

Bay of Chaleur: Earth Day focuses on opposition to pozzolan project

GILLES GAGNÉ

POINTE-À-LA-CROIX

This year's Earth Day in the Bay of Chaleur area was marked by the involvement of the citizen group, No Thanks, Pozzolan Dalhousie! and the Mothers at the Front movement, who invited everyone who cares about the region to participate in an intergenerational and intercommunity march in Pointe-à-la-Croix. Between 45 and 50 people joined the march, braving the rather challenging weather.

The goal of this event was to bring together all the communities of the region—Mi'gmaq, Quebec, and New Brunswick—to celebrate the beauty and biodiversity of the area and the bay that welcomes them, to contribute to change that will leave a better legacy for future generations, and to oppose projects that threaten the environment.

Ira Gray, of Listuguj who was invited to speak about what he has seen in the last decades as a steelworker and heavy machinery operator, who has laboured in numerous places in North America was categorical about the firm EcoRock Dalhousie initiative to exploit a pozzolan deposit near the inhabited zone of Dal-



The Earth Day march was held under harsh weather conditions, as rain, wind and cold combined to make things difficult.

housie.

"Don't ever let a mining company destroy our nature. This is our greatest wealth. I have worked all over Canada and the United States and there are signs of destruction from mining and oil exploitation everywhere," said Mr. Gray.

He notably worked in Alberta's tar sands and put emphasis on some of the effects such a working environment creates. "When we come back from the tar sands, we have a headache for half-and-hour, until we reach Fort McMurray, from the smell of the oil fields," pointed out Mr. Gray.

The EcoRock Dalhousie project aims at extracting

about 8,000 tonnes of pozzolan daily, for an annual output of close to 3 million tonnes. The Montreal-based company wants to export most of that volume, using large ships of up to 70,000 tonnes, which will require dredging the channel between the Bay of Chaleur and the Port of Dalhousie. The port has not

been used for about 12 years.

Dredging those sediments will bring back some toxic pollutants in the water, with an impact on salmon, shellfish and lobster, all of which are fished upstream and downstream. Mercury stands high among the pollutants that were dumped in the Restigouche River and the Bay of Chaleurs

by the companies operating the heavy industries of Dalhousie for decades, namely a paper mill, and plant preparing chemicals for the pulp and paper industry and a power plant burning fossil fuels.

Two representatives from the Mothers at the Front movement, Claire Moeder and Émilie Smith-Lauzon, advocated for a safe environment without polluting industries. "Our children deserve a safe and clean future," they stated.

Lisa Mosher and Jean-Marc Beaulieu, the Gaspé Peninsula spokesperson for No Thanks Pozzolan Dalhousie!, recently requested federal government intervention regarding the environmental impact of the EcoRock Dalhousie project.

"We will soon make another request, this time with regional people. We are not ready to announce it yet," pointed out Lisa Mosher on April 22.



Listuguj steel worker and heavy machinery operator Ira Gray told the crowd that the Bay of Chaleur area has to be protected against mining projects.

Photos: G. Gagné



Congratulations to Patricia Gallant from Matapedia who is the winner of SPEC's Easter Egg Hunt. SPEC's office assistant, Jillian O'Connell met Patricia and her husband Charlie Adams in New Richmond to deliver the basket.

Thank you to our sponsors: Family Ties, Gaspésie Literacy, Maxi New Richmond, Jean Coutu Paspebiac, Wild Willow Soapery, Heather's Home Scents and Becky's Baked Goods.

If it were up to the mayor of Chandler, Bruno-Pierre Godbout would no longer be paid

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER: - Chandler Mayor would like to end the compensation for Councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout, who has been criminally charged with violent crimes, but he is bound by the principle of presumption of innocence guaranteed by the courts.

Gilles Daraïche has had conversations with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Municipal Commission, and the town's lawyers. "We are aware of the nature of the (new) accusations, which are very serious. We will definitely try to take direct action, and we want to do it the right way," notes Mr. Daraïche.

Despite public pressure and the willingness of elected officials to act, the town must act in accordance with the rules. "That's what they're telling us, both at Municipal Affairs and the town prosecutors: he's in-



Chandler Mayor Gilles Daraïche.

Photo: N. Sergerie

nocent until proven guilty, but the seriousness of the accusations hurts us and makes us think," continues the mayor, who suggested he might request changes to the rules from the Quebec government.

Bruno-Pierre Godbout was already facing fraud charges

from his time as pro-mayor during the suspension of former mayor Louisette Langlois in 2021. He is charged with fraud, forgery, and use, possession, or trafficking of a document. The charges were filed following a UPAC investigation, which estimated the fraud

at approximately \$10,000.

By mutual agreement with the Municipal Commission, he stepped down from council a year ago with pay while the case was being resolved in court.

It was agreed that if found guilty, Mr. Godbout would reimburse the town for the salary he received and any legal expenses incurred.

"I asked the Municipal Commission and Municipal Affairs if there was a way to stop the payments. I was told they would check, but the exit doors aren't necessarily open. It's difficult," the mayor relates, because of the presumption of innocence.

"We're looking at another approach to elected officials' compensation. If we can do it, we will. We're going to try to amend the law on elected officials' compensation," added the mayor.

Chandler's image is still tarnished.

The mayor set himself the goal of restoring the town's image when he was elected in November 2021. He previously served as a councillor between 2013 and 2017. "Even during that term, we weren't able to work together. Now, the climate at town hall is really not what it used to be. There's no more harassment, there's no more intimidation. There were many in previous mandates. Now, there's no more of that. We've changed a lot of things. I hope the public understands that," says Mr. Daraïche.

Bruno-Pierre Godbout was arrested on April 15 in connection with allegations including sexual assault, assault with a weapon, assault, unlawful confinement, and criminal harassment following an arrest warrant.

The mayor insists that since the charges filed April 15 do not concern the elected official's position, the town will not pay for those legal fees.

Federal electoral map: Alexis Deschênes files a summary of the brief to appeal

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER: - Having already indicated his intention to appeal the Federal Court's decision confirming the abolition of Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia riding, Alexis Deschênes has filed his notice of intention, summarizing his arguments, which he intends to elaborate on later.

On February 21, Federal Court Justice Sébastien Grammond wrote in his 32-page decision that "The reasons given by the Commission to justify the abolition of the riding of Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia were reasonable and consistent with the principle of effective representation developed by the Supreme Court."

Indeed, the relative parity of electoral power is the key component. The Commission was aware of the issues related to the size of ridings in rural or remote regions, but it was reasonable to conclude that these issues no longer justified the existence of a riding whose population was



Alexis Deschênes has filed a summary of the brief to be argued before the Federal Court of Appeal.

Photo: Archives

nearly 36% lower than the average population of Quebec ridings, noted the judge.

He added that "The Commission clearly understood the legal principles that governed its mission. It took into consideration the arguments presented to it during the public hearings. It accepted certain suggestions made and modified the boundary between the proposed ridings of Rimouski-La Matapédia and Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj to re-

spect the boundaries of the MRCs. However, it maintained its recommendation to abolish the riding of Avignon-La Mitis Matane-Matapédia. Although the applicants disagree, this was a reasonable decision. I was not convinced that the Commission made the errors the applicants allege."

Unsurprisingly, the lawyer and Bloc Québécois candidate in Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj disputes the judge's interpretation of

the situation. Mr. Deschênes argues primarily over the size of the new electoral district created to encompass part of the former electoral district that was eliminated.

In the grounds of appeal obtained by magaspesie.ca, Mr. Deschênes states that "The Federal Court erred in applying the standard of review by finding the Commission's decision to create the new electoral district of Gaspésie-les-Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj reasonable."

This new riding, he writes, covers 30,000 square kilometres, an area equivalent to that of countries such as Belgium (31,000 km²), Albania (29,000 km²), or Lesotho (30,000 km²).

