

Han Logements Confirms establishment in Chandler and launches fundraising campaign

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER - A grassroots fundraising campaign for the 32-unit affordable housing project for people with disabilities was launched on March 18 in Chandler.

The developer, Han Logements, must raise \$400,000 from the community to complete the financial package for the project, which is estimated at approximately \$10 million and will be located on Rue des Micmacs.

"We have an innovative model that involves a multitude of partners, including small and large donors from the community," said Han Logements President and CEO Anik Roy Trudel.

The project will consist of four eight-unit buildings, for each complex the community will need to raise \$100,000.

Desjardins has already announced a contribution of \$64,000, and a private contributor from Percé has contributed an undisclosed amount.



Han Logements President and CEO Anik Roy Trudel and Parents' Committee member Maryse Mauger.

Photo: N. Sergerie

The total is already approaching \$100,000, nearly a quarter of the fundraising goal. The Town of Chandler donated the land, valued at approximately \$100,000.

"Once we have the community's contribution, it's the basis that allows us to go knocking on the doors of foundations and major donors, and

we tell them that the project is already supported by the Chandler community and the surrounding area; they want the project, and that puts their shoulder to the wheel," notes Ms. Roy Trudel.

"We want to start with a first phase of 32 housing units, and there's the possibility of increasing to 56 units in a sec-

ond phase," adds Ms. Roy Trudel.

The goal is to begin construction this year once the financial package is complete. Initial studies had detected contamination on the chosen site, but further studies resolved the problem.

"It took time, but we had the Town's support. We con-

ducted additional studies and, with the ministry, were able to determine that it was natural contamination. We can move forward," explains Ms. Roy Trudel, who points out that this constraint has added minor delays.

The units will accommodate people with physical or intellectual disabilities, those living with autism spectrum disorders, as well as seniors with certain physical limitations.

"We're targeting people living with disabilities," she says. The units are designed to make life easier for tenants, such as the absence of a door step for people with reduced mobility.

For the mayor of Chandler, this project represents the culmination of a long process.

"We've been waiting for this day. Work should begin in April or May, with delivery within a year. We're very happy," says Mayor Gilles Daraïche. "We donated \$100,000 worth of land, and

Cont'd on page 13

Paragliding at its best at Pin rouge



GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND — As spring makes its entrance, it brings ideal conditions for paragliding enthusiasts, as was evident on March 16 at the Pin rouge ski centre. The warm weather offered a perfect opportunity for enthusiasts to enjoy their silent hobby. Such was the case of Guy Lebrun and Robert Gagné, both of New Richmond, precisely from Saint-Edgar in the latter case. The mild temperature is not only more comfortable for the body, it also favours the flight's duration, explains Guy Lebrun. "There doesn't seem to be a breeze today but there is a slight one and it

comes from the right direction, a mix of south and west winds. We feel it going up along the mountain," he says. "Sometimes, just a patch of soil in the middle of the snow covering the ground will absorb the sun's beams, generate some heat and lift us so as to maintain our flight for quite a while," adds Mr. Lebrun. A southeast wind doesn't help at Pin rouge because it comes sideways, given that the ski runs face the southwest. For their flight, both men launched from run number 4, using the steep slope as their ramp. They continued flying after lunch, relying on the foot launch for the day. On some occasions, paragliders take off with their skis on.

Photo: G. Gagné

FEDERAL ELECTION: Diane Lebouthillier confirms her candidacy

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - Despite already confirming her candidacy on March 13, following her exclusion from Prime Minister-designate Mark Carney's cabinet, Diane Lebouthillier reiterated on March 17 that she will be running in the next election under the Liberal banner in a virtual press briefing.

Bloc Québécois candidate Alexis Deschênes was quick to respond.

"I know that since last week's announcement, many have been speculating about my political future. I'm not going anywhere." "I remain the Member of Parliament (MP) for Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine, and I am more motivated than ever to seek the confidence of the people of Gaspésie and the Magdalen Islands for the fourth time in the next federal election," says Ms. Lebouthillier, who wants to continue fighting for her people and has been questioned several times since March 13 by voters.

She wanted to reassure her constituents, who have repeat-

edly asked her about her political future.

"I intend to put all my expertise, my knowledge of government mechanisms, and my network of contacts in the Cabinet to work because a Liberal member of Parliament in government will always be 100 times more effective than a Bloc Québécois member condemned to opposition," she asserts.

Ms. Lebouthillier points out that she has spoken to nearly a dozen ministers since March 13. "In all the election campaigns I've run, I've never negotiated a seat on the cabinet. It's never been part of my way of working. It's the Prime Minister's prerogative to choose who will sit at the table," says Ms. Lebouthillier who didn't see Mark Carney's gesture as a disavowal.

She's going against all odds, regardless of the polls. "In 2015, we were the third horse. No one thought we could win the 2015 campaign, and we did. I'm not running because we're sure or not sure we'll win. I'm running because it's important for the riding to have an elected official who will be part of a government that can

and will be in power. A government that will make decisions," analyzes the outgoing MP.

But Bloc Québécois candidate Alexis Deschênes has a completely different view. "This shows that Ms. Lebouthillier is a little confused and quite bothered because her main argument was to say, 'Vote for me and I'll be a strong voice in government.' However, she has been excluded from the Cabinet. Mr. Carney has withdrawn his confidence in her," comments Mr. Deschênes.

The Bloc member even challenges her.

"She tells us she's motivated? We're going to test her motivation. I invite her to de-



Diane Lebouthillier made her announcement on St. Patrick's Day.

Photo: Facebook

bate in all the riding's MRCs during the election campaign, and we'll see who has the best

plan to defend the region at this important moment in our history," he maintains.

Record temperatures in the Gaspé Peninsula

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Three temperature records were set in the Gaspé Peninsula due to the mild weather on March 16 and 17. On March 17, the mercury climbed to 15.4°C, according to Environment Canada data, surpassing the previous record of 12.3 °C set in 2012.

It was the second consecutive record-breaking day for Gaspé, as the day before, the temperature reached 10.1°C, exceeding the 9.6°C recorded in 1984.

In the Bay of Chaleur area, New Carlisle also set a new record on March 17, reaching 11.3°C and breaking the previous record of 9.1°C set in 2010.


The same day, Cap-d'Espoir came close to setting a new record, with the mercury stopped at 8.2°C, just shy of the 8.4°C record from 2010.

The weather remained much cooler on the northern coast of the Gaspé Peninsula, with the maximum temperature reached at Cap-Chat being 5.2°C, according to Environment Canada data.



Two records were broken in Gaspé.

Photo: N. Sergerie



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Canadian Navigable Waters Act

Notice of work at Rivière-au-Renard Harbour

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

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the *Act*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Small Craft Harbours – has deposited with the Minister of Transport on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (<https://common-project-search.canada.ca/>), and under registry number **12366**, or under the Navigation Protection Program (NPP) File Number **2025-314239**, a description of the following work, its site and plans:

- Rivière-au-Renard Harbour: commercial wharf 401 (modification/riprap) located around 48°59'54.38"N - 64°22'59.95"W, on lots 2 734 171 and 2 734 093, cadastre of Québec, city of Gaspé, Gaspé Region, province of Québec.


Comments regarding the impact of this work on marine navigation can be sent through the comment section on the Common Project Search Registry website by searching the registry number. Members of the public who do not have access to the Internet can send comments to:

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

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

Comments will be considered only if they are received in writing (electronic means preferable) no later than 30 days after the publication of this notice. While all comments relating to the above-stated information will be considered, no individual responses will be sent.

Posted this 26th day of March, 2025.



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Police report

Fatal accident in Chandler

An 89-year-old man died following a March 18 accident that occurred around 1:15 p.m. on Highway 132 in Chandler. The collision involved two vehicles and took place near Chemin du Lac Sept-Îles. After emergency services arrived, the victim was transported to the local hospital in critical condition and was later pronounced dead. The driver of the other vehicle, a 49-year-old woman, was also taken to hospital with minor injuries. Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Frédéric Deshaies noted that “According to initial findings, the man left a private driveway before being struck by the other vehicle. An investigator was at the accident scene to determine the causes and circumstances of the collision. The victim could have been ill before the accident.” The Sûreté du Québec no longer releases the identity of accident victims.

Cédric Hammond-Pelletier remains in custody

Judge Janick Poirier refused to release Cédric Hammond-Pelletier, 30, who is accused of drug possession, drug possession for the purpose of trafficking and breach of probation. The suspect was arrested along with Éric Maldemay, 48, on February 28 in Paspebiac following a police chase. Judge Poirier ruled that the charges against Mr. Hammond-Pelletier are serious enough to justify his continued detention. Both accused will appear at the New Carlisle Courthouse on March 31. Cédric Hammond-Pelletier lives in the Montreal area.

Éric Maldemay has a history of drug-related offences. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison in 2008 and another six years in 2023. In October 2024, he was injured by a gunshot in a residence in St-Alphonse. The perpetrator(s) were never arrested. Due to time served in preventive detention before his 2023 conviction, he was free at the time of his February 28 arrest.

Newport man arrested for impaired driving

A tip from a citizen led to the Sûreté du Québec intercepting a driver who was behaving erratically on the evening of March 13 on Highway 132 in the Newport sector of Chandler. The 23-year-old man, stopped by police, was uncooperative. In addition to multiple traffic violations, the suspect eventually could face a charge of drug-impaired driving. Officers also seized 30 grams of cocaine, a scale, and a cellphone in the car, which was classified as criminal property. The Criminal and Penal Prosecution Directorate is expected to add charges before his March 14 court appearance. “Moreover, the man could face an additional charge of obstruction in the work of police officers. He was released pending a call to appear in court. His identity therefore remains unknown to the public in the meantime,” adds Frédéric Deshaies, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec.

