



Guy Gallibois wins Lise-Lelièvre regional award for hard work and perseverance

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – On May 3, Guy Gallibois, a New Carlisle physical education teacher for 35 years, received an ExcÉlan award, from the Unité régionale loisir et sport (URLS), a regional sports and leisure organization covering the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

More precisely, Mr. Gallibois received the Lise-Lelièvre award, a tribute award to recognize the involvement of a person or community organization who shared Lise Lelièvre's values, which were hard work, perseverance, empathy, the desire to excel and professionalism.

Guy Gallibois was not able to attend the award ceremony due to a death in his family. However, during the gala, held in Paspébiac, the organizers highlighted the reasons why the URLS paid a tribute to him for the 2025 Lise-Lelièvre award.

“Guy Gallibois is a man whose impact on young people and the community ex-

tends far beyond the walls of a gymnasium. Guy, a physical education teacher for over 35 years, is much more than a teacher: he is a mentor, a leader, and a creator of unforgettable adventures.

Throughout his career, Guy has worn many hats: coaching soccer, basketball, badminton, volleyball, and more, but also founding unique projects that have left their mark. Among these are an outdoor club and the famous Buds club, which aims to boost boys' self-esteem through the development of outdoor skills. Thanks to him, the young people learned how to build a fire, set up camp, and develop a healthy and respectful relationship with nature,” reads the message presented at the gala.

“A cycling enthusiast, Guy has transformed this passion into a driving force for his students. Together, they have cycled around the Gaspé Peninsula, all the way to Quebec City, and even visited Prince Edward Island.



Over the years, Guy Gallibois has maintained the team spirit and dynamism that still characterize him today.

Photo: Courtesy of Ann Kelly

These expeditions have become defining moments in the lives of the students, both for the memories and for the values they have learned: perseverance, mutual support, and confidence. In his personal life, Guy never slows down. Kayaking, paddleboarding, cross-country skiing and cycling. Each season offers him a new way to move,” also mentions the tribute.

A former prolific varsity volleyball player at the University of New Brunswick, Guy Gallibois “has maintained the team spirit and dynamism that still characterize him today. Those who know him describe him as a cheerful, sociable, and funny man, always ready to share a story or anecdote that will resonate. Approachable, appreciated by both his colleagues and his students, Guy makes

every collaboration enjoyable and every project come alive. Thank you, Guy, for your generosity, your contagious energy, and everything you have instilled in the hearts of young people. This recognition award is well-deserved, and we are proud to count you among the pillars of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands community,” concludes the tribute.

The Lise-Lelièvre Award was created in honour of Lise Lelièvre a URLS GÎM employee. She was an empathetic, perfectionist, and, above all, a good listener.

Lise Lelièvre served as an administrative assistant at the former Regional Recreation Council from January 1991 to March 1998, and then held the same position at the Regional Recreation and Sports Unit until her death, on February 7, 2003. The URLS board of directors then created a tribute award to honour her. The May 3 award presentation was the 28th such event.

SPDS Journalism Students Win QCNA Community Correspondent Award

HOLLY SMITH

PORT DANIEL -Myriam Beebe, a teacher at Shigawake-Port-Daniel School (SPDS), and her journalism students received the Community Correspondent Award from the Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA) for their contributions to The Gaspé Spec.

The award, which includes a \$100 prize, was presented during the school's closing ceremony on June 19. Students from Grades 4 to 6 took part in the journalism class, learning the basics of writing, interviewing, and reporting under Ms. Beebe's guidance. Their work showed creativity and strong community spirit. The award celebrates both the students' efforts and Ms. Beebe's leadership in encouraging young people to get involved in local journalism. It was a proud moment for the school.

Schools interested in submitting student work for next year are welcome to contact specc@globetrotter.net.



Photo: Courtesy of Emily Hocquard

Gaspeians, including Gesgapegiag citizens, receive Lieutenant Governor's medals

GILLES GAGNÉ

GESGAPEGIAG - For the third time in Quebec's history, a Lieutenant Governor's Medal ceremony was held in an Indigenous community. The Mi'gmaq Nation of Gesgapegiag welcomed former Gespeg chief Manon Jeannotte, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, who presided over the May 25 ceremony at the Galgoasiet Centre.

She honoured 34 recipients from the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands region.

The awards presented included the Lieutenant Governor's Medals - in both the Youth and Seniors categories. Eleven youths and nine seniors received these honours. Additionally, 14 people were awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

These honours recognize the exceptional contribution of individuals whose actions have a real, often discreet, but profoundly transformative impact within their communities.

Three Gesgapegiag citizens were chosen for this medal presentation, Jeannette Maltan Martin, William Jerome and Bernard Pnnal Jerome.

Lieutenant Governor Jeannotte said about Jeannette Maltan Martin that "your



A total of 34 Gaspeians and Magdalen Islanders received one of the three types of medals awarded by Lieutenant governor Manon Jeannotte.

Photos: Antoine Beaulieu, Office of the Lieutenant governor

commitment to the preservation of heritage and the promotion of Mi'gmaq culture is exemplary. As the director of the Apo'qon'ma'tultinej multicultural centre, you have created a space for exchange and reconciliation, thus helping to strengthen intercultural ties and fostering social harmony in the Baie-des-Chaleurs."

Ms. Jeannotte also praised William Jerome, "For over two decades, you have guided young hearts through culture, song, and ceremony. Your voice, your drum, and your wisdom echo in classrooms, powwows, and across digital spaces. As a teacher, medicine

man, and mentor, you nurture identity and pride. Your path strengthens the spirit of your people and beyond."

Bernard Pnnal Jerome did not accept the medal. The Lieutenant Governor's office nevertheless issued some documentation about him, stating that "with deep roots in your Mi'gmaq heritage, you have become a vital voice for cultural preservation and knowledge sharing. Through your leadership in cross-border collaborations and educational initiatives, you inspire understanding and pride in identity. Your dedication lights the path for future generations. May

your wisdom continue to guide us all."

Lieutenant Governor Jeannotte explained to the audience that "By honouring you today, we also pay tribute to our future—the Quebec of tomorrow that each of you is helping to build with commitment, kindness, and solidarity."

The Lieutenant Governor's Medals recognize the commitment, determination, and self-improvement of citizens from all regions of Quebec who exert or have exerted a positive influence within their community or the province. The five categories are the

Youth medal, the Seniors medal, the Medal for Exceptional Merit, the First Nations Medal and the Inuit Medal.

Lieutenant governor Jeannotte also awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal to Victoria Labillois, of Listuguj, who is now a board member of Hydro Québec. "Driven by your passion for economic development, you are deeply committed to advancing entrepreneurship within the Mi'gmaq community. Through your innovative initiatives and role as a mentor, you create lasting opportunities," said Ms. Jeannotte. Victoria Labillois was unable to attend the Gesgapegiag ceremony.



The same medal was also awarded to Tracey Metallic, also from Listuguj. She couldn't attend the event as well.

"Your artistic talent not only tells the story of your journey but also enriches Mi'gmaq culture. As a founding member of Pugwalesg and a dedicated entrepreneur, you embody authenticity and integrity in both your creations and business practices, inspiring others and contributing meaningfully to your community's cultural growth", mentioned Ms. Jeannotte.

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Manon Jeannotte presented William Jerome with a medal, that of the King Charles III coronation. Wanda Lee Jerome accompanied William for the occasion.



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AWARDS

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Lieutenant Governor Jeannotte awarded a medal to a colleague member of Gespeg, Yan Tapp, a former band councillor. She described him as "a proud Mi'gmaq of the Gespeg Nation, you have dedicated 30 years to building bridges between peoples. Through your leadership in fishing and your commitment to maritime training, you share knowledge and cultural pride. You are paving the way for a future based on dialogue and mutual respect".

Other well-known citizens of the Gaspé also received the King Charles III Coronation Medal, namely Gaspé

mayor Daniel Côté, Frédéric Côté, director general of Nergica, Alexandre Boulay, the former director general of LM Wind Power, the late Michel Pouliot, a pilot and businessman, doctor Thierry Pétry and Blandine Poirier.

She was a driving force behind the repatriation of the Fame Point lighthouse in 1997-1998, 20 years after the Canadian Coast Guard had decided to move it to Quebec City.

The King Charles III Coronation Medal is a commemorative award presented to Canadians who have distinguished themselves through their dedication and commitment to the well-being of their society.



Manon Jeannotte awarded a medal to Jeannette Malton Martin, director of the Apo'qon'ma'tultinej multicultural centre in Gesgapegiag.



While giving a medal to Frédéric Côté, director general of Nergica, a renewable energy research and promotion centre, Manon Jeannotte pointed out that "for over 15 years, you've put your passion and expertise to work in the field of renewable energy. By leading Nergica with vision, you're mobilizing decision-makers, researchers, and businesses toward a sustainable future. Your inspiring leadership is helping to build a greener world, reflecting your beliefs. Thank you for illuminating the future."



Lieutenant Governor Jeannotte awarded a medal to a colleague member of Gespeg, Yan Tapp, a former band councillor.



To Alexandre Boulay, the former director general of LM Wind Power in Gaspé, Manon Jeannotte point out that "right after completing your studies, you chose to build a vision for the future here in Gaspé. Through your commitment to developing the wind energy sector and your desire to invest locally, you inspire your community."

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Gilles Gagné

Commentary

A load of work awaits Pablo Rodriguez

On June 14, Pablo Rodriguez, the former Liberal Party of Canada minister, became the new leader of Quebec's Liberal Party, through a narrow second-round victory over Charles Milliard, who used to manage the Federation of Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Rodriguez received 52% of the votes to Mr. Milliard's 48%. Since the latter intends to stay in politics and run for the Liberal Party in the fall of 2026, Pablo Rodriguez will need him between now and the next poll.

Charles Milliard will undoubtedly inherit important responsibilities if Pablo Rodriguez wants to keep the party supporters mobilized, because the liberals will need all the help they can get.

On the one hand, the context is favourable to the Liberal Party, not that the last months have been extraordinarily fruitful, but because of the downfall of the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ), whose slide seems unstoppable.

On the other hand, the party's rate of support outside Montreal is negligible. It is as if we are talking about a marginal party. It is hard to imagine that just seven years ago, the Liberal Party was forming a majority government.

A way-too-long campaign

The leadership race of the Liberal Party seemed endless. Imagine that on April 19, 2024, the party unveiled the terms of the race, which was to take place from January 13 to June 14, 2025. Denis Coderre became the first to officially announce his candidacy on June 21, 2024, before being disqualified due to technical problems. Charles Milliard also announced his candidacy on August 9, 2024.

Following the January 13, 2025, official start of the campaign, it was determined that April 11, 2025 would be the deadline for submitting applications. Four debates were organized by the party between April 12 and June 8, 2025. The voting period was held between June 9 and 14.

Such a long campaign failed to create a strong wave of support, some kind of momentum that could have drawn a lot of attention. Moreover, mid-June is far from optimal for the conclusion of a leadership race. The public is already in summer mode.

The Liberal Party was down to only 10,000 members just before the leadership race started at the end of 2024, probably an all-time low. The five candidates sold some membership cards and brought that number up to 20,500, still a far cry from previous summits and from the Parti Québécois' 37,600 current members.

Just over 14,000 members voted between June 9 and 14, for a participation rate of 70%. It is not stellar, but it compares to the last leadership race of the Parti Québécois, which Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon won in a decline context that reminds that of the Liberal Party since 2018.

Observers of the Liberal Party's last campaign stretch noted that a lot of people from the Jean Charest era were present. It might not be a good renewal sign because Mr. Charest lost the general 2012 election, which was 13 years ago, and it could be based on nostalgia, because he won three general elections in a row,

in 2003, 2007 and 2008. He also failed by only four seats in 2012, despite the negative effects of the Charbonneau Commission, which detected clear signs of corruption during the 2000's.

The necessity to stay far from the Couillard era

If Jean Charest is still well perceived by some Liberal Party partisans, not many supporters referred positively, or at all, to the Philippe Couillard era during the last leadership campaign.

Mr. Couillard is largely responsible for the party's demise. His decisions between 2014 and 2018 were highly detrimental to the rural regions. He cut hundreds of millions of dollars in regional development envelopes and channeled them to Montreal and Quebec City.

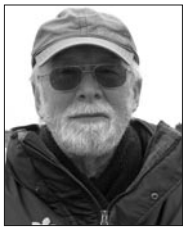
In the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, one of the worst decisions of the Couillard regime was to cut 95% of Vivre en Gaspésie's budget when, in 2015, that organization, also called Living in Gaspésie, was regarded province-wide as an example to follow in population recruiting.

When the Bonaventure riding Liberal Party candidate François Whittom announced, at the beginning of the 2018 electoral campaign, that demographics and labour recruiting were his priorities, he had to face the reality and the effects of the 2015 austerity cuts, and his chances to win became slim immediately and remained so until his loss on October 1.

By putting most of the eggs in the Montreal basket, Philippe Couillard killed the party's chances elsewhere. He was the only Liberal Party candidate to win a true rural riding in 2018, Roberval, and he resigned right after the election results.

The Liberal Party is still paying a heavy toll from the Couillard years. The rural regions never forgot the

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Fred Kirch

Guest Commentary

The Emperor's new clothes

In 1837, Danish author Hans Christian Anderson, famous for his stories for children, published a simple tale called "The Emperor's New Clothes," a biting satire of vanity, cowardice, and self-deception.

The plot centres on a vain emperor who allows himself to be tricked by swindlers into believing they've made him magical clothes that are only visible to a privileged few. Not wanting to appear incompetent, the emperor's ministers and supporters pretend to admire the nonexistent garments. The deception continues until it is undone by a child viewing the emperor as he passes in the street. Free from fear or calculation, the child blurts out the truth: "He isn't wearing anything at all!"

Nearly two centuries later, Anderson's fable resonates with disturbing clarity in the political story of Donald Trump. The parallels are hard to ignore: a leader behaving recklessly and irresponsibly, surrounded by enablers who fear the political cost of telling the truth. The tale becomes not just a commentary on Trump's ego but on a system that punishes dissent and allows lies to masquerade as strength.

Donald Trump's record of misconduct, spanning everything from his efforts to overturn an election result, to criminal indictments, to a persistent pattern of inflammatory rhetoric is widely known. Yet, in much of the political world, there is a studied reluctance to call out this behavior clearly and forcefully. Instead, allies and opportunists play along, echoing or excusing his claims, just as the emperor's supporters praised his imaginary clothes. Like Anderson's characters, they

fear what it would say about them if they admit the obvious.

Early in Trump's presidency, Trump convened his Cabinet in the White House for what was supposed to be a meeting to discuss public business. Instead, he opened the floor to each official present, who in turn offered gushing praise: "the greatest privilege of my life," "blessed to serve you," "an historical leader." The meeting was a loyalty ritual, straight out of Anderson's story, with the emperor basking in the glory of his invisible and non-existent achievements. Ironically, many of the people at the meeting had attacked Trump in the strongest terms during the presidential campaign weeks before. After the election, they completely changed their positions, almost overnight, obviously in order to remove a barrier to their becoming a part of Trump's orbit.

Like the magical clothes in Anderson's tale, Trump's image is maintained not by reality but by collective pretense. His supposed accomplishments, like a nonexistent health care plan or his self-assessment as being "more presidential than anyone except Abraham Lincoln," are accepted and repeated not because they were evident or true but because it is politically dangerous to suggest otherwise. In Trump's world, flattery is a survival skill and silence is safety.

Anderson's real target in his tale wasn't just the emperor, however, it was the system around the emperor, the ministers, elites, and public who clearly knew better but chose to remain silent. Trump's orbit works in much the same way. Many Republican officials see the flaws, the lies, the damage, but few challenge them, fearing being labeled as disloyal and ostracized by a fiercely loyal, but uninformed, political base. The Cabinet Room scene, which was repeated later, is emblematic of this dynamic: a room full of adults choosing to flatter the self-styled emperor rather than confront him, feeding a delusion rather than risking the consequences of telling the truth.

The child in Anderson's story represents unfiltered honesty. Someone untouched by ambition, social fear,

or partisan calculation. And while America has its truth-tellers, whistleblowers, journalists, former insiders, they are too often drowned out by the noise of political survival. In this real-world version of the fable, the child shouts the truth, but the crowd continues cheering anyway, often insisting the emperor's clothes never looked better.

The danger is not just Trump's egregious conduct, but the culture of complicity that elevates self-serving loyalty over integrity and image over substance. Anderson reminds us that deception is rarely imposed, it is often invited, perpetuated by the very people who fear being seen as weak or disloyal. The spectacle of the emperor parading around naked was only possible because the people around him pretended not to see.