Mr. Deschênes adds that the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act requires consideration of ensuring that the size of ridings in sparsely populated, rural, or northern regions of the province is not too large. "However, the Commission rejected the size argument," writes Mr. Deschênes.

He believes that the Federal Court erred in finding the

Commission's decision to create an overly large riding reasonable, and erred in finding the Commission's reasoning reasonable in rejecting the size argument on the basis that eight other Quebec ridings had larger areas, without assessing whether these other ridings were too large. "The Federal Court committed a palpable and overriding error in finding reasonable the Commission's decision not to rule on whether the new electoral district was too large through an in concreto analysis," continues Mr. Deschênes in his summary.

Mr. Deschênes concludes that the Federal Court erred in finding reasonable the Commission's decision to use the criterion of relative parity of electoral power to render meaningless the mandatory criterion of riding area.

Both parties—Mr. Deschênes and the Attorney General of Canada—will have to file detailed briefs. No date has been set for the appeal hearing. The case could proceed only in the fall. Mr. Deschênes suggests that the appeal be heard in Quebec City.

Police report

Carbon monoxide poisoning caused the death of three hunters

The Quebec Coroner's Office indicates that Robert William Legouffe, 38, of New Richmond; Carine Ouellette-Turgeon, 34, also of New Richmond; and Monica Ouellet, 25, of Gaspé, but originally from Nouvelle, were found dead on the morning of October 19 after their vehicle, a minivan, became stuck in a stream on a logging road north of Nouvelle, died of carbon monoxide poisoning. In his report released on April 17, Coroner Donald Nicole reached this conclusion following his investigation into this tragic event. Despite their efforts to escape the precarious position of their vehicle, the lack of cell phone signal prevented the two women and the man from calling for help. With the vehicle's exhaust pipe in the water, gases likely accumulated inside the vehicle. No signs of violence were found on the victims. The man was sober, but the two women had blood alcohol levels exceeding the legal limit. The coroner concluded that the deaths were accidental.

The tragedy occurred about 50 kilometres from Highway 132. The bumpy forestry road where it occurred is accessible by travelling along Brébeuf road. Saint-Jean-de-Brébeuf a backcountry village, was closed in the 1970s. The victims, who had left on the evening of Friday, October 18, were found the next morning of October 19 by a moose hunter. He went back towards the main road to communicate with other hunters, and one of them reached out to the Sûreté du Québec. Many people were circulating in that area on October 18-19 as the latter was the starting date of the moose hunting season.

Bail hearing of Bruno-Pierre Godbout postponed again

Arrested on April 15 by the Sûreté du Québec for violent crimes, Chandler town councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout's bail hearing, originally scheduled for April 23 after an initial postponement, was again delayed to April 25, just past SPEC's deadline. Upon his first court appearance on April 15, the 36-year-old man was charged with sexual assault, assault with a weapon, assault, forcible confinement, and criminal harassment following an arrest warrant. The alleged incidents occurred between 2010 and 2025 in Bonaventure, Gaspé, Newport, Saint-Nérée-de-Bellechasse, near Lévis, and Montreal. He is represented by attorney Ariane Cayer. When he was arrested, he allegedly had at least three known victims, all adult women, but the investigation suggests there may be others.

Man arrested as false representative fraud hits Gaspé

A 41-year-old man was arrested on April 23 in Gaspé in connection with the false representation fraud scheme that had been affecting the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC in the days prior to his arrest. The suspect, Patrick Prince, of Port-Daniel-Gascons, appeared in court on April 24 to face charges of fraud. When he was arrested near a

financial institution on Renard Boulevard East in Rivière-au-Renard police found over \$3,000 in cash, bank cards, and materials used in fraud. A description of his vehicle led to his arrest. The investigation conducted by the Sûreté du Québec shows that the individual had allegedly defrauded a dozen people as of April 23. The investigation is ongoing, and the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) believes other individuals may be complicit in this case and may be travelling elsewhere in the region. The SQ urges the public to remain vigilant and avoid providing personal or banking information such as personal identification numbers (PINs).

"If in doubt, it is strongly recommended that you contact your financial institution. The fraudsters put enormous pressure on their victims in order to get their card and the information going with it," points out Frédéric Deshaies, spokesperson of the SQ. Some victims have suffered monetary losses. According to the police, one or more fraudsters call people's homes pretending to be police officers or representatives of financial institutions and claiming to have detected fraud in their bank accounts. To regularize their situation, the fraudster asks the person to withdraw money from their account and place the bills in an envelope with their debit or credit cards inside their mailbox, making sure to write their personal identification number (PIN). They then tell them that someone will come by a little later to collect the envelope to regularize or secure the transaction. The victims subsequently suffer a monetary loss.

SQ handed out many infraction tickets during road safety operation

On April 15, the Sûreté du Québec conducted a national road safety operation across its territory. Accompanied by more than 30 partners, including 28 municipal police forces, officers addressed the main risky behaviours that lead to fatal collisions and serious injuries. This aimed to raise awareness and empower drivers to contribute to improving road safety and to increase the sense of safety across the entire road network. During this operation, police officers targeted reckless behaviour, compliance with protective equipment for motorcyclists, and compliance with the safety lane of an emergency vehicle, tow truck, or patrol vehicle stopped with an arrow, flashing lights, or rotating lights activated. Province-wide, 5,545 tickets were issued.

In the Gaspé Peninsula, Magdalen Islands and Lower Saint Lawrence regions, 313 tickets were handed out for speeding, seven for not wearing a seatbelt, four for using a cell phone while driving and 87 for various other road safety code violations. Currently, the leading causes of fatal collisions remain reckless driving, speeding, impaired driving due to alcohol, drugs, or fatigue, and distracted driving. This operation is part of the 2021-2026 Transportation Network Safety Strategy "Human life, at the heart of our actions," which aims to reduce the number of fatal and seriously injured collisions across the entire territory served by the Sûreté du Québec.

United Steelworkers and Canadian Labour Congress denounce Telus practices in Turkey

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - The United Steelworkers union (USW) and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) say they are disturbed to learn of harrowing working conditions being endured by Telus Digital employees in Turkey. These workers, who moderate content for social media giant TikTok, are reportedly pressured to review high volumes of videos containing graphic violence and abuse.

According to a report by The Independent newspaper, Telus workers have spoken out

against these conditions and their low pay. Workers formed a union and received official recognition from the Turkish government in August. However, both Telus Digital and its parent company, Telus, have refused to recognize the union. Since then, many vocal members have been fired outright or have been subject to layoffs. Fifteen of them have since filed lawsuits demanding their reinstatement.

"The job of social media content moderators is already unpleasant, but Telus Digital is making their difficult working conditions worse by subjecting

them to high-pressure targets to keep their jobs while paying low wages. On top of that, Telus is engaging in union busting by firing workers that are leaders in the union. We can't accept that in Canada or anywhere else," said USW national director Marty Warren.

As Telus Digital is a subsidiary of the Canadian-based Telus, the USW has urged the Canadian government to insist that Telus treat its workers in Turkey fairly and recognize their union. The USW represents 3,500 workers at Telus in Canada, where the company has outsourced and downsized

thousands of employees in recent years. Canadian employees are routinely subject to intensive digital surveillance, high-pressure sales targets and pressure to praise the company in "well-being" surveys.

The USW is joined by the Canadian Labour Congress, representing over three million unionized workers in Canada, in demanding Telus and its subsidiaries recognize the rights of all of its employees – in Canada, Turkey and elsewhere around the world – to respect on the job and the right to join a union.

"As the voice of Canadian

workers, we will always stand in solidarity with workers around the world who are treated poorly by Canadian corporations," says CLC President Bea Bruske. "Workers everywhere must have the right to unionize and to advocate for better wages and working conditions. An injury to one is an injury to all."

