We can expect that by September-October, the work will be able to begin," says Mr. Legresley.

Phase 2 involves the demolition of the lobster wharf and the construction of a new wharf with an additional 100 to 125 feet.

"What is interesting and I tip my hat to them: the Newport Port Authority was listened to and they (DFO officials) responded positively to almost all of our requests," notes Mr. Legresley.

Phase 4 is planned and will consist of upgrading a final

existing section because the new wharves will be eight inches higher.

"This part is less important today. Once Phase 3 is done, the wharves will be higher. For better safety, Phase 4 will have to be done, but also because this place is becoming fragile over time," explains Mr. Legresley. As a member of the Harbour Authority Committee, he is pleased to see that small craft harbours are a priority for Ottawa.

Referring to the Rivière-au-Renard situation, he recalls that during the reconstruction of the breakwater, budgets were cut under the Conservative government.

"The discussion that had

taken place was 'Yes we'll do it, but you'll have to cut as much as possible to do work all over the place.' We would have to come back to fix things. We wanted to put a bit of money in to show that something was being done," he recounts, maintaining that a \$1 million cut then, will

now generate \$10 to \$12 million in work to refurbish the breakwater.

"There wasn't even a vision to sustain the work," he says.

"Honestly, the situation of the wharves, despite the investments, was getting worse year after year. That's why we need to invest so much to bring the docks back to a safe situation," the president analyzes.

Faced with the prospect of a Conservative government in the next election, according to the polls, Mr. Legresley fears a step backwards.

"Will the Conservatives cut as much as the situation that occurred in Rivière-au-Renard? Yes, it's a concern, not just for the wharves in Newport or Rivière-au-Renard. It's for all of Quebec and Canada. I'm comfortable saying it: yes, personally, I'm worried and I'm convinced that all the port authorities who have known the Conservatives fear this situation," maintains Mr. Legresley.

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CYNTHIA DOW

NEW CARLISLE: If you are 35 years of age or less and are looking for a leg-up on a new career, SPEC may have just the job for you!

Sea Coast Publications Inc. has the opportunity to secure a year-long grant for an internship program in marketing and advertising sales, provided we find the right candidate in the 18 to 35 age range. If the project is successful, there is a possibility for renewal for an additional year.

The position will provide an excellent opportunity for the young intern to get to know a wide range of individuals, businesses and organizations along the Gaspé Coast while helping the newspaper increase its revenue. Training will be provided by experienced sales reps.

The basic tasks will include establishing greater visibility for the newspaper in regional sales points,

helping businesses maximize their advertising potential, developing partnerships in the community and identifying customers' needs. Although the position requires some travel throughout the Gaspé Peninsula, the candidate will be able to work much of their schedule from home or Spec's New Carlisle office. A full job description is available by contacting Publisher Penny MacWhirter at specs@globetrotter.net.

Previous experience in the media industry is not necessary, but candidates must be fluent in French and should have good interpersonal skills, confidence and creativity.

Not only is this an excellent opportunity for a young Gaspesian on the Coast, but it could also provide someone currently living outside the region with an opportunity to come home and develop contacts on the Coast. After the project, if the candidate has been successful in increasing the newspaper's revenue, there is a very good chance the job will become permanent.

For more information, contact Penny MacWhirter at 418-752-5400 or by email at specs@globetrotter.net. The deadline for applications is Friday, August 16 at 4 p.m.



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Telus employees working remotely are forced to make tough choices

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - Five Telus employees in the Gaspé Peninsula are affected by the company's decision to require at least three days a week of in-office work starting 'mid-September', leading to despair among them.

Telus stated that this decision follows the evolving needs of customers who increasingly use digital and self-service options, reducing call volumes.

"As part of this evolution, we are investing in the excellence of our frontline team

members with training, the possibility of career retraining and the launch of new tools that modernize our operations. When customers need to call us for more complex situations, our goal is to have their problem resolved on the first call, every time," the company said in an email response.

Telus indicates that in-person work aims for "continuous learning and enhanced collaboration to meet the evolving needs of our customers. We know that this represents a significant change in the way we work, and we hope that our team is enthusiastic about

evolving with us," the company added.

Luc Pouliot, the president of the Quebec Telus Employee Union believes the reasons are misleading

"It's like disguised job cuts. They know that people who have been hired to work remotely won't be able to travel 300, 400 or 500 kilometres to work in Rimouski. It's unthinkable. These people have families and spouses who work. There are problems with transportation, daycare and accommodation. There is a housing shortage in Rimouski. Same thing at the other base in

Sainte-Marie (in Beauce)," comments Mr. Pouliot.