Hit and run leads to arrest

Bryan Mimeault, 43, from Baie-Trinité, on the North Shore, turned himself in at the Sûreté du Québec office in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, two days after the police requested public assistance in locating a driver who was allegedly involved in a hit-and-run on March 15 on Highway 132 in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. The collision resulted in injuries to two women and a man, all of whom required hospitalization. Fortunately, their injuries were not life-threatening. The accused is charged with hit and run, dangerous driving, dangerous driving causing bodily harm, careless use of a vehicle, refusing to assist injured people and hiding the vehicle, a Ford F-150 pickup truck, allegedly involved in two collisions. “He was arrested following tips provided by the public after we released a search notice. The vehicle was found in the Tourelle area of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts,” says Frédéric Deshaies, the Sûreté du Québec’s spokesperson.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada Release List of Offenders

On March 11, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Quebec Region, released a list of offenders fined in recent months for various violations of legislation that falls under its mandate. They are listed by place of judgement.

New Carlisle:

Marcel Henry was fined with fishing lobster without a licence or authorization (\$2,600), fishing for lobster other than from a vessel and with a lobster trap (\$750) and being in possession of lobsters less than 83mm (\$900). Christian Johnson was fined for being in possession of female lobsters carrying eggs (\$2,500) and having lobster smaller than 83mm (\$950). Georges Bourgaize was fined (\$300) for having wasted mackerel suitable for human consumption while fishing recreationally. Pecheries Parisé Inc. was fined (\$2,000) for failing to comply with their lobster licence conditions by using gear without a valid tag attached. The traps were also taken. Yves Bénard fined for failing to comply with his winter flounder licence conditions by not contacting the hail-out system before 7 p.m. the prior day (\$500), and not maintaining a truthful record of activities and catches in the logbook (\$500). Denis Ferlatte was fined \$600 for harvesting softshell clams a closed area for contamination reasons. Stéphane Henry was fined \$1,900, along

with having items seized for fishing lobster without a licence or authorization, he also fished lobster other than from a vessel with a lobster trap (\$750). Hugues Roussy was fined \$750 for failing to remove lobster fishing gear from the water before the start of the prohibition period. Nicolas Renouf failed to comply with his licence conditions by being in possession of a female lobster marked with a v-notch (\$750). Roger Arsenault harvested soft-shell clams in an area closed to shellfish harvesting for contamination reasons (\$300). Aristide Blais failed to comply with his lobster conditions by using traps with exhaust vents below the regulatory limit of 47mm. He was fined \$2,000 and his traps are forfeited. Guylain Deraspe received several mackerel fishing fines. He failed to send e-logbooks to DFO within 72 hours of each fishing trip (\$500), failed to send combined forms to DFO within 7 days of landing (\$500 and suspension of the 2025 fall herring licence), making a false or misleading statement to a fisheries officer (\$500), and failing to make an inward call to a dockside monitoring company prior to arrival (\$500). Micheline Leblanc was fined \$300 for harvesting soft-shell clams in a closed area due to contaminations reasons. Hugues Roy was fined \$800 and his fish fillets were seized for having in his possession mackerel that was processed to the point where it was difficult to determine the size. Travis Vautier fished winter flounder without having the additional conditions pertaining to it (\$750).

Percé:

Réné Cyr was fined fishing halibut in a closed area (\$2,000), failing to comply with licence conditions by not identifying vertical ropes (\$750), and having anchored fishing gear without a legible vessel registration number on the buoy (\$750). Guylain Duraspe was fined for failing to comply with licence conditions by failing to complete his electronic logbook during herring (\$1,500). He also had a gill net with a mesh size of less than 66.7mm for the herring fishery (\$750 and forfeiture of gear). Norbert Duguay fished halibut in a closed area, he was fined \$2,000 and forfeiture of the amount of \$14,406.21 for the sale of the seized fish. Rick Jeanotte-Giasson was fined (\$10,500) for being in possession of snow crabs less than 95mm in width. 9374-1015 Quebec Inc. failed to comply with its licence by fishing snow crab without having the additional conditions attached to it (\$1,500). Anthony Dubé was fined \$2,500 for being in possession of lobsters less than 83mm, \$750 for having traps without a valid tag, and \$750 for using fishing gear without a valid tag attached to the top frame. Pierre-Luc Collin was fined \$7,700 for being in possession of snow crab less than 95mm wide, and \$1,000 for having female snow crab. Jérôme Pinel failed to comply with his licence conditions by being in possession of a female lobster marked with a v-notch (\$750). Alban Hautcoeur failed to immediately apply a valid tag to a bluefin tuna on board the vessel (\$750). Roger Desjardins fished lobster without a licence or authorization (\$500). He also fished for lobster other than from a vessel and with a lobster trap (\$500). Francois Jean fished for seal in a prohibited area (\$1,000 and forfeiture of seized seal parts), and fishing for a species of seal that is not authorized by their licence (\$1,000). Yu Xing harvested soft-shell clams in an area closed for contamination reasons (\$300 and forfeiture of seized items), and being in possession of soft-shell clams less than 51mm long (\$408).

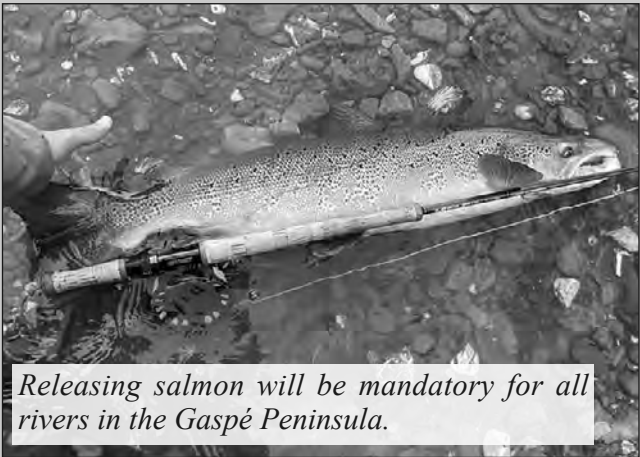
Carleton:

Sarah Conor was fined for wasting soft shell-clams suitable for consumption (\$100). Olivier Vallière was fined for harvesting soft shell clams in a closed area due to contamination reasons (\$300), and having in his possession soft-shell clams less than 51mm long (\$339).

Wildlife Department imposes catch and release in Gaspé Peninsula rivers

Gilles Gagné

CARELTON - Starting in the 2025 sport fishing season, releasing salmon will be mandatory for all rivers in the Gaspé Peninsula, following a decision by Quebec’s Wildlife Department announced on March 14. The Ministry of the Environment, Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks has set the daily limit at two salmon per angler. Due to the extremely low returns over the past two years on the East Coast, the Quebec government is taking action



Releasing salmon will be mandatory for all rivers in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Photo: Courtesy of the River Management Society of Grand Gaspé

to preserve the resource, which continues to decline. If left unchecked, the future of sports fishing could be at risk. More details will be released in the coming weeks.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Axe the plane!

On March 20, the Conservative Party of Canada announced that journalists will not be allowed to accompany leader Pierre Poilievre on the party’s plane during the electoral campaign. The stated reason? The cost of accommodating press members, including print, television and radio reporters.

The Conservative Party therefore breaks a long tradition that goes back generations of political leadership. The party’s brass... Pierre Poilievre, also starts the campaign with a blatant lie. The cost of bringing journalists on the plane has nothing to do with their exclusion. Mr. Poilievre simply doesn’t want to see them around during the campaign.

Of course, he has the right to make this decision, which might suggest that political parties have been doing journalists a favour by allowing them on campaign planes. However, the reality is different, journalists, or rather, their media organizations, pay for their seats.

For instance, also on March 20, the Liberal Party of Canada issued its pricing for media: \$1,500 per day per journalist. A quick look at plane ticket prices on the same day revealed that a trip between Halifax and Vancouver costs about \$1,500.

Although there is a significant cost attached to daily political leaders travelling during a campaign, there are justified doubts that the tab is less than \$1,500. Some seasoned journalists covering the House of Commons activities suspect that political parties make a bit of money with the cost charged to the media.

There are reasons for journalists to follow political leaders and they are not related, barring rare exceptions, to twisted behaviour.

Party leaders usually draw a daily schedule that cannot be met through using standard transportation like commercial flights and bus services. Taking a political party aircraft between Toronto and Val d’Or, Abitibi, will take an hour-and-a-half at most, while it might take a full day, or more, using available commercial services.

That is not counting reaching the sawmill located in the neighbouring community since the party leader wants to denounce Donald Trump’s tariffs with bundles of lumber in the background.

It will not be impossible for reporters to cover some of the Conservative Party’s leader’s activities. In the country’s main towns and cities, journalists will show up.

It started under Stephen Harper

Complicating journalists’ lives is nothing new for politicians. It has existed since political parties lost their grip over newspapers, and probably before. For generations, a fairly large portion of newspapers were loyal to a party, at least in their editorial line.

Until the end of the Maurice Duplessis era, some journalists even received “brown envelopes” containing a bit of money in order to make up for news writers’ poor salary and, above all, influence the content of their reports.

Almost five decades later, in 2006, Stephen Harper, just elected as prime minister of Canada, started complicating the life of journalists through various means, notably by refusing interviews over lengthy periods of time and greatly limiting the number of press conferences and scrums at the House of Commons, and their length. He also forced journalists to put their names on a list if they wanted to ask questions.

Journalists can surely be a drag, However, they essentially ask the questions citizens would but can’t because they don’t have access to decision-makers, including politicians.

Stephen Harper, who was not a great defender of democracy, hated question periods. So, in 2009, the Conservative Party started sending photos and videos from events to which the media did not have access. The party was presenting it as a favour, a privilege given to the media in order to “help” them in their coverage work.

It was nothing else than controlling the party’s message. In 2011, after winning a majority, Stephen Harper limited the question periods to four questions, another way of avoiding sharp questions over several subjects.

Controlling the message

Pierre Poilievre’s decision to exclude journalists from the Conservative Party’s aircraft is yet another attempt to fully control the message. In doing so, he is behaving much like the man he has tried to distance himself from since November, Donald Trump.

The similarities between their tactics are striking. Both men project an intimidating presence, demonstrating a deep dislike for journalists; they prefer to stage one-man shows in public, leaving little room for their team members.

