

## GASPÉ MINES: Osisko says data points to a revival

GILLES GAGNÉ  
NELSON SERGERIE

MURDOCHVILLE - Even though all the analyses are not yet complete, Robert Wares, president and chief executive officer of Osisko Metals, believes that with the current data, a revival of Murdochville's Gaspé Mines is likely.

On September 10, Mr. Wares made his third presentation in two years, aiming to showcase the progression of the Osisko Metals project over the last three years. Approximately 115 people attended the presentation, with the attendees mostly expressing support for the mine's reopening. However, there were questions regarding the venture's timeline and environmental aspects.

Robert Wares stated that a revival of mining activities in Murdochville in the next six or



Photo: Gilles Gagné

*Osisko Metals President Robert Wares is convinced that the price of copper will rise over the next few years, thanks to high demand linked to the economy's decarbonization.*

seven years will largely depend on the rising price of copper, the main condition needed for

profitability.

"We hope to have a minimum price of US\$4.25 per

pound or US\$4.50 in the long term. We hope it will go higher, to US\$5.00. Several economists predict that the price will rise to US\$5.00 and remain there for the next five years. At this price, it would be very profitable," says Mr. Wares.

Copper is currently trading at around US\$4.10 per pound. The effects of a worldwide shortage could be felt as soon as 2025, added Robert Wares, specifying "This metal is vital for the decarbonization of the economy."

The preliminary economic study will likely be filed in February. An in-debt feasibility study will be required to find investors. However, \$1.8 billion of capital will be needed to reopen the Mount Copper open pit and install an ore concentrator. The site of the former smelter will be used in the latter case.

Robert Wares mentions that \$70 million will have to be raised between now and 2028 to move the venture forward. He is confident about that possibility as well.

When Mr. Wares was asked if, with the current data, would the company launch the project today if it could, he was categorical in his answer: "In my opinion, yes. Yes, absolutely."

The environmental aspect still worries a few citizens, particularly the dewatering of the Mount Copper mine pit and the caribou protection line that encroaches on the mining area.

In the latter case, the encroachment comes from the fact that Osisko Metals must submit two eventual locations for the mine tailings. One is situated east of the projected mine, at the original location

Cont'd on page 6

## Honours go to the Gesgapegiag Police Department

PENNY MACWHIRTER

GESGAPEGIAG: Blue-line, Canada's Law Enforcement Magazine has recognized the Gesgapegiag Police Department for its exceptional community relations.

The magazine, wanting to celebrate those who chose a life of serving and protecting others, featured three main award categories: Canada's Best Dressed Vehicle, Lifetime in Law, and Rookie of the Year. In the Best Dressed Vehicle award, the category was broken down into front-line patrol vehicles, community relations vehicles, law enforcement and special service vehicles.

The Gesgapegiag Police Department, the first place winner in the Exceptional Community Relations category, designed their community relations vehicle prioritizing the importance of making their community

safer while putting a focus on two important topics, Every Child Matters and the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.

"Ultimately, this vehicle was designed to strengthen the ties between our department and the community of Gesgapegiag," says the Chief of Police Marven Condo.

The Gesgapegiag Police Department has emphasized developing partnerships and community relations. "We've developed significant partnerships with the Cegep, the SQ, schools and treatment centres. We're working on issues such as bus safety, anti-bullying, delivering meals to elders, taking part in career days, and elder appreciation. We also do sports, including boxing through youth programs, along with assisting sporting organizations," explains Mr. Condo. When asked if he has a message for SPEC readers, Mr. Condo replied, "I am grateful to all the organizations cooperating with our



Photo: BlueLine website

services and especially the Police Department for doing an excellent job in keeping the community safe."

Marven Condo, who has 35 years of police service, was also recently presented an award from the Quebec Association of First Nation Inuit Police Directors (QAFNIPD) for Exceptional Commitment in Serving his Community. The award was presented in Levis at the QAFNIPD conference.

**Top photo:** The Gesgapegiag Police Department's Community Relations vehicle features graphics that are important to the community. **Bottom Photo:** Marven Condo was recently presented an award from the Quebec Association of First Nation Inuit Police Directors (QAFNIPD).



Photo: Courtesy Marven Condo

# Stéphane Sainte-Croix's priority is housing

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - As the fall session gets underway at the National Assembly in Quebec City, housing is the top priority for Gaspé Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

"We are working with our partners to ensure that we complete as many projects as possible so we can resolve our housing issues for as many customers as possible," says Stéphane Sainte-Croix, acknowledging that it is a complex problem.

In August, when France-Élaine Duranceau, the Minister of Housing, visited the Gaspé, the MNA discussed the issue of housing with him.

"We looked at our issues, our projects, but it is an ongoing effort that mobilizes several stakeholders and the only way to achieve this is to do everything possible at the municipal, government and private levels to support the projects," says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

The stakeholders in the region have suggested the possibility of tax credits for construction to the minister. "These are things that we will bring to the attention of our Minister of Finance. These are measures that could contribute to a search for a solution. Everything is part of the National Assembly session," explained the MNA.

## Fisheries Sector

The crisis in the fisheries sector remains a key aspect of the economy of the Gaspé Peninsula.

The MNA mentioned the announcement of six million dollars to support worker training made during the first week of September in Sainte-Annes-Monts. That money will allow them to be resilient in technological changes and processing lines. "This is a step in the right direction to support the fisheries sector but it must not stop there," says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

The salmon situation also



Gaspé MNA Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

Photo: N. Sergerie

concerns the MNA, as the Federal Minister of Fisheries suggested last week, in Quebec, that action is needed due to striped bass intercepting the species as it enters and exits rivers.

"We have become aware of the low rate of salmon spawning. Striped bass appears to be a problem but also a solution for the fishing industry. The file has been sent to the Environment and MAPAQ (Quebec Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)," explains

Mr. Sainte-Croix.

Analysts are looking into the issue and the Parliamentary Assistant for Fisheries is conducting consultations to document the possibility of a project based and exploratory fishery.

"To see how we could quietly take advantage of this resource to perhaps ultimately arrive at a commercial fishery. But it is complex. We are at the beginning of the process and have been engaged for several months already," says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

## Wind Energy

Wind energy is the third major focus for the MNA, especially since the Premier reiterated his commitment to this energy sector at his party's caucus last week in Rimouski. Wind power will be a strategic sector in Quebec's future energy landscape.

There remains the issue of the insufficient capacity of transmission lines in Eastern Quebec to transport energy from the Gaspé Peninsula to

major centres.

"It is obvious that the distribution line will have to be considered. It remains to be seen over time when these investments will actually be made but, one thing is certain, they will be dedicated in time and place," says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

## Gasoline Prices

On the issue of gasoline prices, Mr. Sainte-Croix indicated that work is continuing within the government as retailers are collecting profit margins of around 30 cents per litre, compared to the 13 to 16 cents average over the last year.

"We proceeded with the abolition of the floor price. It remains to be seen what part of the information is available to consumers. We are thinking about it and we hope to come up with one or two measures at this level in the near future but, indeed, this is the observation we make regarding the price of gasoline and we are working on it," said Mr. Sainte-Croix.

# The Emergency department at Maria Hospital remains a priority for Catherine Blouin

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - Modernizing the emergency and intensive care departments at the Maria hospital remains the top priority for Bonaventure Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Catherine Blouin as the fall parliamentary session began on September 10 at the National Assembly.

Three companies have expressed interest in conducting studies to better understand the current infrastructure in anticipation of the new project and, consequently, to better determine its costs.

The study will specifically assess the current state of the electromechanical, structural and civil components and determine whether they are able to handle the new costs anticipated, not only by the emergency and intensive care department project, but also the future developments of the hospital.

"It's reassuring. These are two separate projects. First, we have the modernization of the emergency and intensive care departments. The priority is the emergency and intensive care departments. I'm very happy to



Bonaventure MNA Catherine Blouin

Photo: N. Sergerie

see that things are moving forward," notes Catherine Blouin, who hopes the contracts will be awarded soon.

Ms. Blouin is, however, hesitant to set a date. "The plans and specifications are not yet done, so I'm not going to comment on a timeline," she says, mentioning that the CISSS (Integrated Health and Social Services Centre) has already managed a similar project at the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital.

## Rail refurbishment is also a priority

Ms. Blouin is not concerned about the refurbishment schedule extending beyond

2026, even though one of the four call for tender projects announced last fall has been postponed week after week since April.

"For now, we're staying the course. There are situations beyond our control, meaning that we cannot find enough bidders. There is a lot of work being done in parallel," notes Ms. Blouin.

## Cell coverage

On the issue of cellular coverage, the 2026 goal to cover areas in the region, not currently covered by a cellular network, remains on target.

"I prefer to put the deadline a little further out and create nice surprises, but all the indicators I have are for 2026. I prefer not to raise expectations for nothing," explains the MNA.

## Housing

The Québec government has launched a call for qualifications for 500 prefabricated housing units. "An innovative situation," notes the elected official.

"We have experience acquired through the single-mod-

ular housing units delivered to Maria in nine months with contractors such as Habitations Mont-Carleton. We will be able to take advantage of it and we met with the minister (of Municipal Affairs)," mentions Ms. Blouin.

## Daycares

The announced daycare spaces also remain a priority for the Bonaventure MNA. "I can tell you – without creating expectations – that things are moving forward," notes Ms. Blouin.

"We still have champions in terms of project managers with 71 spaces in Chandler where children will be entering in the coming days," emphasizes Ms. Blouin.

## Other priorities

Several other files are also on the MNA's agenda. "What is important is to continue to get the message across. We have had several visits from ministers. We had the Premier at the end of June, the Minister for Seniors, the Minister of Housing, and that of Culture. Each of these visits brings its share of follow-ups," explains

Ms. Blouin.

While the Premier clearly reaffirmed his support for wind power at his party's caucus in Rimouski, the Bonaventure MNA indicates that it remains a priority.

"We have social acceptability in Eastern Quebec. We have expertise, a renewal of existing wind farms to increase capacity. We are well positioned in the Gaspésie to move forward," she says.

Halfway through her term, Ms. Blouin notes that the electoral map has mobilized energy and received everyone's attention.

"We decided to review everything in a transparent manner with all the parties. It's a source of pride but, also, the cell coverage with the national announcement in Saint-Elzéar and the modular units in Maria. It's the work of collaboration and listening to the council of ministers. I may be a bit annoying talking about the realities of the Gaspé, but when we greet ministers, they understand the reality on the ground. There is just as much work, if not more, left to do over the next two years. We continue to move forward," the MNA concludes.

# Gaspé initiates legal action to recover land sold to Logements CVP

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - Following a recent statement by the developer Logements CVP blaming the Town of Gaspé for delays in the construction of 144 housing units, the mayor has broken off talks with them.

On September 3, the Town of Gaspé issued a serious warning to Logements CVP, ordering it to carry out the project in September 2024, reminding them that the contract's termination clause was lifted last February.

The mayor indicated that the municipal council was starting to get exasperated by the slowness of the project, but the developer denies it, recalling the disputes over the sale of the land with Quebec, changes of plans to adapt them to the Town's requests, the imposition of a CPE (day-care) project and the search for a new builder. "All the de-

velopers we work with love the speed and flexibility of the Town, except one. In this case, when it's not the fault of their engineers, it's the fault of the architects, otherwise, the business partners from elsewhere who have multiplied and who have all left. Now, it's the Town's turn. It's always someone's fault," says Mayor Daniel Côté.

