

Vision celebrates 20 years at AGM

CYNTHIA DOW

GASPÉ: - A small but enthusiastic crowd gathered on Thursday, September 19, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Vision Gaspé-Percé Now at Destination Gaspé. “Twenty years is a long time to survive for a community organization,” President Tony Conoley told the crowd, “The support from the government has grown, the network of partners has grown, and the number of programs we offer has grown as well.”

“And I don’t want to quote Donald Trump, but the number of clients is beautiful, beautiful!” exclaimed Mr. Conoley, garnering a laugh from the attendees.

The President went on to express his appreciation for the group’s partners, board members, staff and volunteers. “This past year we continued to work hard to offer a large diversity of services and programs. We are building a youth program. We have increased our mental wellness activities and we are studying the feasibility of buying our building our own place.”

A representative from the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages was the guest speaker for the evening.



Photo: Cynthia Dow

Vision now has a dozen employees: Top row: Emma McGinnis, Shanna Rehel, Laura Comeau, Hannah Patterson, Melissa Savidant, Sophie Wheeler, Florence Agnesi and Stephanie Bond. Bottom row: Julie Syvret, Tesia Hackett, Jessica Synnott and Amie Chicoine.

Alexandre Renaud presented the results of a recent study which indicated how myths and misperceptions about anglophone and francophone Quebecers are still a common occurrence. SPEC will have an in-depth look at that report in our next issue.

Every year Vision invites nominations for Volunteer of The Year. Executive Director Jessica Synnott indicated that there were eleven nominations this year. “Volunteers are very

much at the heart of any community organization.” The winner was Rhonda Stewart, who has worked diligently with Camp Fort Haldimand.

In the absence of the auditor, board member Connie Jacques presented the annual financial report. “The auditor found no problems with the report. We have a \$4,000 surplus, much like last year,” Ms. Jacques explained. The AGM approved the reappointment of Raymond Chabot Grant

Thornton as auditors for next year.

Vision’s communications officer, Emma McGinnis, then took the attendees through a game of Kahoot with a series of questions to emphasize the impact of the organization. Participants discovered there were almost 100 sessions for the training and retention of healthcare workers with Dialogue McGill, and three recipients of the McGill Bursary: Amy Briand-Fournier, Madi-

son Dorion, and Gabrielle Labbé.

Vision has added a fifth Senior’s Wellness Centre: Douglstown now joins Gaspé, Murdochville, Maison Quartier, and Barachois as a location for these activities to support seniors’ physical, cognitive and mental health.

The Bright Beginnings program held 29 activities for children, and 10 prenatal sessions were held. Vue d’Ensemble is a two-year project to bring French and English youth together for activities such as a drama club and lunch hour games. Eight activities were held.

More than 13,000 frozen meals were delivered to seniors last year, up an astounding 33% from 2022-23. The number of seniors also increased by 31% to 929.

At the end of the meeting, two new board members joined the group, bringing the total to ten with one seat remaining vacant. This year’s board will include newcomers Shauna Simpson and Linda Jean, with Tony Conoley, Connie Jacques, Deborah Adams, Larry English, Jonathan Côté, Diane Kennedy, Nancy Briand, and Jonathan Jean repeating.

Hundreds turn out to support Stacey Campbell

CYNTHIA DOW

CASCAPEDIA: - “I am so pleased with the results,” Kim McInnis told SPEC, “It’s hard not to cry when you see how many people came out. Stacey is always there for others when people need help, and now others are returning the favour.”

Mrs. McInnis, who owns and operates Garage Pizzeria, organized a barbecue fundraiser for New Richmond’s Stacey Campbell, who is in Rimouski Hospital fighting leukemia. The event was held Sunday, September 15, at the New Richmond Fairgrounds, where the facilities were of-

fered free of charge. As SPEC went to press, the event had raised approximately \$7,400.

That total includes an amount of about \$1,350 from the Sipuminu Society employees and a few of the sports fishing camps on the Cascapedia River. Stacey works as a groundskeeper at Tracadie Camp and was an employee of the Society for some time.

“A whole group of us planned this,” Mrs. McInnis explained, “dozens of family members and neighbours donated food and other supplies, even people from down the Coast.” The freewill offering grew steadily throughout the afternoon.

Neighbour Mike Brash and his wife Julie Lamoureux of



A large crowd enjoyed the music at the fundraiser on the 15th. In the background, Mike Brash (left) and Jimmy Cahill (right) perform.

Photo: Cynthia Dow

Ferme aux Champs Pourpres have also been involved in raising money to support Stacey and his family through a GoFundMe page. During the barbecue-fundraiser, Mike gathered a gang of musicians

to share their musical talents and entertain the hundreds of people who turned up to show support. The lineup included Mike himself, Jimmy Cahill, Alistair Campbell, Alfred Cassidy, Dave Felker, Nathan

Hayes, Jesse Hunt, Omer Parker, and more.

When he fell ill in August, Stacey Campbell’s Facebook page exploded with well wishes. Stacey has lived all his life in New Richmond West, not far from the Fairgrounds, and is well known for his kindness and generous spirit. He has a daughter, Lisa Erika, and two granddaughters.

“Stacey has touched a lot of hearts over the years,” says Kim McInnis. When she contacted him on Sunday afternoon, he told her he was overwhelmed that so many friends and family came together to support him. “He is very thankful to everyone,” she stated.

Gespeg's September 8 election to be contested

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

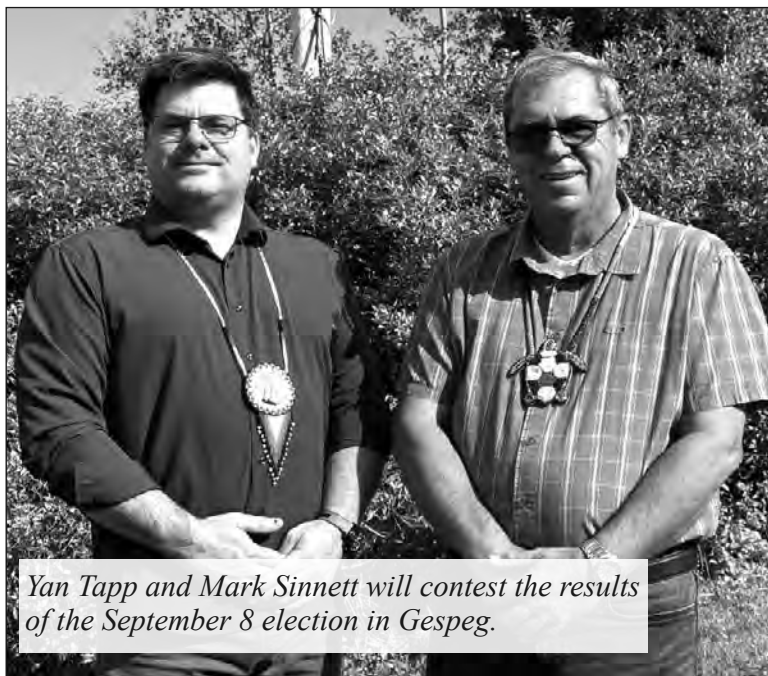
GASPÉ: - Two candidates who finished neck and neck in the September 8 election for Chief of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg are contesting the results.