There are exceptions with Donald Trump, as he sometimes gives free rein to Elon Musk, a man who was not elected, but Trump primarily seeks the spotlight for himself.

Who can name a member of Pierre Poilievre’s shadow cabinet? Which one of them has been granted permission to speak to the media in recent months? Nobody, or nobody in Quebec, at least.

Like Stephen Harper in 2009, Pierre Poilievre’s team explained that the Conservative Party will feed videos and images to the media to compensate for the absence of journalists on the plane.

That help is pernicious. Due to limited resources, some media outlets may use this biased material. The audience will then be potentially subjected to manipulation.

We can bet that if people “boo” Pierre Poilievre at a gathering, or if a person refuses to shake his hand or makes cutting remarks, that material will never reach reporters.

By controlling the narrative in this way, Pierre Poilievre avoids a potential “Goodbye, Charlie Brown” moment, like the one Brian Mulroney faced 40 years ago. During the 1984 election campaign, the then prime minister had promised not to touch Old Age Security (OAS). Yet, the following year, he decided to remove the inflation indexation of pensions payments.

During a visit to Quebec City, Mr. Mulroney was approached by a woman, Solange Denis, who told him: “You lied to us. You made promises that you wouldn’t touch (OAS). It’s goodbye, Charlie Brown!”

Despite this controversy, Brian Mulroney won another mandate in 1988 and remained in power eight more years after the 1985 incident.

However, Pierre Poilievre’s lack of transparency, media-wise, might trigger a very negative reaction in the electorate. It is not that electors like journalists. However, electors hate the impression that politicians are trying to hide the truth, or are trying to manipulate it.

The current American president is doing just that, and his popularity, in Canada and the United States, has reached an all-time low. It is therefore puzzling to see a Canadian politician align his party’s media coverage to Donald Trump’s.

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208-B Gérard D. Levesque
New Carlisle, Que.
G0C 1Z0

Tel: 418-752-5400
specs@globetrotter.net
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Office Assistant
Jillian O'Connell

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Marc Bélanger promotes his PLQ leadership bid

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Marc Bélanger, a candidate for the Quebec Liberal Party (PLQ) leadership, became the first contender to visit Gaspé in the race leading up to the June 14 leadership election..

A lawyer and tax expert, Mr. Bélanger says he is running out of conviction and wants to put the regions back at the forefront of Quebec politics.

Originally from Matane, Marc Bélanger worked for 25 years in international trade. On the political level, he was a candidate in Matapédia-Matane in 2000, a campaign that caught the attention of former Liberal leader Paul Martin.

He later worked with Michael Ignatieff, but much of his political career has been behind the scenes. Now, with the mounting economic challenges and the "unfortunate" situation of the Quebec economy, he feels like it is the time to step into the spotlight.

"I look at the leaflets I made in 2000 and I find that what I was saying about the regions is the same reality today. Yet, there have been major changes. Quebec hasn't



Photo: N. Sergerie

Marc Bélanger visited Gaspé on March 16.

exploited its natural resources properly and hasn't made the international shift," says the man who has traveled to 70 countries.

"We're afraid to invest. We're cutting back everywhere, especially in the regions, but people aren't looking at the revenue. No one talks about enriching Quebec. That's where I stand out," says Mr. Bélanger, who visited Gaspé and Grande-Rivière during his tour on March 15 and 16.

He's not afraid to reignite the debate on Quebec's oil and

gas industry.

"I say: there is a way to enrich Quebec." This can be done in two ways. We're going to stop leaving billions of dollars in our underground resources, for example, with natural gas. We're going to exploit these resources and generate revenue for Quebec. The second thing is international trade. Everyone's talking about diversifying markets. In 2002, I talked about market diversification. I explained how to change our relationship with the United States to move towards emerging mar-

kets. "We have golden opportunities in Africa, but the government doesn't support them. No one knows how to achieve market diversification," explains Mr. Bélanger.

Regarding oil, particularly in the Gaspé Peninsula, social acceptability is a challenge.

The Quebec government even put a lid on exploration.

"Social acceptability must be regional because sometimes you have interest groups that come from Montreal and impose themselves in the sector. There's one thing we have to explain: if we develop our natural resources, we'll do it on our terms." If we let the Americans come and exploit our natural resources, because they'll have needs, they'll come and exert economic pressure, they won't do it in a context as environmentally friendly as ours. Let's do it according to our own standards," Mr. Bélanger said.

He cites the example that Quebec isn't obligated to go to Anticosti (for oil drillings), suggesting it can go to places where it will be easier.

Like the government, the Liberal candidate believes that we can protect the caribou and our economic interests. "It's important to protect the caribou, but I'm not ready

to suffocate them economically. Currently, the measures we're taking are too drastic. We're capable of striking a better balance. I don't want to kill the regional economy because of the caribou. I want to protect the environment to a certain extent. It's a question of balance," Mr. Bélanger said.

He doesn't believe in his lack of visibility, particularly compared to Pablo Rodriguez or Charles Milliard. "What's important is not to have a content deficit. I stand out from my opponents in terms of content. It's in June, and it's the members who vote. The question is, am I known to the members? That's the work to be done, and there will be debates," he says.

Mr. Bélanger points out that he was second in the polls when Denis Coderre was sidelined in the race. "When members see who has the best chance of convincing people in the regions to turn to the Liberal Party, it will have an impact," says Mr. Bélanger.

The deadline to submit a nomination is April 11. Following that, four debates will be held between now and June 8. The vote will be held from June 9 to 14. The leader will be chosen on June 14.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS: Jean-Pierre Pigeon tries his luck for the fourth time

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

SAINTE-ANNE-DESMONTS - Defeated in his first three attempts, longtime Conservative activist Jean-Pierre Pigeon will once again be a candidate for the party in the next election in Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Lis-tuguj.

"I don't know if this time will be the right one. It will be up to the people of our riding to decide. I've been ready since 2015," says the man who lost each time to Liberal Member of Parliament (MP) Diane Lebouthillier. The man who served under Dr. Charles-Eugène Marin between 1984 and 1993 notes that it will be necessary to focus on the challenges in the riding at a time when a tariff war triggered by the United States is raging.

"People are worried. But it's not just this economic cri-



Photo: Courtesy of Jean-Pierre Pigeon

Jean-Pierre Pigeon with Conservative leader, Pierre Poilievre.

sis that's likely to happen. We need to talk about the needs of our population versus what Ottawa will do for our riding. That requires someone who will be in power," says Mr. Pigeon.

However, the Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine MP

has been in power since 2015, and Mr. Pigeon maintains that the Liberal representative "has done her job."

Jean-Pierre Pigeon believes he has the necessary connections to move the riding forward if the Conservatives take power.

"With the contacts I've had in the Conservative Party for nearly five decades, people in Ottawa know me. I know the vast majority of the people in the shadow cabinets." I know how to do politics. I had a mentor named Charles-Eugène Marin who showed me how to do politics," recalls the man who has been involved in politics at the school, municipal, and sports levels.

Public finances, with the significant deficits left by the Liberals for the past 10 years, will be a major issue.

"When Stephen Harper left power in 2015, there was no credit card for everyday needs. There is a way to do things, and I am confident that the people who will form the government will be able to reconcile the elements to strike a balance between paying off the credit card, which has been staggering for the past 10 years, and meeting people's needs. But we will

have to make some sacrifices," warns Mr. Pigeon. "But we will have to help the Gaspé," he adds.

The Liberals have a renewed energy with the arrival of Mark Carney.

"We remember that in the United States, there was a certain Mr. Biden who took his time leaving. "It's similar to what Mr. Trudeau did. Ms. Harris came in and boosted the polls, and what happened? The polls collapsed because the Republicans had done the long-term work. We might see the same scenario in Canada. Mr. Carney is the flavour of the month, but it won't last," says Mr. Pigeon, who has supported the Conservatives since Joe Clark in the late 1970s.

Given the size of the newly redrawn riding. Mr. Pigeon plans to focus on technological tools to connect voters rather than relying solely on traditional in-person visits.

American tariff effects on freight hauling

“extremely variable,” says railway transporter

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – The gradual and inconsistent implementation of American tariffs on goods imported by American companies have had “extremely variable” effects on the firms that use the railroad to send part of their production south of the border, according to Luc Lévesque, director general of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG).
Mr. Lévesque is also not sure if the variability he has noticed over recent weeks is attributable to the American tariffs.

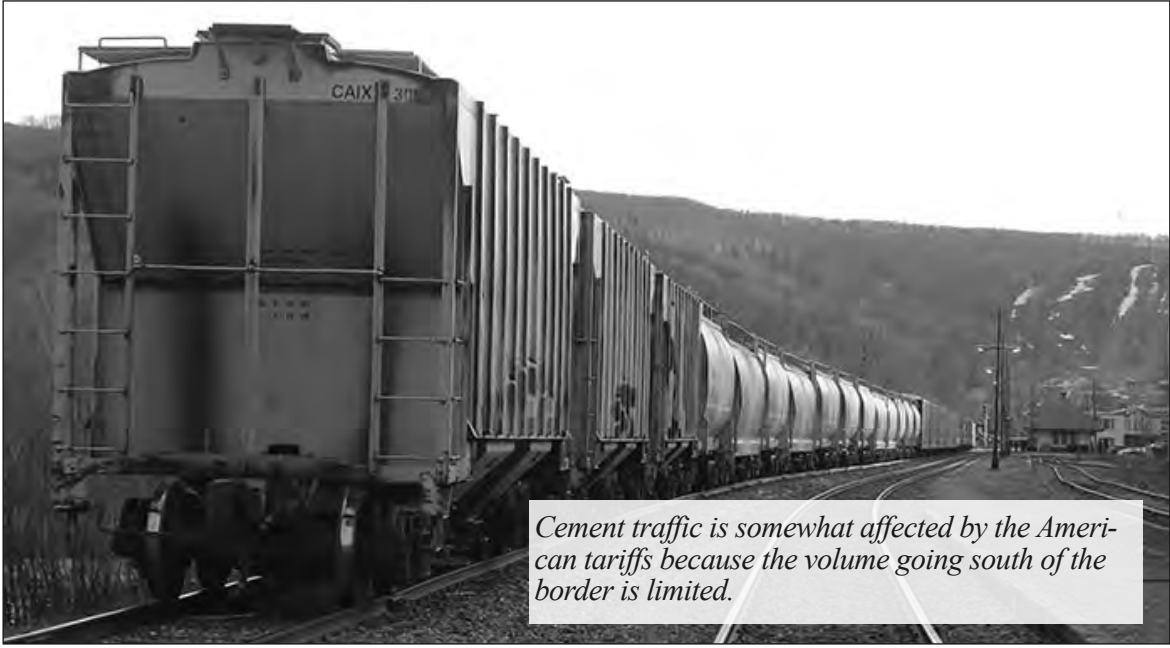
The three main sources of traffic of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie are cement from Port Daniel’s Saint Mary’s plant, as well as lumber and wood chips from the Groupe Lebel sawmill in Nouvelle.