"There have been delays and excuses for three years. There are certainly small bits that are external, but there are other bits that are not our responsibility," says the mayor.

"The last partners who were supposed to sign a development agreement withdrew and explained to us privately why they were withdrawing and I can tell you that it's not our fault," continues the mayor.

"Our lawyer will be mandated to review the file in all its forms and make a recom-

mendation to the town council. What we need is housing with one developer or another. We need serious developers to raise housing in Gaspé," says Mr. Côté, recalling that there is currently a shortage of 400 housing units.

Logements CVP purchased the municipal land in September 2021 for \$300,000, even though its evaluation at the time was \$566,000, with plans to develop Le Domaine de la Baie.

The investors also made a \$266,000 deposit, repayable in four installments as each building complex was completed.

The project was to consist of four buildings with 36 units each, with one apartment building to be completed annually until 2026. CVP promised construction would begin on December 31, 2023.

## Police report

The case of Reilly Brault, 23, from the Verdun area of Montreal charged with assault with a weapon in connection with incidents that took place in Listuguj on April 27, was postponed from September 9 to September 13, just past SPEC's deadline. The delay was due to defence attorney Ariane Cayer's inability to meet with her client before the September 9 court appearance.

"Additional charges will be laid against him soon, if not in September," points out criminal prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier. Reilly Brault, who has a criminal record, was arrested on April 27 with an alleged accomplice in Listuguj after an altercation on Alder Street. He currently faces charges of pointing a gun, assault with a weapon and causing bodily harm. He made his first court appearance virtually on April 2. The victim, a 24-year-old man, was shot but his life was not in danger following the altercation. He was hospitalized following the police intervention.

The Listuguj Police Department had requested the assistance of the Sûreté du Québec major crimes squad in April, with Listuguj police officers also participating in the investigation. According to the Sûreté du Québec, a conflict involving three men led to the attack on the 24-year-old man. Only one man has been charged so far. The person alleged to be accompanying the accused was also questioned by the police.

The Sûreté du Québec is investigating a vehicle fire that occurred around early afternoon on September 11 on Saint-François Road in Chandler. "Emergency services were called at 2 p.m. to extinguish a car fire. The blaze was put out by firefighters, but the circumstances suggest it may be of suspicious origin. The investigation is ongoing, and I can't reveal the elements that led our investigators to consider the fire suspicious," explains Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Frédéric Deshaies. No arrests have been made so far, and the vehicle was destroyed, Deshaies adds.

# Chandler: Louise Langlois hearing not before 2025

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER - The ongoing legal saga involving the Town of Chandler's claim against former mayor Louise Langlois is dragging on as the case is not expected to be heard before the spring of 2025.

A hearing scheduled for September 3 was postponed because the judge required that the parties be present, which had not been initially requested. This forced a new postponement of the case.

The judge will then resolve the remaining legal rules and will hear the case on the merits at the same time. In the best-case scenario, a decision is not expected before the summer of 2025.

Suspended in January 2021 for 180 days, the resolution adopted at that time stated that the accusations against Louise Langlois were the result of serious or intentional misconduct, by giving precedence to her personal interest, by having committed actions intentionally and, premeditatedly, all to achieve her ends.

In January 2022, the Town



Photo: N. Sergerie

Louise Langlois and her lawyer before the Municipal Commission in July 2020

filed a motion claiming \$230,411 in legal fees to defend the former mayor before the Municipal Commission and the numerous motions that followed, repeating the arguments of the resolution.

In addition, the motion accused her of having multiplied the procedures thereafter.

The Town hasn't ruled out readjusting its claim to request all the costs incurred by the case.

The total cost of this saga now exceeds \$375,000.

**\$2.7 million in asphalt**

Lately, there has been much criticism of the condi-

tion of certain municipal roads. However, the town of Chandler has recently announced it will invest a little over \$2.7 million in street paving.

Several streets, including some high traffic areas, will be repaved. "Our streets need love, for example, Polyvalente Street and Hôtel-de-ville Street. They need to be redone because they are in an advanced state of deterioration," notes Mayor Gilles Daraiche.

The resolution includes work on Bellevue, Baie-Bleue, Lapierre, Mgr Ross, Hôtel-de-ville, Daignault, Plage, Cormier, McGrath, Dé-tente, Arcelles, Anse-aux-Ca-

nards, Germain and Lantin Streets.

The mayor mentions that four small sections of asphalt were done this year at a cost of \$70,000.

The loan settlement process is underway and the mayor hopes for a quick response from the Quebec government in order to do the asphalt work this fall.

In 2021, \$2.3 million was invested in asphalt work in the Town of Chandler.

**Newport water treatment project**

The water treatment project in the Newport district is not progressing very quickly, making development in this sector difficult.

The mayor explains that the water treatment project is complicated. "The system can't take any more. There are people who want to add services, register other land, and build houses. This is a file that is dragging on and we will work hard so that at least there is work at the end of 2025 or the beginning of 2026," says Mr. Daraiche.

Chandler is counting on

government assistance with a request for a minimum of 90% funding. The project has been included in the Town's Three-Year Capital Plan for several years at a cost of \$12 million. With inflation, the project could reach \$20 million, while an amount of \$15 million had been mentioned in 2022.

**"Unfair" competition?**

The Town is upset with the programming offered by Chandler's Camp Bellefeuille. Some activities proposed by the camp duplicate those offered by the Town, despite a promise.

The mayor does not want to make a war out of it but says he's disappointed. "I spoke to the director who told me that each activity at Camp Bellefeuille would complement the Town's activities. Unfortunately, that is not the case. We do yoga, they do yoga. We do fitness, they do that too. It's the same thing as us. That's not what was said," complains Mr. Daraiche.

The mayor maintains that registrations for the Town's activities, both at the sports complex and the arena, are full.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

## A fall federal election remains unlikely

Will we have a federal election this fall? Although the abrupt end of the agreement between the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Liberal Party may appear to open the door to an election in the coming weeks, it remains unlikely to happen before the spring of 2025.

During the first week of September, New Democrat leader Jagmeet Singh put a sudden halt to the agreement that had linked the two parties since March 2022. This agreement was initially intended to bring some stability to a second consecutive minority government, which was also the result of the October 2021 election.

In March 2022, the New Democratic Party was in a relatively precarious financial position. A third election in less than three years, considering that Canadians had also voted in October 2019, would have placed the NDP in a very awkward situation, with no means to organize a campaign.

Two-and-a-half years later, the NDP's financial situation is not overly promising, an understatement to say that the party is not in a way better position to tackle a campaign.

However, Jagmeet Singh wanted and needed to officially distance himself from unpopular prime minister Justin Trudeau. Tearing apart the March 2022 document in an almost dramatic way, without even warning his Liberal Party "partners", was the way the New Democrats found to install that distance.

Maintaining the agreement with Justin Trudeau until the dawn of the electoral campaign would have carried the risk of a close collaboration with the unpopular prime minister, a situation that could have affected the image of the NDP, especially if the Liberal Party doesn't move up soon in public support.

During the railway strike and lockout, at the end of August, Jagmeet Singh spent time on the picket lines with the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific workers, expressing enthusiastically support for them. At the same time, Justin Trudeau's government asked the Canada Industrial Relations Board to end the conflict. This dissonance between the positions of the two leaders probably convinced Mr. Singh that it was time to make a move.

Also, if the Liberal Party's slide is impossible to stop, the NDP leader needs time to reaffirm his role as a potential solution for progressive voters. Staying attached to the Liberal Party through extending a 30-month deal would have been a strange way to rise as a potent alternative. Jagmeet Singh needs time to show Canadians that Pierre Poilievre is, according to him, a terrible person.

### The influence of by-elections

Jagmeet Singh experienced problems trying to explain the way he scratched the deal and why he did it now. In fact, he could hardly admit that he wanted to break the deal before the by-election in Elmwood-Transcona, where the NDP has dominated for decades.

Axing the deal before the by-election was a way to increase NDP's chances of keeping that seat, since the Liberal Party is not popular in that part of Manitoba. Staying close to Justin Trudeau could have been per-

ceived as a handicap by Elmwood-Transcona voters. Moreover, Transcona is a railway town, where Justin Trudeau lost the little ground he had after the railway companies' conflict. Jagmeet Singh is and remains aware of that reality.

As of the SPEC deadline, the results of the by-elections were not yet known. However, advanced polls were underway at that time, and in the other riding where a by-election is being held, namely Lasalle-Émard-Verdun, the rate of participation was very high for a by-election. This high participation is usually a sign of voters' desire for change.

Will that change in a Quebec riding favour the NDP or the Conservative Party? Pierre Poilievre, the Conservative leader, is far from popular in most parts of Quebec, but if he makes a breakthrough in Lasalle-Émard-Verdun, this will send a strong signal that could put an end to Justin Trudeau's leadership.

So far, Justin Trudeau has committed to staying and engaging in a battle against Pierre Poilievre.

### The Bloc québécois needs time too

On paper, since there is division between the Liberal Party and the NDP, Justin Trudeau's minority government needs the support of the Bloc québécois on confidence votes to stay in power.

That is only on paper though. Soon after the break-up triggered by Jagmeet Singh, Bloc québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet indicated that he might trigger an election this fall.

He was bluffing in all likelihood. Mr. Blanchet, who likes to roll the shoulders and show bully-like reactions, knows that Pierre Poilievre could win a majority government in the next election. If such a thing happens, the Conservative Party will not need the support of anybody to run the government.

In the case of such an occurrence, the Bloc québécois will have a hard time reaching its goal, which is to defend the interest of Quebecers at the federal level. Gains for Quebec will become a highly random bet, especially if the Conservative Party doesn't win many seats in "la Belle province".

So, Yves-François Blanchet also needs time to influence the Liberal Party towards measures that can benefit Quebec. Justin Trudeau's party also needs to tone up his links with Quebec. In fact, the prime minister needs to improve his support from Halifax to Vancouver, but this is unlikely.

Justin Trudeau should step down but he missed occasions over the last year, thinking that it was possible to get back to the Sunny Ways of 2015. It looks impossible right now.

The recent presence of Mark Carney at the Liberal Party caucus meeting in Nanaimo, British Columbia, sends voters the message that a good alternative could appear before the ship capsizes.

It remains unclear why Justin Trudeau, who is almost as stubborn as his father Pierre Elliot Trudeau, accepted Mr. Carney's presence at the caucus meeting.

Is Justin Trudeau so disconnected that he believes the presence of Mark Carney could send a simple message of hope that could change the Liberal Party's rate of support in the electorate, or is he aware now that his own chances of winning the next election are about non-existent?

Pierre Poilievre leads the only party anxious to start an electoral campaign because his chances of winning a majority government are better now than they will ever be. Between now and the spring of 2025, the Conservative Party can only decline, as people will slowly realize their platform's shortcomings.

All the other leaders need time. That's why a fall election is unlikely, although not impossible.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NEVER MINE, Mr. Francis Forlini, CEO of Pozzolan Dalhousie (EcoRock)

After being labelled a "social media tornado", we are now branded as environmentalists, longing for the good old days of our great-grandparents.