"We are talking about improving customer service when calls are answered outside of Canada. This cut is to relocate jobs outside of Canada. There is no improvement in customer service," says Mr. Pouliot, who points out that Telus already has employees based in Casablanca, Morocco.

A source close to the file indicates that it would be unthinkable to find an equivalent position elsewhere in the Gaspé Peninsula and all changes cause intense stress.

Telus indicates that it offers

the possibility of accepting a generous voluntary severance offer that exceeds the requirements of the Canadian Labour Code.

"There is still the little incentive presented to people to compensate, but it does not replace a career or a full-time position," concludes Mr. Pouliot.

The five employees are based in Saint-Alexis-de-Matapédia, Shigawake, Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc, Matane and Baie-des-Sables.

Overall about a hundred workers are affected by this measure.



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A must-see exhibition

ELAINE SEXTON

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - At the Cascapedia River Museum in Cascapedia-St-Jules, local artist Thérèse Gallant showcased a stunning collection of her work. Her third exhibit at the museum, titled *Cascapedia-St-Jules - The Beautiful*, was unveiled with an open house on July 4, attracting a crowd of 35 to 40 attendees.

In fact, the open house event was so successful that Thérèse has since been approached with three new commissions for her artwork.

Thérèse was born in Maria in 1946. In 1965, she entered the nurse's aid course in Maria. After graduation, she went to work in Montreal where she met the love of her life, John Foran, and they married in 1969. She worked at Maria Hospital and John at the mill.

They raised two beautiful boys, David and Jason, and like Thérèse so humbly said,

"They are my best masterpiece. I think that they both are,

and what a thrill to rediscover colouring books and crayons with them and, after, with my grandchildren."

Thérèse has always liked to draw and colour and has been doing so for as long as she can remember, especially experimenting with various colour palettes. She paints with oil, watercolour, acrylic and mocked stain glass on canvas. However, her medium of choice to express her attachment to her little corner of the world is oil.

In 1985, Thérèse returned to school to complete her registered nurse course at the Gaspé CEGEP.

Thérèse started private lessons in plastic art, drawing and colour in 1964 with Sister Judith at "Institute Familial" in Sainte Anne des Monts, and was Mrs. Nicole Bolduc's student for four years in the 80s. She also studied drawing and illustration at CEGEP in Carleton in 1986 and was a student of Mr. Jean Paul Laplante from 1998 to 2004. Thérèse also participated in a course on acrylic

and multi-medium with Nathalie Boissoneault in 2013 and took several workshops on diverse techniques from several teachers. She shared her talent with children and adults by offering private lessons.

As Thérèse's work became a priority, her paint brushes were tucked away until December 1997, when she retired.

The Cascapedia River is her great source of inspiration with its constant changes in colours, aspects, light and shadows, following the seasons in constant changes. "The magnificent flora and landscape of this unique region fills me with marvel and my goal is to reproduce it on canvas."

Thérèse had several exhibitions: among them, the now disbanded Association of Painters of the County of Bonaventure, at Hunguedo Inn in Maria (collective), Salon des Artisans de Maria, Boutique la Héronnière à Carleton, Cascapedia River Museum, Almond Art Centre in New Richmond and Galerie Vivre d'Art in New Richmond. She had four of her



Photo: Elaine Sexton

paintings reproduced as cards representing the four seasons at different locations of the river.

One of her paintings, *Turner Brook*, represented the Cascapedia in a temporary exhibition called Canada's Nicest Places at the TRC Gallery Museum in London, Ontario, in the summer of 2005. "I must share this little anecdote about this. When I heard London, I automatically thought of England. You can imagine how ex-

cited I was until I heard Ontario. It took me down a few notches, but it was a great honour all the same."

Thérèse has donated several paintings for fundraising to various charitable organizations as a way to give back to the organizations who have displayed her lovely work.

Don't miss the opportunity to experience her latest creations. Her exhibition will be on display until August 1.

Transat Québec-Saint-Malo in Gaspé is a success

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The "Pôle Gaspé" of the Transat Québec-Saint-Malo is a great success, according to Claudine Roy, president of the Traversée de la Gaspésie.

Ms. Roy just returned from Saint-Malo, where she witnessed the arrival of the first Formula 1 of the seas.

"We can say mission accomplished. It is really thanks

to the mobilization of all our volunteers, the Gaspé Marina and the Club nautique Forillon de Rivière-au-Renard who were extraordinary," explains Ms. Roy. Previously, there were five buoys for the crew to pass, but this year, Gaspé was the only "mandatory stop" for the race that was launched on June 30 in Quebec City.

Before heading to Quebec City, 18 boats stopped in

Gaspé.