In the end, "The Emperor's New Clothes" is not just about vanity. It is about the collective cost of silence. Until more voices break through the cheers and say, clearly, "He isn't wearing anything at all," the decline will continue.

(Taxes included)
1-year paper \$50
6-months paper: \$29
1-year digital \$40
Outside Canada:
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Published every second **Wednesday** by: Les Publications de la Côte Inc. (Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)

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

The Gaspé Spec
ESTABLISHED IN 1971

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Isaac Moffat Swasson still looking for a lawyer

The sentencing of Isaac Moffat Swasson, 34, from Listuguj found guilty in November on most of the charges pending against him following two April 2024 trials, will likely be further delayed as he continues to search for a lawyer. This was the case during his most recent court appearances on April 4 and June 2. Quebec Court Judge Annie Trudel, who rendered her guilty decision on November 4, had asked him prior to those court appearances to find a lawyer, but he failed to do so.

Isaac Moffat Swasson was initially charged in February 2019 with assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm and uttering threats following an incident that took place in Listuguj. While incarcerated at the New Carlisle detention centre on April 30, 2019, he caused major damage at the prison, through breaking furniture and electronics, as well as plumbing items. Sixteen cells were damaged and closed that day. All the inmates had to be temporarily transferred to other prisons because he was arrested with mace that spread to the rest of the prison through the ventilation system.

All the charges laid following that incident, including mischief of over \$5,000, assault on peace officers and obstruction in the work of peace officers, were retained by judge Trudel.

Back in April 2025, one of the three reports required by judge Trudel in November 2024 remained to be completed.

Judge Trudel ordered the preparation of three reports following her November 4 decision, he says. In April, the pre-sentence report remained to be completed.

The two others, a Gladu report, in conformity with a Supreme Court decision that requires a report pertaining to Native citizens, given that they are over-represented in court cases and a report about the accused's dangerousness level, were ready. Although the content of the Gladu and dangerousness reports cannot be released, criminal prosecutor Fabien Villemaire states that Isaac Moffat Swasson was recognized as dangerous in the report prepared by the Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute in Montreal.

"All the reports are tabled now but because Mr. Moffat-Swasson doesn't have a lawyer to represent him, the case was postponed until June 25 in order to provide him with time to find a lawyer," notes prosecutor Fabien Villemaire.

During the trial, the accused's lawyer was Peter George-Louis. He was following Allan Guttman as the lawyer representing him.

The February 2019 assault incident and the April 2019 mischief file were separated in two trials. However, both were heard consecutively in April 2024. The first prosecutor in those cases, New Carlisle courthouse's Maxime Rocheville-Paradis was able to secure a change of venue in the two cases because the New Carlisle prison and courthouse are not fit for a heavy case like Isaac Moffat Swasson's.

The accused is also charged in Montreal following a 2023 prison hostage taking.

ATV driver dead following accident, speeding suspected

A fifty-year-old man died on June 12 after losing control of his all-terrain vehicle (ATV) in Cap-Chat. "Emergency services were called to the scene shortly after 3 p.m. on a road in a wooded area of the municipality. The driver apparently lost control of his vehicle and was thrown to the ground," explains Sûreté

du Québec (SQ) sergeant Frédéric Deshaies. A passerby discovered the man and alerted the authorities.

The victim, originally from the area, was riding his ATV alone. He was taken to the (Sainte-Anne-des-Monts) hospital, where he was pronounced dead, adds officer Deshaies. A police officer trained in collision investigations was dispatched to the scene the same day to assess the circumstances of the accident. A day later, in the afternoon, the SQ stated that speed may have been the cause of the fatal accident.

The accident occurred five days after the Quebec police services conducted a June 7 and 8 national concerted recreational and tourism operation QUAD. This operation aimed to target ATV riders engaging in behaviour that could compromise their safety and that of other road users. The interventions targeted risky behaviours, such as failure to comply with signage or regulations, failure to wear a helmet and driving while impaired by alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both. In the Gaspé Peninsula, the Lower Saint-Lawrence and the Magdalen Islands, 57 quads were intercepted, two trail expulsions and 12 tickets were issued under the Off-road vehicle act or the Highway safety code.

Two men arrested for being in possession of counterfeit money

Following a public notice issued on June 12 regarding the circulation of counterfeit money in Eastern Quebec, the Sûreté du Québec officers conducted two searches and made two arrests on June 18 in residences located on Saint-François-Xavier Street West in Grande-Vallée.

This operation resulted in the seizure of \$1,550 in counterfeit \$50 bills, \$2,815 in genuine Canadian currency. items acquired with counterfeit money and one rifle stored illegally. Two men, aged 20 and 33, were arrested and questioned by investigators. They were released pending further legal proceedings. They could face criminal charges, including possession of counterfeit money, use of counterfeit money and careless storage of a firearm.

Although the initial reports of counterfeit money were primarily concentrated in the greater Gaspé area, the bills seized during this operation exhibit the same counterfeit characteristics as those previously found in circulation. Police officers urge the public to remain vigilant during cash transactions. Some simple steps to recognize a potentially counterfeit bill are checking the security features, like holographic stripe, watermark, transparent areas, polymer texture, as well as always comparing a suspicious bill to a genuine bill of the same value. When in doubt, politely refuse the bill and contact the authorities promptly.

The SQ officers ask people who believe they are in possession of a counterfeit bill to contact the local police station.

Sainte-Anne-des-Monts man fined \$126,390 in contraband tobacco affair

Bernard Dumont, 61, from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, was fined a total of \$126,390 on May 6 following an investigation by the Sûreté du Québec of the Haute-Gaspésie MRC. Police seized up to 28,200 contraband cigarettes belonging to Mr. Dumont on December 17, 2024. He plead guilty to all four charges against him, including selling contraband cigarettes between July 25, 2023, and November 25, 2024. This is Mr. Dumont's second conviction related to contraband tobacco.

Chandler-Louissette Langlois Dispute: Hearing not set until spring of 2026

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER - The Town of Chandler's motion seeking more than \$300,000 from former Mayor Louissette Langlois, who challenged the sanction imposed against her by the Municipal Commission in 2020, will not be heard in court until the spring 2026. The delay is due to difficulties in finding a judge ready to hear the case

Beforehand, a pre-trial conference will have to be held to determine how many days need to be scheduled for the hearing. The application filed in 2022 was amended from its original amount of \$230,411.

Since January, \$5,248 in legal fees have been added,



Photo: N. Sergerie

Former Mayor Louissette Langlois.

for a total of \$410,034 to date.

The Percé Courthouse clerk issued the certificate of

completeness on January 7.

In January 2021, the municipal council adopted a resolution leading to the filing of the claim by the town, emphasizing in particular that the allegations against Louissette Langlois resulted from gross or intentional misconduct, by giving precedence to her personal interest, by having committed actions intentionally and premeditatedly, all to achieve her ends.

This argument was repeated in the motion for an originating application for reimbursement of defence costs filed in January 2022.

The invoice claimed at that time was \$230,411. Chandler's attorneys noted in particular that "The decision rendered (...) on December

21, 2020 is damning of the defendant and establishes that the defendant's acts or omissions constitute serious misconduct and/or intentional misconduct and/or separable from the performance of her duties."

They added that the former elected official "has multiplied proceedings, some of which are unnecessary, unfounded, and truncated in light of the evidence presented before the CMQ (Commission municipale du Québec)."

In December 2019, Louissette Langlois was cited for 21 violations of the Chandler Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Elected Officials. Following hearings in July 2020, the commission concluded in

December 2020 that the former elected official was guilty of 20 violations, including conflicts of interest. Before the sanction hearing, Ms. Langlois had attempted to obtain a stay of proceedings, contested the notice of sanction issued against her, and even requested that the investigation be reopened. These requests were rejected by administrative judge Sandra Bilodeau.

The former mayor made an appeal to the Superior Court, but it was dismissed in July 2021, and she suffered the same fate in October 2021 before the Court of Appeal.

Furthermore, the motion accused her of subsequently escalating the number of proceedings

Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté to seek fourth term

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The outgoing mayor of Gaspé will seek a fourth term in the November 2 election.

Daniel Côté believes he has too much to accomplish, after summarizing the last 12 years at the helm of the largest town in the Gaspé Peninsula.

In a press briefing held with his wife and infant, and in the presence of four councillors on June 3, Mr. Côté indicated that he consulted his family over the previous weekend, and made the decision not long after, even though he had promised to announce his intentions in May.

"For me, it is absolutely necessary that the arena be resolved. I'm tired of pushing it forward. I would like our position in the naval sector to have borne additional fruit. I expect the wind industry to have positioned itself in the Quebec market," he listed as priorities that could be satisfactory following a possible fourth term. Housing also remains a priority, especially following the announcement of a major housing project by Gestion Bourgade on May 27.

"It makes me think that if we want to continue growing, we have to continue investing. This is the kind of business that motivates me," noted the elected official.

Before embarking on what could be his next term, the outgoing mayor took stock of several achievements made over the past 12 years: the redesign of the heart of Rivière-au-Renard, or the Canada's Birthplace; the chairlift at the Mont Béchervaise ski resort; the upgrading of the downtown drinking water system; the new industrial road alongside the conversion of the LM Wind Power plant into a large industrial complex; and the approximately 500 housing units built over the past five years. The mayor isn't afraid of op-



Daniel Côté to seek fourth term on November 2.

Photo: N. Sergerie

position, having been elected by acclamation last time.

"I want democracy to be expressed. If one person comes, we'll run a campaign worthy of the name. If no one comes, it will be shorter, simpler. I'm not ashamed of my record," Mr. Côté asserts.

He does, however, offer one element that should generate consensus. "If someone else comes, I dare hope they'll draw inspiration from the collaborative work we've done and we'll campaign with similar content. I hope so. If someone comes along and says they're going to reinvent what 1,500 people built together, they'll have a hard time convincing people. I have the game plan in my pocket. It's strategic planning. If I have an opponent, I hope they'll base their arguments on that. People will judge the person best suited to deliver the action plan, but I'm not worried about turning the page," says the mayor.

With the arrival of a baby, the elected official has slowed down his activities within the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ). His terms as ex-officio president, on the executive council, and on the leadership council have come to an end.

He will, however, serve as president of the Conseil des MRC, a new body within the union, while remaining president of the Air Transportation Committee and a member of the board of directors.

"We've made the necessary contacts in recent years. Joining the UMQ gave Gaspé a platform and allowed us to develop a network of contacts," he notes. However, he will maintain his roles within the

region, as he is president of the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Intermunicipal Transport Board and also sits on the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie and the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Intermunicipal Energy Board.

"I'm not planning on that (to step away from some positions). I want to maintain a certain position at the national level. Regionally, I don't think I'm too ambitious. I'm thinking of taking the place that Gaspé should have as the largest town in the Gaspé," he says.

He also wants to keep his position as prefect of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC. "Within the MRC, I'm the only full-time politician. I can assume a so-called full-time role at the MRC. Why? The MRC and the town are more or less the same territory. Gaspé has 86% of the population and 93% of the MRC's real estate wealth. I want to continue, that's for sure. I want to keep positions at the regional level. The Board of Directors will decide," Mr. Côté says.


This position also allows him to sit on the Gaspésie prefects' table and the Regroupe-

ment of Gaspésie MRCs.

Mr. Côté also points out that the Gaspé Peninsula has several full-time mayors, an advantage in his view. "It's a damn good deal. This isn't the case in all regions of Quebec, which means that some files are managed part-time. When you're on it full-time, you can manage everything full-time," the outgoing mayor states bluntly.

Mr. Côté can count on four outgoing councillors who attended his press briefing announcing his candidacy. Among them was downtown councillor James Keays, whose name has been circulating as a possible mayoral candidate, but who is rallying behind Daniel Côté.

"What we've accomplished in recent years is enormous for Gaspé. The council held its own. We could have fought hundreds of times in the public square. We've always managed to find ways to resolve the issue, and that was achieved, among other things, thanks to Daniel's leadership," says Mr. Keays, who is pleased to see the outgoing mayor recommitting.



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE
Eastern Shores
SCHOOL BOARD

ADOPTION OF BY-LAWS
PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Eastern Shores School Board adopted the following amendments to By-Law 8: to set the time, date and location of the Council of Commissioners and Executive Committee meetings for the 2025-2026 school year.

Dates	Executive	Council	Location
September 9, 2025	8:00 a.m.		Hybrid
September 16, 2025		6:30 p.m.	Hybrid
October 28, 2025	8:00 a.m.		Hybrid
November 4, 2025		6:30 p.m.	Hybrid
December 2, 2025	8:00 a.m.		Hybrid
December 9, 2025		9:00 a.m.	New Carlisle
January 27, 2026	8:00 a.m.		Hybrid
February 3, 2026		6:30 p.m.	Hybrid
March 17, 2026	8:00 a.m.		Hybrid
March 24, 2026		6:30 p.m.	Hybrid
April 21, 2026	8:00 a.m.		Hybrid
April 28, 2026		6:30 p.m.	Hybrid
June 2, 2026	8:00 a.m.		Hybrid
June 9, 2026		9:00 a.m.	New Carlisle

Given at New Carlisle, Quebec on this 17th day of June 2025

Denis Gauthier
Secretary General





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A second candidate, Dominique Giroux, enters the race for Chandler mayor

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER - Dominique Giroux launched her pre-election campaign on June 11 for the upcoming November 2 election for mayor of Chandler.

In front of about 25 people who attended her first official public appearance, the candidate, who had made her intentions known last winter, placed recruitment as a priority.

"Attracting our professionals: we'll soon be short of teachers and dentists. We're already short of veterinarians. We have 1,000 people who don't have family doctors. We have to attract these people. We'll have to invest and develop a strategic plan to attract them," explained Ms. Giroux, who intends to listen to her citizens.

"The railway is strategic. With my team, I'll do my best to ensure it reaches at least Chandler. We'll see later about the distance rules required for building buildings. The main goal of the campaign will be on focusing on the population and the town,"

she said, promising a clean campaign against her announced opponent, Gilles Daraïche.

The town is also working to revitalize the wharf that Transport Canada wants to sell. "It's super important. Now, there are a lot of costs involved. When I'm elected, I'm going to work on that," the candidate said.

Former mayor Louise Langlois attended the pre-campaign launch. She indicated that her presence was not an endorsement, but rather an opportunity to hear democracy in action. She declined to comment further.

"I didn't invite anyone. Ms. Langlois is here." I can't tell you if she'll vote for me, but I feel a great deal of solidarity with me. But between what people feel and how they vote, that can change," comments Ms. Giroux.

In the ongoing dispute between Langlois and the town, where the town is claiming more than \$300,000 related to the former mayor's 180-day suspension in 2021, with legal costs exceeding \$400,000, Ms. Giroux prefers not to comment.



Photo: N. Sergerie
Dominique Giroux launched her pre-campaign on June 11 in Chandler.

"We have to sit back and watch. I am new to this. Ms. Langlois's case is very hot. We'll see where it gets to and we'll see, within reason, what we can do. But at this point, I can't answer you because I'm not in office," says the candidate cautiously.

However, the saga surrounding Sauvetage adré-naline, which led to her dismissal, could resurface during the campaign.

Ms. Giroux once again as-

sure that she has turned the page. "I have a 50-page judgment that has been issued. If people want it, I can forward it. They will read it and make their own analysis. No one said I stole. I don't think it can harm me," believes the woman, who is currently the operations coordinator at Camp Bellefeuille.

As soon as she announced her intentions on social media that she was launching her campaign on June 11, Do-

minique Giroux said she was the victim of intimidation by elected officials who sit on the council table.

"I won't name them out of respect because I have strong values. I find it sad because municipal employees receive letters asking them not to take sides during the campaign. That councillors can say things... It didn't affect me. I just find it boring," the candidate says.

The mayor, Gilles Daraïche, believes that his opponent is casting aspersions. "I spoke with the five elected representatives present and no one intimidated Ms. Giroux. It would be important to name names when making such denunciations, so that we can check. Moreover, the five elected representatives are not talking to Ms. Giroux. It's all made up in a spirit of revenge. I hope the public will disregard these falsehoods," says the mayor.

The tone of the campaign appears to be set. "It's a campaign that will be long and has already begun. It will be a campaign filled with falsehoods right to the end," believes the outgoing mayor.

16 oil wells targeted for permanent closure in the Gaspé Peninsula

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Sixteen "active" oil wells in the Gaspé Peninsula are targeted for permanent closure according to Quebec's Ministry of Energy.