Telus is the main provider of telephone and internet services in the Gaspé Peninsula. Over the years, clients in the region have noticed increasing difficulty in reaching real person when seeking technical support.



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Concerns over suspension of portions of railway refurbishment contracts

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – On April 11, the Quebec Ministry of Transport suspended portions of two contracts for the refurbishment of the railway between Port-Daniel and Gaspé, to conduct "a thorough reassessment of the planned interventions as well as the overall strategy," according to the written message from the ministry sent to contractors.

The two firms that received this message are Groupe SEMA, of Sainte-Flavie, near Mont-Joli, which holds a contract worth \$74.8 million for the refurbishment of nine structures, and Construction Stellaire, of Saint-Augustin-



Éric Dubé is very concerned about the pace of repair work on the Gaspé railway section.

de-Desmaures, near Quebec City. In this case, the contract signed in 2024 with Transports Québec was valued at \$37 million and also involves nine structures of varying sizes. The suspended portion amounts to \$7.3 million.

This letter follows the reclassification of the same rail sector, from Port-Daniel to Gaspé, to "planning" status for budgetary reasons on March 25. Until that date, its rehabilitation was being implemented under the Quebec Infrastructure Program.

Only contracts already awarded were protected when the budget was announced, but 18 days later, 20% of their value was suspended. On March 25 and in the following days, Transports Québec cited significant overruns in the amounts planned after two calls for tenders were published.

These overruns amounted to \$150 million, in addition to the overall budget of \$872 million set in June 2023.

Groupe SEMA president and chief executive officer Rock Morel, was surprised and disappointed to receive the

letter from Transports Québec. "We weren't expecting it. I haven't seen this approach. We can continue with the remaining work, but we're stopping everything on contracts worth \$13.9 million," says Mr. Morel, who has just over 35 years of experience in the railway industry, SEMA's sole sector of activity.

"I've seen changes to contracts due to structural conditions that weren't as they were during the pre-inspection, but I've never seen that for budget cuts," he asserts.

Faced with the unknown, and the insecurity that the suspension of 20% of work generates within the company, Rock Morel has placed the matter in the hands of the lawyers of Groupe SEMA.

"Even if it's just 20%, it changes the entire planning. Will it (the contract) be canceled after a month? Will the decision take another three, five, or six weeks? There's a huge concern about the workforce. There are so few resources in construction that if workers aren't reassured, they leave. There's a constant bidding war in the construction industry. We have a core team, but all our other employees are hired based on the construction decree. That takes a lot of strength. We have to constantly reassure them," Rock Morel explains.

Construction Stellaire's management prefers not to comment on the situation at this time.

Transport Québec did not respond to a request made by the SPEC on April 17 regarding the partially suspended contracts. However, Simon Carmichael, a journalist for the Quebec City daily newspaper Le Soleil, was able to obtain comments from government politicians. (See article on page six)

Growing concerns in the Gaspé Peninsula

Éric Dubé, the president of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie, is concerned about the partial suspension of the two contracts awarded to Groupe SEMA and Construction Stellaire.

"I don't know what that means, putting part of the contracts on hold. I'm surprised and worried. I don't know the reasons, and there's nothing worse than not knowing. We



The Prével Bridge is one of the structures whose repairs have been entrusted to the SEMA Group. This repair work continues, while three other smaller structures have been removed from active work until May 11.

Photos: G. Gagné

don't know where we're going," notes Mr. Dubé, who has now been at the head of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie, a municipally-controlled transportation company, for 11 years.

"What I don't understand is that during the week following the budget, we had a follow-up meeting with the people at Transports Québec, and we were told that 'the signed con-

The refurbishment of the railway between Matapédia and Gaspé is an issue that dates back to the 2000s. A major plan to this end was later launched on May 5, 2017. Its final bill, \$872 million, was announced on June 27, 2023, by Transport minister Geneviève Guilbault in Gaspé. The following November, Quebec premier François Legault visited Gaspé to reit-

deadline will not be met, as the two calls for tenders, which came in significantly over budget at the beginning of the year, have still not been reissued.

In the initial calls for tenders anticipated, 22 months of work to complete the project. The opening of a repaired railway to Port-Daniel is planned for this summer, for freight transportation.



Groupe SEMA has been working on the refurbishment of the bridge spanning the Grande Rivière since the summer 2024.

tracts will be honoured.' I fear that the one-month deadline will be used to calculate the compensation for canceling the contracts," adds Éric Dubé.

Rock Morel reports that 25 to 30% of the work listed in the Groupe SEMA's \$75 million contract has been completed. "We plan to complete the contract before the end of 2025," he explains.

Two major bridges, the one spanning the Grande Rivière in the town of the same name, and the Prével bridge on the Percé-Gaspé municipal border, are among the projects included in the SEMA contract and that are maintained.

erate that his government was committed to completing this renovation all the way to Gaspé in time for the fall 2026 elections.

It is already clear that this

The management of the public passenger carrier VIA Rail maintains that it will not resume service between Matapédia and Gaspé until the entire section is operational.





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Geneviève Guilbault assures that the Gaspé Peninsula railway remains a priority

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – Despite delays, a change in status, and the cancellation of some of its contracts, the Gaspé Peninsula railway rehabilitation project remains a "priority" for the Legault government. However, that government must "prioritize" its priorities, as its elected officials summarize.

That is how Transport Minister Geneviève Guilbault, Minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula Maïté Blanchette-Vézina and Gaspé riding Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Stéphane



Photos: Gilles Gagné

Quebec Transport Minister Geneviève Guilbault came twice to the Gaspé Peninsula in 2023, including here on June 27 in Gaspé, and promised that the line would be re-opened by 2026, an almost impossible feat now, considering her ministry's way of managing calls for tenders.

Sainte-Croix describe the decision-making process that lies ahead, according to the answers they provided on April 23 to Simon Carmichael, a journalist for Le Soleil newspaper covering governmental activities in Quebec City.

Despite the setback triggered by the suspension of two contracts portions awarded at the beginning of 2024, the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) elected officials assure that the project remains "a priority" for their government and that it "continues to move forward," despite bearing the brunt of the "prioritization" of infrastructure projects.

"We certainly have to prioritize, as with other projects, but it remains an important project for our government," said Maïté Blanchette-Vézina to Le Soleil.

But will the government be able to keep its election promise to deliver the railway by 2026? "I'm telling you that we will continue working because it remains a priority," Minister Blanchette-Vézina reiterated, emphasizing once again "the importance of prioritizing."

Stéphane Sainte-Croix also assured that his government is "working very, very hard" to complete the railway rehabilitation, eagerly awaited by both residents and businesses on the Gaspé Peninsula.

He does not consider the



Premier Legault has often promised to deliver the Gaspé railway before the 2026 election. He did so during a November 16-17 visit to Gaspé and New Carlisle, where he was accompanied by Bonaventure MNA Catherine Blouin, Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie president Éric Dubé, and Gaspé MNA Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

suspension of some of the already signed contracts to be a step backward. "It's part of the exercise (to) review all of our contractual provisions, ensure our budget targets are met, and review our timelines accordingly."

The Minister of Transport, who herself presented a revised version of the \$517 million action plan for the Gaspésie railway on June 27, 2023, instead relied on the desire to carry out the project "in a collaborative mode" to explain her department's change of direction.

"You know that I often talk about new collaborative methods (...) that allow us to explore new ways of carrying out projects," pointed out minister Guilbault, praising a

method "that allows us to deliver projects more quickly and at a lower cost."

She adds that "we are currently looking internationally (...) at how and what the possibilities are," she explained. "We are documenting this right now as I speak."

Geneviève Guilbault, who twice in 2023 promised the delivery of a functional Matapédia-Gaspé by 2026, did not respond to questions about the impact this new mode of managing the Gaspé Peninsula line refurbishment would have on the railway's work delivery timeline.