“In lumber, it varies a lot. We have weeks without picking up a single car and weeks where we are picking up many. It is hard to say if those fluctuations are related to tariffs. What we hear is that the clients of the sawmills are ordering a lot (of lumber),” explains Luc Lévesque.

The woodchip traffic is unaffected by the tariffs because they are hauled between the Groupe Lebel sawmill and the White Birch Paper mill in Rivière-du-Loup.

However, cement traffic is affected to a certain point because the Saint Mary’s Cement plant in Port Daniel delivers a certain part of its production to a Maine customer based in Bangor.

“We don’t send a lot of cement there at the present time,” stresses Mr. Lévesque, who is paying more attention to an up-



Cement traffic is somewhat affected by the American tariffs because the volume going south of the border is limited.

Photos: G. Gagné

coming development in cement traffic.

Reaching the Moncton market by rail

“We will serve the Moncton market next month. We think that we will get 90% of the shipments made to the Saint Mary’s Cement silo in Moncton. CN will soon reinstall the (railroad) switch alongside that silo,” says Luc Lévesque.

Currently, Saint Mary’s Cement serves the Moncton market with trucks. Since that company acquired the Moncton silo, talks have intensified to resume cement hauling by train. However, Canadian National had taken the switch off and the SCFG and Saint Mary’s Cement needed CN’s collaboration before supplying the silo with the Port Daniel product.

“For now, trucks will load at our silo in New Richmond. We will increase the number of trucks from three to four and over two shifts in order to cope with the increased volume going to Moncton,” points out

Luc Lévesque.
The railway will be even more competitive once the Saint Mary’s Cement silo is ready to load railcars.

On that point, Saint Mary’s Cement remains vague about the time frame of the silo delivery, although construction has begun. The company did respond to SPEC’s email, however, it was unclear who responded to the email as it was not signed.

“The construction of the rail loading station will involve several contractors, each with individual contracts. Contract award for the first phase of piling and foundation work is im-

minent. Costs for the construction of the loading station and the rail yard infrastructure are estimated at over \$12.3 million. We expect the station to be operational by the end of the year, subject to possible delays related to obtaining the required permits.”

The company ignored the question pertaining to the delay taken by its administration to deal with the construction of the Port Daniel silo earmarked for rail transport, despite the fact that it has been known for years that railway repairs were underway. It is also known since 2022 that the repairs would be completed in

2024.

Tariffs paralyze projects

Luc Lévesque’s main worries considering the American tariffs are tied to their paralyzing effects.

“It hurts us on projects we had. Some ventures are postponed, put on hold due to tariffs. They are not dead but they are not progressing. Companies are not investing in a climate of uncertainty. The American government is also wrong, its representatives think that plants will move to the United States. Moving a plant is not easy and it never works,” analyzes Mr. Lévesque.

The SCFG has been talking for a couple of years with the management of Sayabec’s Panval plant, a manufacturer of melamine panels, which exports a fairly large proportion of its output to the United States, as wood fiber from the Gaspé Peninsula is needed at the Matapédia Valley facility. Panval, which employs 435 people, recently laid off 15 of them because of reduced sales.

“We understand here that our project to haul that wood by rail is not dead, but slowed down by the current situation. Investments are put on hold,” underlines Luc Lévesque.



Luc Lévesque says that American tariffs block development projects because of the uncertainty they create.

Flooding: Calm in Matapédia

NELSON SERGERIE

MATAPÉDIA - While rivers overflowed in regions like Beauce and Central Quebec on March 17, the situation in Matapédia remains stable for now.

“Compared to the last two years, this year is a little more normal, with a thicker snow cover than in recent years, even if we haven’t reached the average of recent years. The ice cover is still significant, not exceptional, but quite significant, with ice accumulations in some places,” notes Mayor of Matapédia, Nicole Lagacé.

Spring is a little earlier, with mild days and nights below freezing, without too much precipitation.

“It’s perfect. There’s natural wear and tear of the ice and a slight melt,” she says.

The management committee, involving the federal, provincial, and municipal



The Sipu Muin hovercraft is not expected on the Restigouche river until April.

Photo: G. Gagné

governments, is in place. “We’ve been on alert since our first flood prevention meetings. Our civil protection plan is updated. We communicate with Civil Security on a regular basis and monitor closely,” says Ms. Lagacé.

River monitoring has been initiated by municipal authorities, and field observers play an important role in flood prevention.

The hovercraft icebreaker, tasked with preventing ice jams near the Canadian National (CN) bridge, is scheduled to arrive in April.

“We don’t have any rising waters. It’s really the ice jam that could occur in the CN bridge funnel that’s causing the problem and could cause the water to rise. But we’re really not there yet,” reassures the mayor.

Is the U.S. market important? Yes, but less so than the Canadian market!

● GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – In these uncertain times for trade with the United States, Quebec seafood exporters naturally want to maintain this important market. According to recent data from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, sales from Quebec's maritime regions south of the border reached \$214 million in 2023.

A closer look at the data, however, sheds some useful light on the importance of the Canadian domestic market, especially amidst a rising tariff war triggered by American president Donald Trump. Canada's market share is significantly larger than the U.S. market when it comes to Quebec seafood sales.

Overall, Quebec plants sold \$432 million worth of seafood products on the domestic market in 2023, or 64.5% of the total, compared to \$214 million sold in the United States, which accounted for 31.9%, and \$24 million sold elsewhere in the world. The total value of seafood sales stands at \$670 million.

Quebec sales across Canada

were therefore double those in the United States. The Fisheries and Oceans Canada statistics are valid for a first transformation carried out by processing plants. The 2024 sales are not available yet.

Lobster sales, whether live or cooked, clearly dominate the statistics broken down by product, with revenues of \$411 million. Thus, while sales in the United States were significant, at \$98 million, or 23.8% of the total, they were significantly higher in Canada, at \$308 million, or 74.9% of the total. Lobster sales elsewhere in the world were limited to \$5 million, though they have been increasing very gradually over the years.

Regionally, the Gaspé Peninsula sells the most lobster to the United States, proportionally, with revenues of \$76 million out of a regional total of \$218 million, or 34.8%. The proportion of Magdalen Islands lobster sales on the Canadian market is 87.7%, with sales of \$150 million out of total Magdalen Islands sales of \$171 million. Lobster exports from the Islands to the United

States ranked second, at \$21 million. The proportion of sales on the domestic market is also very high on the North Shore, at 95.4%, but the total is much lower, at \$22 million.

It should be noted that some Gaspesian plants purchase large volumes of live lobster from the Maritimes, particularly New Brunswick, and that these acquisitions boost sales of processed products exported to the United States and the rest of Canada.

Taking a deeper look into snow crab sales and exports also provides valuable insight. The United States is the largest importer of snow crab from Quebec, both proportionally (61%) and in nominal terms. The Gaspé Peninsula, including the Lower St. Lawrence, clearly leads the three maritime sectors of Quebec.

From total sales of \$117 million, Gaspesian plants generated \$83 million in revenue from the United States, a proportion of 71%. On the North



Lobster sales clearly dominate the sources of revenues of Quebec's processing plants.

Photo: G. Gagné

Shore, this proportion reached 46.6%, while in the Magdalen Islands, the share of exports to the United States stood at 29.4%. It should be noted that the plants in the Magdalen Islands exported the largest proportion, 53% in this case, of snow crab to "other countries," primarily Asia.

Regarding shrimp, Gaspesian plants, despite low landings in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, managed to main-

tain a significant level of sales, primarily by importing supplies from Scandinavian countries. Production from the Greater Gaspé plants found buyers on the Canadian market in a proportion of 86%.

For "other species," including shrimp, the U.S. market ranks third, well behind the domestic market and "other countries." Sales across Canada reached 80% for these species.