Mr. Forlini, this is precisely what we don't want; to return to the good old days. Don't get me wrong, we are proud of the men and women who built the town of Dalhousie. Day after day, they paid with their lives, while earning a living at the factory.

Industrial companies came and left us with a legacy of vast, contaminated lands and landfill sites. The pollutants emitted over decades and spread throughout our environment until they became a part of us. We've absorbed toxins through our lungs, our skin, our food, and our water, as confirmed in the report, Cancer in New Brunswick Communities, part 2, 2009. For the men of Dalhousie, the cost ranks them highest in New Brunswick in four main types of cancer studied (lung, prostate, colorectal, and bladder). The women aren't far behind, ranking highest for bladder, liver, and ovarian cancers. These studies don't include other chronic diseases, such as respiratory conditions that plagued us, in the good old days, and today.

Mr. Forlini, I was planning to come down hard on you and your supporters with a volley of well-chosen words. But I realize that some supporters of the mine seek the same goals for a socially and economically healthy community, which will create gainful employment, and most importantly, bring back our recently graduated children. Where we part ways, Sir, is in the means to this end. You want to revive an old, worn-out formula that made us the cancer champions of New Brunswick. As for me, I would like to open a window (and your minds, if possible) to a new vision for our community.

You can't fathom why such a flawless mining project has been subjected to so many false rumours in the community. To date, the only concrete information about the mine is contained in a rezoning report, issued in May 2022 and submitted to the municipality of Heron Bay, that same fall, at the request of the quarry owner and CIMBEC, QC, one of the mine's promoters.

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# A midwifery birthing room in Gaspé

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Gaspé's Maison de la famille Parenfant will be the first facility of its type to have a birthing room. Since the number of births in the Gaspé Peninsula does not justify the creation of a birthing centre, the Maison de la famille has come up with a solution to offer the service itself.

"It is indeed a version adapted to the Gaspésie and Côte-de-Gaspé region," says Parenfant coordinator Marie-Andrée Nadeau.

The current Maison de la famille will be expanded, essentially doubling its space to include a birthing room, labour room and a new large multipurpose room. This project will enhance services already offered for the past three years and is the second phase in developing midwifery services in the Côte-de-Gaspé.

"It consolidates other activities. For three years, we have offered the social perinatal service including preg-

nancy monitoring with a medical team at the Maison de la famille. Now we are adding services to offer births in the birthing room and a labour room in which couples living further away in the Côte-de-Gaspé can come and spend the first stages of childbirth before going to the hospital," explains Ms. Nadeau.

"That's what we want in the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC to have a team as large as in the Bay of Chaleur, to offer complete midwifery services including births in a birthing room," she says.

A job posting for a midwife is listed on the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS (Integrated Health and Social Services Centre) website. The project is innovative as it does not exist elsewhere in Quebec.

"We hope it will set a precedent for remote regions like ours," says the coordinator. This offers families the chance to give birth with midwives in a neutral place, outside of a hospital environment.

"Since the arrival of the so-



Photo: Gaspé Maison de la famille Parenfant

The image shows what the expanded facility will look like, including the new birthing room.

cial perinatal service, the CISSS has always supported it and discussions are going very well for the expansion," says Ms. Nadeau.

The services continue to be appreciated by the population and the addition of services will meet a need.

"That's what we saw in the two surveys that we con-

ducted: a birthing room, a service that does not exist at all; and a labour room, for families further from the Côte-de-Gaspé; and a large room will meet many of the demands because we will finally be able to offer collective cooking activities and we will be able to increase the number of people participating per

group with the expansion," the coordinator asserts.

The \$1.2 million project is funded by partners, and a public fundraising campaign will be launched in October. Plans are advanced, and construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2025 with an opening projected for the winter of 2026.

# Quebec government invests \$6M in training for fisheries sector workers

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS - The Quebec government is investing more than \$6 million to train up to 500 workers in the fisheries and marine product processing sectors in Eastern Quebec.

This assistance was granted at the request of the Comité sectoriel de la main-d'œuvre des pêches maritimes, a large group of employers, who felt that there were needs to be met in terms of ongoing training. The assistance announced on September 6 will meet the needs of approximately twenty

companies in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Lower Saint Lawrence and North Shore regions.

"This is a need that has been expressed. We know that there are technological changes currently, but we are also facing environmental changes that are forcing the entire industry to review its practices. We are responding to this with customized training for each company," says Employment Minister Kateri Champagne Jourdain, who made the announcement in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

"Do we need to increase digital literacy? Do we need to train the workforce on new methods of doing things? It will be based on the needs of the company. Ultimately, we want people to be more versatile and to adapt to technological changes more quickly, or to changes in production lines. We want to better equip the workforce," explains the minister. According to her, around fifteen companies have already shown interest in the program set up in collaboration with the Chic-Chocs, Îles, René-Lévesque, Moyenne-Côte-Nord and Lit-

toral School Service Centres, as well as the Eastern Shores School Board. She hopes that others will join the initiative.

This 315-hour paid classroom training promotes learning related to real-life work situations.

"The fishing industry is going through a period of uncertainty, and its companies are facing multiple challenges. This assistance aims to provide additional tools to workers in the fishing sector, while the industry must focus on innovation to continue to stand out," notes Stéphane Sainte-Croix, Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Gaspé and Government Assistant for Fisheries.

"It has been proven that improving basic skills makes workers better equipped to deal with unexpected and new developments. As climate and technological changes rapidly change the world of fisheries, this training will be very useful for staff and, consequently, for their employers. It will also undoubtedly help develop other skills such as adaptability, inclusion and problem solving," says the executive director of the sector committee, Marjorie Chrétien.

Workers will have the opportunity to accumulate insurable hours towards employment insurance benefits.



Photo: Office of Minister Kateri Champagne Jourdain

Minister Kateri Champagne Jourdain during the announcement in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.



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**Cont'd from Cover**

used by Gaspé Copper Mines, and the other is located to the northwest, encroaching on the caribou protection zone.

“We have had very few questions about the long-term environmental impact. Minister (of the Environment, Benoit) Charette’s new caribou habitat regulation zone could potentially be a problem for the mining development of Mines Gaspé. We will file a brief in October to express our concerns and propose to the government to push the eastern limit of the residential zone, 10 to 15 kilometres further west to free up the territory,” explains Mr. Wares.

“There is no evidence of caribou presence in this area,” he says, arguing that the government will decide where the tailings will go.

**Open pit dewatering**

In regards to the dewatering of the pit and the discharge into the York River, the Osisko Metals president assures that he is doing everything in his power to limit the impacts, particularly on the salmon habitat.

“The goal is to have zero impact on the river. The dewatering will be done over a minimum of two and a half years and the rate will be mitigated depending on the seasons and the volume of water. During the summer, sometimes, the level of the York River is dangerously low. This could be an opportunity to increase the rate to avoid that. We will do new tests this fall. And we believe that we have found a form of passive treatment for the water to reduce the copper levels in the water,” said Mr. Wares.

This passive treatment uses limestone to clean the water to a certain degree. According to tests carried out over the last few months, the Mount Copper pit water contains 60 parts of copper per billion.

“The goal would be to reach 20 parts per billion, which would be acceptable to all,” he adds, indicating that this would be under Directive 019 on the mining industry, which sets the acceptable monthly average concentration at 300 micrograms of copper per litre.

“Salmon don’t react to a lot of other metals but they react a lot to copper. We will even try to reduce the concentration of copper to 15 parts per billion,” says Robert Wares.

The Mount Copper open pit mine currently contains 35 million cubic metres of water, the

equivalent of 35 billion litres.

**Transportation**

The ore produced in Murdochville would be transported by truck to Gaspé and would then be transported by ship to smelters located in Europe and by train to the Horne Foundry in Rouyn-Noranda in the Abitibi region.

“It will be up to Glencore to decide,” says Mr. Wares about the destination of the production.

Glencore, the former owner of Gaspé Mines, sold the property to Osisko under an agreement reached in 2022, retaining the right to buy 100% of the mine’s production.

Jean-Claude Plourde, a resident of Gaspé asked about the impact of the heavy traffic on Road 198, Mr. Wares pointed out that despite “the trucks being bigger today, as they can carry 35 tons,” the number of trucks would also be higher compared to when the first Gaspé mines operated between 1953 and 2002.

**More drilling to come**

The drilling results carried out this year remain encouraging and will be announced by press release this fall. The exploration team drilled over 8,000 metres between the spring and the end of the summer.

“Additional drilling will be carried out in 2025 in order to get more information about the size of the mine and confirm its copper content. We will drill on Mount Copper towards Mount Needle to determine the limits of the mining zone,” stresses Mr. Wares.

**Quality of life**

Most people who attended the September 10 meeting expressed support for Osisko Metals. Lise Cyr was among them. “I have lived here for 67 years. I think, between you and me, that we are very happy to see that there will be another mine.”

Julie Lévesque, another Murdochville resident, inquired about the permits needed by Osisko Metals before starting the construction of the new mine and the ore concentration plant that will go with it.

Robert Wares explained that securing all the permits needed to reopen the mine will take the same time, two years will be required for the company to secure the capital needed to bring the venture to fruition.

Emmanuelle Desrochers-Perrault, a management con-

sultant and project manager who lives in Murdochville, supports the project but is concerned about the social impact of the eventual mine’s reopening.

“I am really interested in the environmental aspects of the project. This milieu will remain

once we are gone. Our children will stay here. I care about the social impact the project could have for the people who have chosen nature, quietness and an access to the outdoors”, Ms. Desrochers-Perrault points out. Citizens who do not want to

live in Murdochville could be offered to sell their homes to the company, as was done in Malartic, Abitibi, where Osisko Metals developed a gold mine.

Mr. Wares hopes to see the mine restart at the end of 2030, but 2031 is more likely.



**PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION**

School Board:

**EASTERN SHORES**

Poll of:

**2024 11 03**

year month day

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given to electors of the Eastern Shores School Board by June Main, returning officer that:

- The following positions are open for nominations:  
**Chairperson                      Commissioners for:      Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3, Ward 4, Ward 5, Ward 6, Ward 7, Ward 8, Ward 9 and Ward 10**

- Nomination papers for these positions must be filed at the office of the returning officer or at those of the assistants authorized to receive nomination papers on the following days and time:

<b>From</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>29</b>
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<b>Dates:</b>	Tuesday, September 24, 2024	from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
	Wednesday, September 25, 2024	from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
	Thursday, September 26, 2024	from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
	Friday, September 27, 2024	from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

**NOTE:      The following dates will be at 40 Mountsorrel Street New Carlisle, Quebec only**  
**Saturday, September 28, 2024                      from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, September 29, 2024                      from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

- If two or more candidates are nominated for the same position

<b>A poll will be held on:</b> <b>November 3rd, 2024</b> <b>From 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>And an advance poll will be held on:</b> <b>October 27th, 2024</b> <b>From 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b>
--	---

- I nominate to act as the election clerk: Mrs. Carole Firlotte

- I nominate as assistant(s) authorized to receive nomination papers:**  
 Ward 1: Karen Kean, 130 rue le Carrefour, Fermont, QC 418-287-5497  
 Ward 1: Ann Rooney, 39 rue Marquette, Baie Comeau, QC 418-296-2832  
 Ward 1: Emilie Dallaire, 67 rue Audubon, Port-Cartier, QC 418-766-2665  
 Ward 2: Seneca LeBlanc, 542 Ave Brochu, Sept Iles, QC 418-968-8412  
 Ward 3: Tracy Sim, 468 rue Beach, Metis Beach, QC 418-936-3288  
 Ward 3: Julie McGrath, 9 rue de l'école, Escuminac, QC 418-788-5549  
 Ward 4: Meaghan Deeth, 163 Perron Blvd., New Richmond, QC 418-392-4441  
 Ward 5: Kelly Main, 177 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle, QC 418-752-3316  
 Ward 6: Christa Flowers/Pamela Huntington, 116 Route 132, Port-Daniel, QC 418-396-5252  
 Ward 7: Francine Goulet/Nadine Savage, 155 Monseigneur Ross, Chandler, QC 418-689-5905 press 2  
 Ward 7: Helen Lucas, 1298, Route 132, Barachois, QC 418-645-2236  
 Ward 8 & 9: Leanne Limoges, 234, Mgr. Leblanc, Gaspé, QC 418-368-2259  
 Ward 10: Heather Turnbull, 448, Principal Street, Grosse Ile, QC 418-985-2885  
 All Wards: June Main, 40 Mountsorrel, New Carlisle, QC 418-752-2247 ext. 1271

- An elector who does not have a child admitted to educational services in the English language school board or a French language Service Centre which covers their home address may choose to exercise or revoke their right to vote at an English language school board. This choice is made by sending a notice in writing to the returning officer of the English language school board.