In almost eight years since the May 5, 2017 announcement by former Quebec premier that the whole line would be upgraded along the Mata-

pedia to Gaspé stretch, the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie has not been in a position to use a larger portion of the railroad.

In fact, that freight transporter could count on the Matapédia to Caplan stretch as far east as Caplan, until the fall of 2023, when Transports Québec decided to move the tracks away from a cliff in Black Cape. The tracks were removed and will soon be moved slightly to the north. A bridge located in the west part of Caplan is also currently upgraded, a contract that will not be completed before weeks.

Despite that situation, Transports Québec continues to report that the line is functional between Matapédia and Caplan.

Quebec's latest rail decision receives much criticism

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - The Parti Québécois (PQ) and the mayor of Gaspé deplore Quebec's latest step backwards on the repair of the Gaspé railway.

"The missing amount is roughly the amount announced yesterday (April 22) for the Third link. The Gaspé Peninsula money has probably been returned for the Third link," says the Member for the National Assembly (MNA) for Matane-Matapédia, Pascal Bérubé, referring to this project to connect Quebec City and Lévis.

"Beyond the issue for the Gaspé, it says something about the state of the finances or the priority choices, and it's the Gaspé Peninsula that's paying

today," maintains the MNA.

His colleague from the Magdalen Islands goes further. "There is a formal commitment from the premier (François Legault) to complete the work before 2026, before the next election. What's the premier's word worth in commitments as important as these in a region like the Gaspé?" adds Joël Arseneau.

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côte, also expressed some concern after hearing these latest developments.

"It's increasingly worrying. We go from surprise to surprise. I still believe it. Do our MNAs believe it? Does our regional minister believe it? Does Minister Guilbault believe it? I need to hear them because if I'm the only one with a few regional stake-

holders who believe in it, that's not how we're going to resolve the issue," says Daniel Côte.

He further emphasized that businesses also need reassurance. "The official version is 'yes,' but I need to hear the answer from the decision-makers," he continues.

Osisko, which plans to restart Mine Gaspé in Murdochville, says it needs the train to transport copper ore. A functional railroad would be necessary by the beginning of 2030.

"We've been depriving ourselves of development for years because we don't have this means of transportation, which has become essential for exporting and importing components that can be processed here. Should we put our development on hold

again? I'm starting to get seriously fed up," says the mayor.

He recalls the missed opportunity ten years ago involving the transportation of wind turbine blades manufactured at LM Wind Power in Gaspé. The absence of rail transport led the company to haul the blades by truck to New Richmond before transferring them to a train.

"We're starting to get seriously tired of fighting when it should be a given. In the Gaspésie, we always have to fight harder than the others. When we play defence, we're not in attack mode. We can't go into development mode when we always have to fight," comments Mr. Côte.

Yet the situation was clear to everyone when Premier Legault assured, during a



The MNA for Matane-Matapédia Pascal Bérubé.

Photo: National Assembly site

visit to Gaspé in November 2023, that the rail line would be rehabilitated to Gaspé by the end of 2026.

GASPÉ: Consultation on the future of two large lots

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ- The Town of Gaspé is launching its public consultation to help define the future of two large lots that will be left vacant in the heart of downtown Gaspé over the next few years.

With the help of the firm Raymond, Chabot, Grant, Thornton, the consultation aims to give everyone a voice in repurposing these lots following the departure of the 31,700 square metre Ministry of Transportation service centre and, eventually, the 10,500 square metre arena.

"How do people see the future of these lots? That's the big question we're asking them," says Mayor Daniel Côté. Zoning

in the downtown area allows for many things: housing, green space, commercial development, and even a knowledge hub for the lot near the CEGEP.

"I don't want to taint the new consultation," stresses the mayor. I hope that innovative things will emerge, things that are out of the box."

The consultation process will be divided into five points. Submission of briefs, opinions, or written comments by May 9; three consultation sessions with citizens and organizations on April 30; a session to hear the opinions of specific groups on May 1; an online survey on preliminary scenarios from May 26 to June 15; and the town council's vision will be unveiled in September, just before

the municipal elections.

"What wouldn't be allowed, for example, is heavy industrial use or anything that wouldn't be compatible with a populated downtown," warns the elected official. "However, if there are things we haven't anticipated in the urban plan, we would be very open to adjusting our regulations to accommodate innovative ideas," the mayor continued.

"Densification doesn't necessarily mean housing, it could be commercial or partial densification. If the green option comes first, it could be possible that we won't just make a park out of the 30,000 square metres of MTQ land. Could there be a green space inside a residential and commercial development, why not?" wonders Mr. Côté.

By contrast, if the residents express an interest in a commercial component, the town has already clearly stated that it won't be opening any businesses itself.

"If the vast majority tell us they want commercial space, we'll have to act as a catalyst. But it's not easy right now for local businesses. Especially with online shopping, and people getting their purchases delivered to their homes," he explains.

On the other hand, residential densification downtown could create traffic problems

on Jacques-Cartier Street, between Adams and Cathédrale streets, which is already quite busy with the presence of a daycare centre and two elementary schools.

"It will have to be part of the overall planning process. We're in an old built-up area from the 1800s. The streets aren't necessarily very wide. We're open to looking at all the options before allowing new uses," notes the mayor, recalling that there was heavy traffic when the Ministère des Transports du Québec was in that area.

Gaspé wants to modify regulations in an attempt to solve housing crisis

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

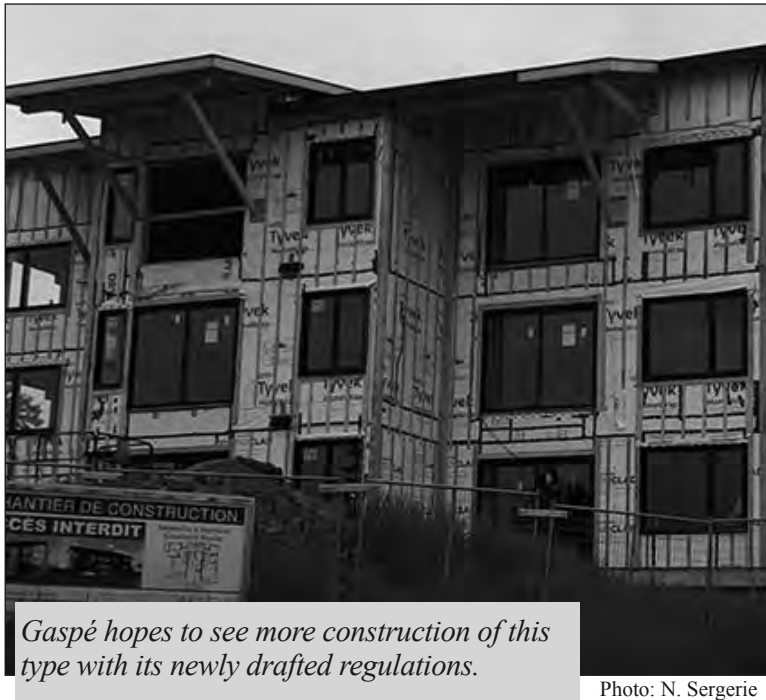
GASPÉ - The Town of Gaspé is staying the course to stimulate residential construction in its territory by extending incentives for the construction of private residential buildings and amending the zoning by-law to allow the establishment of a new eco-neighbourhood in the York Boulevard East area.

Town council issued two notices of motion leading to the adoption of regulations to this effect on April 22.

The first will allow the municipality to enter into an agreement with Gestion Bourgade for the development of a new eco-neighbourhood south of the corner of Rue du Ruisseau Dean and York Boulevard East, near the Couche-Tard convenience store. The Town is proposing to pay 50% of the public infrastructure costs, including water and sewer services, for this vast housing development project, a first in 15 years.