"I met the crews before they left Quebec City and they told me, 'Claudine, we have done transatlantic races and races around the world and the welcome in Gaspé was a welcome we have never had anywhere else,'" she emphasizes.

Ms. Roy believes with such comments the Gaspé Peninsula will be well positioned on the international scale.

It took the crews nearly 15 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Gaspé could be a stopover point during the next transatlantic race scheduled for 2028. "I really hope so. We have proven that we are capable of organizing something extraordinary. I think we should keep our "Pôle Gaspé." People have asked me why there was no buoy in Percé? You have to look, but

the sailors were happy to have just one buoy because it slows them down a lot less," says Ms. Roy.

"At all the conferences I attended in Saint-Malo, everyone talks about Gaspé and, also, we are twinned with the City of Saint-Malo. The mayor mentioned it every time he spoke," comments the president on the media and economic benefits of hosting such an event for Gaspé.



Photo: TDLG, Simon Bujold

Boats pass the Rivière-au-Renard buoy before heading towards the Atlantic Ocean.

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Photo Cassidy closes in Gaspé after more than 70 years

CYNTHIA DOW

GASPÉ: - When Alfred Cassidy locked up his storefront in Gaspé in December 2023 it was the end of an era. “Maybe I should have closed up ten years ago,” Mr. Cassidy confided to SPEC, “Little photo businesses up and down the Coast had started folding up in the mid-2010s.”

What was the final blow to a business that certainly had its ups and downs? The advent of digital picture taking and sharing. “Even selling digital cameras was not that helpful,” Mr. Cassidy explained, “When you sold a film camera, you often had a long-term customer. When you sell a digital camera, you might never see them again.”

The family business at 19 Boulevard de Gaspé was started by Alfred’s father, Albert, who came to the area in 1947 for a contract in industrial photography. He had been hired by a company searching for oil in the region to take photographs to show their shareholders.

Alfred was nine months old when he and his mother came to join his father in 1949. “We first stayed in one of the log cabins at the Battery Park Hotel,” Alfred recalls, “Then we moved to York Centre.” When the store was built in October 1954, there was room behind the shop for the family to live, as well as a lab for developing film in the basement and an apartment that could be rented out on the second floor.

“We were five crowded into that little space behind the shop,” Alfred recalls, “and we may have been poor, but there was always food on the table.” After his marriage to Nadine Eden, the two lived in the upstairs apartment.

His father continued with industrial photography for some time, working for Miller Copper and Gaspé Copper, for instance, but he soon got into selling cameras, taking portraits and shooting wedding photos. “Meanwhile my mother, Inez Pyke, worked in the store and kept the books,” Alfred added.

It was only in 1976 that his father was finally able to build a home on the river in Rosebridge, living there until his death in 1988. Mrs. Cassidy continued to live there until she was 91 years of age. Alfred and Nadine moved into the family home for some time, before financial strains meant they had to move back



Last December, Alfred Cassidy turned the key for the last time at Photo Cassidy in downtown Gaspé.

Photos: Courtesy A. Cassidy

to the store.

Alfred himself started working for his father in the lab at the tender age of 11 or 12. At that time, it was all black and white photography — easy enough to develop the film and print up the photographs. However, by 1958, the Cassidys bought their first machine for development and printing.

In the 1970s the colour revolution hit, and a machine called a “mini-lab” was purchased to keep up with the growing interest in colour photography. “Before that time we had to send the colour films to Montreal or Quebec City,” Alfred explained. The new machine allowed the shop to offer 24-hour services.

By the time the Tall Ships came to Gaspé in 1984, the Cassidys were able to offer a one-hour service. “With that event, the money started rolling in a bit more,” Alfred noted. The family added an enlarger to print 11 by 14-inch prints, and their machinery was upgraded several times in the 1990s as well.

But, sadly, the golden age of photography was soon to encounter even more voracious competition: pharmacies, offering cut prices as a loss leader to get customers into their stores. “It was a

smart move for them. They got customers into the store twice: once to drop off the film, and again to pick up the prints and, of course, people would look around to pick up other articles.”

It was about 2007 that Photo Cassidy began to feel the pinch caused by the trend

towards digital photography. But Alfred was not beaten yet. “We bought a machine in 2010 to print enlargements, which we had for several years and we still kept up with events, passport photos, government IDs, school portraits and so on. We knew the digital market was growing, but it flipped so fast, from one year to the next!”

With this technological change, the photographer said, came a change in the way people wanted their weddings recorded. “In the past, shooting a wedding was relatively easy, and you were able to do several in one day. I did four one day, and my father actually did five in one day.”