In the wake of the Court of Appeal's decision forcing companies to close their wells pending a substantive decision on the constitutionality of the law that ended hydrocarbon exploitation and exploration in 2022. The Ministry clarified that none of the 16 wells are currently in production.

According to the map provided by the ministry in response to a request from SPEC, the majority of these wells are located in the immediate vicinity of Gaspé, namely the former Galt site on the western edge of the town, with a total of seven.

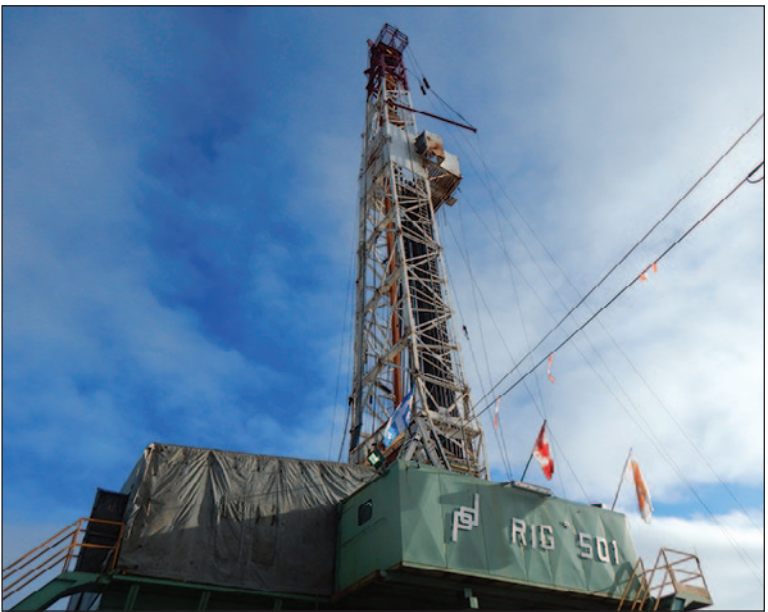


Photo: N. Sergerie
A drill on the former Haldimand 4 site in Gaspé.

Three are located in Haldimand, one in Anse-à-Brillant, four in the Collines-des-Basques sector in the unorganized territory of Côte-de-Gaspé, and one near Saint-

Elzéar.

All 16 wells fall under the Act to end hydrocarbon or underground reservoir exploration, hydrocarbon production, and brine explo-

ration, and are slated for permanent closure.

Following the Court of Appeal's May 22 decision, the ministry has stated that it will resume its monitoring and require those responsible for the wells to proceed with their permanent closure.

According to the ministry, these 16 wells do not pose a risk.

However, contaminants have been detected at three well sites based on the results of hydrogeological studies commissioned by the department.

Since the companies have not yet been notified, the ministry has not specified their exact geographical position.

However, according to the ministry, no surface waterways are connected to the water table and no drinking water extraction sites for human con-

sumption or food processing are located within a radius of at least one kilometre.

The 16 wells have been subject to a closure plan, and those with detected contaminants will have to take these results into account and revise their closure plans, if necessary, to ensure long-term environmental protection and well integrity.

The law that ended hydrocarbon operations provides for a compensation program for revoked license holders, under which the government can reimburse up to 75% of the costs associated with approved closure work.

To date, no compensation claims have been filed by those responsible for these wells.

After the wells are permanently closed, the sites will be monitored by the Department.

Pier-Luc Bujold remains president of the Nurses' Union

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - Delegates from the Eastern Quebec Nurses, Nursing Assistants, and Respiratory Therapists Union have re-elected Pier-Luc Bujold as union president for a third three-year term.

Mr. Bujold was first elected in 2017 following the departure of Micheline Barriault, who led the union for nearly 30 years.

"We are committed to continuity and to improving the services we provide. We

know we are doing a good job, but we want to continue over the next three years," says Mr. Bujold.

Delegates concluded a three-day convention in Carleton-sur-Mer on June 12.

"We are taking stock of the situation and need to be united, as the CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec) government is governing with Bill 89, Bill 100, and Bill 101, which could have a major impact on the members we represent in the coming years," concluded the president following discussions with the union delegates.

The union criticizes the government for not consulting the public before putting its bills on the table. "There are specific characteristics in the Gaspé Peninsula that must always be taken into account. There are important issues for workers under Bill 101. There are many injuries and absences from work. There is a direct impact on the quality and quantity of care provided to the public. The impact of these bills on workers should not be minimized," notes Mr. Bujold.

Following discussions with delegates, action plans

will be developed for future action in the field.

With the CISSS needing to find \$20 million to meet the budgetary framework provided by Santé Québec, the union foresees difficult times ahead.

"The announced initial cut of \$40 million has had an impact. There have been job cuts and service reductions, even though services are already minimal," notes the president, who makes a proposal. "In our action plan, we have added campaigning to restore local services in CLSCs. We have a dispersed population.

There are too many horror stories of people not receiving care, especially home care," says Mr. Bujold.

According to him, the next few years will remain difficult, but he sees a light at the end of the tunnel.

"The population, as we can see in surveys, is becoming increasingly critical of everything the government is doing with regard to public services. I see Gaspésians who care about their local services. If we are united, we could see the light at the end of the tunnel," believes the union leader.

Three of the four hospital laboratories in the Gaspé Peninsula are closed at night

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The situation is extreme in three of the four hospital medical laboratories operated by the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS), which are now closed at night due to a lack of personnel.

In May, the Maria hospital had to reduce service hours, prompting the implementation of an on-call service to respond to emergencies.

A similar situation occurred in June at the Gaspé hospital, while the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital has been operating this way for a decade.

The lack of appeal of the profession since the implementation of the reform by former Liberal Health Minister Gaétan Barrette in 2016 and the creation of Optilab, which established a server laboratory in Rimouski, is the source of the problem, according to the Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (Alliance of Professional and Technical Health and Social Services Personnel).

Data shared by the union shows there are approximately 35 medical technologists in the Gaspé Peninsula, whereas 75 would be needed to provide full laboratory



The situation is critical in hospital laboratories in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Photo: Archives

services across the region's four hospitals.

In Gaspé, the situation was criticized four years ago when only six of the 14 technologists remained in place.

"Four years later, we're back to square one. We're left with a minimum number of people at work due to numerous sick leaves, which is forcing the employer to transform the service with on-call duty," said Alliance of Professional and Technical Health and Social Services Personnel (APTS) regional spokesperson Jenny Tardif.

"People are at home and already working during the day. We have to continue to provide service in the evening and at night. They are at home at night with a cell phone and are called when the doctor re-

quires them for an emergency," says Ms. Tardif.

The service is running at a slower pace because non-urgent cases are only being handled during the day.

The union representative recalls the protests that took place in 2016, particularly in front of the Gaspé hospital, to denounce the Barrette reform, and the region's elected officials followed suit.

"When they announced that we were going to lose 70% of the positions in the Gaspé Peninsula, it hurt the profession extremely badly. When you make health care reforms, you feel the consequences several years later. Today, in 2025, we are in the midst of the aftermath of this reform," comments the union spokesperson.

Ms. Tardif points out that the current situation is not a question of budget.

For example, the medical technologist training program at Cégep de Rimouski has produced only five to ten graduates.

"We destroyed the profession with the 2016 reform. The solutions are not simple," she says. Even if recruits were found, the issue of housing would still need to be addressed. "We're practically asking for a miracle. We absolutely must generate interest in the profession. But that's a very long-term project. We have lost 40 to 50% of our workforce in recent years in the Gaspé Peninsula. It's difficult to recover," says Ms. Tardif.

The situation described by the APTS also concerns the Union of Nurses, Nursing Assistants and Respiratory Therapists of Eastern Quebec, which also denounces this situation.

The Lower Saint Lawrence CISSS has provided mobile testing equipment in emergency rooms so that nurses can run tests when laboratories are closed.

"It makes no sense for the members we represent because they don't have the training. It's not part of their delegated duties. These machines take time to analyze and often produce error codes. All the time spent

doing these tests is time that isn't being spent triaging patients in the emergency room or caring for critical patients," says president Pier-Luc Bujold.

He is calling for the funds allocated to laboratories to be transferred to hire additional staff, such as laboratory technicians.

"There will be less impact on the population and the nurses and nursing assistants we represent. If it's not a budget issue, transfer the money and add staff," demands the union leader, who points out that centralizing laboratories was nonsense.

He is taking advantage of the situation to once again denounce the \$20 million in cuts that the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS must make in order to stay within the budget allocated by Santé Québec.

"We are always asking staff to do more with less. The case of laboratory technologists is just one among many. Every time we cut a profession, it's always the nurses who bear the brunt. Are we cutting back on housekeeping services? We'll ask a nurse to empty the trash. Cut an administrative assistant? We'll ask the nurse to make calls and file papers. Close the pharmacy at 4 p.m.? We'll ask the nurse to fetch the medications. It seems like nurses are just fill-ins," explains Mr. Bujold.

Gaspé Peninsula CISSS needs \$20M to balance its budget

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) must find \$20 million to balance its \$560 million budget allocated by Santé Québec for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

"That's what we're currently finalizing," says President and CEO of the CISSS Martin Pelletier. "We need to present a balanced budget, and we're \$20 million short of last year's actual spending. That's going to involve some tough choices," admits Mr. Pelletier.

The CISSS is one of the institutions most affected by the budgetary constraints, with Santé Québec requesting the equivalent of a 4.6% cut of its overall budget, the largest share in the province.

"It's a lot for us. If we didn't have the independent workforce, which costs \$25

million, we wouldn't be talking about cost reduction. We have no choice but to use it, because otherwise, it would result in service disruptions," explains the CEO.

The CEO explains that the calculation method is based on clinical financial performance. Mr. Pelletier cites the example of the obstetrics department. "The number of births in the Gaspé versus the cost, makes a baby's (delivery and care) cost higher than elsewhere and is considered inefficient. It's a parametric calculation done at head office. We're at a disadvantage from the start because we have four hospitals in a large area for a population of 80,000." In the city, a single hospital can optimally serve 80,000 residents," he says.

Recognizing the unique nature of the Gaspé Peninsula healthcare network continues with Santé Québec. "This is a reality that we will debate and

that is well known to Santé Québec's senior management. But the order has been placed, and we must submit a balanced budget," explains Mr. Pelletier.

Testing Centre

After being criticized since its establishment at Place Jacques-Cartier last fall, the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS relocated the testing centre to the former emergency room at Gaspé hospital on June 2.

The idea of conducting blood tests in a shopping centre has generated criticism from users due to accessibility issues, particularly for people with reduced mobility.

Financial constraints led to the decision to move this centre to a site belonging to the CISSS. Similar changes will be implemented in other local networks, except in the Baie-des-Chaleurs, where lack of

space prevents the repatriation of collection centres.

Dentistry

Aware of the need for dentistry throughout the Gaspé Peninsula, the CISSS is focusing on properly operating the centre located in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

Regularly on social media, Gaspesians bring attention to the limited access to a dentist in the region. Residents must travel to Matane, Rimouski, or even Quebec City for treatment

The President and CEO of the CISSS must first self-finance the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts centre. "We had money to start the project. Now we're in the self-financing phase. The challenge is that we're using independent labour, which costs more than employees. Revenues must increase significantly to offset



CISSS de la Gaspésie CEO Martin Pelletier.

Photo: N. Sergerie

these costs," says Mr. Pelletier. Grande-Vallée and Port-Daniel-Gascons were the other targeted sectors.

"It's still in the planning phases, but we need to self-finance Sainte-Anne-des-Monts to be able to move on to the next stage," the director concluded.

Contract awarded for plans to extend bike path to Douglastown

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The Town of Gaspé has awarded a nearly \$35,000 contract to develop plans for the extension of the bike path between Haldimand Beach and Douglastown via the railway right-of-way.

The town is moving forward

even though no timeline has been announced for the repair of the rail line to Gaspé.

"Financial assistance has already been provided to the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC by the federal authorities. Since we have the financial assistance, we might as well do the preliminary studies. The good news is that it is subsidized at

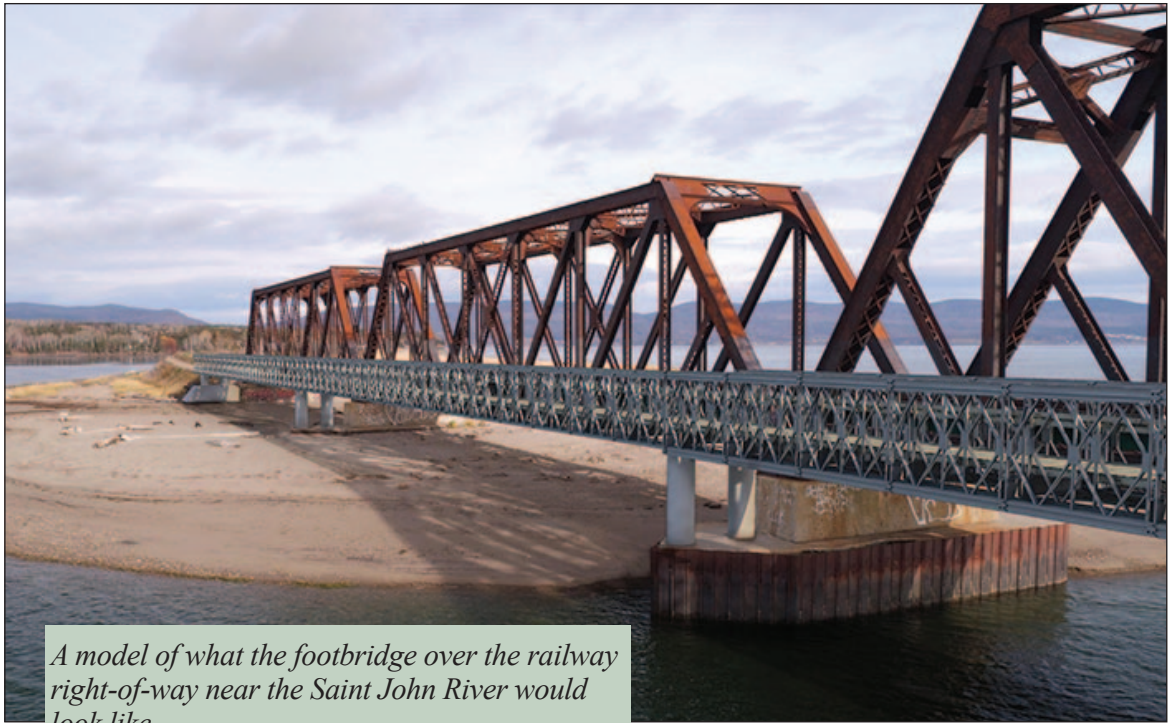
nearly 90%. Whether the railway is ready in two, three, or four years, the studies will be in hand and can be implemented anyway," says the Mayor of Gaspé Daniel Côté.

Last fall, a management agreement was signed between Quebec City and Gaspé, in which the town will maintain the footbridge.

The new trail would offer a safer alternative to walking on the railroad tracks and crossing the Saint-Jean River

on the railroad bridge.

When the project was first proposed in 2019, it was estimated at \$2.3 million.



A model of what the footbridge over the railway right-of-way near the Saint John River would look like.

Photo: Archives

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Still no commitment to Quebec content in wind farms

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Quebec still has not committed to including regional and Quebec content requirements in wind power projects, even though Hydro-Québec is set to develop 10,000 megawatts of wind energy.

Following the adoption of Bill 69, the Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Gaspé, Stéphane Sainte-Croix believes that Hydro now has the agility and flexibility to create winning conditions for Quebec content.

Mr. Sainte-Croix believes that the sector will be able to focus on its objectives and will be included in the development plan.

The elected official indicates that there will be room for Quebec companies such as LM Wind Power in Gaspé and Marmen in Matane.

However, conditions have not yet been set. "We are not yet in concrete discussions to see how this will play out. We have given Hydro-Québec the tools to consider these el-



Photo: N. Sergerie

Stéphane Sainte-Croix,
Member of National Assembly for Gaspé.

ements. But we are aware that the contribution of these companies is important for the future," says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

Meanwhile, the MNA believes that the abolition of the minimum price for gasoline, which came into effect on June 9, is a step toward stimulating competition. He notes that other measures are in the works, including mandatory

disclosure of price variations, which will make it easier to track market trends.

The MNA points out that Haute-Gaspésie, Côte-de-Gaspé, and part of Rocher-Percé still have some of the highest gasoline prices in the province.

"It will take some time for the market to regulate itself based on supply and demand.

The Clark report in recent

years indicated that Gaspésie more often than not had the highest prices in Quebec. The abolition of the price floor will stimulate this impact on prices," he believes.