The developer is expected to unveil his impressive project in the coming weeks.

"We're planning multi-unit and single-family housing in subsequent phases. But first, multi-unit housing is the basic premise we had with the de-



Gaspé hopes to see more construction of this type with its newly drafted regulations.

Photo: N. Sergerie

veloper. That's where we need it most. There's also commercial development that could be planned. It's a huge piece of land with lots of potential. I'll let the developer make the announcement," commented Mayor Daniel Côté.

The other regulation will allow for the renewal of construction incentives under certain conditions until December 31, 2025, based on the private National Assembly bill adopted in December 2019.

This program will be in its final year and provides for a five-year tax credit. It has so far allowed the construction of 533 housing units.

The vacancy rate increased from 0.0% for a few years to 1.0% in 2023, before falling back to 0.4% in 2024.

The mayor acknowledged that it's difficult to say how many additional units are needed.

"If we assume that the population will continue to grow at the same rate as over the past two or three years, the need would be unlimited. It's difficult to predict population movements. If we had vacant housing, I'm betting the population wouldn't be at 15,600. We would probably have already exceeded 16,000," believes the mayor.

Carleton-sur-Mer: \$1.7M to protect the waterfront

Nelson Sergerie

CARLETON-SUR-MER - Quebec is releasing \$1.69 million to help Carleton-sur-Mer to protect its coastline.

The government's assistance will enable studies to better understand current and future coastal risks, which will allow the municipality to adapt its land use.

"We are very pleased. We had targeted six sites deemed priorities. We are talking about the golf course, the Place du Vieux Quai, Parc des Horizons, Jean-Landry Street, the Banc Laroque, and the municipal campground. We will conduct studies to develop plans for intervention on these sites," explains Mayor Mathieu Lapointe.

This assistance will also allow the town to install two temporary protective structures to secure activities at Banc Laroque, pending the implementation of a longer-term adaptation plan.

Indeed, the curve leading to the campground and Tracadigash Point on Avenue du Phare is severely tested by coastal hazards. "We had water that went over the road and damaged the bike path several times. We will be able to intervene and correct this situation," notes the mayor.

Approximately \$1.4 million of the assistance provided by the government of Quebec is earmarked for Avenue du Phare.

The financial support comes after years of advocacy. "The challenge we faced was that we didn't fit into any program. Since there are no houses on Banc Laroque, we weren't eligible for Civil Security programs. We were slipping through the cracks of various programs, and then the Coastal Erosion Monitoring Office arrived, and the office's objective was to handle orphan files. From day one of the office's creation, we submitted a complete file to them," explains Mr. Lapointe.

The work planned for Rue du Phare is expected to last ten years and is called transitional.

"We have to think long-term because we know there will be a submersion issue, to know what will happen to the campground in the long term. Once the vision is established, we can determine the work," explains Mr. Lapointe.

The campground is already affected by erosion and submersion. The town cannot deprive itself of the campground with a turnover of \$1.2 million and 28,000 overnight stays annually, mainly from people living outside the town who bring economic benefits to Carleton-sur-Mer and the Bay of Chaleur area.

"For us, it's crucial to think about the future of camping and alternative solutions," concludes Mr. Lapointe.



The Carleton-sur-Mer campground is vulnerable to coastal hazards.

Photo: N. Sergerie

In debt, Pit Caribou seeks to reach an agreement with its creditors

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PERCÉ - The Pit Caribou Microbrewery is experiencing serious financial difficulties, to the point where a trustee has been appointed to make a proposal to creditors in an attempt to survive.

According to documents from the Mallette firm, which prepared the documents, "The Company is not bankrupt, but wishes to submit an arrangement for the settlement of its debts."

As of April 14, Pit Caribou owes a total of \$10.3 million, including \$7.8 million in unsecured debt, to 130 creditors. The trustee states in the document that the microbrewery is facing a significant liquidity crisis due to operating losses linked to increased operating costs, including the cost of raw materials, labour, and marketing costs; intense competition and market changes; a dispute

with the seller concerning, among other things, environmental non-compliance at the Anse-à-Beaufils facilities (this dispute is before the courts) and an inadequate debt structure.

According to the summary of the financial statements presented in the proposal, the company posted a net loss of \$355,000 in 2023 and \$628,000 in 2024. By November 30, just eight months into the fiscal year, it had already recorded a loss of \$498,000. According to the recovery plan submitted by the trustee, the plan includes making operations profitable through job cuts and reduced operating costs; partnerships to reduce marketing costs; a settlement of the dispute with the seller; restructuring the secured debt; seeking \$1.5 million to bring the L'Anse-à-Beaufils facilities into compliance; and the acceptance of the proposal by the creditors.

If accepted and validated by the court, unsecured creditors will receive a total of \$250,000 paid in annual installments of \$50,000 over the next five years.

Additionally, the three shareholders, who are owed \$588,000 have agreed to waive their dividends.

According to the trustee's conclusions, the creditors would be better off accepting

the proposal since, he writes, "In the event of bankruptcy, the unsecured creditors would not receive any dividends." Although the Company's assets have significant potential value, it is unlikely that a Licensed Insolvency Trustee would be able to realize a surplus in a liquidation context, in addition to having to bear legal and professional fees incurred by unsecured creditors in ex-

cess of the Proposal offered by the Company."

"As Trustee, we consider this proposal reasonable for the creditors and we recommend its acceptance," concludes Mathieu Bergeron, who filed the motion on behalf of Mallette.

The proposal will be submitted to the creditors during a

Cont'd on page 15



The fate of Pit Caribou's products is in the hands of its creditors.

Photo: N. Sergerie

WORKING TOGETHER FOR GREENER HARBOURS

ADMINISTRATIONS
PORTUAIRES
notre port,
notre collectivité

HARBOUR
AUTHORITIES
our harbour,
our community

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They are the heart of our community and our fishing industry. Owned by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, they are managed by Harbour Authorities, made up of volunteers from the local population who know the needs of their harbour and region. These volunteers are responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of one or more public fishing harbours.

Harbour Authorities therefore play an essential role in the economic and social life of many communities that depend on local harbour facilities.

That's why it's important to support these volunteers and the fishing industry by complying with the regulations posted at all harbours to ensure safety on the wharves and to assist them in the proper management of residual waste.

WHY REACH OUT TO YOU TODAY?

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- Ensure the safety of industrial activities at the harbour.
- Do our part for the environment.
- Keep our community's public spaces clean and respectful of our heritage.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Wharves are used by workers in the fishing industry. They are places of professional activity which can present dangers if harbour regulations are not respected.
- Equipment is reserved for members and for harbour activities only (containers, waste oil tanks, winches, etc.).
- Large-item garbage pieces are not allowed, please go to an eco-center.

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garbage
and
electronics

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materials

Hunting
scraps

Waste
Oil

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Harbour Authorities of the Gaspé Peninsula

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Volunteering is good for your health

Volunteering makes an immeasurable difference in the lives of volunteers and those they help. Many people may be surprised to learn how positive volunteering can be for volunteers. Indeed, studies show that volunteering leads to better physical and mental health, among other benefits.

According to an article published by the American Heart Association and Jeffrey Burr, a professor of gerontology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, "compared to non-volunteers, volunteers have less depression, less anxiety, higher self-esteem, greater happiness, and a greater sense of meaning in life." Burr and the AHA note the health benefits of volunteer-

ing occur among all ages, and a deep look at how volunteer efforts are good for personal health shows just how profound giving back can be.

- **Reduces stress:** The Mayo Clinic reports that volunteering reduces stress and increases positive, relaxed feelings by releasing dopamine. When volunteers spend time in service to others, they report feeling a sense of meaning and appreciation, both of which can have stress-reducing effects.