One year, the business was hired for not less than 52 weddings from May to October.

“But now, people want photographs in all kinds of different places: the beach, the woods, and covering a wedding can take the whole day. They want all kinds of modelling poses,” he said, noting that there was also a sharp drop in weddings during the COVID pandemic, another reason the business could not be sustained.

A challenge which Photo Cassidy had to deal with throughout its history was the large number of people who asked for photo-finishing or brought in cameras for repair but never returned to pick up their orders — or pay for them. This left the business having to assume the costs.

“Year after year we would call and call people, but they would never show up and, at the end of the year, we’d have to throw out so many photos,” Alfred explained.

“We basically, went from rags to riches back to rags again,” he told SPEC. In 2006 he bought out his brother, Tommy, who had also worked for Photo Cassidy and who went on to work in security. Meanwhile, Alfred and Nadine took advantage of the coming of the cruise ships to Gaspé in 2010 to take on new jobs: Nadine as a greeter for the company who tendered people to shore, and Alfred as a guide.

“People enjoy their visit to the region a lot,” Nadine said, “They think the area is very beautiful and that we are very fortunate to live here.”

Alfred has also worked for the Berceau du Canada, the Geoparc in Percé, and a local ZEC but now the couple has settled in New Richmond, within an easy walk of their son Lloyd, daughter-in-law Alishia Caplin, and three grandchildren.

Alfred has lately taken on a few contracts, such as photographs for the Head Start program in Gesgapegiag. “I admit, the quality of iPhone (digital) photographs is amazing if you are not enlarging the photograph,” the photographer told SPEC, “but I am still interested in working if anyone wants good photographs taken.”



The professional photographer is still interested in contracts and here he takes a photograph of his own grandson Finn at his school in Gesgapegiag.

LIGHTHOUSE:

▶ Cont'd from page 5

Canada). I do not understand this stubbornness of not wanting to hand it over to another department whose mission is to take care of Canada's heritage assets," repeats Mr. Côté.

"As long as there is no logical explanation, we will continue to campaign," he warns.

Gaspé Member of the National Assembly (MNA), Stéphane Sainte-Croix, who grew up in Cap-des-Rosiers, felt it was important to be present at the day celebrating the lighthouse, an important monument in the history of fisheries.

As an iconic tourist image of the Gaspé Peninsula, the MNA notes that there remains a major challenge to restore the monument, but the site is of interest.

"Maintaining the structure, ensuring its sustain-

ability, ensuring that it is showcased are major challenges for the community. We are here. We will support our people adequately to ensure its sustainability," says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

However, the infrastructure belongs to Ottawa, which limits any intervention by the Quebec government.

"It is always a particular issue. There is a partnership to be established, but we can count on our collaboration to support our people," he says. Last year, Quebec Lighthouse Day in Cap-des-Rosiers was disrupted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada's decision to close it with just a few hours of notice due to safety concerns.

This year's celebration was symbolic. "Given the circumstances, we wanted to have a great unifying event to show that the community cares about its lighthouse," said Virginie Giteau, president of the board of directors of the Cap-des-Rosiers Lighthouse

Maritime Historic Site.

According to the organization, about 500 people visited the site on July 13.

Summer jobs

The money received from Services Canada to subsidize summer jobs at the lighthouse will have to be returned to the federal government.

After originally being refused, Services Canada awarded subsidies on June 19, a few days before the season opened.

Despite all recruitment efforts, no applications were received. The money could only be used if the summer employees worked six weeks, which is now impossible.

The Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse was recognized as a National Historic Site on June 11, 1973, and as a heritage building on March 31, 1994.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, show off your true colors and let others see who you are and what makes you tick. You are given the spotlight right now to shine and get noticed even more.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

The full equation may not be revealed this week until you start to unravel some of the pieces, Taurus. You will need to remain patient as the process plays out.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you are discovering more people you can trust and who have your best interests at heart. Continue to surround yourself with these winning individuals.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Right now you have to take a leap of faith if you really want to grow, Cancer. Take a trip somewhere you've never visited, learn a new language, or make an effort to meet new people.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, although you might want to keep your aspirations to yourself, it is helpful if you run your ideas past a few trusted people to see if their enthusiasm mirrors your own.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you can certainly proceed according to logic, but you might be better off trusting your gut for the time being. It rarely steers you wrong with the bigger things in life.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, people from all corners will come together to help you out, just when you need it most. Now you will get to realize those people who truly support you.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may have been sitting on certain information for a while and are not sure when you will reveal it. You'll know the right time when it comes around.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, even if your love life has been a little lackluster, you can rest assured that things will be flowing anew very soon. It's time to rekindle those feelings of love and affection.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Now isn't a good time to think you can fake your emotions, Capricorn. Others will see right through you and read your mind quite easily. It's better to be honest and open.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Someone you haven't spoken to in a while might be on your mind, Aquarius. This might be the right time to bridge the gap and open lines of communication.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, it can be difficult to delegate to others and not handle everything yourself. But you have to trust in others and support them if you want them to learn and grow.