In place for 28 years, Quebec felt that the previous price floor mechanism limited competition among retailers and, as a result, led to higher prices.

Meanwhile, when it was withdrawn on June 9, motorists in the Bay of Chaleur were paying the fair price for regular gasoline, according to data from the Régie de l'énergie. However those in Rocher-Percé and Côte-de-Gaspé were paying more.

In Avignon and Bonaventure, gasoline sold for an average of \$1.514 per litre, with a profit margin of 11.2 cents, slightly below the annual average of 11.7 cents.

In Chandler and Gaspé, a litre should sell for \$1.54, but it is priced at \$1.57.

The margin on the Gaspé Peninsula is 14.8 cents, compared to an average of 12.5 cents last year. In Rocher-Percé, it was 12.8 cents, com-

pared to an average of 11.6 cents last year.

Government actions in recent months have lowered the average profit margin by 3 to 4 cents, depending on the sector.

The report by economist Robert Clark, published in May 2024, who was tasked with investigating the practices of oil companies, concluded that the Gaspé region had the highest annual pre-tax gasoline price in the province over the past decade.

Furthermore, for the third time since 2019, a report showed that the annual profit margin for retailers in Gaspé was the highest in the last decade.

The expert noted in his report, for example, that the profit margin in Gaspé rose from 9 cents in 2021 to 15.2 cents in 2023.

According to him, lower sales volume did not explain the higher prices charged in the region.

The Quebec government has since forwarded the Clark report to the Competition Bureau.

Alliance de l'Est eyes mini hydroelectric power plants

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

SAINTE-ANNE-DESMONTS - The Alliance de l'énergie de l'Est is analyzing the possible acquisition of the Mitis-1 and Mitis-2 hydroelectric dams on the Mitis River near Mont-Joli. If successful, the move would expand its renewable energy portfolio, which already includes wind and solar power.

"We saw an opportunity

that seems to be an interesting avenue. We are seriously considering acquiring and operating them, which would add to our portfolio of new renewable energy sources," said Simon Deschênes, vice president of the alliance and president of the Régie intermunicipale de l'énergie Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

The infrastructure belongs to Hydro-Québec and has been out of service since 2018

due to its dilapidated condition.

The two dams could produce 10 megawatts and have been in place on the river for close to 100 years in one case.

"The prefect of Mitis was looking at this as an important issue, and now that all energy projects have to go through the alliance, the file was quickly forwarded to us. We have conducted studies on the state of the infrastructure and financial modeling. We are in preparation mode to see how far we could go in acquiring it," says Mr. Deschênes, who also serves as mayor of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

However, the elected official does not want to disclose any more information, for example, on the condition of the dams and the costs involved in purchasing and upgrading them.

In recent weeks, the MRCs that are members of the alliance have approved the borrowing bylaw of the Régie intermunicipale de l'énergie Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, authorizing an expenditure not exceeding \$5,084,400 and a loan of the same amount for the develop-

ment, construction, operation, and implementation of financial instruments for the power plant redevelopment project.

The vice-president warns that no conclusions should be drawn about future costs. "What was important was to have the financial resources available. It's difficult to estimate how much it might cost to bring the two dams back into service. We have to be careful before doing any cal-

culations," he says.

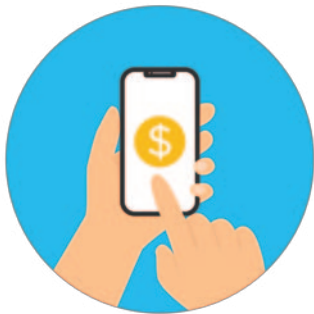
The Alliance, however, is not closing the door on further acquisitions of small dams. "We are always interested. We have to be careful because there are dams that are already in service and are not necessarily for sale. We are focusing on owning this new source of energy, gaining experience, and improving our knowledge. We are not closing the door," said Simon Deschênes.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Simon Deschênes, president of the Régie intermunicipale de l'énergie Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

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\$3.6M investment for Groupe Ohméga and Ganex

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Groupe Ohméga and its subsidiary Ganex, founded in 2021, are continuing their growth by investing \$3.6 million to support development, particularly in the United States.

The project includes the acquisition of equipment, constructing a building to house Groupe Ohméga, and the renovation of the existing building to accommodate the Ganex division.

These facilities will enable the company to enhance its automation and industrial IT services to better serve the wind, solar, and water treatment sectors, in addition to developing new markets.

Groupe Ohméga's automation service was created in December 2015.

"This is a project that was very important to us," says Martin Boulay, President and CEO of Groupe Ohmega and Ganex. "We try to look at all the indicators, but with the growth of renewable energy, the energy transition, the transition to digital, and cybersecurity, we are at a crossroads and we want to be forward-looking and grow at the speed of our market," adds Mr. Boulay.

While the company already has offices in Ontario, Alberta, and soon Texas, Mr. Boulay believes it is essential to remain true to its roots.

"We are very proud that Ganex was born in Quebec, where wind power was born. The regional content in 2005-2006 allowed us to establish ourselves here in the Gaspé Peninsula. We then turned our attention to Ontario and Alberta. We are very proud of these offices, but our headquarters are here in Gaspé. There is a great market in the wind energy sector," explains the president and CEO, referring to Hydro-Québec's upcoming 10,000 megawatts of wind power.

The Texas office will help support further expansion. "There are a lot of wind,



Photo: N. Sergerie

Martin Boulay, President and CEO of Groupe Ohmega and Ganex.

solar, and battery assets. Our niche is refurbishing equipment that is about ten years old to perform operations and maintenance to upgrade cyber security and remote control of assets in the southwestern United States," he says.

Since December 1, 2015, several North American wind farms have been managed remotely from Gaspé.

"We have surpassed the 75-project mark here in

Gaspé. They range from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. From Texas to Ohio to Wyoming, we have projects in France. This year, we expect to reach 80 projects. We are very proud of this subsidiary. We can solve problems in less than five minutes. We have a very strong position in the market and we are very proud of it," says Mr. Boulay.

In addition to wind power,

solar farms, hydroelectric plants, and battery farms are also managed from Gaspé.

Hydro-Québec's 10,000 megawatts of wind power are music to the manager's ears. "We want to position ourselves clearly. Hydro-Québec, with its subsidiary EVLO, which is one of our customers, controls their battery parks. We clearly want to position ourselves in the service chain for future projects," says the president and CEO.

For the Quebec government, this is an opportunity to support a company that has been in existence for over 40 years.

"The company has its eyes on the energy future here in Quebec, but also elsewhere in the world. I think it's an incredible vehicle for development. There is a desire to grow and contribute to Quebec's energy project," says Stéphane Sainte-Croix, Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Gaspé, who announced the financial assistance on behalf of the Quebec government.

In the current geopolitical

context, it is more necessary than ever to invest in the growth of Quebec companies to make them more productive, attractive, and competitive in future markets such as information technology designed to optimize renewable energy production, according to the government.

The company is expected to employ around 160 people in the coming weeks, with projections to exceed 200 employees by the end of the year.

The financial assistance includes a \$1,120,000 loan granted under the ESSOR program, administered by Investissement Québec on behalf of the government, and \$610,500 from Investissement Québec's own funds.

Founded by Groupe Ohméga in 2021, Ganex designs and develops information and communication technology solutions as well as operational technologies for the industrial and manufacturing sectors, as well as for solar wind, drinking water and wastewater treatment systems.

No big Canada Day celebrations in Gaspé this year

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - For the first time in 30 years, Gaspé will not be holding a Canada Day celebration on July 1.

The organizing committee cites volunteer burnout, cuts to federal subsidies and budget reductions, and delayed responses to funding requests as key reasons behind the decision.

July 1 has long marked the unofficial start of the summer season in Gaspé, with hundreds of people typically gathering at the downtown rest stop for the show.

Despite sending out invi-



Photo: N. Sergerie

tations last fall, no new volunteers showed up. As a result, the entire committee resigned,

except for one remaining member, who will attempt to relaunch the event for 2026.

The traditional fireworks display has also been cancelled.

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Another fruitful year for Family Ties

Sharon Smith named “volunteer of the year”

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – Family Ties, the multi-program organization supporting families living in and around New Carlisle, experienced another fruitful period in 2024-2025. It was the first full year back in its building after much-needed upgrades.

At Family Ties’ annual general meeting on June 12, executive director Heather MacWhirter remarked that the organization “has been a hive of activity, with a wide range of programs and projects, as well as all the work that goes on behind the scenes.”

She noted that the last year was still characterized by a few challenges “most notably, navigating the many steps required to obtain an M30 agreement in order to receive federal government funding. While this delayed the start of our new Canadian Heritage project, Do You See What We’re Saying?, we’re very happy now that the workshops are in full swing and gaining momentum.” The results of that will be showcased in a Family Ties 2026 calendar.

She also praised the MRC of Bonaventure funding that enabled to “enhance the outdoor spaces around Family Ties, including the playschool gallery to allow the children to play outside even when the playground is inaccessible. Work was also carried out on the community garden and surrounding grounds to improve accessibility and safety.”

In Family Ties’ annual report, president Christine Fraser described her feelings when she goes there.

“I feel the “good vibes.” This building is more than a workplace- it’s a happy place. A warm, welcoming space where individuals and families feel seen, heard, and



Photo: Gilles Gagné

Family Ties executive director Heather MacWhirter, left, was glad to announce that Sharon Smith deserves the title of “volunteer of the year.”

supported. Our staff members are the heart of that atmosphere. They work together with incredible cohesion, forming a strong and supportive unit that brings our mission to life every single day. Their teamwork and shared dedication are key to the meaningful impact Family Ties continues to make,” she said.

Volunteer of the year

As it is the case every year, the staff of Family Ties chose the “volunteer of the year”, and Sharon Smith, who has been helping out the organization for 30 years, received the 2024-2025 award.

Heather MacWhirter praised Ms. Smith’s “unwavering support over the years” and her great discretion. That discretion was notably used years ago when Family Ties decided to buy the building it occupies. She was helping out Heather MacWhirter with all the paperwork, including banking

documents.

“She hadn’t even told her husband that she was helping us in that task”, recalled Heather MacWhirter. The bank called Sharon Smith at

home at one point to talk about the \$25,000 transaction.

“Her husband asked: what did you buy? That’s how discreet Sharon can be”, underlined Heather MacWhirter.

Speaking of numbers, that building gradually increased in value, reaching \$280,000 before the pandemic. Johnny Legrand, who presented the financial statements of Family Ties at the June 12 meeting, pointed out that the building is now valued at \$2 million, thanks to the upgrading work that took place during the Covid-19 crisis and an overall appreciation of real estate.

“The value of the building has grown seven times in a few years. The bank loan is just \$265,424, thanks to Heather MacWhirter and her capacity to find funding,” mentioned Mr. Legrand.

Family Ties declared a slight surplus of \$2,895 in 2024-2025, out of a total budget of \$762,000. “This year’s provisional budget reaches \$769,275, plus

\$7,000 compared to last year. Next year, we should have a budget of about \$800,000,” specified Johnny Legrand.

Other impressive numbers were revealed at the annual meeting. Maria Chatterton pointed out that the Afterschool program held 193 sessions.

Melissa Mercier noted that 197 people participated in the Collective cooking program, during which 13,207 portions were prepared. That is 2,626 more than last year’s total, and those portions reached 425 people, including 212 children.

Ms. Mercier also reported the gardening program attracted 28 participants, and 226 people took part in the 16 U-pick outings.

Madelyn Hayes, in charge of the New Horizons program for seniors, which includes storytelling sessions, noted that 18 sessions were held, with a total of 140 participants, “who were amazing.”



Gaspeian artists draw mural on New Carlisle arena

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – Two Gaspeian artists, Percé’s Annie Deslongschamps and Paspébiac’s Michelle Larouche, began painting a mural on the north side of the New Carlisle arena on June 9.

They first submitted the project to the Town of New Carlisle, which then approved it. The MRC of Bonaventure is also providing funding through its Cultural development agreement envelope, which receives funding from Quebec’s department of Culture and Communications.

The mural is expected to be completed by the end of June, according to Michelle Larouche. “It will feature some aspects specific to New Carlisle, but also some Baie des Chaleurs landmarks and characteristics,” she simply says for now.

When asked if a train, a strong local symbol, would be included in the mural, she mentioned that some elements would only be revealed towards the end of the project. “I can say that there will be a railway,” she confirmed.

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The Gaspé SPEC

50
1975
to
2025
YEARS

In 1978, the SPEC rate of publishing increases sharply

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – The founders of SPEC originally planned to publish the paper every second week. The first three years proved a little tougher than expected in that regard for the team.

The second part of 1978 proved otherwise. While the newspaper was published seven times during the first five months of the year, the staff produced 15 issues in the following seven months, respecting by and large, the “every second week” goal.

The stability of the team undoubtedly helped.

The higher number of issues 1978 forces us to slightly shorten our review of each paper.

Vol. 4 No 1 January 16, 1978

- The front page titles were: “St. Elzéar caves”, “Murdochville New Richmond Dilemmas”, “French fish in Paspebiac”, “Sub-regional airport,” as well as “Cyr and Béchard lead.”

- On page 2, an article reports on the end of private fish clubs, a decision announced by minister of Leisure, Fish and Games Yves Duhaime.

There is also a short write-up about the “new mandatory automobile insurance tax.” The reference to Alexandre Cyr and Albert Béchard are made to say that a survey indicates they lead by 60% and 66%, respectively, in Gaspé and Bonaventure ridings.

- The Saint-Elzéar cave story reports on a study that must be carried out on the bones found underground and see if the place could become a tourist attraction. Meanwhile, in Paspebiac, the St. Lawrence Gulf Fisheries plant has received 873,000 pounds of cod from a French vessel called Victoria.

- In the “Murdochville New Richmond Dilemmas” write-up, the mill assistant manager, Ray Smith, explains why the New Richmond plant is unprofitable. In history, Ruth Patterson, wrote “The Little School House of Upper Wakeham.” A travel page appears in

SPEC, and covers Antigua and Russia.

Vol. 4 No 2 February 27, 1978

- The main titles are: “New Carlisle Escapee on most wanted list,” “Proposal to adopt Eastern Standard Time,” “Magdalen Fishermen seek say no to mine” and “Garneau: I would say no to bill 101 but...” Garneau is former Liberal Party minister Raymond Garneau. Also inside, there is a report about a photo contest won by Dean Phillips, age 11, from Gaspé. Ken Annett writes an in-depth “Gaspé of Yesterday” article, which is part of a long series. SPEC is also looking for a reporter for the New Richmond area.

Vol. 4 No 3

- In the volume 4, number 3 issue of the SPEC, wrongly dated February 23, the headlines go like this: “Nova Scotia opposed to Magdalen Islands salt mine,” “No foreign fishermen in the Gulf” and “Relief for copper industry.”
- We learn that the Nova Scotia government is opposed to the upcoming opening of the Magdalen Islands mine, because of the similar mine in Pugwash. Meanwhile, the Canadian government is adopting regulation to forbid or sharply reduce the catches of foreign vessels in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.
- We also see that Gaspé



Over 100 workers blocked trucks entering the mill yard entrance.

Vol. 4, No. 5

Poly hosted a provincial small school basketball tournament. Minor hockey was big back then and the SPEC runs eight photos of the 17th annual Bantam Tournament in Murdochville, along with the schedule and 15 photos of the Atom tournament. The paper goes 32 pages!

Vol. 4 No 4 March 16, 1978

- The title on the cover says, “Maria Reservation 5 Dead So What” reports that five people were hit and died along highway 132 without the transport authorities doing anything to make it safer. Police chief Simon Condo was interviewed and described a deplorable situation.
- The other front-page topics present Liberal Party leader Claude Ryan’s tour of the peninsula, an agreement between the Gaspé Peninsula and France, as well as the

Chandler Pee Wee Tournament

- Inside, an article mentions the opening of Chandler’s Place du Havre mall, built for \$4 million by a group led by Jean-Paul Leblanc. The SPEC also opens a space called political commentary: Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé Michel Lemoignan and minister of Land and Forests Yves Bérubé each write in the section, the latter about budworms. We also learn that Chandler’s commercial wharf gets \$964,560 for general repairs. Three pages are published on the Chandler tournament, with schedules and photos.

Vol. 4 No 5 Date Unspecified

- The main titles notably mention that Rémi Bujold will succeed Albert Béchard as candidate for the 1979 federal election in Bonaventure. A sum of \$11.6 million to develop tourism is also mentioned, as well as one saying that “Gaspé pick up owners (are) overcharged”. The “Picketing New Richmond” explains a strike affecting the Consolidated-Bathurst mill.