Initially, Mark Sinnett received 144 votes, Yan Tapp received 143, and Céline Casivi received 122 votes.

After three recounts, the result was established at 143 votes for each of the top two candidates.

As outlined in the Electoral Code, a random draw will determine who will be elected Chief of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg, however, both candidates described that method as nonsense, during an interview on September 18.

"We don't want to participate in a draw to become the chief to represent our community. I don't think that's being well received, I don't think it's credible for our community. We want to unite our community and not divide it," explains Mark Sinnett.



Yan Tapp and Mark Sinnett will contest the results of the September 8 election in Gespeg.

Photo: N. Sergerie

According to the two candidates, the members didn't all receive the pertinent information regarding the election.

"There was a serious failure, and the turnout shows that people weren't even aware that there was an election in Gespeg," adds Mr. Sinnett.

"In all transparency, we discussed the election and the process and, at one point, we decided that enough was enough and that we had to contest the election as a

whole. We believe that all members should have been informed at the outset of the election process to have an election that reflects the community," adds Yan Tapp.

Distrust had been circulating around the election since June when members of the Nation questioned a proposed

amendment to the Electoral Code suggesting that, in addition to the chief, seven of the eight councillors remain in Gaspé.

Confidence was shaken as several members had questioned a lack of transparency on the part of the Council in the last few months, and maybe even years.

"We lost our chief about eight or nine months ago. It's not a lack of intention on the part of the council, but when there is no leader, there are a lot of questions from our members about the leadership of the council at the moment," explains Mr. Sinnett, referring to Terry Shaw's resignation for personal and professional reasons in January.

The Electoral Code provides that, in the event of a dispute, a committee of three individuals must make the decision.

"We'd like to start over. We know it won't necessarily un-

fold the same way. We know there will be a lot of contestation. Yan and I didn't make this decision lightly. We talked to each other and decided it was the best decision for the community's future," continues Mr. Sinnett.

Mr. Tapp also says it's "for the good of the community. We are two people who are not there for our personal gain, but for the benefit of the community."

The returning officer will need to notify Gespeg's administrator regarding the next step concerning the election. "We're going to do what we must do to have a new, complete election," says Mr. Sinnett.

Out of the approximately 2,200 members of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg, only about 420 participated in the election.

SPEC attempted to reach the president of the election but was unsuccessful.

Nergica's new building will finally become a reality

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Nergica will have new facilities to accommodate its growth. The Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles board of directors accepted, via an electronic vote on August 19 and 20, the proposal of the lowest bidder, LFG Construction of Carleton-sur-Mer, which suggested completing the work for \$9.7 million after a second call for tenders.

In April, the Cégep had rejected the proposals from a first call for tenders, as they were deemed too high, far exceeding the total budget of \$12 million. Subsequently, the administration refined the project to fit within its budget. A new call for tenders was published on June 12.

Four bids were submitted, with LFG Construction's bid of \$9,723,000 being the lowest, closely followed by CB4S at \$9,746,000.

This new building will be an expansion of the current Polytechnic Pavilion on the Gaspé campus. It will be one of the first buildings in Quebec to be energy positive, producing more electricity annually than it consumes, thanks to the use of solar panels and strategic choices in design and materials.

This project will reinforce Nergica's central role in Quebec's energy transition. The building will include research facilities, workshops, collaborative spaces and new offices.

The new complex is expected to be completed in 2025. The Quebec government has allocated \$10.7 million, while Nergica will contribute \$1.2 million towards the construction of this new building.



The future Nergica building.

Photo: Archives



CALL FOR TENDERS SNOW REMOVAL

The Nation Micmac de Gespeg is issuing a call for tenders for a snow removal contract for the parking lots of 34, montée de Corte-Réal and 783, Pointe-Navarre in Gaspé, for the 2024-2025 winter season.

CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS

- Snow removal and de-icing of the parking lots and driveways of 34, montée de Corte-Réal and 783 Pointe-Navarre in Gaspé must be completed before 6 a.m., 7 days a week, including removal of snow in the following areas:
 - Garbage and recycling bins area
 - Front and sides of the commercial fisheries shelter (Corte-Réal)
 - Path going up to the workshop (Pointe-Navarre)
- Snow removal must be done as soon as snow falls, and as soon as an accumulation of 10 centimetres is present on the ground.
- De-icing salt and grit provided by the contractor/company must be spread in several places to ensure pedestrian safety at all times.
- The contractor/business is responsible for providing its own equipment, including a tractor equipped with a snow blower and its fuel.
- The contractor/company is also responsible for any replacement, breakage, or damage caused to its equipment during the execution of the contract.
- The contractor/company must provide proof of liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$1,000,000.
- Snow removal must be done from the first snow until the last snow.

Interested contractors/companies are invited to inspect the premises before sending us their bid.

All written bids must be prepared according to the conditions listed above and **include a valid copy of the company's proof of insurance**, failing to do so will result in the bid being deemed inadmissible. All bids must be sent to:

Connie Jacques, Executive Director
34, Montée Corte-Réal C.P. 69
Gaspé (Quebec) G4X 6V2
direction@gespeg.ca

Deadline to submit a bid: October 4, 2024, at 4 p.m. Any bid received after the deadline will be considered inadmissible. The lowest bid will not necessarily be the one selected.

Bids will be open to the public at that time, in the presence of bidders who have chosen to attend the opening.

MP disapproves of the tone in the House of Commons

NELSON SERGERIE

OTTAWA - Kristina Michaud, the Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament (MP) for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia, is not happy with the tone of the debates that launched the parliamentary session in Ottawa on September 16.

With the Conservatives threatening to overthrow Justin Trudeau's minority Liberal government at the first opportunity, and the New Democratic Party (NDP) tearing up its support agreement, a string of epithets have been flying from all sides in the House of Commons.

"I was on the road during question period on Monday while I participated in an announcement in Matane and the tone was toxic and acrimonious. I detected nastiness, insults, and it really set the tone for the parliamentary session and it's a shame," says Kristina Michaud.

The MP noted that the previous spring session ended somewhat similarly, and she hoped that over the summer things would have calmed down.

"We have to point the finger at the Conservative Party that sets this tone and it's hard to work in such an atmosphere. The Bloc Québécois will try to be the adult in the room but it becomes difficult when that's the norm in Parliament," states Ms. Michaud.

According to the MP, the Conservatives are acting arrogantly and the NDP wants to distance itself from the Liberals in order to rebuild its identity. "It's really a special situation," she says, emphasizing that it's not the Bloc's job to help Pierre Poilievre become Prime Minister of Canada or to help Justin Trudeau remain Prime Minister.

"We have an interesting negotiating position. If the government wants our support to keep it in power, it will have to get something in return and that is gains for Quebecers. We work in their interest: if it is good for Quebec, we vote for it. If it is not good for Quebec, we vote against it," says Ms Michaud.

The issue of equalizing the federal pension for those aged 65 to 74 is a key piece of the puzzle to maintain the government's confidence, mention-



Photo: N. Sergerie

Kristina Michaud and her party's leader, Yves-François Blanchette, in Grande-Rivière last April.

ing that the Bloc has tabled a bill to this effect.