- **Lowers depression:** Research has shown that volunteering leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety, particularly among people 65 and older.

- **Provides a sense of purpose:** Volunteering can provide

a sense of purpose in older adults, which can help replace feelings of inadequacy due to loss of major role identities, such as wage earner or parent. This sense of purpose can improve life satisfaction and happiness.

- **Reduces blood pressure:** According to researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, older adults who volunteered for at least 200 hours annually decrease their risk of high blood pressure by 40 percent. This also may lower risk of heart disease and stroke.

- **Eliminates feelings of isolation:** Volunteers working together link people to others and their communities. This can help people overcome feelings of isolation, which may come from

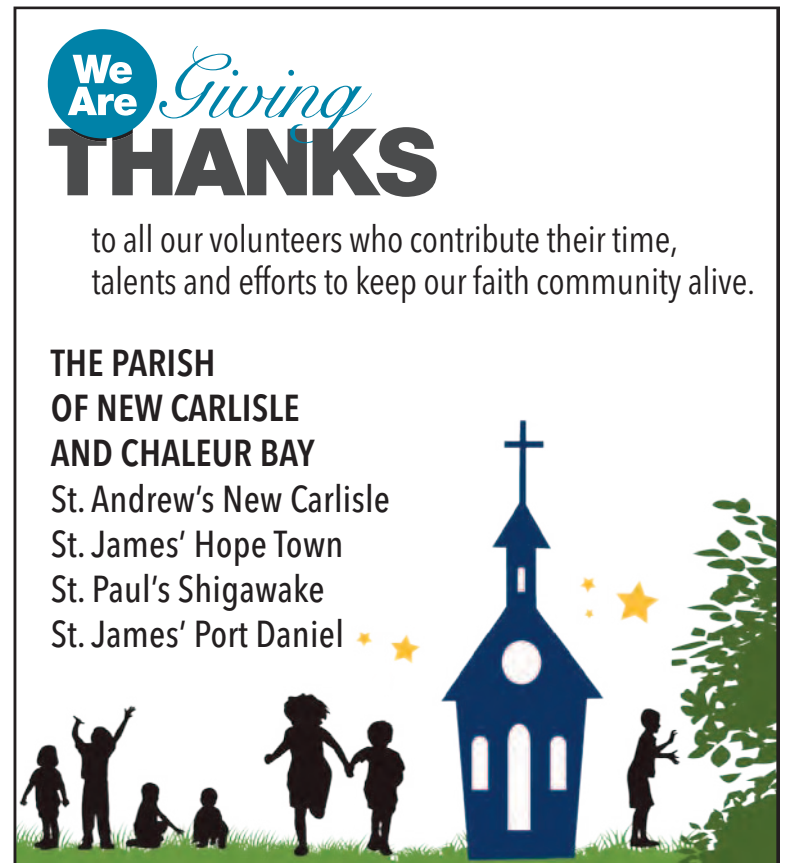
being new to a community or being a senior and having a smaller social circle.

•**Increases happiness:** Those who volunteer regularly tend to be happier and more empathetic towards others. Volunteering also instills a sense of pride that can make people happier.

- **Keeps the mind active:** Individuals who volunteer can im-

prove their cognitive health. That's because volunteering engages a person in new skills, requires them to solve problems and keeps them mentally stimulated through various activities.

- **Improves physical health:** Some volunteer activities will involve physical tasks that can contribute to improved physical health because they constitute moderate exercise.



How to get kids on board with volunteering

Parents recognize it can be challenging to help children navigate a world seemingly dominated by “bad” news. Making sense of political rhetoric, pandemics, international conflicts, and even domestic uprisings is difficult. Making time to highlight the positive actions people take in their communities can help.

Famed children’s show host Fred Rogers once noted how he confronted a world that could seem like it was in bad shape. “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping,’” said Rogers.

Those “helpers” are the good samaritans, the first responders and the volunteers who put others before themselves in the name of doing good.

Children can learn early on how to give back to their communities through volunteerism. Volunteering lets kids see things from others’ perspective, instilling a sense of empathy that can benefit

them throughout their lives. A higher level of compassion can help children interact better with peers and offer them a better perspective of the world. Parents can consider these strategies to foster a love of volunteering in children.

- **Be a role model.** Children are inspired by their parents and learn how to follow their lead. If children see their parents as active volunteers, they may be more likely to volunteer themselves. According to Volunteers of America, when a parent or guardian is involved, a child often looks forward to the volunteer activity even more.

- **Make it a routine.** Children go to school or sports on a consistent schedule, and a structured schedule can be advantageous to kids. A consistent volunteering schedule can help children keep a routine during times when moments may be unstructured, such as summers and weekends.

- **Figure out kids’ interests.** A volunteer opportunity can align with kids’ hobbies or passions to make it more likely that children will remain engaged with volunteering.



- **Make it fun.** Volunteering shouldn’t be a chore for children. Incorporate challenges or games into volunteer efforts, like who can pick up the most litter or make the most sandwiches at a food pantry. This can make it fun.

- **Find an easy activity.** Tailor activities to kids’ attention spans. A quick activity like picking out a gift

for an underprivileged child can be done in a jiffy, while other activities can take all day.

- **Celebrate their efforts.** Reward kids for their volunteerism. Acknowledge their accomplishments, no matter how small they may seem. This may help kids be more enthusiastic about getting involved

65% of Canadian organizations are facing a shortage of new volunteers

Gen. Z has a higher level of volunteerism than Baby Boomers



208 the hours on average each Canadian over 15 spends volunteering.

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who strengthen our community



HAPPY VOLUNTEER WEEK!



Volunteering allows you to connect with others, discover your strengths, and find joy in helping people.



Thanks
to our **Community's Volunteers**
During National Volunteer Week!



We salute those who make our town a better place





Photo: N. Sergerie

Villa James in Percé sparks disagreement over its future

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PERCÉ - Patrimoine Gaspésie believes it would be a mistake to focus the future of the Villa Frederick-James in Percé exclusively on the visual arts.

Recently, the Round Table for the Future of the Villa Frederick-James raised this idea, which the mayor of Percé supported by recalling the origins and the art practiced by the first occupant of the house.

The president of Patrimoine Gaspésie, Jean-Marie Fallu, believes that Percé needs a space for the creation and dissemination of visual arts.

"The round table is right to want its place at the Villa James, but what it's demanding is to take up all the space," Mr. Fallu explains. In 2021, the heritage building was to serve both as a creative space for artists and as a venue for presentations focused on showcasing the artistic and literary heritage of Percé and the Gaspé Peninsula.

"I think that with the appointment of Claudine Roy as president of Sépaq, we will move toward a balance between history, artistic heritage, and artistic creation. Sépaq is criticized for lacking expertise in this field. Sépaq has expertise in built heritage and museology. For years, Sépaq left the Chafaud Museum, led by Jean-Louis Lebreux, to develop a very interesting visual arts pro-

gram. Sépaq could find someone who could manage the visual arts program and all the programming related to other cultural sectors," says Mr. Fallu.

Mr. Fallu would have preferred a specialized management firm to develop a concept that meets the cultural needs of the community. "A visual arts group created a roundtable, and when I saw that they were moving exclusively to the visual arts, I left the roundtable and wrote to the Minister (of Culture and Communications, Mathieu Lacombe) to make the Villa James a place open to memory, creation, and the dissemination of the arts," he said.

On April 16, the roundtable mobilized to ask the minister to confirm the Villa's cultural vocation in visual arts and multidisciplinary practices.

Furthermore, it believes that its management, along with a substantial budget, should be entrusted to a fully autonomous cultural organization, capable of carrying out year-round dissemination, creation, training, and cultural mediation activities. The regional and local cultural community of Rocher-Percé strongly expressed its disagreement with the decision to entrust management to Sépaq and refuses to be placed under the supervision of a state-owned company whose primary mandate is essentially the management of national parks and the conservation of natural environments.