(44th day before polling day)		(19th day before polling day)
<b>20</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>to</b>	<b>15</b>
		<b>10</b>
		<b>2024</b>

Address and telephone number of the returning officer of the English language school board.  
*June Main*  
 40 Mountsorrel Street,  
 New Carlisle, QC G0C 1Z0  
 Telephone: (418) 752-2247 extension 1271

- You can reach me or one of my assistants authorized to receive nomination papers.

Signature

Issued in: New Carlisle, Quebec, on September 10th, 2024

*June Main*  
 Returning Officer

## Quick facts: Osisko and Murdochville

Gilles Gagné

MURDOCHVILLE – Some numbers are worth remembering about Osisko Metals’ potential venture and the rich mining history of Murdochville. Some of them appear below.

**1947:** The year the first major copper deposit was assessed, after many showings since 1909.

**1951:** Construction of the mine and the smelter begins.

**1953:** Construction of the town starts.

**1955:** Commercial production of the first copper anodes begins after a trial in 1954.

**1957:** An important strike occurs. The union will only be recognized in 1965.

**1970s:** Gaspé Copper Mines employs 2,000 people and 5,000 people live in the town.

**1982:** The production was halted for 18 months due to the recession.

**1987:** A fire damages the mine, which remains closed for two years.

**1999:** Closure of the mines, the underground galleries and the open pit.

**2002:** Closure of the smelter, which had been kept active with imported ore.

**2006-2010:** Cleanup Clean-up of the mining and smelter site.

**2019:** Glencore, which has kept the mining property despite the closure, makes exploration drills.

**2022:** Osisko Metals takes over the mining property and resumes drilling operations. The official property transfer takes place in 2023.

**2024-2027:** The time required to carry out the environmental assessment, conduct further drillings to determine accurately the size of the deposit, carry out the preliminary economic study and, then, the feasibility study.

**2028:** The final environmental assessment by the BAPE (Bureau d’audiences publiques sur l’environnement) and the decision about investing or not.

**2030-2031:** The reopening of the Mount Copper and possibly Mount Needle mines, as well as the opening of a new ore concentrator.

**495 million tons tonne:** the volume of mineralized rocks in the Mount Copper open pit.

**0.37%:** the percentage of copper in that volume of mineralized rocks. It would yield 1.4 million tons of copper if exploited, or 3.2 billion pounds. Between 1954 and 1999, the Murdochville mines produced 2.9 million pounds of copper. A percentage of 0.37% copper content is considered low grade. The former underground mines of Murdochville yielded up to 3% of copper at times.

**180 million pounds:** the volume of molybdenum contained in the Mount Copper open pit. It is an important alloy, used in the steel industry. It would bring 12% of Osisko Metals’ revenues from Murdochville.

**50,000 tons:** The projected capacity of the new ore concentrator, which would be between five and six times more than the former concentrators used prior to the 1999 closure.

# Gaspé wins the gold medal for highest gas prices in Quebec

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Oil companies continue to exploit drivers in Gaspé by charging the highest price per litre gas prices in Quebec, except for James Bay.

According to data from the Energy Board, Gaspé’s price is \$1.74 per litre for regular gasoline as of September 5.

James Bay shows a price of \$1.89, based on published reports.

In other outlying regions, the North Shore advertised an average price of \$1.69 and Abitibi-Témiscamingue \$1.66.

The average price in the Lower Saint Lawrence region is \$1.62. In the region, the average price in the Bay of Chaleur is \$1.66 and \$1.73 in Rocher-Percé.

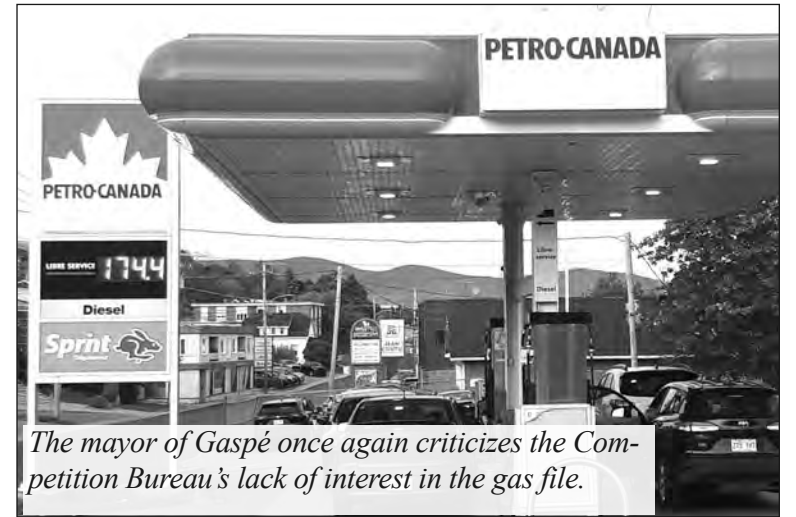
This means that for each litre sold on September 5, retailers are pocketing 24.8 cents in Gaspé, 24.3 cents in Rocher-Percé and 20.2 cents in the Bay of Chaleur.

The respective averages over the last year are 16.2 cents, 14.3 cents and 13.0 cents.

Taking into account the price at the pump and the average over the past year, the pump price should be \$1.59 in Bay of Chaleur, \$1.61 in Rocher-Percé and \$1.64 in Gaspé.

The mayor of Gaspé has been denouncing the situation since 2019.

“I would like us to get a little attention from the Competition Bureau of Canada. It’s their job to clean up and investigate this. It’s not true that



The mayor of Gaspé once again criticizes the Competition Bureau’s lack of interest in the gas file.

Photo: N. Sergerie

you can investigate from an office in Ottawa,” notes Daniel Côté.

He points out that investigators went to the Lower Saint Lawrence and Côte-Nord regions in the past year.

“Why are they able to go to those regions and not to us?” questions the mayor.

“They’re not doing their job. That’s the heart of the problem. I’m not saying there are anti-competitive practices, but the numbers speak for themselves. When gasoline is more expensive in Gaspé than in the Magdalen Islands, when prices are at the same level as those in isolated communities in the Far North of Quebec, there is reason to scratch your head. It is impossible that this is just a game of supply and demand,” analyzes the mayor.

In the Magdalen Islands, the posted price was \$1.69 on September 5.

### Signed Collective Agreement

The workers affiliated with

the CSN and the Town of Gaspé signed the new five-year collective agreement Tuesday evening after 12 rounds of complex and arduous negotiations.

The mayor did not participate in the discussions but notes that the parties came close to the breaking point, but the council unanimously accepted the agreement and the union members by 87% in June. “For us, it was important to offer working conditions that are at least equivalent to what prevails in the market. We rebalanced certain positions in terms of salary, in particular, because we were losing a lot of employees,” says the mayor.

The agreement, retroactive to January 1, provides for a catch-up of up to \$3.75 per hour for certain trades in the first year.

In subsequent years, salary increases will range from 2.45% to 2.75% depending on the CPI (Consumer price index) and will be capped at 2% for the last two years.

## Percé challenged by former director of urban planning

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ - The Town of Percé will have to defend itself before the Administrative Labour Tribunal as its former director of urban planning, Ghislain Pitre, is contesting his dismissal which took place on July 17.

The municipal council made this decision at a special meeting, by a vote of five to one, following the submission of a 340-page administrative investigative report from the Therrien, Couture and Joli-Cœur law firm.

The elected officials adopted a resolution just minutes after reviewing the document which had been commissioned during Mr. Pitre’s suspension with pay on



Ghislain Pitre

Photo: Archives

October 30, 2023.

Since the case risked being brought to court, the municipal council made no further comment on the resolution adopted that validated the dismissal. Serious allegations surrounding the director of urban planning led to his suspension.

Suspicions of fraud, theft of

large sums of money from the municipality and falsification of documents were directed at him, leading to an administrative investigation. The cost of the administrative investigation amounted to \$131,250. Sources indicated that the alleged actions spanned over an extended period.

The Permanent Anti-Corruption Unit (UPAC) took an interest in the file and the results of the investigation are still awaited.

### Tourist fee

It will have cost the Town of Percé \$130,000 to challenge the Tourist fee.

The municipal council decided in June to end the appeal of the June 2023 decision by

the Superior Court invalidating the fee.

At that time, the Town estimated the costs incurred in the litigation initiated by the Citizens-Merchants Committee to be nearly \$100,000.

At the last council meeting, five invoices totalling \$29,076.93 were adopted for a total of \$130,000.

The court had invalidated the fee, stating that the legislature had not delegated to municipalities the power to regulate its collection without prior agreement.

### 2023 financial report

Percé has still not filed its 2023 financial statements with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs despite the obligation to

do so by June 15.

The Town has not always received the documents from its auditors. “The auditors expressed certain reservations following the Municipal Commission’s report on the Town’s general accounting. They expressed reservations but also requested documents that are currently inaccessible. We are waiting for the okay to publish the reports,” mentions the Director General, Michel Fréchette.

According to him, it’s just a matter of days as accountants are doing final verifications with the commission and other organizations mentioned in the report.

The financial report should be available at the October meeting.

# Show your support on International Day of Sign Languages

- **PENNY MACWHIRTER**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE
- **HOLLY SMITH**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW CARLISLE: September 23 marks the International Day of Sign Languages, a global initiative established by the United Nations General Assembly to raise awareness about the importance of sign language for the deaf community.

The day was established with a resolution in 2017 following a proposal by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). The United Nations resolution acknowledges that “Early access to sign language and services in sign language, including quality education available in sign language, is vital to the growth and development of the deaf individual and critical to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.”

That WFD is made up of 135 national associations of deaf people, representing approximately 70 million deaf people’s human rights worldwide. The proposed date of September 23 was in recognition of the WFD’s founding on that date in 1951. It also

coincides with the International Week of Deaf People which takes place September 23 to 29.

This year’s observance emphasizes the unity of sign languages worldwide, urging communities and governments to support and recognize these vital linguistic tools.