"We have made it our priority. It requires spending and we need a royal recommendation for the bill to move forward. We are telling the government: 'Do you want us to support you? Give us a royal recommendation so that the bill can put an end to this injustice,'" demands the MP.

Supply management is also another bargaining chip to keep the government in power. Among Kristina Michaud's other priorities are the return of the VIA Rail train, renewable energy and the fight against climate change.

As a potential election approaches, the MP, who will

run in the new riding of Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj, assures that she is ready.

She also notes that, given the current climate of political uncertainty, the Bloc Québécois has been ready for a quick election since 2021.

"The government bought itself a majority with the support of the NDP, but voters wanted a minority Liberal government. We are ready," she says.

"It's a different campaign than 2019 and 2021 - new people that I will have to meet, new organizations and new businesses, but nothing more than in 2019 when I first entered politics," the candidate explains.

MP buys house in new riding

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament (MP) for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia purchased a home in the newly established riding of Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj, which she hopes to represent in the next election.

Kristina Michaud and her partner bought a home in the Magdalen Islands over the summer. "We made this choice and now we can say that we live in the riding." I don't know if people will be happy or not, but it shows that the approach is serious to have a presence in the Gaspésie and the Islands. We are very happy with our choice," states the elected official. For her, this move also has logistical ad-

vantages.

Ms. Michaud announced her intentions to be a candidate in the riding of Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj in April, in Grande-Rivière, alongside her leader Yves-François Blanchet in what she called a "symbolic place" for fishing, namely at the École des pêches et de l'aquaculture du Québec, a stone's throw from the offices of the Liberal MP and Minister of Fisheries, Diane Lebovillier.

The current MP's reaction was swift, commenting at the time on the fact that for generations, both provincially and federally, Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders have always chosen to elect candidates from their riding to represent them.

"If Ms. Michaud is truly interested in her new voters, I

Police report

On September 7 and 8, Quebec police services, in collaboration with Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) road inspectors, targeted quad riders whose behaviour could compromise their safety and that of others as part of the National Concerted Recreational Tourism Operation.

During the operation, more than 600 all terrain vehicles were intercepted and several fines were issued.

The interventions targeted risky behaviours, such as: failure to comply with signage or regulations in force; failure to wear a helmet; impaired driving ability due to alcohol, drugs or a combination of the two; and compliance of vehicles concerning their equipment.

These reckless behaviours are the main causes of collisions involving off-road vehicles or constitute aggravating factors in the event of a collision. In addition to the many awareness messages, the various police forces took advantage of the operation to spread awareness about adopting safe behaviours.

Carleton-sur-Mer is analyzing what could be done to further secure the area of Avenue du Phare where a 50-year-old tourist from Laval lost his life on September 18, near the municipal campground. The man was fishing on the shoreline when he lost his footing and fell into the water. Those nearby immediately came to the victim's aid. The victim was taken to the hospital, in critical condition, but later passed away.

"It's a sad story," Mayor Mathieu Lapointe begins. According to the mayor, in the last five years, four deaths have occurred in this area, which is known for its strong currents.

"For a long time now, we've been monitoring it. We use our communications tools to inform the public. Our employees at the campground warn people not to go fishing in that area. Despite everything, this tragedy happened," continues the mayor. Limiting access to the area is practically impossible.

An assessment of the site was done in 2021 and the addition of signage was suggested and the colour was changed to make the signs more visible. "We will have to do more. We will look at all the solutions, but everyone must be vigilant and have the appropriate equipment when doing water activities," says Mr. Lapointe, suggesting that people should not fish in this area.

The addition of life preservers is one of the ideas on the table. "This is an assessment that we are currently doing. We have divergent opinions. Some recommend that we install life preservers. Others recommend that we do not do that, creating a false sense of security. We cannot reach a consensus on the best solution to apply," says the mayor, who will defer to possible recommendations from the coroner if an investigation is opened.

would first invite her to leave Rimouski—La Matapédia, her current riding, and move to the Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine—Listuguj as soon as possible. Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders are neither a Plan B, nor a consolation prize," Ms. Lebovillier said at the time.

"This is the first and only criticism that my future opponent addressed to me when I announced my intentions. At the time, I said that, for me, it didn't change anything because I know the region well and I am already working on the files," said Ms. Michaud. Since then, the MP believes that the reception on the ground has been good since announcing her candidacy.

"I was afraid that everything would have to start over. I real-

ize that people know me. They heard me on the radio, saw me in the newspapers. People heard about me because I helped fishing entrepreneurs to receive temporary foreign workers. That's the kind of feedback I get. It's very encouraging and it makes you want to continue working on the files that we started to take an interest in," says the Bloc MP.

With the new changes to the federal electoral map, the constituency of Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia will no longer exist. The MRCs of Avignon and Matanie are now in the Gaspésie-Les-Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj riding, while those of La Mitis and Matapédia are now located in the Rimouski-La Matapédia riding.

CISSS announces a record deficit of \$55M

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) is heading towards a large deficit of \$55 million to \$57 million for the current fiscal year, which ends March 31, 2025. This deficit is much higher than the \$33 million projected in June.

"The province has a deficit of \$11 billion, of that, \$1 billion is allocated to the health

network. We're expecting that funding we've had in the past will not be renewed, which will have a major impact," says Martin Pelletier, President and Chief Executive Operator (CEO).

"There is \$22 million that we were expecting from funding that will not come. This is an added pressure for us. We have a smaller budget than in previous years. We will have to deal with it," he says.

Santé Québec, the new agency that will oversee all ac-

tivities related to the public healthcare system, including providing services and facilitating access, will begin its mandate on December 1. That agency will manage a single consolidated budget.

"We will see how we, as a network, will face the challenge of a billion dollars," says Mr. Pelletier.

The CISSS submitted a \$35 million balanced budget plan, a legacy of the last fiscal year, but has yet to receive a response from the Quebec government.

According to the CISSS, there are no planned cuts to services. "We're maintaining services. Honestly, my concern is to maintain services based on human resources. It's not a financial issue. As long as we can call on the independent workforce that accounts for \$30 million of the deficit to maintain services, we'll do it," assures the CEO.

The President and CEO of Santé-Québec, Geneviève Biron, recently visited the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS, where the CEO emphasized

the unique characteristics of the regional health network.

"We were able to explain the realities of our region in relation to the size of the territory and the dispersion of users. We don't have a concentration that allows us to optimize services that much. I think that was well understood," notes Mr. Pelletier.

The Gaspé Peninsula is different from other regions such as the North Shore or Abitibi-Témiscamingue, which have major hubs such as Baie-Comeau, Sept-Îles, Rouyn-Noranda and Val-d'Or.

"There is a volume that is possible there, that is not possible here," justifies Mr. Pelletier, even if Maria (hospital) serves a significant population base.

The fact that patients from Avignon-Ouest are assigned to the hospital in Campbellton is another unique aspect of the Gaspesian network.

Martin Pelletier explained that these patients wanted to maintain their connection with the hospital in New Brunswick. However, there



Photo: N. Sergerie

Martin Pelletier, President and CEO of the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS.

are also new challenges that need to be addressed.

"For the past two years, there has been no obstetrics, and there has been a shift of births to the Maria (hospital) side. There's also a loss of confidence that I don't want to explain, and people are bypassing Campbellton to come to Maria. There's \$2 million that is explained by an increase in the volume of activity in Maria, in response to the citizen's wishes," explains the CEO.