Marine Product Exports to Quebec by Companies in the Maritime Sector, 2023

Marine product exports to Quebec by maritime sector, 2023 (\$ million)

LOBSTER	Canada Value (\$M)	United States Value (\$M)	Other Countries	Total
North Shore	\$21M	\$1M	0	\$22M
Gaspé Peninsula/ Lower North Shore	\$137M	\$76M	\$5M	\$218M
Magdalen Islands	\$150M	\$21M	0	\$171M
Total	\$308M	\$98M	\$5M	\$411M

SNOW CRAB	Canada Value (\$M)	United States Value (\$M)	Other Countries	Total
North Shore	\$24M	\$21M	0	\$45M
Gaspé Peninsula/ Lower North Shore	\$33M	\$83M	\$1M	\$117M
Magdalen Islands	\$3M	\$5M	\$9M	\$17M
Total	\$60M	\$109M	\$10M	\$179M

Other species including shrimp	Canada Value (\$M)	United States Value (\$M)	Other Countries	Total
North Shore	\$9M	\$1M	0	\$10M
Gaspé Peninsula/ Lower North Shore	\$51M	\$5M	\$9M	\$65M
Magdalen Islands	\$4M	\$1M	0	\$5M
Total	\$64M	\$7M	\$9M	\$80M

GRAND TOTAL	\$432M	\$214M	\$24M	\$670M
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LOBSTER	Canada (tonnes)	United States (tonnes)	Other Countries (tonnes)	Total
North Shore	1,039	76	0	1,115
Gaspé Peninsula/ Lower North Shore	5,898	1,920	540	8,358
Magdalen Islands	5,988	1,067	0	7,055
Total	12,925	3,063	540	16,528

SNOW CRAB	Canada (tonnes)	United States (tonnes)	Other Countries (tonnes)	Total
North Shore	1,687	1,811	0	3,497
Gaspé Peninsula/ Lower North Shore	3,726	4,726	83	8,535
Magdalen Islands	535	350	575	1,460
Total	5,947	6,887	658	13,493

SHRIMP	Canada (tonnes)	United States (tonnes)	Other Countries (tonnes)	Total
North Shore	67	0	0	67
Gaspé Peninsula/ Lower North Shore	2,095	153	294	2,542
Total	2,162	153	294	2,609

Other Species	Canada (tonnes)	United States (tonnes)	Other Countries (tonnes)	Total
North Shore	863	63	18	944
Gaspé Peninsula/ Lower North Shore	2,300	110	96	2,506
Magdalen Islands	334	33	0	367
Total	3,496	207	113	3,816

GRAND TOTAL	24,531	10,310	1,604	36,446
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* This is 2023 data as 2024 statistics are not available yet.
* Data should be considered an estimate of the situation. They are based on numbers provided by the processing plants.

Winter Cruises: A resounding success, says Escale Gaspésie

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Escale Gaspésie reports that their first winter cruise season in Gaspé "Exceeded all expectations."

The Commandant Charcot, a ship owned by Le Ponant, made five stopovers at the Sandy Beach wharf, helping Gaspé stand out as the second port of choice on the tour.

This winter 527 passengers and 758 crew members visited Gaspé, generating direct economic spinoffs of approximately \$140,000. This represents an average of \$271.11 per passenger, more than double the average for the 2024 regular summer season, estimated at \$107.62 per passenger.

Winter cruise passengers paid a weekly average of \$30,000 for access to the ship, and a total of 842 excursions were booked, demonstrating a strong interest in the region's winter offerings.

"We were nervous at first," admitted Escale manager Igor Urban. "On January 21, we had no ice or snow. We started with

an atypical winter that required a lot of adjustments, but thanks to that, we demonstrated the full potential and, above all, the flexibility of our winter destination. We offered six tours instead of three," explains Mr. Urban. A highlight of this season: winter stopovers lasted an average of 35 hours, much longer than the usual 6 to 10 hours in summer. The last stopover of the season took place on March 8 and 9.

Escale Gaspésie is already preparing for future winter seasons, with three stopovers booked for 2027. "For now, they've booked a 24-hour slot. What's likely to change is a shift in the direction of stopovers toward weekends, allowing for the opportunity to take advantage of the facilities at Mont Béchervaise, for example. There were 145 crew members who enjoyed the mountains during two different stops. This proved that it might be worthwhile to come on weekends," says Mr. Urban.

If the ships arrived on weekends, the stopover could be extended to 48 hours.

"That's our wish, and that's

what the captain and the excursion manager have observed." They realize that 24 hours isn't enough. There's so much to do that they realize it's worth staying, and it makes the passengers happy. It's a unique experience. 24 hours was already out of the ordinary, and now we've managed to average 35 hours at our destination. The goal is to get people to stay longer," hopes Mr. Urban.

Another first-of-its-kind outcome was the delivery of 32 pallets of supplies that the ship received during three of its stops. In addition, some of these supplies included locally sourced products from Gaspé. "It's a big first for us. A big step forward. It's proof that we're capable of doing it. It also helped create ties with Gaspésie Gourmande and put Gaspé products on their plates." This can help ensure a much greater interest in cruises, within the community," emphasizes Mr. Urban.

Among the activities most appreciated by cruise passengers: snowshoeing in Forillon Park and discovering Mi'gmaq culture, including Mi'gmaq



Credit: N. Sergerie

The Commandant Charcot during its first stop at the Sandy Beach wharf in January.

shows and traditional Quebec music on board the ship.

Commandant Charcot's visit to Gaspé has resonated as far away as Europe.

"The media coverage is incredible. We hope to increase sales for 2027. Other cruise lines were also following what was happening. With what we've just achieved, maybe we'll have other ships," dreams Mr. Urban.

Escale Gaspésie is now gearing up for the 2025 summer cruise season, which will feature 19 confirmed ships and an expected 12,579 passengers.

"We're looking forward to a slightly milder season." Cruises sell out three years in advance. In 2022, we had a lull at Escale Gaspésie. We have 19, compared to the 22 or 24 we were used to. We see that in 2026, we already have 25 ships planned," says the station manager.

MTQ unveils two traffic studies in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - A 2024 traffic analysis concludes that despite the possible addition of several hundred housing units on a street connecting to York Boulevard East, the Ministry of Transportation states that the impact on traffic in the area will be minimal.

The study focused specifically on traffic at the corner of York Boulevard East (Route 198) and Dean Creek Street.

According to the study, the current configuration of Route 198 can meet anticipated traffic needs, even during rush hour. Consequently, no changes to geometry, signage, or markings

are required.

The Ministry is awaiting receipt of the developer's proposal for access to the eco-district to assess its feasibility and determine whether an access and road permit can be issued.

Recommendations have been submitted directly to the Town to help guide its decisions on matters under municipal jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, minor improvements are planned for the Route 132 and 197 intersection in Saint-Majorique.

In August 2022, The Town of Gaspé requested an analysis from the Ministry of Transportation to improve safety at the intersection following a

fatal collision on July 3, 2022.

The site is located on a long, straight stretch at the exit of the Saint-Majorique ferry toward Rivière-au-Renard, where the speed limit is 90 kilometres per hour. However, many motorists fail to comply with this limit.

Following its study, the ministry did not identify a significant safety issue related to traffic at the intersection of Routes 132 and 197.

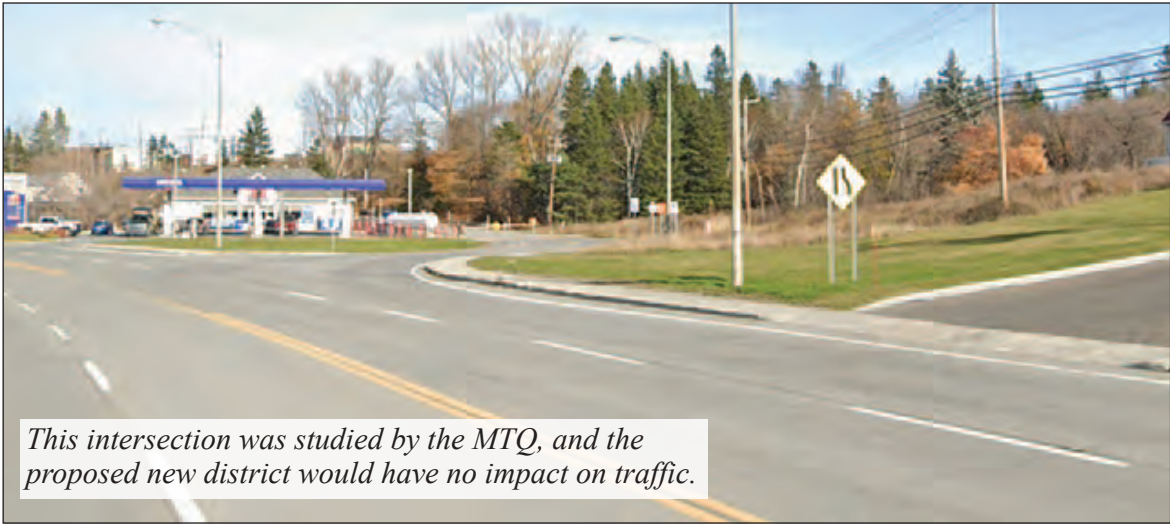
However, the ministry has noted a recurring pattern of accidents on the eastbound approach to Route 132 from Cap-aux-Os, which requires action.

At the end of the summer, the signage on the eastbound approach was improved: the

alignment chevrons were increased in size and the "Curve Ahead" sign was replaced with the "Restricted Visibility Ahead on a Horizontal Curve" sign.

Next summer, the speed limit will be lowered for part of the section of Route 132 on the eastbound approach to the intersection, and signage will be installed to reflect the new speed. Additionally, during a future roadway conservation project, the ministry will validate the slope transition and make corrections, if necessary, and will asphalt the shoulders to reduce the amount of granular material entering the roadway.

The intersection will be monitored in the coming years to assess whether these measures effectively enhance safety.



This intersection was studied by the MTQ, and the proposed new district would have no impact on traffic.

Photo: Google Maps

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Sharp decline in international students at Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - A sharp increase in applications from students in the region and the rest of the province offsets in part the massive loss of international students in the first round of registrations for the fall semester at Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles.

According to data from the registration period that ended March 1, the college has received 717 registrations compared to 783 at the same time last year. Of the registrations 306 were from the region, and over 250 from elsewhere in the province.

The retention rate for students from the region is 80%. "The demographics are improving in the Gaspésie. More students were enrolling in CEGEP in the region. We have about fifty more admission applications this year, and the retention rate is 80%, which is very pleasing," says Director of Studies Serge Rochon.

However, the outlook for international students is less optimistic. "We are seeing a significant drop in the number of applications from international students. We are down 42%, which is significant. Despite this, we are able to offer almost all programs at Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles," says Mr. Rochon. Applications for international students have dropped from 302 to 176.

"For months, the government has been saying, 'We'll impose this measure, or it will be more difficult for post-graduation permits,' because students, once they graduate,

would like to stay in Quebec and work to meet our labour needs. This rhetoric, which we've been hearing for months, has made students less interested in coming to study in Quebec," says Mr. Rochon.

The Adventure Tourism Technique program has already reached capacity in the first round, while only a few spots remain in the second round for the medical archives, marine engineering, legal technology, police technology, and computer technology programs.