## Shining a blue light on Sign Languages

To promote and recognize sign languages, communities and governments around the world are encouraged to display blue lights.

## Sign language around the world

There are over 70 million deaf individuals globally, with more than 80% residing in developing countries. These individuals use over 300 different sign languages, each with its own unique grammar and syntax. In Canada, American Sign Language (ASL) and Quebec Sign Language (Langue des signes québécoise, LSQ) are most common, with additional Indigenous and Maritime Sign



*Peter enjoys his new job as a loader operator at the RITMRG in Chandler.*

Photo: Peter Mann

Languages also used.

Statistics Canada reported that in 2021, 8,415 people identified ASL as their mother tongue, while 1,860 reported LSQ.

Furthermore, 37,620 Canadians could converse in ASL, and 6,193 in LSQ. Though estimates vary, the Canadian Association of the Deaf suggests there are approximately 357,000 deaf Canadians and 3.21 million hard of hearing individuals.

## Challenges in the Gaspé Peninsula

There are significant gaps in services for the deaf community, particularly in remote regions like the Gaspé Peninsula. Peter Mann, 34, who currently lives in Port Daniel, shared his personal experiences with SPEC as he navigates life with deafness in a region with limited resources.

Diagnosed at birth, Mr. Mann was raised in Port

Daniel, first attending Shigawake Port Daniel School, and then New Carlisle High School and Bonaventure Polyvalent before moving to Montreal for work.

Despite returning to the region for a new job in Chandler, he faced considerable challenges due to the lack of sign language services in the area.

“I was diagnosed at birth and have family members who are also deaf,” Mr. Mann told SPEC. “When I started school I learned some ASL. I learned more ASL online because there were no sign language services in the Gaspé Peninsula.

In addition, there have been times in Mr. Mann’s life when he needed an interpreter for lawyers, court appearances and healthcare. “I had to travel to Montreal for an interpreter, which cost a lot,” explains Mr. Mann.

Despite his efforts, finding employment locally was tough. “I looked for ten years for a job, I eventually got a job at RITMRG in May 2023.” However, the language barrier between ASL and LSQ

**Cont’d on page 9**

# Railway safety, is everyone's business!

On foot, on a bike, using an off-road vehicle or in a car, **stay away from the railway tracks.**



## Safety Near Railways

Caution must be exercised at all times in the vicinity of railways.

### Here are the main safety tips to observe near a railway:

- ✓ Respect the rules that prohibit crossing or travelling on railway tracks, other than in designated areas. Such trespassing is not only dangerous, but also illegal.
- ✓ Use the level crossings or signposted crossings provided.
- ✓ Look both ways and listen for an approaching train before crossing at one of these points.
- ✓ Comply with railway signs and signals: cross when warning signals are off and when you are sure no other train is approaching.
- ✓ Remain extra vigilant at all times, and keep your distance from railways.

### Here are the main prohibitions to observe in the vicinity of a railway:

- ✗ Walking, jogging or riding along railways.
- ✗ Taking photos or enjoying recreational activities (e.g. snowmobiling) along railway tracks, tunnels or bridges.
- ✗ Crossing tracks other than at designated and authorized crossings.
- ✗ Obstructing or interrupting, by any means whatsoever, the use of railway infrastructure.



Trespassing on railway property or tracks is an offence punishable by fines ranging from \$200 to \$500 for individuals, and from \$400 to \$1,000 for corporations.

**Québec.ca/Sécuritéferroviaire**



## SIGN LANGUAGE:

▶ *Cont'd from page 8*

poses additional difficulties. “At work, I use my smartphone to communicate with my boss and coworkers,” adding that he later uses Google Translate to bridge the language gap between English and French.

The lack of local support extends to home adaptations as well. “I have no special adaptations at home, like for smoke detectors or doorbells,” says Mr. Mann. “I have not been able to get those services covered and, if they’re not covered, they are very expensive,” he adds.

His advice to newly diagnosed deaf individuals is to use online tools and resources, as they can be crucial when local services are unavailable “Use online tools to learn ASL. When you can’t get services, you have to do it yourself,” says Mr. Mann. He recommends using internet sites such as lifeprint.com.

Silver Gallan was diagnosed with a hearing impairment in both ears since birth. Now seven years old and in grade two, Silver has undergone numerous tests at several hospitals to determine the extent of her hearing impairment. She has learned that her condition could further decrease over time, with the possibility that she may eventually lose her hearing entirely.

Tabitha Flowers, Silver’s grandmother, is eager to learn sign language to ensure that Silver is fluent and is able to communicate with her friends and family in sign language. “It is very important for Silver, her family and friends to learn sign language due to the fact that she could be fully hearing impaired one day,” explains Ms. Flowers

“Unfortunately with the lack of resources in our region, it is more difficult to learn sign language considering there are no classes, workshops, etc. that are available. We have reached out to multiple organizations to try and get more resources in our region for the hearing impaired but, unfortunately, in



Photo: Tabitha Flowers

*Silver is determined to not let her hearing impairment stop her from doing the activities she loves.*

our small communities, there is not enough need for it,” says Ms. Flowers.

Silver would like to learn sign language and become fluent: “I’m discouraged to not know more, but I’m learning online one word at a time,” she says. The family has purchased an online program so that they can learn sign language together.

In addition to the challenges of learning sign language, Silver faces other difficulties in her daily life.

“A few of the biggest challenges for Silver is being in a large group of people (due to echoing voices), swimming (being underwater creates pressure in the ears), and riding a bike (since hearing impairments can affect balance),” says Ms. Flowers, noting that Silver is athletic and loves sports.

Silver has also struggled with receiving adequate speech therapy resources, currently, she is receiving the service online rather than in

person. Moreover, the family has waited over two years to receive a hearing test at the hospital and, consequently, has resorted to paying out of pocket for an annual test to ensure timely evaluations.

The family does not currently have hearing impairment devices in their home but is prepared to install devices such as special phones, along with alarms and doorbells that trigger lights and vibrations.

Silver says, “It’s important for people to know that hearing aids are not a magic fix and if you talk to a person who is hearing impaired, look at them, speak clearly, and not too fast.” Her grandmother adds, “Silver has experienced some bullying but that doesn’t stop her from enjoying all the things she loves, such as hunting, fishing, karate, dancing and singing. She does all these activities with pride because she knows truly how amazing she is in her own way.”

## Interesting facts about American sign language

American Sign Language, or ASL, has helped millions of North Americans who are deaf or have family members who are deaf communicate with their loved ones and colleagues.

### What is ASL?

According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, ASL is its own unique language that employs movements of both the hands and face. Though ASL has the same linguistic properties as spoken languages, its grammar differs from English.

### The origins of ASL

The NIDCD notes that the exact origins of ASL are not clear, though some suggest it may trace its roots back hundreds of years. Those theories trace ASL to Langue des Signes Francaise (French Sign Language), or LSF. Modern ASL indeed includes some elements of LSF, which was used in France more than 200 years ago.

### ASL and spoken languages

ASL is its own language that is distinct from English. The NIDCD notes that ASL features all the fundamental components of spoken languages, including rules governing pronunciation, word formation and word order. Some may even be surprised to learn that, like spoken languages such as English, ASL even has regional accents and dialects. The rhythm of signing, pronunciation, slang, and signs in ASL may differ depending on where the person signing is from.

ASL is vital to helping people who are deaf or hard of hearing communicate with their families. This unique language boasts a rich and interesting history.

## The role of sign language in education

Canada was one of the original signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. The UN Convention recognizes the right of Deaf people to equal access to education, and upholds their right to be educated in Sign language:

### Article 24, Education:

3(b). Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community.

3(c). Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children who are blind, deaf, and deafblind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.

4. In order to help ensure the realization of the rights, States Parties [i.e., governments] shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including those with disabilities, who are fluent in sign language, Braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities.

The Canadian Association of the Deaf believes that “The first and foremost need of the deaf child is a language which he/she can master easily, quickly, and comfortably; only then will the child have the linguistic tools to effectively master a second language, e.g. English or French. Research clearly shows that deaf students with high levels of ASL/LSQ proficiency attain high levels of English/French literacy. This supports the argument for bilingual education: strengthening the students’ first and most accessible language will support their learning of English/French.”



## WELDING AND FITTING

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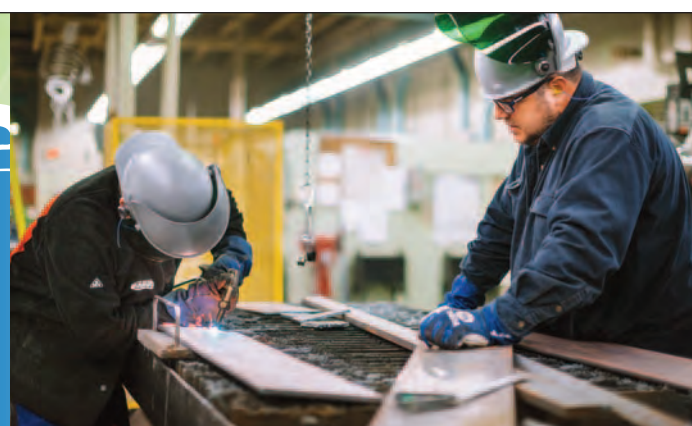


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# Herring season gets off to a slightly better start

GILLES GAGNÉ

SAINT-GODEFROI – The herring fishing season started on August 25 in Zone 16B, the Southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence zone accessible to Gaspesian commercial fishermen. The first two weeks of the season have shown two trends, according to Jeffrey Vautier: very few fishermen going out and there are slightly better catches compared to 2023.

However, catching a little bit more fish than in 2023 is not saying much, points out Mr. Vautier, as the fall of 2023 was dismal. As of September 12 of this year, he had gone out to fish herring every night since August 25, which means five nights per week, from Sunday to Thursday inclusively. Fishermen must stay at the wharf on Friday and Saturday nights.

“It is better than last year during the first two weeks, but this week was not good so far. I caught 40,000 pounds after two weeks, in Miscou and Chandler, off

Pabos. It was worth fishing the first two weeks, but not this week. We’re getting 50 cents per pound. It is the best price I have ever received but there is nobody fishing. I am the only one from Saint-Godefroi fishing herring this year. There are only five boats from Quebec fishing: one from Grande-Rivière, three from Sainte-Thérèse, and me,” says Jeffrey Vautier.

He delivers his fish to the Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan processing plant, based in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé. The plant director general and president, Roch Lelièvre, explained on September 12 that the night of September 11 was very good. “The best night of this year so far, with catches matching the total of all the previous week.”

## Concerns about the state of herring stock

Jeffrey Vautier, who has been fishing for 40 years, is very worried about the state of the herring stock. This



Photo: G. Gagné

Jeffrey Vautier of Shigawake is worried about the state of the herring stock in the Southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

year, the quota of 2,982 metric tons in Zone 16B is only a small fraction of what it was 20 or 30 years ago.

“Counting the New Brunswick boats, we are only 25 boats going out for herring this year. We used to be 150 to 200. It is hard to find the fish,” he stresses.

He fears that the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) will eventually be looking for reasons to impose a moratorium on fall herring, through miscalculation of catches, like it happened in the case of spring herring.

Mr. Vautier also fears the lack of measures to curtail herring predation made by an overabundance of some species.