CISSS is looking to buy white fish from the Gaspé Peninsula

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) wants to source regionally all white fish served to hospital and long-term care residents.

The regional health network had launched a notice of interest to see if any suppliers were able to deliver the goods.

"As part of the Quebec government's innovation path to make local purchases, we want to increase local purchases from 57 to 60% in Quebec. We targeted seafood products to help our local economy," emphasizes the director of procurement and logistics at the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS, Yannick Sauvé.

"We are trying to push more at the local and regional level. That's why we chose fish first," adds Mr. Sauvé. Other opportunities could develop.

"For us, this is a first step. We have ideas for fruits and vegetables. We have to set the table for the future. We start with the easiest and most obvious," says Mr. Sauvé.

Only the company Les Pêcheries Gaspésiennes de

Gaspé showed interest following two calls for interest. "We will meet with the company and continue the process. This is a notice of interest. We are not signing a contract. We just want the best possible state of the issues that processors, fishermen, and people in the fisheries ecosystem may have to have a win-win partnership," explains Mr. Sauvé, emphasizing that the respondent would be able to meet the needs.

The purchase volume would be interesting for a company, according to the CISSS.

Redfish could find a good outlet in a market that is being built for this new fishery authorized by the federal government.

The supply cost is only one factor in the equation. "We are prepared to pay a little more for a very local or regional product, because if we save 15%, 20% or 25% in operational costs, loss management or pre-emption... There is all this analysis to be done. We can have a product at a very low price, but if we have difficulty cooking it, we lose

Cont'd on page 16

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENT

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d'aide au développement
des collectivités
DE GASPÉ

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Responsabilities

- Support local development initiatives
- Help organize events
- Manage the Mentoring program
- Manage the grant programs
- Promote SADC programs

Conditions

- Flexible working hours, 35 hours/week
- Remote working possible
- Salary between \$55 000 and \$72 500

Benefits

- Downtown office within walking distance of shops
- RRSPs, insurance, continuing education
- Reimbursement for sports and cultural activities
- Teams activities

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UNESCO renews accreditation for the Percé Geoparc

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PERCÉ - The Percé Geoparc has succeeded in getting its UNESCO accreditation renewed. During the 9th Session of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council, held on September 8 and 9 in Non Nuoc Cao Bang, Vietnam, it was recommended that the Percé Geoparc receive a green flag, a symbol of excellence in the sustainable management of its territory.

In 2022, UNESCO granted a two year renewal extension to the Percé Geoparc following the discovery of several issues that have since been addressed.

"We've worked tirelessly since December 2023 on this, up to the visit of the two evaluators from France and Ireland last July," says Geoparc president Daniel Leboeuf. The recommendations will be



Photo: N. Sergerie

submitted to the UNESCO Executive Board for final approval in March 2025.

"We have passed the evaluation phase. Unless we have a fire or a drastic event, we can be confident of having this title for the next four years," he emphasizes.

In 2022, the Geoparks Council had issued a yellow rating for the Percé Geoparc.

This yellow rating, which acts as a warning, indicated that improvements were necessary.

Signage to guide people to the geoparc, signs at the entrances to Percé, a redesign of the geoparc's map with trails and geosites needed clarification. A display to showcase Canadian and international geoparks was also needed.

"We had to demonstrate

that we have a very good collaboration with other stakeholders in the community: the national park, tourism providers, and Tourisme Gaspésie. We had them meet with many stakeholders between Barachois and Anse-à-Beaufils and they saw that the geoparc was a real cooperative. It's a relief everyone's efforts didn't fall through," says Mr. Leboeuf.

The financial problems over the last few years represented an additional challenge, but 2024 numbers show that is now behind them.

"The figures are available up until the end of August, and they show that we are on the right track. So far, it has been a very nice season with the sun. The recovery efforts started last year and this nice season will give us a good cushion," he says.

The next four years will allow for further refinement of

the site. "So far in our immediate plans, we have to make improvements to our parking lots, develop a food service at the glass platform that visitors have asked us for and we have the permit from MAPAQ (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) to do so. We are exploring parts of the geoparc that are not yet exploited to open other geosites. If we can add one or two more before the four years is up, that would be much appreciated," says the president.

The zipline has been set aside due to its low profitability.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed according to a global concept of protection, education and sustainable development.

Their approach involves local communities.

Gas prices: Competition Bureau says there's no "collusion" in the Gaspé Peninsula

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The Competition Bureau believes that there is no collusion in the Gaspé Peninsula regarding gas price-fixing.

The federal agency is responding to a September 11 online article by CHNC, which reported that Gaspé won the gold medal for highest gasoline prices in Quebec. The topic was also covered in the September 18 issue of

The Gaspé Spec.

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, stated that he "would like us to have a little attention from the Competition Bureau of Canada. It's their job to clean up and investigate this. It's not true that you can investigate from an office in Ottawa."

In an email, the Competition Bureau states that "fighting anticompetitive behaviour in the gasoline sector is a priority for the Bureau. That is why our investigators have

visited several regions of Quebec to better understand how gasoline prices are determined. These visits took place in Eastern Quebec, including the Gaspésie, on July 18."

"To date, the information obtained has not allowed us to demonstrate the presence of anticompetitive activities in the retail gasoline sector," continues the email from the organization, which noted that its role is to investigate price-fixing and other anticompetitive behaviour.

As an enforcement agency, the Bureau does not have the authority to regulate gasoline prices. This responsibility lies with the provincial government, which abolished the floor price, but the resigning Minister of Energy had always refused to impose a ceiling price.

"We continue to monitor the retail gasoline market closely and we will take action against illegal practices if we find credible evidence that an offence has been committed under the Competition Act," the office concludes.

The mayor of Gaspé doesn't think the Bureau conducted much of an in-depth investigation. "We have to admit that they are not doing their job beyond giving us

vague answers, which we have been receiving for the past four or five years. Besides that, I do not see a real investigation process taking place, when they have already been able to conduct in-depth investigations in certain regions of Quebec, to dismantle cartels that existed elsewhere. As long as there is no in-depth work that is done, I will not be satisfied with these answers," replies Daniel Côté.

This email was sent at a

time when the oil companies profit margins were approaching unreasonable levels on September 11 in the Gaspé Peninsula. According to the Energy Regulation Board, margins reached 31.2 cents in Gaspé and 29.8 cents in Chandler, while the average over the last year was 16.5 cents in Gaspé and 15 cents in Chandler. The average acquisition cost for retailers in the Gaspé Peninsula was \$1.35, according to the board.



Photo: Competition Bureau

An investigator from the Competition Bureau in front of a gas station in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

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Canada

Gaspé takes over non-residential waste management

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Starting in January, the Town of Gaspé will take over the administrative management of waste collection for commercial, institutional and industrial sectors.

Twelve years ago, the Town transferred this collection to the private sector with the contractor reaching an agreement with the customers regarding billing.

However, circumstances have changed. "Everything was going relatively well until a year or two ago when the prices for waste collection skyrocketed," says Mayor Daniel Côté. The Municipal Hall then started receiving complaints. "After seeing examples where bills were double, triple or even more, we said to ourselves 'why not take it over'? We had it analyzed and, in the end, for



The management of non-residential residual materials will be done by the Town of Gaspé as of January 1.