- There is a short write-up about a movie called “La dernière chance du caribou”, produced by Armand Dubé, which premiered in March in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

Vol. 4 No 6 May 4, 1978

- A write up explains why, according to Quebec premier René Lévesque, “Gaspé (will)

become the fishing capital of Quebec,” as he is calling for the decentralization of fisheries management from Quebec to Gaspé.

- In “Lobsters on the run,” the paper explains that in 1978, the price was only \$1.50 per pound at the start of the season. Cold water calls for poor catches and the fishermen hope for a better price.

- In “A tribute to Raymond McAuley,” the paper underlines the milestones of the popular country singer who led Wild Country. He was born in Douglstown in 1944 and was only 33 when he was struck by a cerebral hemorrhage.

- This issue also features a tribute to Arthur Gordon Legros, who just passed away at 74. He was vice-president of Robin Jones, the father of Lawrence, Peter and Enid. He was born in St. Martins, Jersey, in 1904.

- Land and Forests minister Yves Bérubé announces the termination of the forestry concessions of Bathurst Paper north of New Richmond. They were covering 4,203.7 square kilometres. He thinks the cost of wood will decrease as a result.

Vol. 4 No 7 May 18, 1978

- “SPEC celebrates third anniversary” with a message from the staff entitled “We’ve come a long way, baby!” Lynden Bechervaise explains the

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Vol. 4, No. 6

Next page

1978...

challenges of running the newspaper, including an issue every second week. From now on though, the SPEC will respect that goal.

- Andrew Patterson releases the first article of “The history of the Pattersons of Gaspé,” thanks to a Canada Council grant to explore the history of Sunny Bank.

- We learn that Gaspé Copper is making money over 1978’s first quarter, \$1.7 million due to a higher molybdenum content in copper ore.

Vol. 4 No 8 June 1, 1978

- Lynden Bechervaise reports on the DASH 7 aircraft, supposed to serve the Gaspé airport soon. It can accommodate 50 passengers and functions through short take off and landing.

- New Carlisle’s Centre d’Accueil is officially open. Andrew Patterson runs his second “History of the Patterson’s of Gaspé,” including a genealogical tree. Meanwhile, there is an article about “New Carlisle students visit Ottawa.”

Vol. 4 No 9 June 15, 1978

- The volume 4, number 9 edition, dated June 15, features “Expropriation causes unrest in Gaspé,” as 12 premises will be expropriated to give way to route 132, including that of retiree Clem Legros, who has always lived in that Sandy Beach-Haldimand area. “The disturbed dead of New Richmond” article covers coastal erosion, which threaten to unbury a former cemetery.

- Other articles feature “Making a living 150 years ago on Gaspé Bay,” the Barachois fishermen and small boat owners who want the local wharf rebuilt, beer that can now be sold on Sunday, the opening of a Gaspé office for consumer protection by minister Lise Payette and Shigawake’s Wallace Mann who has completed building his 49-foot-long scallop boat.

Vol. 4 No 10 June 29, 1978

- In the volume 4, number 10 newspaper, dated June 29, the article “Farewell to English signs” covers the Bill 101 signage particularities, as businesses have various dates to respect in order to change their signs to French, between July 3, 1978, and September 1, 1981, notably depending on their foundation date.

- SPEC covers more Magdalen Islands news in “Salt may ruin Livelihood.” The “Paspebiac fish plant re-opens” after a strike and a rescue drill is covered in “9 pretended dead in fake air crash.”

Vol. 4 No 11 July 13, 1978

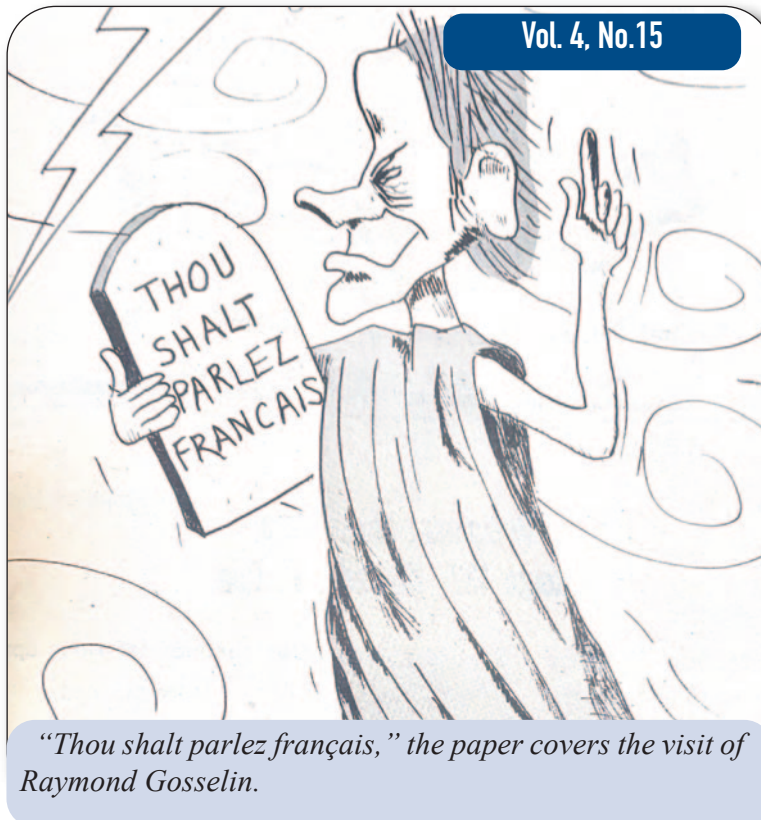
- The following issue, volume 4, number 11, dated July 13, mainly focuses on summer events, with “New Richmond Car Rally” as well as articles about “Wakeham-York, New Carlisle and Bonaventure Festivals.” There is also “Windmill falls down,” from the Magdalen Islands.

- In the editorial, editor Delton Sams mentions that subscription rates will increase to \$10 by July 13. The yearly cost of producing one issue, \$9.36, is not covered by the \$6.50 and off-the-coast \$7 subscription fees.

Vol. 4 No 12 July 27, 1978

- The volume 4, number 12 edition, dated July 27, runs “The sailing of the Canadian Armada,” an article about the country’s war effort written by Dave Doherty. The SPEC also covers some Lower North Shore news, including a Saint Augustine blaze that killed eight people.

- There are write ups about the Homecoming Jacques Cartier Festival and Fort Haldimand Camp. A photo and caption of Anne and Gordon MacWhirter mentions that they received their degree in education from McGill University on June 8.



Vol. 4, No.15

Vol. 4 No 13 August 10, 1978

- In the volume 4, number 13 issue, dated August 10, Delton Sams writes about “Gaspé to become petroleum center of Eastern Canada?” the front-page title leading to “There is oil in them there hills,” which covers public corporation SOQUIP bringing oil rigs to the Gaspé Peninsula.

- The “Air crash – two dead” reports on the Chandler area accident that claimed the lives of two Newtown, Massachusetts, residents. The editorial covers bad telephone services in Barachois. John Kinsella wins the 14-mile swimming race in Paspebiac.

Vol. 4 No 14 August 14, 1978

- The volume 4, number 14 paper, released on August 14, presents the “Malbaie fish plant – Industry with potential”. It employs 22 people and buys the catches of 115 small fishermen.

- The Quebec government, using a 1977 law, reduces the Parc de la Gaspésie surface from 1,290 to 686 square kilometres because of the Madeleine Copper Mining development and potential near Mount Jacques-Cartier. Conservation falls behind resource exploitation.

Vol. 4 No 15 September 7, 1978

- In Volume 4, number 15, dated September 7, in “Thou shalt parler français,” the paper covers the visit of Raymond Gosselin, president of the Office de la langue française, who told an audience in Gaspé how certain regulations of Bill 101 will be applied. There is Shigawake Fair coverage as well as New Carlisle Anglicans celebrating their religion’s 400th anniversary.

Vol. 4 No 16 September 29, 1978

- In the volume 4, number 16 paper, released on September 29, the headlines are “the Gaspé County Fair”, “the Optimist Club convention”, “the Murdochville Silver Anniversary” and “Junior B hockey” are mentioned on page 1. Inside, SPEC runs an ad to find community correspondents in Sandy Beach-Haldimand, Percé Chandler but also in Blanc Sablon, Middle Bay, Saint Paul’s River, Old Fort and Mutton Bay, in order to expand its territory. Delton Sams signs an article entitled “Come back, young Anglos, Come back.”

- A Junior B league is formed with teams in Gaspé, Rivière-au-Renard, Chandler and Grande Rivière. Ken An-

nett releases another “Gaspé of Yesterday” article.

Vol. 4 No 17 October 13, 1978

- The volume 4, number 17 SPEC, issued on October 13, reveals that Yves Duhaime, minister of Tourism, Fish and Games, wants to integrate Parc Forillon, a federal park, into Quebec’s network.

- The front page presents its first index of topics. We learn that SPEC and CASA split in order for SPEC to aim for financial independence and for CASA to concentrate on its Anglophone community animation duties.

- Gaspé Member of the National Assembly Michel Lemoignan writes about the Parti Québécois referendum while Fleurant Point residents protest against discontinuation in federal funding for a lookout.

Vol. 4 No 17 October 27, 1978

- The volume 4, number 18 SPEC, released on October 27, mentions in “Murdochville on strike” that the Mines Gaspé facility is slowed down by a strike, which received a 76.9% support from the 1,200 unionized workers. They want parity, since they get \$1,45 per hour less than their Canadian Copper Refineries colleagues.

- Bill 101 minister Camille Laurin comes to New Richmond and says that “English Gaspeians have contributed greatly.” Another title mentions that “CLSC Chaleurs outlaws English.”

Vol. 4 No 19 November 10, 1978

- In the volume 4, number 19 edition, dated November 10, Dave Doherty takes the Remembrance Day occasion to write a thorough article entitled “Dieppe Revisited.” The Paspebiac school teachers ask

Next Page

And more 1978...

for the resignation of the principal and his assistant. Regional moose hunt results show that 338 animals were harvested. SPEC sports reports on equipment to protect hockey players' eyes.

**Vol. 4 No 20
November 24, 1978**

- In the volume 4, number 20 issue, dated November 24, Brenda Lemieux writes the "Story of minut", or Cyrias Vézina, an 84-year-old Gaspé man, occasionally homeless, known by everybody in town, and who was recently hospitalized.
- The content of that edition is thick. A French refrigerator cargo ship, the M.V. Isole, is damaged by a November 14 storm in Paspebiac, where it

was loading frozen fish. The Murdochville mine workers are still on strike.

- Dave Doherty covers the 60th anniversary of Remembrance Day. Irene Dallain writes an article about Moise Theriault's sect, living in the backcountry of Paspebiac, waiting for the end of the world. Delton Sams reports on the time change issue. The school strike is over in Paspebiac, after seven weeks!

**Vol. 4 No 20
November 24, 1978**

- Readers can find in the volume 4, number 21 of SPEC, dated December 8, articles about "New Carlisle taxes down 20 percent," "Murdochville strike continues," and "500 readers want

Atlantic time." Radio Gaspésie began broadcasting radio shows on December 1, 1978. SPEC runs "The history of the Munros," from the memoir of Sarah Harriet Munro.

**Vol. 4 No 20
November 24, 1978**

- The last paper of 1978, volume 4, number 22, released on December 15, mentions that "Cult leader returns," referring to Moise Thériault's trip to Quebec City in an attempt to meet premier René Lévesque.
- It is now evident that the Murdochville strike continued into 1979. The paper is filled with pages of Holiday season publicity and community news.

From 1978 to 2025, some goals remain

• Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – When then premier René Lévesque, backed by Industry and Commerce minister Rodrigue Tremblay, announced his decision to decentralize fisheries administration, over the spring of 1978, in order to bring management closer to the people, he then meant moving the Fisheries deputy minister to Gaspé. It never occurred, as no such civil servant ever accepted to move.

On another topic, it is odd to see that the Quebec government, based on a law adopted in November 1977, gave the greenlight to cutting in half, or close, the Parc de la Gaspésie surface so as to satisfy the ambitions of the mining industry. Mines Madeleine's copper was only exploited over a handful of years whilst the copper potential of Mount Jacques-Cartier was never proven. This situation contrasts with the movie released by Armand Dubé, "La dernière chance du caribou", about the disappearance of that animal.

In the meantime, the 200 or so caribou of the Gaspé Peninsula in 1978 are now just a tad over 30, with half of them living in enclosures. Excessive logging of old forest was detrimental to them, according to experts. At the other end of the spectrum, the annual harvest of moose, which totalled 338 specimens in 1978, now reaches 5,400. Moose greatly benefits from young forests.



An Oil Well on Sandy Beach, about 1865.

Vol. 4, No.13



In 1938, a meeting of the Royal Canadian Legion was held in New Richmond. At that time the New Richmond members were members of Br. 64, New Carlisle. In the picture are: Henri Arsenault, v.D. Smollett, J.A. (Gus) Goulet, Geo. Crozier, H. Coutages, B.M. Hamilton, B. Caldwell, T. Hall, Geo. Steele, I. Poirier, C. Campbell, Moise Poirier, Ed. Flowers, F. Goulet, H. Woodman, J. Gilker, P. Chisholm, C. Gallon and J.P. Boudreau. Others not named are unknown, but thought to be from New Richmond.

Vol. 4, No 9



The Carnival Queen and attendants; left to right: D. Bourgaise, M. Showman, L. Eden

Vol. 4, No.3

1978
Excerpt

Place du Havre

Promoters of the shopping center in Chandler, held a press conference at Hotel St. Louis, February 22. Place du Harve is the brainchild of a group of businessmen headed by Jean-Paul Leblanc.

The new shopping center will house the People's store, a Casino d'Aubaines grocery store, a Bank of Nova Scotia, a dozen assorted boutiques, a Penguin clothing store, and a Le Chateau clothing store. A second phase of the development will permit a yard goods store, a furniture store, a handicraft shop, a hardware store, a theater and offices to locate in the shopping center.

The estimated cost of Place du Harve is \$4,000,000. According to the promoters of the project, the shopping center will have a business volume of \$12. to \$15. million

About 124 to 145 people will be employed by the center.

Vol. 4, No.3



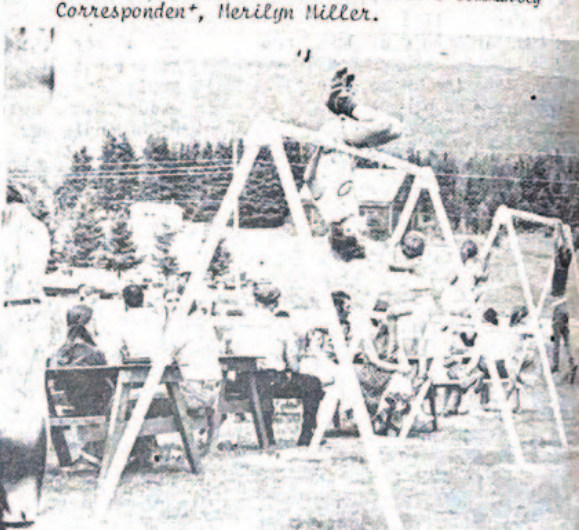
The Restigouch Miellacs perform during the closing ceremonies. Eilly Corey, representing his band, presented the festival organizers with a hand engraved picture to commemorate the 1978 Home-coming Festival.



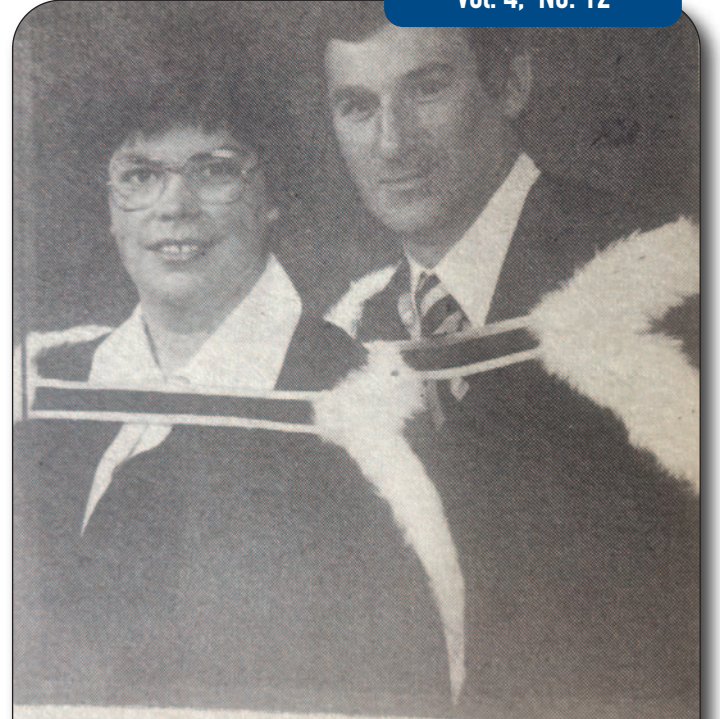
Marilyn Weston, a CBC reporter covering the festival relaxes to chat with SPEC's Community Correspondent, Marilyn Miller.