“We see seals and other predators like striped bass

and tuna. As long as predation is stronger than the result of fishing, the fish will not come back. A study revealed that at least 70% of herring is eaten by seals. Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) must protect the habitat and they have not protected it for 25 years,” he remarks.

“A closure of herring fisheries would be very bad for scientific data collecting, as fishing is the best way to have an indication about the state of the stock... It seems that DFO is preparing a moratorium. Yes, fishermen were wrong at times, like in the 1990s and 2000s. In New Brunswick, they were fishing six days a week. Predation doesn’t come only from the seals. Tuna eat a lot of herring too. The number of tuna fish is terribly high in our

sector. The striped bass does not eat the herring, it eats the eggs. It eats salmon too. It will be worse, if nothing is done. Lobster will also suffer this fate,” analyzes Jeffrey Vautier.

## Striped bass: ping pong game

He deplores the ping pong game that is taking place between the federal and provincial governments, as neither is willing to initiate a striped bass commercial fishery in Quebec.

“We were supposed to be able to fish for striped bass. I asked around. It belongs to the province. The provincial government has no intention of fishing striped bass commercially. I heard this summer that the Quebec government is looking for ways to get people to buy local fish. Striped bass could feed people, but no one is doing anything. The right hand doesn’t talk to the left hand,” affirms the Shigawake fisherman.

“I didn’t go to school for very long, but since we got striped bass, I’ve seen a drop in salmon. Striped bass eat the eggs. So, salmon can’t go to the sea and come back to their river. They have no chance of developing. That’s what’s frustrating as a fisherman and as a citizen,” concludes Jeffrey Vautier.

## New Richmond’s Salle de spectacles to feature LOVEU2 and Bobby Bazini

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – New Richmond’s Salle de spectacles régionale Desjardins will feature LoveU2 on September 27 and Bobby Bazini on October 3.

### LoveU2

LoveU2, is a cover band of the world-renowned Irish band U2. The band will perform U2’s greatest hits from their early days to the present. Rock music, costumes and sets will immerse you in the legacy of U2. Some critics say that the crowd is transported to the heart of the group in an electrifying theatrical performance, as much in terms of energy as instruments and voice.

“They are returning from the United States where they performed three shows. The lead singer really looks like Bono and they play well,” says Éric Normandin, communication and development agent for the Salle de spectacles régionale.

### Bobby Bazini

Quebec singer-songwriter Bobby Bazini has had over a decade-long career marked by Félix, Juno and international awards, along with platinum selling albums.

“He comes here with three musicians. Bobby sings and plays classical guitar; Connor Seidel plays the bass; Robbie Kuster, who has accompanied Patrick Watson, plays the drums; and Conner Molander, of Half Moon Run, plays the keyboards,” explains Éric Normandin.

After several platinum records, tens of millions of online streams and sold-out concerts, Bobby Bazini released "Pearl" a year ago, which is considered a true musical rebirth for the artist.

Mia Kelly will open for Bobby Bazini on October 3. “She is from Gatineau and sings in English and French. She has won a Canadian Music Award. She is versatile, singing blues, folk, rock and soul songs. She will release an album the day after her New Richmond show, but it will be available here (at the Salle de spectacles),” says Mr. Normandeau.

On the Salle de spectacles Facebook page, as well as their Spotify profile, you can find a playlist that features a selection of the songs played by the artists who will perform at the venue this fall.

## LETTER TO EDITOR

▶ *Cont'd from page 4*

From fall 2022 to spring 2024, there was not a whisper—no news. By this spring, while the council was quietly initiating steps toward amending the town's bylaws to include zoning for resource extraction, such as pozzolan, the rezoning plan was leaked. Citizens gradually became informed, when the rumour mill began. The promoters and especially the municipality, lacked transparency. By the summer of 2024, the promoters finally sent a letter apologetically admitting to their lack of communication.

For a major Canadian corporate citizen, Pozzolan Dalhousie was off to a bad start. Identifying it as a Canadian corporation is a tad misleading, considering that you sir, have yet to reveal the actual investors behind it. Yes, a company registered in Canada, but controlled by whom? Foreign investors who have no ties to our community? For example, CEMENT MCINNIS, is also a company registered in

Canada, but is 83% controlled by Votorantim Cimentos, of Brazil. Speaking of Ciment McInnis, why does it list its website address under Cimbec's Mr. Rousseau's email in the rezoning report?

The option of an open-pit mine to extract pozzolan will give the cement industry a green touch and, above all, reduce its GHG emissions. Extraction of three million tons per year, however; cannot be compared to a small local quarry that produces 50,000 tons of crushed stone annually. That's 60 times more, a lot more blasting, a lot more noise and dust! And we haven't even talked about the enormous environmental damage. A mine can never be ecological! The mine would be connected to the port by a 3.4 km conveyor to transport the pozzolan. Moreover, to ship the dust, dredging will be necessary. Along with increased noise, the release of contaminants trapped in the sediments left 15 to 20 years ago, will be another huge health issue. These massive port facilities will necessarily

be lit all night long, adding light pollution to the list.

All of this erodes our environment: the mine dims the night, degrades the air, destroys the landscape, contaminates the water, and creates noise that disrupts our peace of mind. What do we get in return; fifty, maybe sixty jobs? That's not nearly enough to revive our community, especially when we risk losing many citizens who won't want to or can't live in such an environment.

And so, we have to dream, to imagine a future. What is a plausible solution to mining... to industries of the good old days and all the pollution they left behind? Yet another industry, the last one has closed. And so, we roll up our sleeves to align the municipal plan to rebuild the town's economy around its remaining natural assets: the bay, the mountain, and potential ecotourism.

We begin to see improvements when promoters arrive again, with sweet words, pretty promises, millions in their pockets, and a mining project that will level our

mountain, disfigure our environment, and bring us back to the good old days we're trying to escape—the days of pollution that cost our mental and physical health.

In a perfect world, we elected councillors and a mayor who are here to protect the future of our citizens. After a public referendum, the project is rejected! The elected officials persuade all levels of government to commit to our human rights. The hundreds of millions they were ready to invest in the mining company are put at our disposal. With that money and a law, allowing the expropriation of bad corporate citizens, they are forced to pay for the decontamination of the abandoned sites. We return the waterfront to the citizens, and set up a coastline park with picnic areas and playgrounds overlooking the river and bay. We build affordable housing and industrial condos to give young entrepreneurs a chance in our community while allowing the elder citizens time to rest. Years have passed and now, I

watch my grandchild play soccer on the field near Aux Quatre Vents school. A siren blasts, followed by a loud boom, as the ground shakes. Seconds later, a fine dust settles on us. Old and young alike start coughing as I turn to face our school, set to be demolished due to repeated blasts that have weakened the school's structure. The children are exiled to neighbouring communities to be schooled.

And there you have it Mr. Forlini; you now know of our justifiable fears. You also know the dream I share with so many others and which I also offer to you. Dream with us... Let's be creators of a 21st-century vision. Let's not confine ourselves to the continued torment of failed past solutions. Together we are strong enough to realize this dream and leave behind a better version of the good old days, for those to come.

*Yours truly,  
Jean-Marc Beaulieu...  
or NEVER MINE.  
Miguasha, Quebec*

# Cuts for building maintenance at Gaspé Cégep

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - Investment constraints announced in the middle of the summer by the Ministry of Higher Education are forcing Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles to significantly reduce its capital expenditure projects for the current school year.

The Cégep initially expected to have \$7.8 million available for 2024-2025. However, the funding has been capped at \$2.2 million until March 31, 2025.

Considering additional amounts from envelopes dedicated to specific projects, a total of \$4.6 million has been authorized for the CEGEP.

"We are talking about work for the Gaspé residences, among other things, so we have an envelope of \$4.6 million. But the news that caps our spending level means that we have no room to maneuver if an unplanned situation arises. With the number of buildings we have at Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, we are not safe from a leaking roof or a furnace that breaks down," explains the CEGEP's director, Yolaine Arseneau.

"We don't know the future.



Photo: N. Sergerie

*The Quebec government has cut the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles' capital project budget by \$3.2 million.*

What will the government allow us to do after March 31? For April, May and June of our current fiscal year, will we be able to start investing again? It is this uncertainty that is causing us to question the prioritization of current work," emphasizes the director.

Work planned for this year on the Gaspé campus residence will proceed. However, there remains one last part on the exterior to be completed next spring.

"The work planned for this

fall and winter will not be impacted. The work planned for the spring remains to be confirmed," says the director.

The Quebec government had announced the construction of a new complex for the Nergica research centre in January. "This work is protected because the funding came from the Ministry of Economy and Innovation and we have confirmation that it will not be affected by the spending cap," assures Ms. Arseneau.

As for the residence proj-

ect in Carleton-sur-Mer, it seems that the construction is not in question. "Communications with the ministry lead us to believe that this project will not be affected by the spending cap, but we are still in discussions with the ministry to make sure," says the director.

Other CEGEPs across Quebec are questioning new training courses since the budgets for laboratory construction have disappeared with these measures.

The Gaspé campus is scheduled to launch a Police Technology training program in the fall of 2025. The institution reserved \$300,000 for the construction of facilities to offer the course.

"We will do everything we can to ensure that this project is not affected by the spending cap. We will take all necessary steps with government and administrative authorities to ensure that there will be no consequences on the Police Technology program," says Ms. Arseneau.

"If we need to review our investment priorities, we'll do so, because it will be a priority, but we're staying the course on the projects we've already identified for this fall and winter, and getting an an-

swer as quickly as possible for a disbursement of funds by April," she explains.

Ms. Arseneau mentions that it is the first time in her 20-year career at the CEGEP that she has seen such a measure.

These cuts announced in the middle of summer come as the Auditor General criticized the lack of investment in maintaining the province's CEGEP assets.

In April, the educational institution reported that more than eight out of ten buildings were in good condition, with a rate of 82%.

In total, 19 of the 23 building sections were in good condition. The Gaspé campus residences were the only facilities that received an E rating.

The total renovation needed over five years amounts to \$17 million, including a special allocation of \$7 million from the Ministry of Higher Education, and another additional envelope obtained.

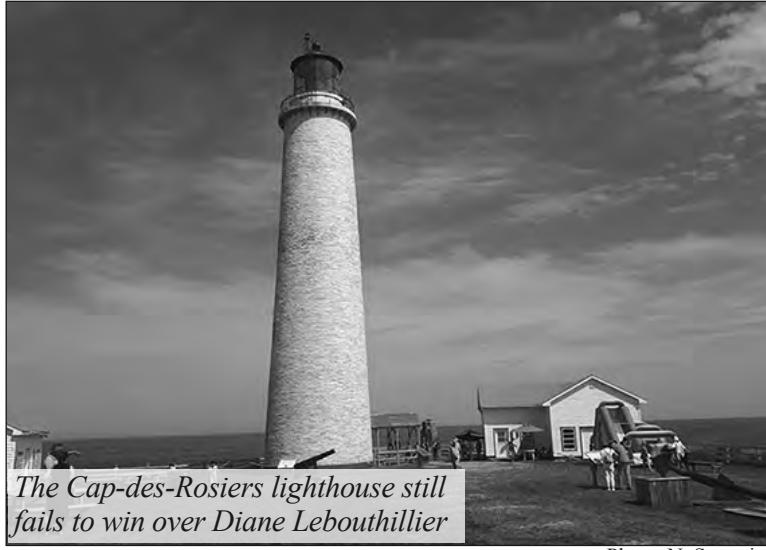
Denise-Leblanc pavilion, which houses the local campus administration, received a D rating. It is the only section of the Magdalen Islands campus that was not renovated during the 2018 work.