Photo: N. Sergerie

businesses, industries and institutions, it would ultimately be cheaper for them to have these collections on their tax bill instead of dealing with the private sector," explains the mayor.

On September 16, the municipal council adopted a 90 day notice effective January

2025. A clause in the contract allowed the Town to do this.

"It will still be Matrec that will do the collection, but instead of the business paying a bill to Matrec, they will pay it on their tax bill. In the end, it will end up being much cheaper for them in all the specific cases studied. The Town

has fixed and global rates with Matrec, which allows for cost advantage savings," calculates Mr. Côté.

Residential pickup

The general collection contract for residents will expire in a little over a year.

Complaints have been decreasing, which indicates that the situation has been resolved after the contractor experienced many difficulties in carrying out the collection, including many delays.

Given the surge in waste collection costs, the idea of municipalizing the collection will be analyzed again.

"It was looked at last time and we arrived at similar costs, but entrusting it to the private sector removes a lot of management. The situation has changed. Probably before re-

turning to the call for tenders, we will probably have an option to do it internally," says the mayor.

The Intermunicipal Waste Management Board would have to buy trucks and hire staff to collect and maintain the vehicles.

"It has to be calculated in advance, but with what we're seeing, with the number of complaints we've had for some time with the contractor in the last year and a half, with what's happening in the industry and the trade with billing that has more than doubled, and with costs that have skyrocketed in the latest calls for tenders, the time has come to review once again and look at the best option," says Mr. Côté.

The options will include either managing it internally, having a call for tenders, or a combination of both scenarios.

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Safety Near Railways

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

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- ✓ 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.

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Future of the Centre culturel Griffon yet to be determined

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The Centre culturel Griffon in the Anse-au-Griffon sector of Gaspé overcome the disaster that completely ravaged the cultural and historical venue in the heart of the village.

The centre's board of directors launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise \$70,000 to hire a resource to resolve the insurance issue and launch a project to determine the centre's future. The fundraising campaign will help things move faster.

"We've allowed ourselves to start dreaming. At first, we said we were going to deal with emergencies, but since the last few meetings, we have allowed ourselves to start dreaming about Cultural Centre #2," explains Stéphane Morissette, chairman of the board.

The cultural centre did not receive any operating grants and was counting on the profits generated by the Café de l'anse to operate the centre.

"We won't be able to rebuild on the current site because it's in a flood zone. A little more work is needed to identify another project and get it on track," Mr. Morissette emphasizes.

For now, the president remains cautious about the future. "We have something in mind that we think will be interesting for the village of



What remains of the Centre culturel Griffon following the fire on September 1.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Anse-au-Griffon but we still have a lot of things to check first. It's a little too early to announce it officially," says Mr. Morissette.

"We will learn from our 25 years of experience with the cultural centre. It was beautiful, magnificent, wonderful, but it was a building that had significant fixed costs that were difficult to finance. It required a lot of work and put a lot of pressure on the café. We will learn from all this to create a more profitable 2.0 formula in the long term," states Mr. Morissette.

"If we were able to dream of the 2026 season, the spring of 2026, that would be good but it's also early. Let's say that's in our hopes," adds the president.

The insurance companies should complete their investigation shortly and the excavation work will take place

immediately after.

The Centre culturel Griffon was a place for the dissemination of culture, a base for artist Claude Côté, but also a café and a Desjardins service point for the area.

Before being a cultural venue, the building was a cold storage warehouse built in 1942, probably for the Pêcheurs-Unis cooperative founded in 1939, according to information from the Ministry of Culture.

It was used to store fresh fish and fishing bait. At a time when people did not yet have refrigerators, the citizens of L'Anse-au-Griffon could store their food there.

Abandoned in the early 1990s, the building was restored and redeveloped in the 2000s by a group of volunteers and the Vachon Roy firm of Gaspé to become the cultural centre.



The Percé wharf is now managed by the Société portuaire du Bas-Saint-Laurent et de la Gaspésie.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Management of Percé wharf changes

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ - The Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie Port Authority will now be responsible for managing the Percé wharf.

The Quebec government states that this new mandate aims to optimize the governance of wharf operations and to provide high-quality, safe facilities to users.

The authority already manages the Rimouski, Matane, Gros-Cacouna and Gaspé commercial ports.

According to the Government of Québec, the organization's expertise in assessing, planning and monitoring various maintenance and upgrade work on port facilities will allow it to effectively manage the wharf and eliminate the need to resort to external resources. Québec had entrusted the Town of Percé with the daily management of the wharf, but the agreement was not renewed in 2024.

The Ministry of Transport, which oversees the port authority, is aware of the recurring silting problems and intends to continue its work so that a lasting solution is deployed to regularize the situation and ensure the continuation of activities.

"This is excellent news for optimizing the management of the Percé wharf, an essential infrastructure for the development of the blue economy in the Gaspésie. This emblematic wharf can now be added to the assets of the Société portuaire du Bas-Saint-Laurent et de la Gaspésie, which will be able to ensure its operation and optimization of port activities in Percé," says Gaspé Member of the National Assembly, Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

The Quebec government has owned the infrastructure since 2020, after the federal government rebuilt it and transferred it to the province. The community criticized its design, and the future may prove them right since Quebec has had to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars since then to dredge the harbour to make it accessible each spring.

The silting and strong waves entering the harbour create a backwash effect that has significantly damaged the promenade near the Saline site and Mont-Joli Street.

Emergency work had to be carried out in the area to ensure coastal safety while a long-term solution was sought to protect the bank.



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No comments from the public during consultation regarding railway work required after 2026

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ: - There were no comments from the public, municipalities or Indigenous communities following the publication of a project notice submitted to the Ministry of the Environment by the Ministry of Transport on the interventions required by 2030 to secure six segments of the Gaspé Peninsula railway on Section 3 between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé.

In a letter from the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks, to the General Directorate of Rail Transport, the ministry instructed the Ministry of Transport to continue its efforts to inform and consult with the public.

A vast \$872 million project aims to safely restore rail traffic in 2026 on the entire section between Matapedia and Gaspé. However, additional funds will have to be invested to ensure sustainability over 75 years for section three, the most sensitive to coastal erosion and submersion.

The document notes that coastal protection work will be



Photo: N. Sergerie

The Banc de Pabos, which was ravaged by a storm is part of the submitted plan.

carried out on approximately 11 linear kilometres, spread across six separate and non-contiguous sites of the railway right-of-way.

In these six sites, the cumulative intervention distance within the two-year flood recurrence limit is greater than 500 metres or approximately 3.2 linear kilometres, and due to the variants studied, it is estimated that a cumulative area equal to or greater than 5,000m² will possibly also be exceeded.

The sites targeted are in Pabos Mills West, over a length of 225 metres; Pabos Mills, over a length of 1,210 metres; Chandler, over a length of 1,190 metres; the Banc de Pabos, over a length of 1,340 metres, Barachois, over a distance of 5,700 metres; and Douglstown, over a length of 1,480 metres.