The organizers of the 1978 edition of the Wakeham-York Home-Coming Festival pass by the Festival's Goodbye Float.



Festivals are fun, even for upsidown kids!!!!



Anne and Gordon MacWhirter, who received B.Ed. degrees at McGill Convocation, Montreal, on June 8, 1978.



Danny Jerome, age 10 and Sue Gideon, age 10, danced 32 hours and won first place trophies and \$25.00 each. Percy Larocque, age 11 and Mona-Lisa Joe, age 11 danced 29 and a half hours and won second prize medals and \$15.00 each. Arnold Jerome, age 12 and Carol Condo, age 12, dance 24 hours and won third prize medals and \$10.00 each. Donat Jerome is the leader of the Boy Scouts, and Randy Martin and Mary Jerome are Vice-Presidents.

Home-coming festival

The Wakeham-York Home-coming Festival, a time to come home to the old stomping grounds for a good old country reunion, was the realization of the long awaited dream of the local Wakeham-York residents.

Encouraged by the unfailing efforts of Albert Patterson and Arthur Jones, the organization committee gave the 350 visiting families and the people of the Gaspé area, a festival that exceeded all expectations.

The week long event, commencing July 7, hosted activities for every age or interest group.

Reflecting primarily the English speaking population of the Gaspé area, the Home-coming was the first indication that the anglophones are, or will become, a significant unified community. For the first time, the English people seem to be saying, "Hey, we live here too, and we're not ashamed to say it!"

Though the organizing committee were exhausted after the nine-day spectacle, the enthusiasm and the dedication that brought the Home-coming to such a success, is still evident in the citizens of Wakeham and York. Visitors are already setting aside a week's vacation next summer to come back and relive the days when Gaspé was called 'home.'

Vol. 4, No. 12

Letters to the Editor

Dear sirs:

Most of the Anglophones of Shigawake - Port Daniel seem to be related to me, and I am very interested in the current plight. I have enclosed \$7.00 to pay for a subscription.

Hang in there! The Gaspé is too marvellous to have English speaking history of two hundred plus years go down the drain.

Yours faithfully,
Alfred Travers

Dear Editor:

While visting Gaspé we had the happy occasion of attending many of the functions of Wakeham-York Homecoming Festival.

What a pleasure to attend such a well organized affair. Albert Patterson, Arthur Jones and committee members are all to be congratulated for such a successful first.

We sincerely hope that their hard work, time and patience with such large crowds has be financially successful and will be a yearly event. Thank you for giving us the pleasure of seeing so many old friends.

Vol. 4, No. 14

Sincerely,
George and Kay Genest

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SCAN ME

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada declines review of pozzolan project

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, a federal environmental review body, has refused to evaluate the EcoRock Dalhousie project, a proposed pozzolan mining operation by Montreal-based firm EcoRock, to be located in the Dalhousie borough of Heron Bay, New Brunswick.

Dalhousie sits just four kilometres across the Bay of Chaleurs from Miguasha, Quebec, and the proposed project has sparked strong opposition on both sides of the bay. Concerns include noise, dust, the resuspension of contaminated sediment in Dalhousie harbour, the visual aspect of a large-scale industrial operation, and the blasting near a residential area.

With this refusal, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada is responding to a request from groups opposed to the project, including No thanks, pozzolan!, an organization that has developed strong roots in the Gaspé Peninsula since the summer of 2024. The Dalhousie quarry, which would become a mine capable of producing up to 3 million tons of pozzolan annually, is located across from the Miguasha Fossil Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In his explanation, the president of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Terrence Hubbard, said he examined "whether the carrying out of the project may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction, or direct or incidental adverse effects, and concluded that the project may cause these potential adverse effects."

He adds that he "considered public concerns related to these effects; adverse impacts on the rights of Indigenous Peoples of Canada; and whether a means other than an impact assessment exists that would permit a jurisdiction to address the adverse effects within federal jurisdiction and the direct or incidental adverse effects."

Other jurisdictions can act, says Terrence Hubbard

President Hubbard concluded that other agencies and administrative bodies can act to assess the EcoRock Dalhousie project and address its adverse effects.

The mechanisms to which



Photo: G. Gagné

Jean-Marc Beaulieu and his partner, Lisa Mosher, fear the noise, dust, and water pollution, among other elements, that the EcoRock Dalhousie project could generate in Miguasha. The project would be developed on the other side of the Baie des Chaleurs, almost in front of their property.

these organizations and entities can refer are "federal legislation, including the Fisheries Act, Canadian Navigable Waters Act, Migratory Birds Convention Act (of)1994, Species at Risk Act, Canadian Environmental Protection Act,1999" notes Mr. Hubbard.

He also highlights provincial legislation, such as the Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Regulations, the Water Quality Regulations, the Air Quality Regulations, and the Heritage Conservation Act, in addition to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

Terrence Hubbard finally mentions municipal mechanisms such as the Town of Heron Bay bylaws relating to land use planning and resource extraction.

So far, the Town of Heron Bay councillors have been divided about the bylaws adopted in relation with the pozzolan exploitation initiative but mayor Normand Pelletier has been in favour of it and has voted accordingly.

There is also a movement on the New Brunswick side to support the project.

Disappointment, but not a big surprise

In Miguasha, Jean-Marc Beaulieu, spokesperson for the group No thanks, pozzolan!, which filed the initial evaluation request to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, makes no secret of his disappointment with Terrence Hubbard's decision.

"I'm disappointed. Sur-

prised? More or less. With everything that was discussed during the Liberal Party leadership race won by (Mark) Carney and during the election campaign, I'm not really surprised. What surprises me most is that in the documents filed prior to the analysis report, they (Terrence Hubbard and his staff) state who they consulted, but they didn't consult anyone in Quebec! Whether on the community, government, or environmental side, the community has no way of asserting itself. I also find it a rather bizarre press release and argument," reacts Mr. Beaulieu.

The request of No thanks, pozzolan! was followed by a request from a group of eight Indigenous communities concerned that provincial environmental assessment processes are not taking their concerns into account.

Jean-Marc Beaulieu believes the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada may have to consider another request before long.

"We can't appeal. As the first applicant, I can no longer file a request, but another organization with new arguments could do so. There's enough to file another request focusing on Quebec's arguments. I think our request took too much account of the arguments common to both provinces," he summarizes.

Pozzolan is a volcanic rock that, once ground into a fine powder, can be used in cement production. EcoRock Dalhousie management maintains that this is a way to reduce the environmental impact of tradi-

tional cement powder because the pozzolan doesn't need to be heated to 1,500 or 2,000 degrees Celsius like conventional cement, as it has already been heated by volcanic activity.

EcoRock Dalhousie hopes to sell construction aggregates as early as 2026 from its quarry, which is already in operation. Reducing this rock into a fine powder could be possible in 2027 or 2028, depending on how long the New Brunswick government's environmental assessment takes. This project is valued at \$300 million.

Dalhousie was a heavily industrial town for 80 years. However, its port has not been used since 2012 and requires dredging for the export of pozzolan by 70,000-ton ships. This dredging would stir up highly contaminated sediment located near commercial and recreational fishing areas.

Federal MP calls for alliance of ministries

Alexis Deschênes, the Member of Parliament for Gaspésie-les-Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj, is also deeply disappointed by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's decision.

"I think citizens deserve a rigorous environmental impact process. The federal assessment was an interesting avenue. I continue to be concerned because in his decision, the president (Hubbard) admits that the project could be dangerous. In the Gaspé Peninsula, we don't see what the dredging, blasting, and crushing could lead to. It should be remembered that New Brunswick's assessment process will not focus on the effects on Quebec," Mr. De-

schênes points out.

In the absence of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada in this matter, the Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament (MP) proposes that the environment departments of both provinces conduct a joint assessment, which would also allow for the measurement of the project's effects on the Quebec side of Chaleur Bay.

Alexis Deschênes clarifies that his proposal does not constitute interference by a federal MP in provincial affairs.

"We must not forget that a unanimous motion was adopted by the National Assembly to express Quebecers' concerns about this project. In my area, many citizens are worried. This concern is legitimate (...) Even the proponents should want it because a joint assessment could increase social acceptability," says Mr. Deschênes.

He fears that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's decision stems from a federal government tendency to downplay the importance of environmental issues.

"Citizens should note that Bill C-5, which specifies that projects of national interest can be pre-approved without an environmental assessment, was passed yesterday (June 16) under a gag order. All the laws mentioned by Mr. Hubbard are set aside when projects are deemed to be of national interest. It's like a Conservative government that wants to develop as quickly as possible. If it's not in the national interest, and the EcoRock project isn't, what we want is a comprehensive assessment. The Fisheries Act deals with permits, but not the environment. We need to work on a solution," stresses Alexis Deschênes.



Photo: G. Gagné

Alexis Deschênes believes that the environmental ministries in Quebec and New Brunswick should work together to assess the impact on both sides of the bay.

SCFG could move loading ramp to Port Daniel cement plant if silo is not ready

GILLES GAGNÉ

PORT DANIEL – The Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG) may relocate a loading ramp formerly used in Nouvelle and install it next to Saint Mary’s Cement plant in Port Daniel as soon as the transporter gets an environmental authorization to do it. This installation will take less time to be ready than the construction of the cement plant’s silo dedicated to rail transport.

Saint Mary’s Cement also needs an environmental authorization to build its silo, and so far, the company has not received it. The firm’s management does not have a tentative date for receiving that authorization, but neither does the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG).

The use of the SCFG loading ramp would be temporary, the time for Saint Mary’s Cement to get its environmental authorization, if the process is longer than that of the SCFG.

The SCFG management wants to haul more cement plant traffic as soon as possible, in an attempt to boost its overall number of carloads, which has significantly decreased, then stabilized, since the 2021 peak of 4,636 cars. In 2024, the number of carloads was 2,066, a little over the 1,998 cars of 2023 and the



The base of Saint Mary’s Cement’s silo is laid but an environmental authorization is needed to resume its construction.

Photo: Douglas Allen Shaw

3,190 cars of 2022. This is not just the number of cement cars.

The decline was essentially caused by the May 2022 end of windmill bladed traffic, which had started in December 2016. Adding significant cement traffic would generate a few million dollars in annual revenue for the SCFG and reduce damage on the roads.

One way to achieve the goal of increasing carloads is to serve the cement plant directly and exploit the capacity of a railcar, which can contain between two and two-and-a-half times the load of a truck

trailer. Those trucks have been used between Port Daniel and New Richmond since the 2017 opening of the cement plant because Quebec’s ministry of Transport, which had acquired the Matapedia-Gaspé line in 2015, put the section east of Caplan in a dormant state, essentially because of the condition of some bridges. A silo was built in New Richmond for the transshipment of cement from trucks to railcars.

“We want to take advantage of our access to the Moncton market, which is currently served by trucks,” points out Luc Lévesque, director general

of the SCFG.

CN has agreed after long discussions to open regularly for freight traffic its line between Bathurst and Miramichi and reinstall a switch and regain the biggest cement customers in Moncton.

“It is the loading ramp we were using at Leclerc,” adds Mr. Lévesque, referring to the Nouvelle East track where cement cars were loaded before the complete replacement of the Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges, in December 2020. Before the two bridges were replaced, Quebec’s ministry of Transports was imposing a

limit of ten loaded cars a week on the old bridges because the cement was judged too heavy. It forced the SCFG to load cement cars to two-thirds of their capacity, with the load to be completed at the Leclerc siding in Nouvelle, where trucks were also sent. There were no constraints on the old bridges with cars only two-thirds loaded.

The constraint was lifted by Transports Québec with the replacement of the Cascapedia-Saint-Jules bridges.

Luc Lévesque considered a few spots in Port Daniel to place the temporary ramp.

“The ramp would be on the main line next to the cement plant. Zoning wouldn’t allow this project at the station, and the neighbourhood would complain,” says Mr. Lévesque, who understands the problem.

Dozens of trucks, either from New Brunswick for the Moncton area, or from the Bay of Chaleur for the New Richmond silo, will be removed from highway 132 traffic once railcars are loaded in Port Daniel.

The line between the west part of Caplan and Port Daniel could be functional in a few weeks, if Transports Québec doesn’t find last minute works on it, which has happened a few times over the last years, even in the Black Cape portion of New Richmond.

Port Daniel cement plant workers almost unanimously approve collective agreement

GILLES GAGNÉ

PORT-DANIEL – The 125 unionized workers at McInnis Cement, in Port-Daniel accepted the latest collective agreement offer submitted by Saint-Mary’s Cement on June 13. The agreement will span over three years and provides workers with a total wage increase of 16% over that period.

The 25 quarry workers adjacent to the cement plant accepted the offer by a margin of 96%, while the 100 or so plant workers ratified it by a margin of 92%. In mid-May, these same workers had given themselves a strike mandate by a margin of 93%.

According to the Syndicat des Métallurgistes (United Steelworkers, or USW), the collective agreement also

“Significantly improves weekend premiums: Sunday premiums will increase to time and a half at the end of the employment contract, while Saturday premiums will double at the end of the agreement, going from \$6 to \$13. Significant improvements have also been made to statutory holidays, and a remote area holiday has been established in recognition of the long commutes required by Gaspésian workers.”

Steeve Audet, president of the USW local, states that beyond wage gains, the notion of respect is the backbone of the agreement.

“Respect for workers and the Gaspé region is essential for us. This translates into concrete measures such as the remote area holiday, investment in a decent lunch and

rest room at the quarry, and the employer’s clear commitment to an effective labour relations committee. These elements make all the difference,” he says.

Mr. Audet notes that the new collective agreement marks a turning point after years of strained relations under the previous management of the plant, which has been in production since 2017.

“For the past year, we’ve felt a wind of change with the new management. The scars are still there, but the future of our labour relations looks more fruitful and respectful,” he says.

This is the third agreement since the workers were unionized. The Syndicat des Métallurgistes (USW), a union affiliated with the Quebec Federation of Labour, say they are “Deter-

mined to continue the progress made and maintain dialogue to guarantee dignified and respectful working conditions for years to come.”

The first two collective agreements for McInnis Cement workers were signed in 2018 and 2022. This Gaspé division is part of Saint Mary’s Cement, a company based in Canada and controlling plants in Ontario and the American side of the Great Lakes area.

Saint Mary’s Cement itself

is owned by Brazilian cement giant Votorantim Cimentos. The latter acquired McInnis Cement in April 2021.

The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ), which was the controlling shareholder of McInnis Cement since 2016 and until April 2021, kept a 17% share in the Port Daniel plant after the Votorantim Cimentos transaction. The CDPQ manages the pension plan of Quebecers.



Representatives Blouin and Sainte-Croix's record marked by the postponement of rail repairs

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – The results of the 2025 winter session of the Bonaventure and Gaspé Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) were marked by the postponement of the rehabilitation of section three of the regional railway and the indefinite postponement of the completion of the Gaspé terminus.

“We decided to return section 3 to the planning stage. We figured we would take the year to optimize the work to be done. Can we break down certain segments because the economic context is difficult and when we have a cost overrun of \$150 million or \$200 million, we have to take a step back,” said MNA Catherine Blouin.

“This is a particularly complex issue in terms of budget and implementation. It's a major challenge for the future, and we're working to review the implementation strategy,” added Gaspé MNA Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

In June 2023, the Quebec government had allocated a total of \$872 million for the repair of the entire rail line between Matapédia and Gaspé.

However, in May 2025,



Photo: N. Sergerie

Representatives Blouin and Sainte-Croix during the announcement of road investments in May in Gaspé.

Quebec withdrew \$561 million for the rehabilitation of the Gaspé rail line from its investment plan for 2025-2027.

From \$680 million for 2024-2026, the planned expenditure is now only \$119 million for the next two years.

In the meantime, committees have been set up to evaluate the possibility of building structures that would support less weight or reduce rail traffic speed.

“We are taking a year to

carry out the exercise and limit costs,” said Ms. Blouin.

“We want to ensure that the work is done flawlessly to guarantee the quality of the infrastructure and minimize asset maintenance costs. We're not giving up,” said Mr. Sainte-Croix.

Neither MNA is willing to suggest a date for when a train might arrive in Port-Daniel-Gascons.