# Cap-des-Rosiers Lighthouse administrators seek more support from Ottawa

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - Administrators of the Cap-des-Rosiers Lighthouse Maritime Historic Site are hoping for more support from Ottawa for the site's management, as the summer of 2024 is described as catastrophic by the organization's president.

Virginie Gîteau had the opportunity to discuss the situation with the Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and responsible for the Cap-des-Rosiers Lighthouse, Diane Lebouthillier, on September 1. "It was a year that was, let's say, catastrophic in terms of entry revenues and operations, with the site being open only with volunteers. She listened to us and took notes, and we asked her how the next season could go and proposed



The Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse still fails to win over Diane Lebouthillier

Photo: N. Sergerie

solutions. We'll wait and see, but there were no promises or commitments," notes Ms. Gîteau.

Initially, the organization received a rejection from Service Canada for summer job funding, but after reporting the situation, the federal agency revised its decision, but it was too late to hire students who had found work

elsewhere.

Volunteers had to ensure that the site was partially operated during the tourist season. Exhausted, the administrators ended the season on Labour Day weekend. "We realized that we couldn't operate without a grant from Employment Canada." We don't have enough entry revenue to pay even one full salary for the entire season," says Ms. Gîteau.

The terms of the site's management were also discussed. "There is a lot to do, not just on the lighthouse. There is work that will con-

tinue on the lighthouse and we are happy about that, but there are also other buildings on the site that need love. There are the interpretation panels and the overall maintenance that is left to the NPO (non-profit organization) with a tiny budget," continues the president.

The site receives \$2,000 per year for basic maintenance, while the needs are estimated at \$15,000.

"We talked about extending the season. We closed on Saturday, August 31. We are losing all the September and fall tourists and the cruise passengers. It's a shame. We also talked about the sustainability not only of the next season but also in the long term. We are waiting for Ms. Lebouthillier to return," says Ms. Gîteau.

For next year, the president mentions that the site will not be able to be managed by the five administrators alone.

"We still managed to do some great things, but we were exhausted at the end of the season. If we have to do another season like this, it will be complicated. We are at the end

of our rope. We would like a little more help from the DFO and Ms. Lebouthillier," she says, noting that tourists were very disappointed not to be able to go up into the lighthouse.

Asked to comment, Ms. Lebouthillier mentioned that her position has not changed since 2015.

Ms. Lebouthillier felt it was important to meet with them and wanted to highlight dedication and love for the lighthouse.

"I looked with them at how they saw things and how we can work and help improve the situation, but my position remains the same. Yes, the lighthouse is important and Fisheries and Oceans has investments of over half a million dollars this year. I want to make sure that people have access, but my priority is port infrastructure," she says.

"Student jobs are not recurrent within organizations. We receive a lot of requests, and there are a lot of people who, when their requests are not answered, are not satisfied," adds the Member of Parliament.



Photo: G. Gagné

## New Richmond municipal garage: Inspection report still not available

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND: - The September 1 collapse of a section of the New Richmond municipal garage that is being built has continued to delay construction as of September 13.

"We should get the engineer's report about the incident soon. We want to be reassured about the causes of the collapse; who, why and how, in other words," says the mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé.

The incident affected the middle part of the new building, causing the trusses to cave in. The two other sections of the building were not affected. So far, only a small crew handling a crane

was authorized to make adjustments where the incident occurred, as fallen trusses were pulling on a part of the building that was already erected. Those trusses were cut. "Once we get the green light, truss builder Léon Chouinard will come with new trusses. They can be ready within three weeks. In the meantime, the contractor is working on civil engineering jobs around the building, like the parking lot and the sidewalks. If the incident was not caused by a conception problem, work will resume fast once the engineer report is tabled. Otherwise, it will take longer. The Town's budget will not be affected by the delay," adds Mayor Dubé.

## Patrimoine Gaspésie likes the "new" Villa Frederick-James

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - The renovations at Villa Frederick-James in Percé have been met with admiration, according to the president of Patrimoine Gaspésie.

Jean-Marie Fallu, who visited the villa, which has been open to the public since August 17, is impressed by the space which has been renovated and relocated since 2022 at a cost of \$25.5 million.

"I found it admirable in terms of the exterior and interior restoration. It is very simple. It reflects the origins of the building and how the villa was composed over time," says Mr. Fallu.

He recalls that it was first a fisherman's house and then an artist's studio. "We present the first owner starting with James and ending with the last owner, which was the Quebec government. We can listen to the history of who Frederick James was and the history of the villa through an audio guide. I thought it was good," he says.

Some people had hoped for a period-specific reconstruction. "But this furniture no longer exists and since we were going to have fake furniture, we wanted to make it a more open space. I think that's fine. Putting in old furniture is like going back in time and not necessarily authentic. It allows us to recreate the whole atmosphere that could have been there," the historian continues.

Consultations are ongoing regarding the cultural aspects of the site.

Visitors can explore elements of the villa's architectural history and delve into the lives of its former occupants daily until October.

A new garden level was also built specifically to accommodate visitors to the Villa.

The villa built in 1887-1888 was moved 19 metres to ensure its preservation, placing it safely outside the coastal erosion zone on Cap Canon.



The Villa Frederick-James is now safely positioned on Cap Canon in Percé.

# EcoRock Dalhousie will hold a public meeting on September 20

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - EcoRock Dalhousie Inc., the firm spearheading a project to exploit pozzolan from a quarry in the Dalhousie sector of Heron Bay, invites the surrounding area community to an initial information and public consultation session on the proposed extraction initiative.

Two meetings are scheduled for Friday, September 20, at the Recreaplex located at 122 Inch Arran Avenue. The first meeting will be held at 2 p.m. and the second at 7 p.m. The meetings will take place three days before the municipal public meeting in Heron Bay, where a bylaw change will be submitted for first and second readings.



Photo: dalhousiepozzolan.com

*Dalhousie pozzolan is a rock composed of volcanic ash spewed out some 400 million years ago by the ancient volcano of Sugarloaf Mountain.*

According to EcoRock Dalhousie, the September 20 meetings will provide an opportunity for citizens "to get information, ask questions, and share their concerns directly with the project team. To allow as many people as possible to participate, two meetings will be held covering

the same content."

A citizens consultation process will also be proposed to ensure ongoing follow-up. EcoRock Dalhousie's management specifies that a second information and consultation session will be organized in October specifically for residents of the Gaspé Peninsula. Further details will be announced soon.

Information about the Pozzolan Project can be obtained by consulting the site [dalhousiepozzolan.com/le-projet](http://dalhousiepozzolan.com/le-projet).

The director general of EcoRock Dalhousie Inc., Francis Forlini, will be present on September 20 in Dalhousie.

Pozzolan is a volcanic rock that, once crushed to a fine powder, can be added to the

cement production process. It is used mostly in Europe. EcoRock Dalhousie plans to extract up to 3 million tons of pozzolan annually from the Dalhousie quarry.

Such a volume would require dredging the Port of Dalhousie, which has been inactive for about a decade. The sediments of the port are contaminated to a certain degree, one of the factors that has sparked concerns among some of the residents on both the New Brunswick and Gaspé Peninsula sides of the Bay of Chaleur.

*In January 2023, Dalhousie, the village of Charlo, as well as local service districts Dalhousie Junction, Point La Nim, and parts of Chaleur were amalgamated under the name Heron Bay (Baie-des-Hérons).*

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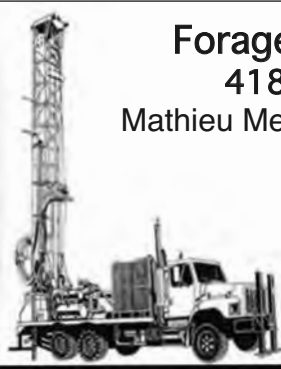


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**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**

Aries, a difficult problem may require you to take a step back and think about a different approach. Start fresh in a few days.

**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**

A happy accident reconnects you with someone you haven't seen in quite a while, Taurus. The rekindled relationship may lead to something even more concrete over the coming weeks.

**GEMINI – May 22/June 21**

Gemini, there is so much going on right now you may feel like your head is spinning. Start dividing your tasks into a more manageable list and see if others can pitch in.

**CANCER – June 22/July 22**

Cancer, take a few days to mull over a financial situation that worries you. Is there another way you can approach it? Can you find an influx of capital to make things more manageable?

**LEO – July 23/Aug 23**

It is time to make a decision after working through various scenarios, Leo. Plans need to be made and it will take time to sort through all of the details. Everything will work out.

**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**

It's time to be honest with yourself, Virgo. Are you just telling people what they want to hear or



are you truly ready to make a change? You may need to prove it to others for them to trust you.

**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**

Libra, share enjoyable experiences with others. Your travels may prove a source of inspiration for others who simply need a nudge to get out of their comfort zones.

**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**

Carefully word your next email or text and read it over several times, Scorpio. There is a fine line between being firm and coming across as domineering. You don't want to offend.

**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**

Sagittarius, a relationship may have ended in one respect, but the connections you share may keep you tied together for some time. Find a way to be friendly and civil at all times.

**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**

Put others first this week, Capricorn. Set aside

your own list of tasks and figure out how you can lend a helping hand to a family member or friend.

**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**

Sometimes you need reassurance that you are doing a good job, Aquarius. Rest assured that you are giving it all you have and that has not gone unnoticed.

**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**

Pisces, it is time to make a decision about an issue with two seemingly good solutions. You've given things ample consideration, so trust your instincts.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**

**SEPTEMBER 19**

Natalie Eva Marie, Wrestler (40)

**SEPTEMBER 20**

Michelle Visage, TV Host (56)

**SEPTEMBER 21**

Jason Derulo, Singer (35)

**SEPTEMBER 22**

Tom Felton, Actor (37)

**SEPTEMBER 23**

Bruce Springsteen, Singer (75)

**SEPTEMBER 24**

Ben Platt, Actor (31)

**COAST ROUND-UP**

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

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Looking for:** Looking for a fisherman to ship freshly caught salted mackerel filets to Toronto. Contact Joyce by text at 647-389-8716.

**COAST ROUND-UP**

**BARACHOIS: BADC**

**September 28:** The Barachois public market will be held at the Barachois Rec Centre, 1062 Route 132 East from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bakers, crafters, artisans and garden produce. To reserve a table \$10 contact Sandy Coombs at (581) 887-1417.

**BARACHOIS: The Gaspé Cancer Foundation**

**November 2:** A ticket draw and luncheon will be held at the Barachois Legion from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Soup, sandwiches, hotdogs, desserts, tea and coffee will be available. Donations at the door.

**YORK: York River Senior Citizens Club**

**October 27:** The York River Senior Citizens Club will be holding their Annual Harvest Supper at York River Community Hall, 702 York Blvd. West. The cost is \$15 per person. Takeouts will be available between 4 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. The first sitting is at 5 p.m., with

a second sitting at 6 p.m. Everyone welcome.