In the document filed, the Ministry of Transport specifies “that the project includes coastal hazard protection work. It is planned that this

work will be carried out following the rehabilitation of the Gaspésie railway between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé.

Several solutions are being analyzed to correct the six sites: moving the railway track outside the constraint zone associated with coastal hazards; local setback of the railway track; and raising the railway track. The solutions and variants will be analyzed based on four main aspects: the technical aspect, the transport and railway safety aspect, the environmental aspect, and the socio-economic aspect.

Considering that work is underway to put the railway back into service and that work to protect the railway infrastructure against climatic hazards will be carried out subsequently, the working methods will be adapted to avoid compromising, as far as possible, the maintenance of the railway service.

The ministry emphasizes that although some variants under study propose moving the current track, it will still be recommended, as part of the project, that the work be carried out within the current

right-of-way as much as possible.

This approach will reduce the potential impacts on the neighboring human and bio-physical environments present in the sector.

One of the central principles that will be put forward as part of the design will be to minimize permanent and temporary encroachments in sensitive environments, including coastal water and wetlands as a priority.

According to the preliminary schedule submitted by the Ministry of Transport to the Ministry of the Environment, the environmental impact study and the preliminary draft would be filed in December. The admissibility notice is expected in March 2025 and a recommendation from the minister in September 2026.

In the meantime, the final preliminary project is to be submitted in December 2025, the preliminary and final plans and specifications in December 2026 and the construction between 2027 and 2030.

The preliminary estimate for the completion of the project isn't mentioned in the document.

Gaspé wants to electrify its public works fleet

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The Town of Gaspé plans to further electrify its fleet of municipal vehicles by incorporating certain public works trucks.

All of the Town's small vehicles are already electric. "For pickups, it's more complicated. Why? Because they cover 1,500 square kilometres of territory. These vehicles often go into the backcountry or travel long distances in the territory," says the mayor, questioning the autonomy of these vehicles in these conditions.

The pickups are mainly used in emergency situations. "For example, a main water break where the vehicle can be immobilized for up to 24 hours at location 'X'. Go fill up, it takes five minutes. Recharging a vehicle with a large battery can take an hour or two hours," explains the mayor.

The town council purchased a fuel-powered vehicle Mon-



Electrification of transportation is a priority for Gaspé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

day night for the drinking water and wastewater technician, a truck used for everything and for long-term emergencies.

"We're going to look at the option of trying out an electric pick-up to see if it could work with our territory's reality, with our reality of the emergencies we have to deal with, just to see if it's good or not? If it's made for us, maybe there'll be a sec-

ond one, or a third? If it's not made for us, we won't have bought 50 at once," elaborates Mr. Côté.

The next acquisition could be an electric vehicle, especially since competition in this type of vehicle is increasing. "A competitive game could work for us. But the main issue for a town of our size is battery life," says the mayor.

The Ministry of Transportation and other towns have acquired this type of van. "But we don't always have the same emergencies and we don't have a large fleet compared to the Ministry of Transportation and one vehicle can replace another. We have less flexibility to change one vehicle for another during an intervention. That's why we have to do an analy-

sis," says the elected official, recalling that some cities that have acquired such vehicles have an area of 20 square kilometres, compared to 1,500 square kilometres. For example, the mayor says "We wouldn't want a battery to die in Pointe-à-la-Renommée."

In addition, the Town is submitting a request for financial assistance to the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program to add 20 charging stations at nine sites from Petit-Cap to Douglstown. Gaspé hopes to acquire \$100,000 in subsidies, or 50% of the estimated costs of \$205,392.

"We are prioritizing level 2 terminals. Fast terminals cost a lot more. We wanted to extend the network across the territory rather than having one or two at a higher cost. We made a commitment to install as many as possible. We are one of the towns that offers the greatest possibility of electric charging from one end to the other," says the mayor.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: Honouring our shared history

PENNY MACWHIRTER

HOLLY SMITH

NEW CARLISLE: - Each year, since 2021, September 30 has marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home, survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

It is a day to raise awareness of the horrific experiences many Indigenous people had in Residential Schools, and the legacy left by those institutions. In addition to the historical harm, the day also addresses the ongoing violence Indigenous communities still face.

Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. The day became a statutory holiday through legislative amendments by Parliament. To date, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon have followed Canada's lead and made September 30 a statutory holiday. In other provinces, such as Quebec, it is only a statutory holiday for federal employees.

Wearing orange

September 30 also coincides with Orange Shirt Day, a campaign founded by Phyl-

lis Webstad whose bright orange shirt was taken away when she was sent to residential school. The day serves as a symbol of loss and resilience. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children.

On this day Canadians are encouraged to wear orange in support of Indigenous communities. The phrase "Every Child Matters" resonates deeply, reminding us that every child deserves love, safety and the chance to thrive. Wearing orange isn't just about visibility, it's an opportunity for conversations with friends, family and colleagues. It can be a starting point for discussing the importance of acknowledging our shared history and the responsibility we all have to promote healing.

Taking action together

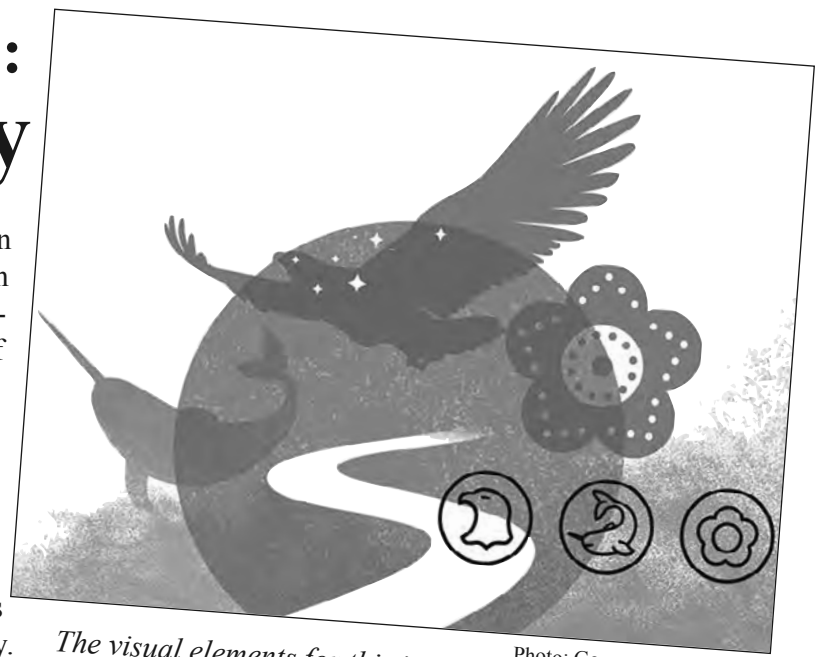
Truth and Reconciliation Day is about more than remembrance. It's a call to action. Many communities along the coast and across Canada will be hosting events, workshops, storytelling sessions, and walks. These events aim to foster understanding and connection. Participating in local events or even starting a conversation about what you've learned is important.

It's also essential to re-

member that reconciliation isn't a onetime event but an ongoing journey. Reconciliation is the responsibility of every Canadian. It means acknowledging the past and ensuring history never repeats itself by respecting Indigenous treaties and rights, and letting go of negative perceptions and stereotypes to work towards solidarity. Each person has a role to play, whether through learning, sharing or advocating for Indigenous rights and well-being. Reflect on how you can work towards reconciliation in your own life and create your own personal reconciliation plan.