According to Éric Dubé, president of the Société du

chemin de fer de la Gaspésie, a bridge still needs to be completed near Caplan.

In Port-Daniel-Gascons, Éric Dubé mentions that the tunnel is ready but that plans have not yet been made for the two approaches, mainly due to the strike by Quebec government engineers.

“There is still work to be done due to deficiencies found during the final evaluation of the section. There is also the strike by Quebec government engineers. Here too, we are waiting for details on the evaluation work and the corrections to be made. But I am confident about the future,” comments Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

Asked for a timeline, he responded, “Are we talking weeks or months? I am not in a position to answer that question,” added the MNA.

“Section two will be open as soon as possible, and everything is being done to reach that goal,” said Ms. Blouin.

This new uncertainty does not sit well with Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté.

“This is all a bit ridiculous. The premier promised us a timeline. It's normal for timelines to undergo minor adjustments. But right now, there is no timeline for Port-Daniel-Gascons. Imagine the timeline

for Gaspé? We have no idea,” said Daniel Côté.

“Why is everyone skeptical? It's because we no longer have a timeline and no one can give us one. The ultimate goal is to rebuild the entire rail line to Gaspé,” added Mr. Côté.

He pointed out that the Gaspé Peninsula has missed several opportunities for economic development.

“I feel like I've been repeating the same thing for 10 years. I've been elected for almost 12 years, and we've been fighting for almost 12 years. It's been one promise after another from different governments. Every time, they make promises, and every time, nothing comes of it. There are many issues at stake, but I'm eager to get to the bottom of this once and for all,” he says.

The mayor agrees with having a rail line with reduced load capacity that would still allow Via Rail and freight trains to operate.

“That's all we need. Initially, engineers in the region said that the work required to make it work would cost a little over \$100 million. But when we put it through the government process, we wanted the Cadillac, and that's when we spent beyond our needs,” Mr. Côté concluded.

Gaspesian strawberries will be available around July 5

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

SAINT-SIMÉON - Local strawberries should start appearing on Gaspesian grocery store shelves around July 5.

That's what the co-owner of Ferme Bourdages Tradition in Saint-Siméon believes, given that last winter saw virtually no snow and the wetter, less sunny spring slowed down preparations. “A lot of humidity, rain, and cool weather has set us back about two weeks,” says Pierre Bourdages.

Last year, the season began early, with fresh strawberries available by June 20.

Winter frost damage was limited to just 5 to 10%, which suggests a good season ahead.

“We have a lot of flowers in the fields. We have 50% of flowers in the early varieties and the mid-season varieties

are starting to flower. As long as the bees do their job of pollination, I think it will be a good season. It all depends on the sun and the heat,” explains the farmer.

Recruiting foreign labour has been a challenge in recent years, but this season 46 workers from Mexico are expected to arrive.

Five arrived in May, eight more on June 12, and the rest are expected to arrive in the next few days.

Recruitment was easier this year. “There were fewer problems with visas and logistics in Mexico and Canada. They have improved integration. There have been changes, but you can never be sure until they land in Montreal,” says Mr. Bourdages.

The first strawberries in Montreal were quite expensive, with prices around \$15. “At the beginning, there is always a price increase because

there is no volume. It's late everywhere in Quebec. The price will adjust according to the volumes on the market. We'll see how many strawberries there are from the United States and how customers react. This could be a game changer for Quebec strawberries,” notes Mr. Bourdages, who points out that Quebecers tend to shun American strawberries.

American strawberries have been selling for as little as \$2 in supermarkets in recent weeks due to weak demand.

“They will sell for between \$4 and \$5 per basket in 750 ml and 1 litre sizes. That's still competitive and affordable. Production costs are still there. We have to respect our margins if we want to continue producing. It will depend on customer reaction and market volume,” predicts Mr. Bourdages.

Hay is ahead of schedule

Nelson Sergerie

CARLETON-SUR-MER - The first hay harvest of the season is ahead of schedule despite the cold and late spring.

This is what Normand Barriault, a dairy farmer in Carleton-sur-Mer, has observed. “We're in water. When there's a lot of water in the spring, it means an abundance of hay. We have extremes: 30 degrees during the day and 6 degrees at night. This is favourable for forage growth,” says the producer.

Still, Mr. Barriault says it's too soon to know whether the quality will match the quantity. “It's like playing the Lotto 6/49,” he jokes. “Last year, we cut early, but the quality wasn't there. Depending on the stage of the plant, we expected exceptional protein and energy levels, but that wasn't the case,” he says.

He remains cautiously optimistic. “When you harvest early, you usually get good test results. But that remains to be confirmed. We'll hope that the season will be good and yield good results,” says the farmer.

Last year's harvest was exceptional, and some reserves remain. But that's not always the case. “You never know what to expect. We're playing with Mother Nature,” says Mr. Barriault. The exceptional year of 2024 came after several very difficult years, when some farmers were unable to accumulate enough reserves to complete a full cycle.

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Continued from page 4

2014-2018 period and in two shots, the 2018 and 2022 polls, reduced the number of rural liberal seats to zero.

Rays of hope

However, a Pallas survey conducted right after the leadership race confirms a rise in Liberal Party support, as the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) is now being ripped apart by the arrival of Pablo Rodriguez. The poll conducted for L'actualité magazine and Qc125 now gives the Liberals an 11-point lead over the CAQ.

The Parti Québécois currently gets the support of 31% of Quebec voters and remains at the top of the pack. However, the Liberals' comeback has substantially reduced the PQ's lead at the top: in March, Paul St-Pierre Plamondon's troops held a 10-point lead; it is now down to 5 points.

With 26% of voting intentions, the Quebec Liberal Party has climbed four points since the poll conducted in March. This is its best poll since 2020. However, the positive effect of the leadership race might disappear before the end of the summer. It often happens after a surge in news bulletins.

There is consequently still a lot of work ahead for Pablo

Rodriguez. There will be no holiday for him. He will have to go all over Quebec and talk to the people. Francophones are no longer voting for the party, as their rate of support varies between 8% and 12%. You can't win a general election with only 10% of support from 80% of the population.

Some liberal associations are inactive. Only 15 months before the poll of October 2026, Mr. Rodriguez must rebuild a war room team, determine a program and ways to implement it, rebuild a lot of riding associations and find candidates.

He has decided to refrain from taking advantage of a by-election to get to the National Assembly in order to reorganize the party. It is a fair decision, considering the workload, but not asking questions to premier François Legault during parliamentary debates will deprive him of some visibility.

Pablo Rodriguez will also have to prove that he is not the Ottawa man taking for granted the support of the little brother, the Liberal Party of Quebec. He will have to live with some of his stands regarding immigration, as the federal government admitted last fall having lost control of it.

All this represent a lot of labour over a stretch of 14 to 15 months.

Liberals in the Gaspé Peninsula believe in Pablo Rodriguez

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW RICHMOND - Christian Cyr, president of the Quebec Liberal Association of the Gaspé Peninsula-Magdalen Islands and Bonaventure believes that Pablo Rodriguez's election will enable the provincial Liberals to regain power in the October 2026 election.

"He has everything it takes to reconnect the party in all regions of Quebec and in urban areas. Pablo Rodriguez is a unifier, and his work has already begun," said Christian Cyr.

The former federal minister won in the second round on June 14 with 52.3% of the vote, narrowly defeating Charles Milliard with 47.7%. Former premiers Philippe Couillard and Jean Charest welcomed the new leader on stage.

"There is a rallying cry. The Liberal Party has a history dating back more than 150 years. There have been great achievements in Quebec with sound management of government affairs. There is a lot of experience within the party, as well as new faces and new



Photo: Quebec Liberal Party website

The new Liberal leader, Pablo Rodriguez.

forces. It's a good combination to lead Quebec," said Mr. Cyr. Now that the party has a leader, the next 15 months will be focused on reconnecting with Quebecers and preparing for the upcoming electoral campaign.

"Presenting a credible alternative to the CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec) government, an alternative that will reconnect with the regions and present credible plans for both state management and regional affairs,"

Mr. Cyr explained.

Marc Tanguay served as interim leader for two and a half years following Dominique Anglade's resignation after the debacle of 2022. His leadership during that period was praised. "He did a very good job, often walking a tightrope to keep people united. People were always waiting for a leader. He was very skilled and experienced. The troops are ready for a big step forward," believes Mr. Cyr.

Another honour for Dr. Thierry Petry

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - After receiving the Grand Prix for Humanitarian Medicine from the College of Physicians in April, Dr. Thierry Petry of Gaspé was made a Knight of the National Order of Quebec on June 18.

The announcement was made by the Premier of Quebec on June 12.

Dr. Petry becomes the ninth person from Gaspé to receive a title from the Order since its creation in 1985.

Each year, approximately 20 Quebecers are named to one of the three ranks of the Order.

This year's insignia ceremony, which marks the 40th anniversary of the Order, was held in the agora of the Quebec Parliament Building.



Photo: College of Physicians

Dr. Thierry Petry.

The National Order of Quebec is the highest honorary distinction awarded by the Quebec government. Since its founding, more than 1,200 individuals from Quebec and elsewhere have been appointed.

Route 132 causes concern in Anse-à-Beaufils

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - Route 132 between Cap-d'Espoir and Anse-à-Beaufils in Percé remains safe, according to Quebec's Department of Transportation. Concerns were raised by citizens after an aerial photo was shared on social media, appearing to show further erosion along a section of Route 132 near the western entrance to the Anse-à-Beaufils area.

"The road is in no way threatened by the expansion of the landslide or coastal erosion at this time," the department said in an email.

Following a landslide in 2012, the department temporarily relocated the road. A permanent relocation followed in 2013. The road was moved 430 metres at a cost of approximately \$130,000. In 2023, the power line at the break point was secured to prevent service interruption. In March of that same year, a detour was also created after another landslide occurred near Cap-d'Espoir and work was carried out in the fall to rectify the situation.

This site has been closely monitored by the department's rock mechanics specialists since 2012. This area is being studied to evaluate various scenarios for relocating the road in areas where erosion is most active. To date, no work schedule has been set.

In addition, the department indicates that the entire section of Route 132 between Anse-à-Beaufils and Cap-d'Espoir is being closely monitored, but no action is planned at this location at this time.



A view of the section of Route 132 between Cap-d'Espoir and L'Anse-à-Beaufils.

Photo: Taken from Facebook, Steve Méthot

Announcements



Obituaries

BOYLE: David Bryce

November 20, 1957 - June 12, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that the family of David Bryce Boyle announces his passing on June 12, 2025, at Hamilton General Hospital. Born in Gaspé, Quebec, David made a life full of stories, laughter, and good food.

David is survived by his partner, Lisa Annett; children Aaron Boyle (Stephanie), Chelsey Laurin (Michael), and Kiley Boyle; brother Leslie Boyle; and his beloved grandchildren Brayden, Avery, Ava, William, Aven, Andrew, and Avieanna. He was predeceased by his parents, Pauline Patterson and Richard Boyle, and sister Cynthia Boyle.

Never one to shy away from hosting a gathering, David was the type of person who could light up a room with his sense of humour and storytelling. He had a true talent in the kitchen and took pride in feeding those around him—usually with a side of jokes and second helpings.

David was known for doing things his own way, with no need for fuss or fanfare. In keeping with his wishes, cremation will take place. A private celebration of life may be held at a later date.

He will be remembered for the way he brought people together—with a meal, a laugh, or just a good old-fashioned story. If so desired, memorial donations to the Welland and district humane society would be appreciated.



D'AMOURS: Cecile (née Martin)

April 7, 1931 - June 18, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mrs. Cecile Martin D'Amours of New Carlisle, who passed away at Maria Hospital on June 18, 2025, at the age of 94.

She leaves to mourn her children: Serge (Thérèse), Sylvie, Denis (Jody), Andrée (Gerard), Eric (Maryse), Marc (Irene), Nicolle (Guy) and Mathieu (Sylvie); as well as, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be determined at a later date.



July 3 at 4 p.m.
to be in the July 9 issue

DEA: Terry

July 10, 1948 - June 10, 2025

It is with sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Terry, a resident of Sydney, Australia.

He is survived by brothers Larry of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Brian of Sydney, Australia; nephews Todd of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Matthew of Sydney, Australia; and niece Kelly of Sydney, Australia.

Terry was the third son of Leo and Eileen Dea of Port Daniel, Gaspé. Terry's Cremation service was held in Sydney on June 18, 2025.

He was a long-time resident of Australia who was a professional adviser in the fire control industry. He will be remembered by both family and friends for his cheerful nature, his smile and his friendliness.



In Memory



BILLINGSLEY: Albert

1923 - 1982

BILLINGSLEY: Constance

1930 - 2021

Those we love

*Those we love don't go away;
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near.
Still loved, still missed and always dear.*

Loved by all: George, Jack, Richard, Landis, Cindy, Jan and Todd xxoo.

Send your announcements to:
holly.smith@globetrotter.net

CAMPBELL: Katherine

In loving memory of Kathy Craig Campbell 1960 - 2023.

In Our Hearts

*We thought of you today.
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday.
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence.
We often speak your name.
Now all we have are memories.
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake.
With which we'll never part.
God has you in his keeping.
We have you in our hearts.*

~ Author unknown

Deeply missed until we meet again, Mom: Bessy; brother: Lonnie; sister: Sharron; and family.

SIMON: Vera Roberts

In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away on June 26, 2020.

*We often think, dear mother
And our hearts are filled with pain.
Oh, this earth would be a heaven,
Could we hear your voice again.
Five years have swiftly passed away,
But still we don't forget.
For the hearts that loved you best,
Your memory lingers yet.*

Forever in our hearts and deeply missed by Eleanor (Clayton), Garfield (Sandra), Donald (Frank) and families.

WYLIE: Violet

*In loving memory of our wonderful mom.
Of all the special gifts in life,
However great or small.
To have you as our mom,
Was the greatest gift of all.
May the winds of love blow softly,
And whisper in your ear.
We love and miss you Mom,
And wish that you were here.
Deep in our hearts,
Your life is kept.
To love and cherish, not forget.
No more tomorrows we can share,
But yesterdays are always there.
A silent thought, a secret tear,
Keeps your memory ever near,
In our hearts forever.*

Gone but not forgotten.



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Covering Port Daniel to New Richmond

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Special days in July

1 - Canada Day
15 - National Parks Day

SHIGAWAKE:
Shigawake Music
Festival and
Agricultural Fair

June 28: Extreme cowboy (AM) and gymkhana (PM).
July 3: Thirsty Thursday with Jaepe Careno, a tribute to Johnny Cash from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
July 10: Thirsty Thursday with Mountain Whisper from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
July 12: celebrate Shigawake's 100th anniversary with a brunch starting at 9 a.m. cost: \$10 for adults and \$8 for children followed by a four-wheeler rally starting at 11 a.m. cost: 10\$. Traditional games for kids from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and a Barn dance with the homegrown country band beginning at 8:30 p.m. cost: \$10.

HOPE:
Hope Baptist Church
Sundays: Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. Worship service beginning at 11 a.m.

NEW CARLISLE:
St. Andrew's Anglican Church
St. Andrews church Spring potluck supper has been postponed until July 19.

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.
Saturdays: Pool beginning at 8 p.m. \$1 per game.
September 2: General meeting at 6 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle.

NEW CARLISLE:
Kempffer House
The tea room is back beginning **July 2.** Open every Wednesday with sittings at 1 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Cash only, children \$8, adults \$12, and \$15 for the alcove. Reservations required. For more information, call 418-752-1334 or email heritagenc@globetrotter.net.

NEW RICHMOND:
Yard Sale
July 5: A community yard sale will be held at 462 Route 132 East, New Rich-

mond from 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Those wishing to participate are welcome. Bring your table and set up.

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.
June: No meeting.
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 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, June 29
2 p.m. Service
Sunday, July 6
10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, June 29
10 a.m. Service
Sunday, July 6
10 a.m. Service

PARISH
OF GASPÉ
Sunday, June 29
St. Paul's - Gaspé
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sunday, July 6
St. Andrew's - York
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sunday, July 13
St. James
Wakeham
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF CANADA
Sunday, June 29
New Carlisle
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Port Daniel
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Sunday, July 6
New Carlisle
11 a.m. Morning Prayer
Shigawake
9 a.m. Morning Prayer

*Important deadlines for
the Coast Round-up page*
July 3 for the July 9 issue
July 17 for the July 23 issue
July 30 for the August 6 issue

Grenier, Grenier & Grenier
LAWYERS



Réal Grenier, b.a.ll.l.
Jules Grenier, b.a.ll.l.