The Bourg de Pabos becomes Espace NAPAGA

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER - Le Bourg de Pabos is being rebranded and will now be called Espace NAPAGA, which stands for nature, archaeology, Pabos Mills and Gaspésie.

The archaeological and historical site located in Chandler had the same name for 40 years. "We wanted a name that truly reflected who we are, and Espace NAPAGA is a large nature and archaeology space in the heart of our community in Pabos Mills in the vast and beautiful Gaspésie region," states Executive Director Elsa Pépin.

Strategic planning led to repositioning the site as an archaeological site following extensive work to reach this decision. "We wanted to position ourselves as a large space and place archaeology, an es-

sential element of the site, at the heart of our mission," continues Ms. Pépin.

A new image and a new website accompany the rebranding. "We expect people to gradually become attached to the name, as we have been for the past year. Today, the more we see it, the more we appreciate it. It's a strong image, which represents who we are and positions the museum as a credible national institution supported by its community," she says.


Starting immediately, NAPAGA will gradually introduce the new images.

The institution is continuing its efforts to modernize its permanent exhibition. "We are awaiting a new meeting with the current project. Normally, work should begin this summer. Research is well underway for the content. The opening remains scheduled for

spring 2026," explains Ms. Pépin. The new exhibit will revisit themes such as the French Regime and Indigenous occupation, but will also include the forestry industry, which is very important to Chandler.

The project budget is \$665,000. The interactive Fantôm exhibit, launched last year, will not be relocated to Beauséjour Island as previously discussed, despite a successful first year of operation. "We need time to develop the island, and the permits were granted only recently. We will possibly leave access to the footbridge for those interested in walking on it, but the island will not be accessible because work will be done to relocate Fantôm in the fall," says the director.

A trail will be installed on the island, along with solar-powered lights, playgrounds, and restrooms.



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Thursday, May 15, Escuminac Municipal Hall, Pte à la Garde
Thursday, May 22, Douglastown Community Centre
Thursday, May 29, Hopetown Municipal Hall

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Gasoline: The owner of the Pointe-à-la-Croix Ultramar could be forced to close his doors

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

POINTE-À-LA-CROIX - The owner of Pointe-à-la-Croix's only gas station could be forced to close his doors if the Quebec government doesn't find a solution quickly, given the 10-cent price gap with the neighbouring New Brunswick town of Campbellton.

Since April 1, the federal government has abolished the carbon tax, which has created an imbalance in the price of gasoline at the pump on both sides of the J.C. Van Horne Bridge.

The Ultramar retailer on Interprovincial Boulevard has seen a sharp drop in gas sales since the tax was abolished. Jean-François Landry had the opportunity to discuss his situation directly with Catherine Blouin, the Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Bonaventure on April 14.



If nothing changes, the Ultramar brand could disappear from Pointe-à-la-Croix by the end of the spring.

Photo: Jean-François Landry

"We talked about the price difference. The carbon tax in Quebec is 8 cents, according to her. It's a far cry from the federal government's 20 cents. They're in discussions to find a solution, but we don't know anything more at the moment," says Mr. Landry.

Mr. Landry says the MNA has reassured him that the government would look into

what could be done to maintain competition for border municipalities.

Abolishing the price floor is not the solution. "It's pointless because what's going to happen is that oil companies will be able to lower their prices ridiculously, and the independent businesses nearby won't be able to keep up. This will lead to the closure of

other independent businesses," says the retailer.

"If Quebec acts within 30, 60, or 90 days, we'll see how we're going to cover the costs; otherwise, we'll stop selling gas," says Mr. Landry. Catherine Blouin says she is aware of the difficulties faced by the Pointe-à-la-Croix retailer.

"We're looking at different

solutions, which I discussed with him. We don't know what will happen after the federal election. For example, can we increase the rebate for border regions? Will we eliminate the carbon tax? That's one of the solutions being considered. We'll see what the best solution is in the current situation," notes the CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec) representative.

The MNA agrees that eliminating the floor price will not help the situation of border retailers. Regarding the short timeframe for finding a solution, she is sympathetic to their situation. "We're going to do what's best for the benefit of the entire population," explains Ms. Blouin.

According to Mr. Landry, retailers on both sides of the border earn an equivalent profit margin. The gap is really caused by the tax on gasoline.

Charles Milliard courts provincial Liberals

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - After Marc Bélanger, it was Charles Milliard's turn to solicit the support of Quebec Liberal Party members in the Gaspé Peninsula on April 5, 6, and 7.

Mr. Milliard places regional vitality at the heart of his commitment to convince activists to place their trust in him ahead of the race that will culminate in the election of a new leader on June 14.

"It is the nature of my po-

litical commitment to restore economic, social, and community vitality to our regions and to bring a renewal of the political landscape in Quebec. The Liberal Party needs new faces. This is the basis of my commitment," said Charles Milliard, during a stop in Gaspé on April 7. Mr. Milliard is a pharmacist by profession and also the president of the Quebec Federation of Chambers of Commerce.

The regionalist discourse has been heard many times by politicians, but Charles Mil-

liard doesn't want it to be just another theme.

"One of the challenges we have in Quebec is that we don't sufficiently value SMEs (small and medium-sized businesses), which are the backbone of Quebec. The

economic plan I launched two weeks ago with Raymond Bachand, who has supported me since day one, is to make Quebec a paradise for SMEs," says Mr. Milliard, who is supported by the former Liberal Minister of Finance.

He suggests reducing taxes on SMEs and reviewing certain payroll taxes. "When I look at several communities in the Gaspésie where many industries have left, if we

Cont'd on page 15



Charles Milliard made a stop in Gaspé on April 7.

Photo: Charles Milliard's Team

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Announcements



Obituary



BROUILLETTE: Edna Mina
1926 – 2025

Edna Campbell Brouillette, passed away peacefully in St. Jean-sur Richelieu at the age of 98 years and 10 months after a courageous battle with cancer.

Edna was predeceased by her first husband Emile Robichaud (1967), second husband Guy Brouillette (2007).

Edna was from New Richmond West, daughter of Owen and Ida Harrison Campbell.

She leaves to mourn her children: Alain (Carole), Jeanne and Monique; grandchildren; two generations of great-great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews; as well as her two sisters Gertrude, Jean (Albert). Edna was predeceased by her son Denis (2011), as well as her sisters Blanche, Verna, Doreen, Isabel, two brothers Hubert and Ottis.

The Funeral will be held in St. Jean Sur-Richelieu on May 3, 2025, followed by interment.



In Memory

MAJOR: Hilda

In loving memory of Hilda (Hayes) Major.
*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near.
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*
Love from your daughters Diane, Karen, and families.



RENOUF: Velda

In loving memory of a dear wife who passed away May 4, 2024
*We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name.
But all we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit,
But no one knows the heartache,
As we turn and leave you there.*
Always loved and remembered by husband Claude, brother Vaughan, sister Donna and family.



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Obituary

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250+ words - quote will be provided



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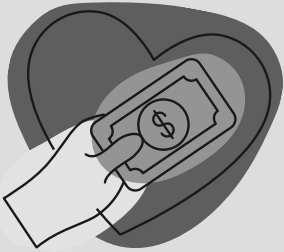
150 words - \$35
150-250 words - \$45
Photo: \$10 extra.



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New Carlisle, Québec, G0C 1Z0 or call us at
418-752-5400 to donate by phone.**

YORK:

FADOQ

May 10: FADOQ York River Senior Citizens Club will be holding their Annual General Meeting beginning at 4 p.m. at the Gaspé Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59, 197 Jacques Cartier St. The AGM will be followed by a buffet supper and live entertainment with Coco and Dodo. The price of tickets are \$25 with a \$15 rebate for members who attend the AGM. For more information and to purchase tickets contact Ron Mundle 418-355-4732, Tony Patterson 418-368-3276, Debbie Sams 418-868-2977, Clothilda Adams 418-361-5619. Deadline for purchase of tickets is May 8.