Due to budget caps imposed by the Quebec government, the Police Technology program will not require practical labs for its first year, as budgets for capital investments have been capped by Quebec. This work is planned for the summer of 2026.

"We have a cap, but we've prioritized Police Technology. In the first year, there are mainly theoretical courses on professional knowledge, psychology courses, which means we didn't need labs in the first year," says Mr. Rochon.

On the other hand, an extensive revision of the Early Childhood Education program failed to attract enough students to revive the course.

"We had renewed the program. We had developed partnerships with daycare centres in the Côte-de-Gaspé region. There were jobs available upon entering the program, paid internships. Despite this, we had few applications for admission. We will look into this with our partners to make the program as attractive as possible. The training is less attractive to young people. There is the



There will be fewer students at the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles for the fall 2025 academic year.

Photo: Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

whole issue of working conditions. We see that they are negotiating, and we hope that with better conditions, we will attract young people. It is our great disappointment to be forced to suspend only one program, and that is Early Childhood Education Techniques," analyzes the director of studies.

Last year, the CEGEP found housing solutions for out-of-town students, including a public call for student accommodations in Gaspé, which resulted in a surplus of available housing.

"With our partners, there is still space, and we are hopeful of housing all our students in Gaspé next fall," he says.

Agreement to address the deficit at the Carleton-sur-Mer campus sports centre

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - An agreement has been reached between Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles and various partners to address the operating deficit at the Carleton-sur-Mer campus sports centre.

Built in 2012, the centre includes a gymnasium, a training room, and a golf simulator. The facility operates on an annual budget of approximately \$70,000 but faces a deficit of around \$40,000. According to a CEGEP analysis, only about 25% of the available time slots are dedicated to teaching and student use. Additionally, demand for the gym exceeds its capacity during 50% of the available slots. On weekends, families and the general public can rent the gym.

In the fall of 2021, an agreement was reached with the organization Bouge pour que ça Bouge. The CEGEP reports that this collaboration has significantly boosted the sports centre by optimizing the use of space and improv-



The Carleton-sur-Mer campus sports centre.

Photo: Courtesy of Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

ing the range of sports activities.

Since the service is available to the entire population, the CEGEP entered into discussions with nearby municipalities and Service Secours to finance part of the deficit. This was followed by agreements with the Ministry of Higher Education, which is contributing \$13,740, the sports centre's portion of revenue under the agreement with Bouge pour que ça bouge, which is contributing \$18,000, and the Emergency


Services, which is contributing \$15,000.

The municipalities of Carleton-sur-Mer and Maria were also contacted. "The Town was in favour of supporting the maintenance of this infrastructure to keep it open to the public. It's \$6,000 per year for three years," explains Carleton-sur-Mer Mayor Mathieu Lapointe. The municipality of Maria will contribute \$4,000.

Other potential partners have been approached, and the CEGEP is awaiting confirmation of additional funding.



Registrations by campus

	2025	2024
Gaspé French sector	426	501
Gaspé English sector	17	22
Carleton-sur-Mer	145	123
Magdalen Islands	56	45
Grande-Rivière Fisheries School	73	92
TOTAL	717	783
Foreign students	176	302
Students from the Gaspé Peninsula	306	254
Students from outside of Québec	235	227



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Quebec government announces \$883,825 in support for tourism projects in the Gaspé Peninsula

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – The Quebec department of Tourism announced on March 10 financial support totaling \$883,825, in collaboration with Tourisme Gaspésie, to support the development of 23 regional projects. This amount was awarded under the 2022-2025 Regional Partnership and Digital Transformation Agreement for Tourism (EPRTNT).

After seven calls for projects since 2022, the EPRTNT has supported 61 projects in the Gaspé Peninsula, representing total investments, including those from developers, of over \$33 million.

The region, which extends to the Matapédia, Mitis and Matanie MRCs for tourism purposes, has more than 560 businesses representing over 4,100 jobs. According to data from Tourisme Gaspésie, the economic benefits of tourism in the region reach \$525 million annually.

"Tourism, an economic sector in its own right, contributes to enriching Quebec. Its growth is one of our government's priorities, and we are investing so that all our regions and communities benefit even more from its significant spin-offs. The projects supported in the Gaspé Peninsula, with the backing of our partner Tourisme Gaspésie, are a fine example of our commitment to strengthening tourism's role as a wealth creator," commented Caroline Proulx, Minister of Tourism upon the announce-

ment of the grants.

Bonaventure riding Member of the National Assembly, Catherine Blouin, pointed out that "The tourism industry boosts the local economy and promotes the development of our entire beautiful region." With our entrepreneurs and Tourisme Gaspésie, we will continue to work and ensure that this sector further enriches our communities in a responsible and sustainable manner."

Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, Stéphane Sainte-Croix, also commented on the funding. "Thanks to the financial support provided by our government, the region will have the means to enhance its tourism offerings so that visitors can have an even more unforgettable stay with us. Gaspésie has everything it takes to appeal to tourists from here and elsewhere, and we will continue our efforts to ensure this sector reaches its full potential."

Joëlle Ross, Tourisme Gaspésie executive director, spoke about the commitment and vision of the region's tourism entrepreneurs. "Passionate work fosters the dynamism and attractiveness of our destination in all seasons. We are very proud to be able to support them, financially support their projects, and contribute to their success."

Including other funding calls, the EPRTNT program has supported the implementation of 61 projects in the Gaspé Peninsula, leading to allocations totalling \$1.4 million



Carleton's BleuBleu Festival has received funding from the Department of Tourism. Over the years, BleuBleu has provided many opportunities for Gaspesian artists. In 2024, Shigawake's Shaina Hayes made it to the main stage.

Photo: G. Gagné

from the Ministry of Tourism, to which Tourisme Gaspésie added \$950,000. This brings the total amount available to support tourism development projects in the region to \$2.3 million.

Partial list of the projects announced as part of the EPRTNT program on March 10

- Gestion Mathieu Guimond: Construction of two additional cottages at Douglastown's Chalets Nautika, including landscaping work and a recharge station for electric vehicles: \$75,000.
- Les Fêtes de la plage de Cap-d'Espoir 2025 : Organization of the 2024 and 2025 Festival in Cape Cove. \$40,000 and \$45,000 respectively.
- Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government: Organization of the 2024 and 2025 Pow-wow: \$23,519 and \$25,000 respectively.

- Musique du bout du monde: Organization of the 2026 version of the Festival Musique du bout du monde: \$50,000.
- Mount Bechervaise Ski Centre 2000: Installation of a SIVAO system using artificial intelligence to improve security, reduce energy consumption and improve clientele services: \$11,663.
- Le club des sportifs de Petite-Vallée: Addition of a year-around trail network excluding motorized vehicles: \$49,500.
- Village en chanson de Petite-Vallée : Organization of the 2025 version of the Festival en chanson de Petite-Vallée: \$60,000.
- Parc régional Petite-Cascapédia (campground): Acquisition of computerized equipment to facilitate reservations and automatic access: \$20,000.
- Festival BleuBleu: Organization of the 2025 version of the BleuBleu festival in Carleton: \$30,000.
- Maximum 90: Organization of the Festival La virée trad in Carleton: \$20,000.
- Événements Gaspésia: Organization of the 2025 Ultra-Trail Gaspesia 100 event: \$49,000.
- Choc Événements : Organization of the 2025 Ultra-Trail run in the Chic-Chocs mountains: \$30,000.
- Corporation du Bourg de Pabos in Chandler: Renewal of the permanent exhibition: \$75,000.
- Municipality of Pointe-à-la-Croix: Improvements made to the old wharf park and addition of a boat ramp: \$40,000.
- Mandoline hybride in Marsoui (Northern Gaspé Peninsula): Organization of the Festival de danse contemporaine FURIES, a contemporary dance event held at the end of July: \$30,000.
- Destination Gaspé: Installation of a transaction site for the activity Capitale québécoise des pêches maritimes about commercial fisheries : \$18,000.

American tariffs and the Port Daniel cement plant

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL: - Is cement produced by Saint Mary's Cement at its Port Daniel plant affected by the 25% tariffs announced by the United State's government? The SPEC reached out to the company's public relations department and the answer is clear. "There are currently no tariffs on cement exported from Canada to the United States. If tariffs are imposed, the full economic impact on the company remains uncertain and depends on the severity and duration of the tariffs. The company is monitoring the situation and evaluating possible actions in the event that tariffs are imposed on cement. We remain fully committed to maintaining our high-quality standards and providing excellent value to our customers," reads the reply sent to the SPEC. Most of the ships leaving the Port Daniel wharf are bound for New York, where the company operates a major marine terminal. Saint Mary's Cement does not provide statistics about the percentage of its sales made in that portion of the United States, or other areas.

Cycling event to raise funds to help those affected by cancer

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON: - The organizing committee of Défi Vélo Plein Air is pleased to present the 27th edition of this major cycling event, which will take place on July 12 and 13, 2025. Registration is already underway.

The honorary president, Hélène Gauthier of Bouffard Kioti Matane, invites cyclists, businesses and the public to participate in this activity aimed at supporting the Eastern Quebec Cancer Association in the development and maintenance of services for people affected by the disease: "And on this

subject, I am pleased to announce good news. This year, with the 27th edition of the Challenge, \$106,000 in donations and sponsorships has already been raised. We will pass the milestone of \$2 million given to the Eastern Quebec Cancer Association to offer, among other things, accommodations at the Hôtellerie Omer-Brazeau, mutual aid services and support at all stages of the disease and a kit providing warmth and well-being to people starting intravenous chemotherapy or immunotherapy," she says.

Ms. Bouffard hopes to see many people on July 12 and

13. Ms. Gauthier, who will also be cycling in the event, says she would like participants to, "Seize this wonderful opportunity to make new friends, discover and share with others our magnificent region by bike." Again this year, two routes are available: in addition to the traditional 250 km route that follows Highway 132, from Montmagny to Rimouski (with an overnight stay in Rivière-du-Loup), a more challenging 315 km route with additional loops for those in the fast and very fast categories is also available. The challenge has often been held in the Gaspé Peninsula.