Moving Forward

As we take time on September 30 to reflect, it is im-



The visual elements for this image illustrates Indigenous cultures. Photo: Government of Canada

portant to honour the survivors and remember the children who never returned home. This day is not only about acknowledging the past but also about envisioning a future where all children, regardless of their background, can thrive in a supportive and understanding environment.

On September 30, as you

wear your orange shirt and engage in conversations, think about what you can do moving forward. Commit to fostering respect, understanding and having a deeper connection with Indigenous communities. Together we can contribute to a more just and inclusive society where every child truly matters.

Books to read

While Truth and Reconciliation is a heavy topic to cover with your family, it's important to educate children about historical wrongdoings, not only to learn from them, but to also work towards reconciliation.

Below you will find a list of books that can support you while discussing Residential Schools with your family. Several of the books are available on Youtube, as a read aloud as well.

The Orange Shirt Story by Phyllis Webstad: The book tells the true story of when Phyllis was a little girl and was excited to go to a residential school for the first time. Her Granny bought her a bright orange shirt that she loved. She wore it to school her first day, but it was taken away. This book is for children 6 to 9. An adaptation of the book called Phyllis's Orange Shirt is available for younger children aged 4 to 6.

When We Were Alone by David A. Robertson: A young girl notices things about her grandmother that make her curious. As she asks questions, her grandmother shares her experiences in a residential school, when all of these things were taken away. Recommended for ages 4 to 8.

Fatty Legs by Margaret-Olemaun Pokiak-Fenton, Christy Jordan-Fenton: Tells the story of an Inuvialuit girl standing up to the bullies at a northern residential school. This story is an inspiring first-person account of a plucky girl's determination to confront her tormentor based on a true story. Recommended for ages 8-12.

When I Was Eight tells the story of a child who wants to go to school to learn to read but when Olemaun gets to the mission school the nuns cut off her hair, call her by a different name, and treat her and the other Inuit children with cruelty. *When I Was Eight* brings the bestselling *Fatty Legs* story to younger readers. Recommended for ages 5 to 9.

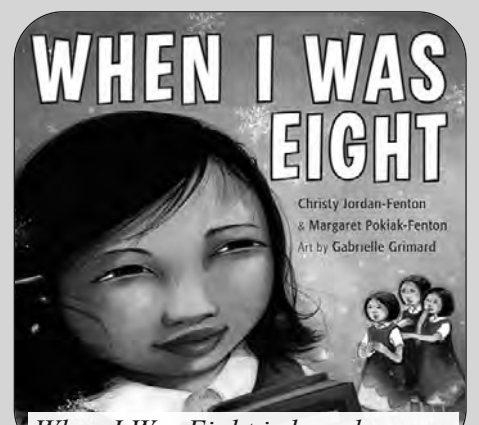
A Stranger at Home by Jordan-Fenton, Christy: When 10-year-old Margaret Pokiak is reunited with her family after two years at mission school, she can hardly contain her excitement. Coming ashore, Margaret spots her family, but her mother barely recognizes her, crying, Not my girl. Margaret realizes she is now marked as an outsider: she has forgotten the language and stories of her people, and she can't even stomach the food her mother prepares. Recommended for ages 8-12.

Not My Girl: It brings the *A Stranger at Home* book to a young audience. It is also the sequel to the picture book *When I Was Eight*. A poignant story of a determined young girl's struggle to belong. Recommended for ages 5 to 9.

As Long as the Rivers Flow by Larry Loyie, Constance Brissenden: The book tells the story of Larry Loyie's last summer before entering residential school. It is a time of learning and adventure. He cares for an abandoned baby owl and watches his grandmother make winter moccasins. He helps the family prepare for a hunting and gathering trip. Recommended for ages 8 to 11.

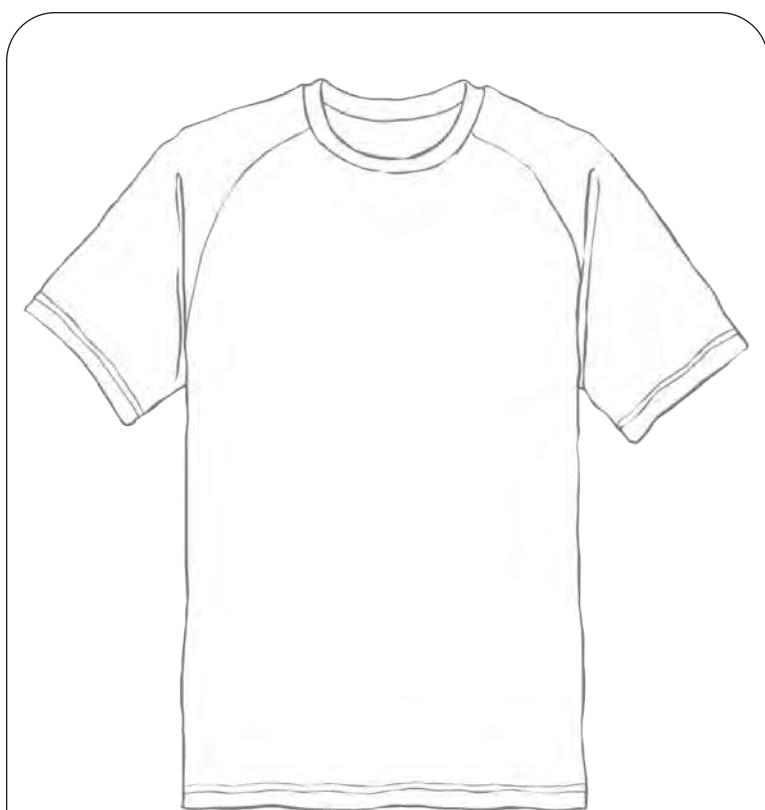
Speaking Our Truth by Monique Gray Smith: This nonfiction book examines how we can foster reconciliation with Indigenous people at individual, family, community and national levels. Recommended for ages 8 to 12.

White Raven by Spathelfer, Teoni: Through simple, heartfelt text and illustrations has a relatable narrative about the impact of intergenerational trauma on families with a message of healing. Based on the author's own life and her mother's residential school experience. Recommended for ages 4-8.



When I Was Eight is based on Margaret Pokiak-Fenton's experience at a residential school.

Photo: Penny MacWhirter



What does Orange Shirt Day mean to you? Reflect on your learning about Residential Schools, Truth and Reconciliation and/or Phyllis Jack Webstad's message that "Every Child Matters."