YORK:

Gaspé County W.I.

September 6: Gaspé County W.I. will be hosting its W.I. Craft Fair Competition at the York hall. Registration fee is \$15 and you can enter as many craft, cooking, and/or garden items as you would like. To

register contact Bonita Annett at 418-368-3453 or gaspe22@gmail.com and she will give you a copy of the fair list. The last date to register is July 31.

SHIGAWAKE:

Shigawake

Community Centre

May 17: Shigawake Community Centre will be hosting a Mother's Day tea from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Cost: adults \$12, 6-12 \$6 and children under 6 will be free.

HOPE:

Hope Baptist Church

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Meetings

Sundays: Breaking of Bread for believers - 9:30 a.m., Gospel meeting and Sunday School - 2 p.m.

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

NEW CARLISLE:

**New Carlisle
Legion**

Mondays: Mini bingo beginning at 7 p.m. for the months of April and May.

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.

May 6: General meeting at 6 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle

NEW CARLISLE:

New Carlisle

Funeral Association

May 10: The New Carlisle Funeral Association will be having a Mother's Day Tea at the New Carlisle Town Hall from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: adults \$12 and children under 10 is \$7.

**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.

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

Tuesdays: Weekly bingo every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. \$10 for three cards. Extra cards are \$1 each.

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 19: Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

June: No meeting.

June 15: A Father's Day brunch will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cost: 13+ \$20, 7-12 \$10, and 0-6 is free.

July: No meeting.

September 20: A Harvest Bingo will begin at 1 p.m. - until finished, doors open at 12 p.m.

September 21: Meeting

**UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND**

Sunday, May 4
10 a.m. Service

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.

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN**

Sunday, May 4
10 a.m. Service

**ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF CANADA**

Sunday, May 4
New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Shigawake
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**PARISH
OF GASPÉ**

Sunday, May 4
St. Andrew's, York
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist



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ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, there’s a secret that you have been holding on to and you are ready to let it go. It won’t weigh you down anymore and you can finally focus fully on the future instead of the past.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, certain ground is tough for people to travel, but you have conviction and grit to get things done. You have a history of thriving when faced with adversity, and that’s an asset.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, keep an eye open for a challenge. When you are given an opportunity that will require for fullest and best ef-

Weekly + HOROSCOPES

fort, embrace it as an opportunity to fulfill your potential.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, keeping things pleasant and lighthearted is a talent of yours, but this week you might need to take a new approach. Work with others and listen to suggestions.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you often are the life of the party, always ready to find something to do and be with

other people. This week you might need to slow down and enjoy some alone time.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you could be especially energized this week and feel the need to get as much done as possible. Try not to race through tasks without focusing on doing things right.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
The news that comes your way isn’t what you had hoped,

Libra. Roll with the punches and embrace the challenge. Soon there will be blue skies again and everything will settle.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you will meet up with someone you haven’t seen in a while and it will be like no time has passed whatsoever. Be prepared for a coincidental situation to bring you together.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
The universe will put you in touch with someone who is reputable and diligent, Sagittarius. This way you can both tackle what you need to get done reap the rewards of your

hard work.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a little competition never hurt anyone. Embrace an upcoming chance to see how you stack up. Give your best effort, as always.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
This is a good week to play things safe and keep your cards close to the vest, Aquarius. Consider each situation carefully before engaging.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you are a sociable person and ready and willing to chat up others. This week you might not be up for any social interaction and prefer a few days of solitary time spent.

CAUGHT READING WORD SEARCH

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M W T P B C X F O O A G M Y R K A K V I
R F I S B E A K O N B X C W R B N N O E
N N Y H P A R G O I L B I B X A O I R B
E O S A B R U L B E G R G V Y S R O L E
O T I G T P Y E A C Y R V E E V T B K S
A A H T G Y P D D A E M L V N S P I I S
B K P X C D L B P L V K L F K R L T P L
H B V P P I V N L O P E G O S L E B V I
A V I S E P F E S D H R O N U I F A N U
R N P N B N T N V S R B K S I F Y T X O
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T M O H C U T T T N N E T Y G E H Y W F
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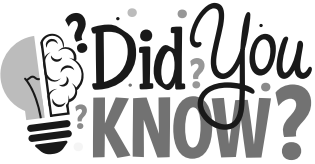
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- APPENDIX
- AUDIO
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- BIBLIOGRAPHY
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- BLURB
- BOOKS
- BOOKSTORE
- BORROW
- CHAPTER
- EDITION
- E-READER
- GENRE
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- IMAGINATION
- INTEREST
- LIBRARY
- NONFICTION
- PAGE
- READING
- SHELVES
- SPINE
- STORYTELLER



English: Cloud
Spanish: Nube
Italian: Nuvola
French: Nuage
German: Wolke



During spring, the Earth’s axis is tilted toward to the sun. That leads to longer hours of daylight, which helps flowers grow.



PIT CARIBOU: families who live in the Gaspé Peninsula and work there thanks to Pit Caribou. They will also be experiencing enormous stress due to this situation. My heart goes out to them," continued Mr. Nellis.

"The wind may be blowing hard, but together we will get through it," the co-owner concluded philosophically.

The Pit Caribou Microbrewery was founded in 2007 by Francis Joncas and Benoit Couillard, who left the company in 2014.

It was sold in 2019 to a company formed by Vincent Coderre (President), Jean-François Nellis (Vice-President), and Jérôme Coderre as part of the acquisition of the operations. At the time, the value of the transaction was not disclosed.

virtual meeting on May 5.

The company is not giving interviews regarding its financial situation. However, on social media, it states that "It has filed a proposal to its creditors with the aim of continuing its operations in the long term. Vincent and I acquired the company so that it remains in the Gaspé region, but above all because we believe in entrepreneurship in the region. We still believe this very strongly," wrote one of the co-owners, Jean-François Nellis.

"I am fully aware that many can and will criticize how the company is currently being managed. I would like to point out that there are approximately forty

MILLIARD: one would know about it. The current government did it in health, is doing it with relations with municipalities, and wants to do it in transportation. It's not a good idea for people from Quebec City and Montreal to make decisions for all the regions," he says.

He proposes his concept. "I call it regional asymmetry. First, we have to stop thinking that Quebec's regions are a catch-all where everyone has the same issues. "There are issues that are specific to Abitibi, Bas-Saint-Laurent, and the Gaspésie. That's what I'm proposing," explains Mr. Milliard.

However, the last Liberal government under Philippe Couillard, between 2014 and 2018, abolished regional development bodies and centralized power.

It bypasses this compo-

want to rebuild this economic fabric, it takes entrepreneurs who want to invest," explains the candidate. The lack of local services is a hindrance to development.

"And that also affects public services. When you look at the social pact in Quebec, people pay taxes and must have access to services. I remind you that people in the Gaspésie pay the same tax rate as the rest of Quebec, and when you look at public services in health and education, they often aren't there," says Mr. Milliard.

Another oft-promised aspect is the end of the wall-to-wall system. "If centralization worked, every-

nent, which has hurt the regions. "Listen, the Quebec Liberal Party is 157 years old, with several factions and movements. What inspires me most in the party's history is Robert Bourassa. A fundamentally nationalist premier who always prioritized Quebec but who had an ear to make Canada work better. He demonstrated that regional differences were worth listening to," notes Mr. Milliard, recalling in passing the presence of Gérard D. Lévesque and his influence in Quebec City.

"I want to recreate this balance of power between the regions and Quebec City with new people and a renewal of the party." "That's what my team and I embody," the candidate suggests.

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