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Lack of daycare spots remain a problem

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - The availability of daycare spaces in the Gaspé Peninsula remains a major issue, with two key challenges persisting.

The Gaspé Peninsula Prefects Table recently had its annual meeting with the Ministerial Committee. Recommendations from the meeting will be given to the Minister of Families.

"Two major concerns emerged. The first is that there have been several announcements in recent years. The challenge is getting these projects off the ground and getting construction under-

way, and the other is the lack of spots in the Avignon MRC, which has not received any new spots in the latest calls for projects," notes the chair of the table, Mathieu Lapointe.

According to the Quebec government, the region is expected to reach near balance in daycare spots by 2027.

"They always base their decisions on the demographic projections of the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ), and that's where I have a major problem. We've always proven the statistics wrong. We're always performing better than the ISQ forecasts. The ISQ predicts a population decrease, when in reality, it's an increase," says

the president.

The committee serves, in particular, to provide qualitative information on economic and residential development projects, information that the ministry doesn't have.

"They look at the needs in the 0-5 space, and we, with the committee, are there to inform them about issues in the territory," says Mr. Lapointe.

Determining the exact number of daycare spaces currently needed in the Gaspé remains difficult.

Similar committees exist in every region of Quebec. "What will happen to the recommendations we made? We'll find out in the coming months," he says. The other

major challenge is the lack of educators to fill available positions.

"The workforce challenge is significant. We see that at the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, there have been no recent enrollments. It's a big challenge," Mr. Lapointe

agrees.

The ministry reports a 96% daycare coverage rate across Quebec.

"We would like to have this figure for the region, but we think we're a little below the Quebec average," the president concludes.

Agreement between Quebec and Maria to replenish the beach

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

MARIA - Everything is in place for beach replenishment work to begin in May to protect Maria's shoreline from erosion and coastal submersion.

On March 10, the municipal council approved a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Transportation for part of the work aimed at protecting Highway 132 between the municipal beach and the post office. The project will also coordinate with beach replenishment for the commercial sector between the IGA supermarket and the Lady Maria residence. "The storm water outfall, manholes, and engineering work are included in the beach replenishment memorandum of understanding," says Mayor of Maria Jean-Claude Landry.

Furthermore, the mayor is confident that the final authorizations for the work will be obtained under the direction of the Ministry of Public Security for the commercial sector.

"It's coming in gradually, and we should have all the requests made before the work begins," says the elected official.

The authorizations are expected before the scheduled start of construction in late



The land behind the IGA grocery store has been reduced to its bare minimum, making it difficult for trucks to deliver goods.

Photo: N. Nergerie

May or early June, with work continuing through November.

For the commercial component, the government of Quebec granted \$9.3 million in June 2022, while the municipality will need to contribute \$684,000 to complete the financial package.

"I won't give any figures because we're in a call for tenders, but it should be included in the budget," noted the mayor.

The construction zone will span approximately 2.4 kilometers. However, for the Rue des Tournepierres area, Civil Security has determined that any work would serve no purpose in protecting residents, since the long-term effects of a construction project would be non-existent.

"The municipality is ensuring the protection of property and will support people," he said. It's difficult to predict what will happen next, but public services will be provided up to a certain limit.

"Services will be maintained over time until it's reasonable to do so. With climate change, we can't predict what will happen in 10 or 20 years. Climate change will affect local residents," the mayor explained.

Approximately 53 residents live in this area. Property owners could receive a maximum compensation of \$385,000 to vacate the street. Protecting this area was estimated to cost \$41 million.

Last winter, three major storms severely impacted Pointe Verte residents.

Daycare workers move toward an unlimited strike

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The approximately 300 educators at CSN-affiliated early childhood centres in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine gathered for a general assembly on March 19 to vote on a strike mandate that could lead to an unlimited general strike.

Educators from 12 daycare centres in the region staged their fourth and fifth strike days on March 18 and 19, following a mandate issued last fall. "The educators will discuss the steps needed following the government's blockage regarding the renewal of the collective agreement and the improvement of working conditions," says Serge Saint-Pierre, President of the CSN Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Central Council.

"We see that at the bargaining table, even though there have been discussions, nothing justifies a return to work. The workers' minimum demands have not been met," added the union leader. The results of this mandate will be announced nationally as soon as possible.

The workers are demand-

ing, in particular, a lighter workload; better compensation to ensure attraction and retention; regional disparity bonuses for employees in certain remote regions; measures to improve the quality of childcare, including clearly defined and respected ratios between the number of educators and children, as well as better support for children with special needs. "Our first three days of strike action weren't enough to make the government see reason. The region's childcare workers are therefore going to raise their voices with a new strike mandate. Every time we take action, we make progress at the bargaining table. We continue to make our voices heard for the future of childcare centres," says Katie Leblanc, Vice-President of the Baie à Maria Childcare Workers' Union.

The workers had issued strong strike mandates last October and November in the region.

According to the CSN, the average salary for a childcare worker is \$29 per hour.

In addition to the strikes of March 18 and 19, previous strikes took place in January and February.



Educators on strike in Gaspé in February.

Photo: N. Nergerie

Helping improve access to health services

CYNTHIA DOW
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES - For about a year now, New Carlisle’s Matthew Munro has been working as Executive Advisor to the PDG (président - directeur général) of the local health authority, the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de la Gaspésie (CISSS). Mr. Munro told SPEC he very much appreciates the openness to the anglophone and Indigenous communities shown by Martin Pelletier, who was appointed to the top position in the institution in May 2022.

“Mr. Pelletier recognizes that the Indigenous communities have been here long before anyone else, and that the English-speaking community (ESC) is a historic population. Therefore, both deserve access to all the services available from the public health system.”

Mr. Munro has been working in the social services sector for the past 25 years. The main focus of his job is finding ways to work with the ESC and Indigenous communities to improve access to services, better understand their needs, and addressing existing barriers. His goals are “the three Cs: co-development, co-construction and collaboration.”

“And my guiding principle is that I want to be easy to reach, to be there to listen, to advocate, to do what I can to make things smoother for people who need health care services.”



Photo: Courtesy of Matthew Munro

Matthew Munro.

Mr. Munro believes positions like his are essential “...because these cultures we have here in the Gaspé are unique, and the public system cannot be specialized in every culture they work with. It’s important to have someone there to act as a liaison and advisor.” He sits on provincial tables where best practices in working with minority cultures are discussed, “...just to make sure we’re up to date and applying these best practices.”

His first priority has been to maximize collaboration with community partners. “There are lots of excellent partners in both communities, for example, the mental health advisory committee, the anglophone collaboration network, the regional access committee, and the Indigenous community of practice, which includes about 26 partners. They meet every six weeks to examine priority services for Gesgapegiag and Listuguj, including mental

health, substance use, rehabilitation, midwifery, and Maria hospital services,” says Mr. Munro.

“These days, what all the partners — ESC and Indigenous — are telling us is that the priorities are mental health, dependency issues, and the need for a speech and language pathologist,” Mr. Munro explains.

When asked about the main barriers to accessing service, the social worker said, “I think there is a lack of understanding on all sides, so a need for more awareness of how things are, how the system works, and more communication by getting together face to face.”

At the same time, the CISSS User’s Committee has asked him to help set up presentations to both Indigenous and ESC groups about users’ rights. He hopes these presentations will be offered sometime this spring. In the next few weeks, a delegation from the ESC will visit Maria Hospital to help improve signage.

There is also an idea to create a community of practice for bilingual workers at the CISSS, to support them in providing services in English.

“In all this work, I am looking for recommendations we can take to the regional access committee, which would in turn make official recommendations to the PDG, using a process put in place by the Ministry so it gives the recommendations some power, and enhances this structure which provides a greater voice to the minority communities.”

GASPÉ: Expectations for the provincial budget

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - As Quebec prepares to table its provincial budget of March 25, Gaspé’s mayor Daniel Côté, is urging the government to follow through on its promise to invest \$1.5 billion over 10 years in sports infrastructure.

Daniel Côté reiterates that the town is ready for its new arena, a project twice rejected by Quebec despite its importance to the community.

“This is a government that always says it keeps its promises. There’s a promise made in black and white in the 2023-2024 budget. We have a commitment to invest in sports and recreation infrastructure to be forgotten,” notes the mayor. The project was valued at \$28 million in last year’s budget submission.

Mr. Côté points out that in a context of instability, the government has chosen to invest in infrastructure in the past. He adds that we must focus on diversifying markets in the fisheries sector and support the wind industry in future Quebec wind farms “I’m tired of seeing Chinese wind turbine blades enter the Quebec market. Yes, there are rules of the game and market rules, but we can be imaginative in encouraging local content.”

The electric shift continues

Gaspé will add 20 electric vehicle charging stations at

nine sites in six boroughs over the coming months. The town is receiving a \$255,000 contribution from Hydro-Québec, which wants to deploy 4,500 stations in Quebec to continue the electrification of transportation.

If there is a balance, the town will make up the difference. “This is part of our commitment to promoting the electrification of transportation and reducing our environmental footprint. It was an election commitment I made in 2017 to invest in and develop a significant network of electric charging stations. Since then, we haven’t stopped,” comments the elected official.

The Town already has about fifteen fast and Level 2 charging stations, in addition to private charging stations in commercial establishments.

Gaspé also has a fleet of four vehicles, with the recent acquisition of an electric van for public works.

New Charging Stations to be installed at:

439 Petit-Cap Blvd, 55 du Banc Street (Centre Élias-Dufresne), 1248-A Petit-Cap Blvd. Cap-des-Rosiers (Cap-des-Rosiers Recreation Center), 3 Corte-Real Hill (Elphège-Huet Hall), 23 Harbour Street (Harbour Street Parking), 25 Town Hall Street (Town Hall), 54 Eden Street (Mont-Béchervaise Ski Center), 60 Airport Street (Gaspé Airport) and 15 Trachy Street (Douglastown Trachy Hall).