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Luc Loisel: (418) 752-0407
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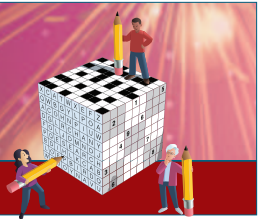


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On the Lighter Side...

POEMS CREATIVE WRITING PUZZLES WHAT'S THIS CHALLENGE SPEC GETS AROUND RECIPES



HOROSCOPES - June 26 to July 1

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Career developments may be a bit unclear this week, Aries. Your motivation may need a little extra boost. You might have to consider if a career change is in order.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
A lack of information is proving confusing, Taurus. If you suspect there's more details to uncover, choose a course of action and do your best to get as clear a picture of the situation as possible.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Keep your money in your wallet this week, Gemini. You might want to spend it or give it away impulsively and that could affect your finances in an impactful way.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, this isn't a good time to sign contracts or make any significant purchases. Keep your money safe and try to keep your savings account full at this point.

HOROSCOPES - July 2 to July 8

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Fill your mind with positive and motivational thoughts and you'll be much happier in the long run, Aries. It's easy to focus on negatives, but a change of perspective is liberating.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
It is possible that a lack of energy is affecting your ability to do the things that you normally enjoy, Taurus. Figure out ways to get more rest so you will not lack energy.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
It seems your social skills have been less consistent than in the past, Gemini. Do you have a reason why you have been pulling away from others lately? Get back on track.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, someone might recommend you for a leadership position and you could be inclined to take it. This is

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
People have been asking you to take on too many responsibilities lately, Leo. This could be stressing you out or taking away from your own needs. Learn to turn others away for now.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, this week may present an opportunity to restore your self-confidence. For too long you have been floundering and not finding the traction you need and deserve.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, something could be distorting your perspective right now and making it difficult to concentrate and communicate. Take a few days off from your responsibilities.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, after some gloomy feelings the last few weeks, good news has you feeling like you are on cloud nine.

something that is out of your wheelhouse, but you'll make the most of it.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, trusting someone else right now is something you might find challenging. It could be because you don't trust your instincts. You'll have to find a way around these feelings.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you haven't been available for some key people, and you'll find they've pulled away. You may miss their presence, but you can mend fences if you hope to.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you have been making excuses for someone in your life in the hopes that the relationship could be salvaged. But the other person must make an effort as well.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you have been putting your goals aside due to overwhelming circumstances and general procrastina-

Savor it and celebrate.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
This is a good week to try to enhance your love life, Sagittarius. Take every opportunity to woo your significant other, and plan a special event for the two of you.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
You may want some magical force to whisk away all of the little difficulties that have been affecting you, Capricorn, but it will require hard work to do that.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Lately there have been a lot of thoughts swirling through your head, so much so that you can't get any peace, Aquarius. It may be beneficial to sit down with someone to talk it out.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, try something new this week even if it scares you. It is good practice to challenge yourself once in a while to test your resilience to change.

tion. Now is the time to get things back on schedule.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
It's time to engage with the activities that you are passionate about, Sagittarius. There is never a "right" opportunity to get things started; you just need to take that first step.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Someone who understands you may enter your life, Capricorn. It may feel like you already know and understand this person, even though you have just met.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
It's possible that you might feel stuck with someone in a situation that is not to your liking, Aquarius. You can be a catalyst for change if you start taking action.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
You are about to have a eureka moment, Pisces. Everything you have been fretting about will then fall into place. It will be some smooth sailing afterwards.

HAPPY CANADA DAY

July Events Word Find

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

Table with 3 columns: AMERICA, COUNTRY, PARADE. Rows contain words like ANTHEM, CANADA, CELEBRATION, FIREWORKS, FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE, PARTY, PRIDE, YEARLY.



How they SAY that in...
ENGLISH: Free
SPANISH: Liberado
ITALIAN: Libero
FRENCH: Libre
GERMAN: Frei

Did You Know?
SOME HISTORIANS BELIEVE ANCIENT FIREWORKS WERE PIECES OF BAMBOO TOSSED INTO CAMPFIRES, WHERE THE BAMBOO WOULD EXPLODE WHEN ITS SAP AND MOISTURE HEATED AND EXPANDED.

Did You Know?
Fireworks are mainly made of black powder and metal salts that create different colors when burned. Flash powder also is used to give bright flashes and loud booms.

Did You Know?
As of 2024, the tallest skyscraper in Canada was the First Canadian Place in Toronto, with a height of 298 meters.

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to summer activities.
NCSTETO
Answer: Contest

Another position in Ottawa for MP Alexis Deschênes

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

OTTAWA - Alexis Deschênes, Member of Parliament (MP) for Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj, has been appointed vice-chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans.

The committee members elected him to this position on June 17 at the Parliament in Ottawa.

This is another role added to his existing duties as deputy leader of the Bloc Québécois and spokesperson for fisheries, oceans, the coast guard, and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

"I am very pleased to have this title, which will allow me to chair meetings at certain times. The Bloc Québécois' position is interesting because we are a recognized party. In addition to the Conservatives and the Liberal



Photo: Alexis Deschênes' Facebook page

Alexis Deschênes sees a new task to add to his duties.

Party, this gives us a certain role. If I ally myself with the Conservatives, I can block the Liberals. If I ally myself with the Liberals, I can block the Conservatives. We have a form of balance of

power," says the MP. He succeeded in getting the committee to accept a review of the process for allocating fishing rights. "(That's) what happened with redfish, but also with ex-

ploratory lobster permits in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands in 2024 and 2025. The idea is not to take away permits from those who have them. There are many people who are unhappy with the way they were allocated," explains the Bloc Québécois member.

"Ultimately, the idea is to see if we can better guide the political authorities when they grant fishing licenses so that the process is more transparent and generates more support," said the elected official.

This was part of the Bloc Québécois' election platform.

"An investigation was conducted to fully understand how fishing rights are allocated. The goal was to identify irregularities and establish an independent agency to grant them. That was part of our platform. At the end of the study, I think it will become quite clear what improvements could be

made. Another topic for study is the revision of the Fisheries Act. In this context, the study will allow me to make proposals to amend the Act. If we play our cards right, we could improve the Act," he says.

The committee's work will officially begin in the fall.

The elected official spoke with the new Minister of Fisheries about diversifying export markets.

"We agree on that," adds the MP.

This responsibility could take him to coastal regions across Canada.

"I am first and foremost the MP for Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj and then the spokesperson for Fisheries and Oceans for the Bloc Québécois. This summer, I want to visit the fishermen on the North Shore, because there is fishing there too. As for going abroad, I don't have any plans at this time," he says.

carrefour Gaspé

July 1

HAPPY
Canada
DAY

Sidewalk Bash 2025 Brings the Fun, Rain or Shine

Holly Smith

On June 7, Vision Gaspé-Percé Now's Sidewalk Bash 2025 welcomed roughly 140 community members to O'Hara Point for an afternoon of music, food and fun. Despite the on-and-off rain forcing a full takedown and reset, the event went ahead smoothly thanks to the dedication of organizers and volunteers. Highlights included live music by the Homegrown Country Band, sponsored by the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA), a scavenger hunt organized by the Gaspésie Literacy Council, cotton candy from the Maison des Jeunes, tasty food from the Hawks Basketball Team, and the participation of local vendors and The Gaspé Spec newspaper. With strong community spirit and engagement, the event was a clear success.

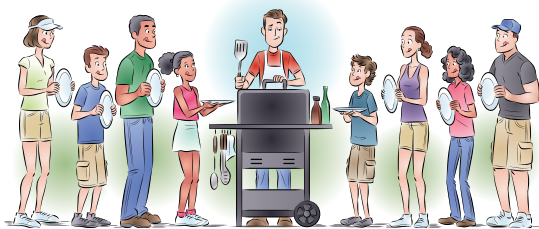


Live music by the Homegrown Country Band entertained the crowd despite the unpredictable weather.



Vision members greeted community member: From left: Amy Chicoine, Resource Manager; Sophie Wheeler, Finance Manager and Jessica Synnott, Executive Director.

Photos: Courtesy of Vision Gaspé-Percé Now





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HOMEGROWN COUNTRY BAND

FRIDAY NIGHT

JUNE 27, 2025 **7 PM** **THE GREEN NEW CARLISLE**





Canada Day on the Coast

HOLLY SMITH

PORT DANIEL - Canada Day on the Coast isn't always marked by big fireworks or crowds waving flags. While many big cities across Canada have concerts and big celebrations on July 1, people here often celebrate in quieter ways.

In some towns, there aren't any official events at all. Instead, the day feels like a normal summer day. Families go to the beach, neighbours talk on sidewalks, kids ride their bikes down gravel roads, and sometimes you can smell someone cooking on a barbecue. If there is a celebration, it's usually small, maybe a few friends meeting in a backyard, a bonfire on the beach, or someone playing guitar.

Even though the day is quiet, it is still very important to many people. For the people that live here these calm moments help them feel close to the land, the sea, and each other.

Canada Day can also be a complicated day for people on that coast. The Gaspé has many

different cultures, including French-speaking, English-speaking, and Mi'gmaq people. This mix shows both the good and hard parts of Canada's history.

For some people, July 1 is a day to feel proud of community, strength, and working together. These are values that people in small towns live by every day. People know their neighbours and help each other when needed. For these people, Canada Day means feeling proud to be part of a country where people care for one another.

For others, especially Indigenous people like the Mi'gmaq, the day can remind them of hard histories and ongoing challenges. The Mi'gmaq have lived on this land for thousands of years, before Canada was a country. For them, Canada Day can be a time to think about the past and hope for fairness in the future. Their feelings are also an important part of the Canadian story.

Because of this, Canada Day means different things to different people here. But it

also gives people a chance to talk and learn from each other. Around dinner tables, in community halls, and at small gatherings, people share their thoughts about what it means to live in Canada. These talks might not be loud or public, but they help bring people together.

In recent years, it has become harder for small towns to plan big Canada Day events. Money is tight, and many volunteers feel tired.

Fishing boats still go out early, reminding everyone that many people here depend on the sea. Children play by the water, their laughter mixing with the sound of waves and birds. These simple scenes happen every year and show how much people care about this place.

Canada Day in the Gaspé might not have big parties, but it has something special: a strong feeling of belonging to this land and community. It is about respecting history and being proud to live here.

Fun Facts

EMILY HOCQUARD

PORT DANIEL - Canada is a country full of amazing facts! From giant coins to maple syrup, there's so much to discover about the place we call home. Whether you're curious about nature or history, Canada has something for everyone. Check out these interesting facts that make our country truly unique.

1. Canada is the country with the most lakes in the world! With over 2 million lakes, this makes up roughly 8% of its land area!

2. Canada produces most of the world's Maple Syrup! Canada is a real powerhouse for this rich delicacy. Our country boasts over 6,000 maple farms and over 54 million maple taps!

3. Canada is home to the longest street in the world. Yonge Street in Toronto, spans an impressive 56 kilometres long and is known to

be one of Canada's oldest streets, dating as far back as 1794.

4. Canada has a 1-MILLION-dollar coin. Named the "Big Maple Leaf", is a gold coin which was produced by the Royal Canadian Mint in 2007. Weighing in at 220 pounds, it is recognized for its gold purity and 1.74 ft in diameter!

5. Canada has the largest moose population in the world! Moose can be found in every province and territory across our country. Believe it or not, there is an abundance in Newfoundland after being introduced to that region in the early 1900's.

6. Canada has six different time zones! Pacific Standard Time (PST); Mountain Standard Time (MST); Central Standard Time (CST); Eastern Standard Time (EST); Atlantic Standard Time (AST); and Newfoundland Standard Time (NST).



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ANTICS ROADSHOW

SATURDAY

NIGHT

JUNE 28, 2025

7 PM

**THE GREEN
NEW CARLISLE**





celebrating Canada Day with kids

EMILY HOCQUARD

Canada Day Parade

PORT DANIEL - Celebrating the birthday of our beautiful country does not have to be extravagant and stressful. Simply letting our children know how lucky they truly are to be living young, wild and FREE can be enough!

If you need simple ideas to occupy your little ones on this national holiday; look no further.

Dress for the occasion

Red and white are an excellent start to a Canada Day outfit. Adding accessories such as flags, temporary tattoos and pins can be a great way to show how proud we are to be Canadian!



Often local communities come together to celebrate Canada Day. In New Carlisle, there is the annual Canada Day Parade. Gathering at New Carlisle High School at 10:30 a.m., the parade will depart at 11 a.m. and make its way down the main road, turning

on Green Street and down to The Green where many fun and free festivities will begin! Floats, decorated vehicles and many members from all surrounding communities participate in this parade making it a memorable event for all to enjoy!

BBQ and Icecream

What is July 1st without a BBQ? Enjoy some grilled goodies while listening to music and dancing with friends! Afterall, food and music are a great way to anyone's heart – especially children!

Teddy Bear Picnic

At 12 p.m., children under 12 years old can enjoy face painting, bouncy castles, snacks and balloon animals!

This is a guaranteed way to win over any kid on Canada Day!

Fire Works

After running around in the sunshine, playing with peers and feeling the Canadian spirit all day long – the best way to end the night is the much-anticipated fireworks! At 9:30 p.m., you can't miss the bright colours

and loud clapping while all heads are turned, watching the show in the sky beachside at The Green. A tradition that lives on year after year for everyone to enjoy!

We are so fortunate to live in a tight-knit community that offers so much to its members. Let's not forget the importance of showing up, enjoying the offerings and celebrating being Canadian!



MINI MAPLE SUGAR CONES:

To make these sweet, creamy, chewy cones of goodness you will need:

- 1 cup of butter
- 2 cups of brown sugar
- 1/3 cup of maple syrup
- 1 (300 ml) can of sweet condensed milk
- 1 ½ cups of mini marshmallows (1.5 cup)
- 1 bag of mini cones

Step 1: Mix most ingredients together

In a large microwave-able bowl, mix in the melted butter, condensed milk, brown sugar and maple syrup. Give it a good stir until all the clumps smooth over.

Step 2: Microwave the mixture

Pop the bowl in the microwave for 2 minutes and stir. Repeat 4 times, for a total of 8 minutes. Be very careful when manipulating the bowl, it is quite hot – the mixture will be slightly boiling.

Step 3: Add in the marshmallows

Add in the marshmallow and stir until it is all melted in together. The color of the mixture should lighten up a bit. Put it back into the microwave for another 30 seconds and stir. Repeat once more, for a total of 1 minute.

Step 4: FILL THE MINI CONES

Fill in the cones with the mixture. You can use a pastry pouch, but the mixture is quite hot! Using a spoon is usually your best bet!

The mixture will start to solidify and become harder to pour as it cools so make sure you do this step while it is still hot and runny.

To keep the stuffing in, place the cones in a holder that can be made by flipping an egg carton over and putting holes in it to sit the cones in.

Step 5: Let it cool and enjoy!

Keeping them in the fridge and taking them out a few minutes minute before serving is optimal. This allows them to soften slightly before biting into the delicious maple goodness!

Happy tip: These also freeze well so you can make them well in advance and stash them away to enjoy all year 'round!

CANADA DAY WEEKEND COUNTDOWN

Thursday, June 26 to Sunday, June 29	6 p.m.	Womens Softball Tournament
Friday, June 27	7 p.m.	Music: CASA Homegrown Country Band
Saturday, June 28	1-5 p.m. 12 p.m. 7 p.m.	East Coast Car Club Show Washer Tournament Music: CASA's Roadshow Antics Band
Saturday, June 28 & Sunday, June 29	9 a.m.	Omnium Gaspesien New Carlisle Volleyball Tournament
Tuesday, July 1	11 a.m.	PARADE (Gather at 10:30 AM at NCHS) Itinerary: leaves NCHS, turning on the 132, descending Green Street to the beach. Children under 9 must be accompanied by an adult if on a float. All ATVs going in the parade must be plated and insured. ATVs will not be permitted to circulate following the parade, except to return home immediately.

MUSIC

7:00PM-8:30PM	12 - 3 p.m.
MICMAC DRIVE	12 - 4 p.m.
8:45PM-10:45PM	1 - 3 p.m.
HERITAGE 90'S	
11:00PM-12:30PM	1 p.m.
CROPDUSTER	

FIREWORKS: 9:30

	1 - 3 p.m.
	2 p.m.
	3 - 4 p.m.
	7 p.m.

Follow Municipality of New Carlisle & CASA for updates

Market Information/Registration :
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Volleyball Information/Registration:
Rudy Duguay 418.375.9716 or FB Messenger

Beer Garden Opens at 11 a.m.
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