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Announcements



Obituary



ASSELS: Terry

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Terry Assels, who touched the hearts of all who knew him. Terry passed away unexpectedly on December 22, 2023, at the age of 66, while in Florida.

Terry was a man of unparalleled kindness and compassion, leaving a lasting impression on everyone he met. He was a proud father and leaves to mourn his pride and joy, daughter Dawn Assels. After a lifelong career with Revenue Canada, Terry found a passion for travel and loved to explore the world with Dawn.

A talented cook, Terry found joy in sharing his culinary creations with family and friends. His kitchen was always filled with love and laughter. Terry also loved to travel, embracing new cultures and adventures with open arms. His stories of his journeys were filled with excitement and wonder.

Terry leaves behind his daughter Dawn Assels, brother Brian Assels (Janet) and sister Shirley Campbell (Lorn). He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, with whom he spent countless hours on the phone, serving as a guiding light in their lives.

Terry was pre-deceased by his mother Eileen, his father Robert, brother Alan and sister-in-law Nickie, brother Gordon and sister-in-law Wanda, brother Rodney, and nephew Jason.

He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, love, and beautiful memories. Terry was more than just a father; he was a confidant, a guide, and an inspiration. His spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

There will be a funeral at 2 p.m. on August 10, at the Anglican Church in New Carlisle, followed by a celebration of life at the Legion. This will be a time for family and friends to come together, share memories, and honour his beautiful life.

Thank you, daddy for your endless love and support. You will be deeply missed and forever cherished.



In Memory



LEGRESLEY: Mary Ruth Arsenault

May 26, 1943 - August 4, 2021

On the third anniversary of your death, we want to tell you Mom/Mimi that not a day goes by that we don't miss you or think of you. You were gone too soon and will always be in our hearts.

We imagine that you, along with Nanny (Ada Hotton 1924-2001) and Papa (Elias LeGresley 1917-2011), as well as Uncle Didi (William LeGresley 1942-2008) are keeping watch over us all and we feel this most when we are home, on the LeGresley family land in Belle Anse.

We miss you, your loving family xoxo



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 Douglstown 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 especially 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.

COAST ROUND-UP

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

BARACHOIS:

The Gaspé Cancer Foundation

August 1: Gift Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at the Barachois Legion. Ages 18 and over are welcome.

August 4: A luncheon social starting at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. held at Barachois Legion will include soup, hotdogs, sandwiches, grilled cheese, desserts, tea and coffee. Donations at the door.

November 2: A ticket draw and luncheon starting at 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. held at Barachois Legion will include soup, hotdogs, sandwiches, desserts, tea and coffee, donations at the door.

PORT DANIEL:

St. James Anglican Church

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

HOPE:

Hope Baptist Church

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Meetings

Sundays: Breaking of Bread for believers - 9:30 a.m., Gospel meeting and

Sunday School - 2 p.m.

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Kempffer House

The tea room is back! Open every Wednesday with sittings at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Cash only, children \$8, adults \$12, and \$15 for the

alcove. Reservations required. For more info: 418-752-1334 or heritagenc@globetrotter.net

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: 50+ Club

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

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, July 28
10 a.m. Service**

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN
Sunday, July 28
10 a.m. Service**

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, July 28

New Carlisle

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

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, July 28

Camp Fort Haldimand
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

Family Ties workshops turn recycled materials into art

Dave Felker, Community Development Consultant, Gaspesian Way
NEW CARLISLE: Over the past eight months, Family Ties has delivered a series of workshops using recycled materials to create unique pieces of art. The workshops took place in New Richmond, Bonaventure, New Carlisle and Shigawake using materials such as old wooden shelves, pieces of tin, cutlery, bailer twine, fabric scraps and broken ceramics.

Participants particularly enjoyed the opportunity to engage in activities held in different municipalities. "I attended several of the workshops and I really enjoyed them all, especially because I had just moved to another town and it helped me to connect with other like-minded people," shared one participant.

Many of the finished art pieces can be viewed online in an exhibit hosted on the Family Ties Facebook Page. Funded by Canadian Heritage, this project demonstrates the potential of repurposed materials and highlights the importance of regeneration in our throw-away age. Parisé.



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