Busy St. Paddy’s weekend for the Homegrown Trad Band

CYNTHIA DOW

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES - St. Paddy’s was well celebrated along the Coast with three shows put on by the Homegrown Trad Band, sponsored by (Committee for Anglophone Social Action) CASA. They started the weekend on Friday evening, March 14, at the community hall in St Jules, moved on to Shigawake on the 15, and ended the weekend on Sunday afternoon, March 16, in Douglastown. As is usual for a St. Patrick’s celebration, when everyone is Irish for the day, the band members came from a wide array of backgrounds

and hailed from Gaspé, Ste-Thérèse, Manitoba, Shigawake New Carlisle and New Richmond. Organizer Dave Felker told SPEC that “...the events are part of CASA’s 50th anniversary celebrations, adding activities celebrating the heritage of the English-speaking community around the Coast. We had a lot of fun this weekend! What a great bunch of people to play music with, and great crowds in each of the three locations.” Classics played in St Jules included The Fields of Athenry, The Orange and the Green, and a lovely flute and fiddle arrangement of the London-derry Air, otherwise known as



Homegrown Trad Band plays to a packed crowd in St. Jules. From the left: Megan McCallum (vocals), Bethany Paetkau (flute), Aaron Check (vocals), Nathan Hayes (lead singer and guitar), Dave Felker (drums), Kevin Jones (guitar) and Ben Nesrallah (fiddle).

Photo: C. Dow

Danny Boy. The party in Shigawake included a good old-fashioned square dance as

well. Judging by the videos on The Gaspesian Way Facebook page, a good time was

had by all! Live feeds were enjoyed by people from far and wide.

Exciting Career and Education Fair coming to Paspébiac

HOLLY SMITH
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PASPEBIAC - On Thursday, April 3, at the Paspébiac Cultural Centre the much-anticipated Career and Education Fair, offering an exciting opportunity for job seekers, career changers, and students to connect with potential employers and educational institutions. This free event is designed to help individuals explore future career paths and educational options.

Open to Everyone – No Registration Required

One of the highlights of the fair is that no registration is required. Attendees can simply show up and take full advantage of the event's resources. The fair is open to anyone looking for a job, considering a career change, or interested in learning about educational programs available in the region. According to Cindy Carney, the Employability Agent for the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA), "It's a great opportunity for individuals, students, or profes-

sionals to learn about job openings, internships, and career opportunities across different industries."

Who Will Be There?

More than 35 employers and educational institutions will be present, representing industries such as healthcare, trades, transport, community services, and more. A list of participating organizations will be available in advance on CASA's social media pages. In addition to meeting employers, attendees can enjoy interactive exhibits, including a heavy equipment simulator, ambulance, welding truck, and plumbing truck, offering a hands-on look into various trades.

Job Opportunities and On-the-Spot Hiring

The fair will feature a variety of full-time, part-time, seasonal, and internship positions. Many employers are ready to conduct on-the-spot interviews and hire qualified candidates immediately. "Many employers are looking to fill positions and are pre-

pared to hire on the spot," said Ms. Carney, highlighting the potential opportunities available. Job seekers are encouraged to attend early to ensure they have ample time to explore the opportunities available.

"For those needing extra support, CASA will have a table providing information on various government employment assistance programs. A CASA Coordinator will be available to guide job seekers and answer questions about available resources," says Ms. Carney.

Preparing for the Fair

Job seekers are encouraged to come prepared as though attending a job interview. To make the best impression, it's a good idea to bring:

- Multiple copies of your resume.
- At least two references. (if possible)
- A pen and notepad for jotting

down important details and follow-ups.

- A list of target employers and prepared questions.
- Any relevant certifications, licenses, or course completions. (e.g., heavy equipment or trucking credentials)
- Professional attire, as first impressions count.

"Career fairs are a great

chance for networking, resume distribution, and on-the-spot interviews," Ms. Carney added, emphasizing how these events help both job seekers and employers connect quickly and efficiently. Networking at this event may open new career possibilities and provide valuable connections for future opportunities.



Photo: CASA Website

HOUSING:

Cont'd from cover

that was our starting point for the project. We were very happy to contribute to it so our residents could benefit from it," added the mayor.

Phase 2 of the project will be built on the same lot.

Boosting construction in Chandler

This initiative is driving increased construction activity in the town of Chandler. "We see that people are starting to come. It's just one start, and it'll get the others going," believes the elected official, who estimates that some 80 housing units will be built in his municipality by 2025.

Another priority is expanding daycare spaces.

A 71-spot daycare centre was built and opened last year, and a project for a 12-spot community daycare is currently being developed in the former printing plant.

However, demand remains high. "We can never have enough (daycare spots). We hope that more people will settle in Chandler. We always need more daycare spaces, we always need more housing. We hope to have another mandate to do it," notes the mayor who will be running for mayor next November.

Other projects are progressing


Construction of 32 housing units in Gaspé is progressing. "We're aiming for early August, August 1, to welcome the first tenants," emphasizes Ms. Roy Trudel. Construction on the Forest Street extension began in June 2024. "There's also potential for a phase 2 there. The mayor would like us to start quickly. There's space on the same lot. It's being evaluated," she says.

In Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, the municipality has donated land, and the project is now in the financing phase.

In Haute-Gaspésie, plans are underway for a 48-unit, housing project valued at \$15 million.

New Richmond has been mentioned as the next development site. "I don't want to comment, but it's something we're evaluating very seriously. We're working with the municipality, but we'll see about the timeline. There's a lot of interest in the Gaspé Peninsula. Han Logements is continuing its momentum, and it's important to meet the needs of the population," says Ms. Roy Trudel.


In Avignon, no projects are under development. "We're always open. We go wherever there's a community or a municipality that wants a project," says the president and CEO.



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Announcements



In Memory

BUTTLE: Jean

March 23, 1945 - March 22, 2005

*The depths of sorrow we cannot tell,
Of the loss of one we loved so well.
And while she sleeps a peaceful sleep,
Her memory we shall always keep.*

Always yours. Your loving husband, Fred and family.

BUTTLE: Jean

March 23, 1945 - March 22, 2005

*We had a wonderful mother,
One who never really grew old.
Her smile was made of sunshine,
And her heart was solid gold.
Her eyes were as bright as shining stars,
And in her cheeks fair roses you see.
We had a wonderful mother,
And thats the way it will always be.*

You are forever in our hearts and thoughts.
Your loving boys: Sean, Dwayne, Freddy and Dean.



COPAGE: Raymond Dalton

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away April 1, 2020.

*The day you left and gained your wings,
Our hearts broke in two.
We wish you could have stayed with us,
But Heaven needed you.
You left us with your memories,
And we love you dearly still.
No matter how much time goes by,
You know we always will.
You were a very special husband,
With kindness in your heart.
And all the love we had together,
Grows even stronger now that we are apart.
We know that we cannot bring you back,
Although we wish it everyday.
A piece of us went with you,
The day you went away.
Forever you will live on,
In our hearts and minds.
With love and Fondness,
You are missed all the time.*

Remembered by loving wife: Doreen; children: Michael (Linda), Terry (Kelly), Donna (Cantal), Beverly (Bob), Brenda; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



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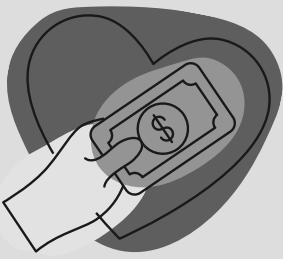
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COAST ROUND-UP: \$8 per week
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GASPE:
Gaspé Cancer Foundation
April 6: The Gaspé Cancer Foundation will hold their AGM at the Gaspé Legion beginning at 1 p.m., light refreshments will be served following the meeting.

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
Wednesdays: Shuffle board beginning at 4 p.m. Line Dancing beginning at 7:30 p.m. for \$7.
Thursdays: Darts beginning at 7 p.m. for \$10.

Saturdays: Pool beginning at 8 p.m. \$1 per game.
Sundays: Singles Cribbage tournament every Sunday at 7 p.m. for five weeks, starting March 9. Registration is \$10, followed by \$5 per player each week.
April 1: General meeting at 6 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.
April 5: Mega gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m.

NEW RICHMOND
St. Andrew's United Church
March 30: A chili luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. cost: \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. If you would like take-out, please contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896 by Friday, March 28.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:
50+ Club
Tuesdays: Weekly bingo every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. \$10 for three cards. Extra cards are \$1 each.
April 19: A turkey dinner will be held from 4 - 6 p.m. cost: 13+ \$20, 7-12 \$10 and 0-6 is free.
May 11: A Mother's Day

brunch will be held between 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. cost: 13+ \$20, 7-12 \$10 and 0-6 is free.
May 24-25: Spring Bingo will begin at 1 p.m., doors open at 12 p.m.
April 21: Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.
May 19: Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.
June: No meeting scheduled.
June 15: A Father's Day brunch will be held from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Cost: 13+ \$20, 7-12 \$10, and 0-6 is free.
July: No meeting scheduled.
September 20: A Harvest Bingo will begin at 1 p.m. - until finished, doors open at 12 p.m.
September 21: Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.
October 19: Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.
November 16: Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.
December 21: Annual General Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES Book Room
Please be advised that the

book room is open. Anyone who needs assistance can contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

Info-Collecte Blood Drive Calender
GASPÉ
April 14: 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles Pavillon des sports, gymnase.

LA MALBAIE
April 18: 1:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the École secondaire du Plateau café étudiant.

GRANDE RIVIÈRE
April 15: 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Complexe sportif Desjardins.

BONAVENTURE
April 17: 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Centre récréatif Desjardins 2e étage.

CARLETON-SUR-MER
April 16: 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Centre Multifonctionnel Salle Charles-Dugas.

UNITED CHURCH NEW RICHMOND
March 30
10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN
March 30
10 a.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
Sunday, March 30
New Carlisle
9 a.m. Morning Prayer followed by Vestry Meeting
Port Daniel
10 a.m. Morning Prayer

PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, March 30
St. Pauls - Gaspé
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, April 1
St. Pauls - Gaspé
7 p.m. Healing Service

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