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Even though you told yourself you'll just suck it up and get through the week, you're having a change of heart, Aries. Some modifications are necessary to navigate the waters.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, all bets are off this week, especially if you've been smoothing over your emotions to get along with someone close by. All true feelings are bound to come to the surface.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

This week you may not be feeling like yourself, Gemini. Low energy have you feeling out of sorts. Spend some time with a close friend to get things back on track.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, your friends always have your back, but this week there is a disruption in your crew. Someone isn't playing nice, but a few words from you will smooth things over quickly.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

You are anxious to get started on an exciting project, Leo. Others on your team may need a dose of inspiration. It could be up to you to motivate the troops.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you made a commitment to keep things toned down. Enjoy the slower pace and take note of how the lack of hustle and bustle suits you.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Normally you're satisfied to let someone else take the lead and make all of the decisions, Libra. This week you might need to be the one taking a leadership role.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

A surprising bit of information may be brought to your attention, Scorpio. You might be up for a

promotion or an exciting change could be coming in your personal life.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Don't stop now when you are so close to the finish line, Sagittarius. It may be a busy week ahead, but you will reap the rewards of your labours. Remain patient.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Take inventory of your romantic relationship, Capricorn. You might need to put in a little extra effort if things haven't been as smooth as you would like. Don't give up on this.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you are working at keeping everyone on the same page. Continue to emphasize the importance of teamwork. Others notice and appreciate your efforts.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

It is not possible to make it all the way through your to-do list this week, so plan on some carry-over to the next, Pisces. Space out your work so you don't get too overwhelmed.

CISSS:

▶ Cont'd from page 4

half of it and order kilos and kilos and have losses, we are not at an advantage. In the end, the product costs us more," calculates Mr. Sauvé.

The target for concluding a contract would be this fall when provincial contracts will be reviewed.

Most CISSSs are having similar discussions for more local supplies. For example, the Côte-Nord is also looking at a local supply of fish as well. "It is a ministerial and government desire in the wake of the pandemic with the importance of making local purchases," emphasizes the CISSS procurement director.

Unseasonably warm temperatures during mid-September

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - On September 16 to 18, Gaspésians were given another taste of summer with warm temperatures and bright skies.

On September 16, three temperature records were broken in the Gaspé Peninsula with the hottest spot being Gaspé where temperatures reached 31.7°C, surpassing the previous record of 30.7°C from 2003.

It was also a beautiful day in Carleton-sur-Mer as the mercury climbed to 29.3°C. The previous record from 1967 was 26.7°C. Cap-d'Espoir was not far behind with temperatures of 24°C exceeding the 21.6°C from 2003.

The seasonal average nears 18°C.

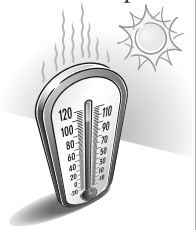
On September 17, the temperature in New Carlisle reached 28.6°C. The previous record was set in 2015 at 26.8°C.

In Cap-d'Espoir the temperature was 22.6°C compared to the record of 21.3°C in 2003.

Even if the weather was exceptional, it is not usual for days in September to reach 30 degrees. According to Environment Canada, on September 18, the mercury reached 29.7°C in Carleton-sur-Mer, surpassing the 28.9°C set in 1968.


Furthermore, New Carlisle experienced a peak of 26.7°C, the record was set at 25.6°C in 1979.

At 20.6°C, Cap-d'Espoir almost matched the current record of 20.7°C, recorded in 2021.



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Announcements



In Memory



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 Wife Edith and son Warren.

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

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

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

**Funeral, Celebration of Life,
 Card of Thanks, Engagement,
 Birth, Prayer, Birthday \$35**

Wedding - \$55



All photos are an additional \$10

COAST ROUND-UP

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

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:
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. Supper deliveries will be available within the New Carlisle area, to schedule a pick up or a delivery,

please call Fay Gallon at 418-375-9158.

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 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 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.
October 26: St. Andrew's United Church in New Richmond will be hosting a Turkey Supper. The cost will be \$18 per adult and \$10

for children under 12. You can order take-out with pick-up from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. (with a delivery option for shut ins) or you can reserve your seating in the church hall. There will be two seatings available by reservation: one at 5 p.m. and a second at 6 p.m. To order your take-out or reserve your seating time, please contact the church office as soon as possible by emailing: st.andrewsuc@telus.net or mompies@hotmail.com, you can also call: 418-392-4274.
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 29
 10 a.m. Service
October 6
 10 a.m. Service

**UNITED CHURCH
 HOPE TOWN**
September 29
 2 p.m. Service with Communion

**PARISH OF
 GASPÉ**
September 29
St. Paul's - Gaspé
 9 a.m. Service with Reserved Sacrament

October 6
St. Andrew's - York
 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Every Wednesday
 No Morning Prayer for the Month of September

Fall Festival has much to offer for all ages

PENNY MACWHIRTER

NEW CARLISLE: - The 2024 edition of the Cascapedia-St-Jules Fall Festival will take place October 3 to 6. This year's festival has much to offer for the whole family.

On Thursday, October 3, the softball tournament will begin and there will be an Amazing Race activity for children organized by the Youth Group.

On Friday, October 4, the softball tournament will continue, as well as a dart tournament. During the evening the Garage Band will perform in the tent, followed by an Electro Party with DJ Wave.

On Saturday, October 5, attendees will have the opportunity to browse the market and participate in a silent auction. There will also be activities for children such as face painting, balloons and a magic show later in the afternoon. One of the highlights of the weekend, the ever-popular soapbox derby will begin at 11 a.m., followed by a performance with Marie-Lou and Jam. The washer tournament will begin at 1 p.m. If you'd like to learn how to line dance, this is your opportunity, as there will be lessons in the tent at 4 p.m. What makes the perfect chili? Stop by, test-taste and vote for your favourite chili. Saturday evening you'll be enter-

tained with old-fashioned country music performed by Mike Pollard. His performance will be followed by throwback music with DJ Wave.

On Sunday, October 6, the Rotary Club will provide a brunch. On Sunday morning, there will be several activities for children, including story time and crafts with Bright Beginnings. A favourite of many, the Guide Competition will take place at 10 a.m. Shortly after lunch, RC car races will

take place at the bike park. At 3 p.m. the Open Mic with Mike will begin, followed by a celebration of the 25 years of amalgamation. The festivities will come to an end with the trophy and award ceremony.

In addition to the scheduled activities, organizers will be having a "What I Love About Fall" drawing contest for children aged up to 17.

Rough camping will be available on site, however, due to a limited number of

space available, it is essential to reserve in advance.

For more information,

you can consult the Cascapedia-St-Jules Fall Fest Facebook page.



The soapbox derby is always great fun for participants and observers.

Photo: Facebook

I have written a short poem about the Gaspé ocean. I have always felt a connection to it. However, I feel the ocean speaking to me as I have to leave Gaspé. I spend my summers in the Gaspé, at my grandparents' home (Billy Court) in Bonaventure.

So long, my friend

So long, my friend
 Along the breezy coast of the Gaspesian coast,
 The shoreline roars.
 So long, I will see you again soon.
 When your toes don't shiver and your mouth doesn't freeze.
 When you don't turn away when I set out a breeze.
 I will see you in a season near now.
 So long my friend, so long my company.
 I will be lonely without you, until you come back,
 In the seasons to spare.
 I will be waiting for you, waiting a while.
 I will set my water warm, and make my waves high.
 I know you enjoy them, and so do I.
 When you visit, I care.
 I listen to you when you talk.
 And I speak to you when you're not.
 Come back to me, play in my waves.
 You're getting older, so as far as you go, don't come here.
 I shall not witness you shed any tears.
 So long my friend, my only one.
 I will see you in the seasons to come.

*Tessa Court
 Bonaventure, Quebec.*

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