**MALBAY: Harvest Supper**

**October 5:** The Malbay harvest supper will begin at 5 p.m. tickets will be available after September 14.

**HOPE TOWN: Sports Club**

**September 28:** A Gift bingo will be held at the Hope Town Community Centre starting at 7 p.m.  
**November 30:** A Christmas gift bingo will be held at the Hope Town Community Centre starting at 7 p.m.

**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: New Carlisle Legion**

**Mondays:** Mini bingo beginning at 7 p.m.  
**Wednesdays:** Line Dancing beginning at 7:30 p.m.  
**Every Friday:** Open at 7:30 p.m. drop in to play pool, shuffleboard, etc.  
**September 28:** Fall supper will be held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church basement starting at 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., take-out from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30

p.m., delivery is available. \$15 for adults, \$10 for children

**October 1:** Monthly meetings will be starting again at 6 p.m. and will be the first Tuesday of every month.

**October 5:** Gift bingo starting at 7 p.m.

**October 26:** Halloween dance with DJ Ash at 9 p.m.

**NEW RICHMOND: St. Andrew's United Church**

**October 19:** Starting at 4 p.m. there will be a "Teaspoon night." It will be an evening of tasting, chatting and laughing. The best dishes in the "soup, meat, vegetables and Pudding" categories can choose a prize from the white elephant table in the basement.

**November 30:** Come join us between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in our "Coffee shop with music and storytelling." Coffee, tea and sweets will be provided, as we listen to music and share stories of our memories of St. Andrew's throughout the years.

**December 1:** A celebration with Holy Communion will take place. All our partners who helped us throughout the years are invited to the service, following the service will be a luncheon in the hall.

**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: 50+ Club**

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

**September 21:** Harvest Bingo starting at 1 p.m. doors open at noon.

**UNITED CHURCH NEW RICHMOND**

**September 22**

10 a.m. Service

**September 29**

10 a.m. Service

**UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN**

**September 22**

2 p.m. Service

**September 29**

2 p.m. Service with Communion

**PARISH OF GASPÉ**

**September 22**

**St. Matthew's Peninsula**

9 a.m. Service with Reserved Sacrament

**September 29**

**St. Paul's - Gaspé**  
9 a.m. Service with Reserved Sacrament

**Every Wednesday**  
No Morning Prayer for the Month of September



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# On the lighter side...

## Make the most of your garden's bounty

Summer's bounty knows no bounds. Home gardeners often discover there are a number of crops they can harvest during the waning days of summer, with tomatoes, blueberries, zucchini, and other squashes among the offerings.

It pays to have various ways to prepare these ingredients when a garden starts to overflow. "Blueberry Zucchini Bread" is a moist recipe that is both sweet and subtly tangy. This recipe, courtesy of Eating Well and Pam Lolley, can be either an easy breakfast or a light dessert. It also happens to be vegetarian, nut- and soy-free.

### Blueberry Zucchini Bread

Makes 1 loaf

- Baking spray with flour
- 1 cup shredded zucchini
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter (1 stick), melted
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 1/2 cups whole-wheat pastry flour, plus 1 tablespoon, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup fresh blueberries

Preheat oven to 350 F. Coat an 8-by-4-inch loaf pan with baking spray. Place shredded zucchini on two layers of paper towels; top with 2 more layers of paper towels and press gently to remove excess moisture. Whisk granulated sugar, brown sugar, melted butter, eggs, and lime juice in a large bowl. Stir in the zucchini. Whisk 1 1/2 cups flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl.

Add the flour mixture to the zucchini mixture; stir until well combined. Toss blueberries with the remaining 1 tablespoon flour; gently fold into the batter. Spoon the batter into the prepared pan. Bake until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean, 45 to 50 minutes. Let the bread cool in the pan for 10 minutes. Run an offset spatula around the edges of the pan and carefully remove the bread to a wire rack to cool completely, about 1 hour.

*Are you also swimming in zucchini?*

*Send your favourite zucchini recipe to: specs@globetrotter.net to share with fellow SPEC readers.*

## SUDOKU

	4							6
3				1	9			
			5		7			
2	3							
		4		5				
6					2	1		
	5	7	4					8
			9			2		1
		2						7

Level: Intermediate

**SUDOKU**  
ANSWER

7	5	3	1	9	8	2	4	6
8	3	7	5	2	4	1	6	9
1	5	7	4	2	3	6	8	9
6	8	5	7	9	2	1	3	4
7	1	4	3	5	6	9	8	2
2	3	9	1	8	4	5	7	6
9	2	6	5	4	7	8	1	3
3	7	8	6	1	9	4	2	5
5	4	1	2	3	8	7	6	9

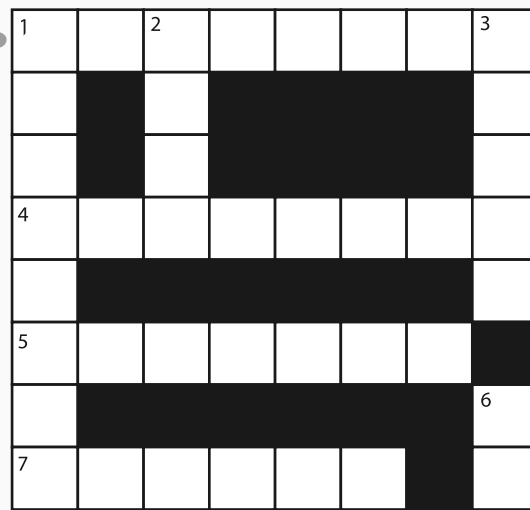


## SPORTS FACT:

This sport is the leading cause of eye injuries in children.

Answer: Basketball

## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. A thing a person does
4. Connective tissue
5. Grabs and stops a person
7. Competitive activities

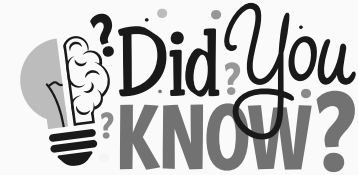
### DOWN

1. Sports participants
2. Aggressive person
3. Someone who is young
6. Extra time in a game (abbr.)

Answers:  
Across 1. Activity 4. Ligation 5. Tackles 7. Sports  
Down 1. Athletes 2. Thug 3. Youth 6. OT

## How they say "that in..."

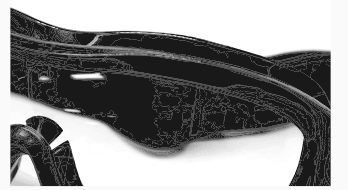
- English:** Run
- Spanish:** Correr
- Italian:** Correre
- French:** Courir
- German:** Laufen



Protective equipment and padding helps to reduce the risk of injury when athletes play football.



## Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Safety goggles



# Fall Equinox: Time for Cozy Sweaters and Pumpkin Spice

PENNY MACWHIRTER

HOLLY SMITH

NEW CARLISLE – Mark September 23, 2024, on your calendar. It's the fall equinox! This special day marks the moment when daylight and nighttime are in perfect balance, which means summer's packing up and autumn is moving in.

This celestial event happens twice a year, but the fall equinox is especially exciting. As the sun makes its annual cross-country trip southward, there will be a near-equal share of daylight and darkness. It's time to say goodbye to those long summer nights and hello to earlier sunsets and cozy nights.

On the coast, the arrival of fall is met with open arms and maybe a pumpkin spice latte or two. As the landscape transforms with the changing season, leaves turn vibrant hues of red, orange, and yellow, prompting locals and visitors to scramble to snap photos. Initially, you might think that they change colour because of the temperature but, in actuality, it is the change in daylight hours that impacts the photosynthesis of the tree.

Temperatures in the Gaspé Peninsula undergo a notable shift with the equinox. Early September typically sees temperatures around 18°C but, by late October, temperatures drop to a cooler 10°C according to Environment Canada.

This drop in temperature



*Celebrate the fall equinox with a pumpkin spice latte.*

affects everything from wildlife to plant life and tells deciduous plants that it's time to stop gathering energy and get ready for the dormant season (winter). Trees get less direct sunlight and the chlorophyll in the leaves breaks down.

The lack of chlorophyll reveals yellow and orange pigments that were already in the leaves but masked during the warmer months. Darker red leaves are the result of a chemical change: Sugars that can get trapped in the leaves produce new pigments (called anthocyanins) that weren't part of the leaf in the growing season. A wet growing season, followed by an autumn with lots of sunny days, dry weather, and cold, frostless nights, will produce the most vibrant palette of fall colours.

The crisp air and colourful

foliage make the region's national parks a perfect spot for hiking, leaf peeping, or simply taking in the view.

Migratory birds such as Canada Geese and even Monarch butterflies pass through the area as it gets cooler, an event that many Gaspésians say marks the changing of the seasons.

The fall equinox isn't just about cooler temperatures. As summer shorts are traded for cozy sweaters, it's the perfect moment to hit the reset button. Enjoy the crisp air, snap some stunning leaf photos, and get ready to conquer winter because, let's face it, motivation will be needed to face those chilly mornings!

What's your favourite sign of fall? Let us know by sending a photo to [specs@globe-trotter.net](mailto:specs@globe-trotter.net). Be sure to include a brief description of where the photo was taken.

# Embracing Fall

HOLLY SMITH

PORT DANIEL: As autumn rolls into the region, residents are treated to the beautiful scene of colourful leaves and crisp air. However, with the beauty of fall come a few adjustments. With a little preparedness, you can enjoy the season without getting caught off guard by the changing weather or seasonal ailments.

Fall weather on the coast can be unpredictable. With chilly mornings and milder afternoons, it's important to dress for the weather. But what's the secret to staying comfortable? Layering. Start with a t-shirt, adding a long-sleeve shirt or hoodie. As the day warms up, you can peel off a layer. Don't forget a waterproof, wind-resistant jacket will protect you from rain and wind, and waterproof boots will keep your feet warm and dry, especially when walking through wet leaves or stepping in puddles.

With the days growing shorter and sunlight becoming increasingly scarce, you may notice changes in your health or susceptibility to ailments. With less sun, vitamin D levels can decrease, so consider adding foods such as salmon, milk or mushrooms to your meals. A supplement might even be necessary if your levels are low. For a strong immune system, it's a good idea to boost your intake of vitamin C with oranges, peppers and broccoli. Beta-carotene found in sweet potatoes, carrots, butternut squash, dark leafy greens and pumpkins

converts into vitamin A in the body. Vitamin A is essential for maintaining healthy vision, immune functions and skin health.

Fall also means dealing with allergies, a common issue for many residents on the coast. Ragweed pollen is in the air, and mold from fallen leaves can make symptoms worse. To manage fall allergies, try to stay indoors on days when pollen count is high. It is also a good idea to keep your windows closed to reduce the amount of pollen and mold entering your home. Regular cleaning, including vacuuming, and using air purifiers or a humidifier, can also make a difference. For those with asthma, the fall season can present even more challenges. The combination of high pollen counts and mold can worsen asthma symptoms. There are several online pollen reporting sites that can help you monitor the allergy outlook in your area.

According to Statistics Canada, 27.3 percent of Canadians (roughly 8.4 million people) aged 12 and older reported having allergies. Factors such as climate change and higher levels of allergens are making fall allergies more common and severe.

So, as you enjoy the crisp fall air and stunning colours of the Gaspésie, remember to dress in layers, eat well to keep your body strong and take steps to manage those fall allergies. With a bit of planning and awareness, you can enjoy all that fall has to offer.



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