The Gaspé SPEC
Keeping Gaspesians Informed
1975 to 2025 50 YEARS
VOLUME 51 / NO 25, AUGUST 6, 2025
$4.00 (Tax included) Contract 40019680

GESGAPEGIAG ANNUAL MAWIOMI:
A celebration of culture and unity

HOLLY **SMITH**

GESGAPEGIAG: - The Annual Mawiomi held in Gesgapegiag on July 19 and 20 brought together community members, dancers, drummers, and visitors for a powerful weekend of Mi'gmaq culture, tradition, and celebration. The free event was open to everyone and offered a meaningful space to honour identity and heritage.

The event highlighted the strength, pride, and hospitality of the Gesgapegiag community, welcoming all to celebrate together in the spirit of tradition.

A large crowd, including many children, gathered to celebrate the Mawiomi, enjoying a day filled with tradition, culture, and community spirit.

Dancers in full regalias perform the high-energy Fancy Dance, showcasing speed, agility, and vibrant tradition.

Anayah Larocque particpated in this years Mawiomi.

Honouring tradition through movement, the Fancy Grass Dancers bring centuries of culture to life with every step and spin.

Photos: Kayla Caplin Photography

Shrimp fishermen and processing plants reach agreement

GILLES **GAGNÉ**

GASPÉ – Shrimp fishermen on the Gaspé Peninsula and local processing plants have finally reached an agreement for the 2025 season. The Association Québécoise de l'industrie de la pêche, which represents the two remaining Gaspé processors, accepted the fishermen's latest proposal on July 28, four days after it was submitted.

The agreement includes a five-cent increase in landing prices across all four shrimp size categories. The big shrimp's landing price goes from $1.83 per pound in 2024 to $1.88, while the medium-sized shellfish will bring in $1.68 instead of $1.63. The small shrimp will bring in $1.58 instead of $1.53 per pound. Finally, the very small shrimp's landing price will go from $1.47 to $1.52.

If a July 28 agreement sounds late, considering that for decades, shrimp fishing in Quebec has officially started on April 1, it is because the reduced individual quotas received by fishermen since 2024 are making it hard to go at sea over a long period of time.

"In fact, for the past two or three years, processors have no longer wanted to buy shrimp in April because meat yields are lower. In addition, this year, several of our still active shrimp fishermen were granted lobster fishing licenses, and since lobster fishing begins, depending on the area, at the end of April and continues until July, this is why there has been almost no fishing so far this year, and by extension, negotiations have been slowed down until last week," stresses Patrice Element, the director general of the Office des pêcheurs de crevette du Québec, based in Gaspé.

The spring shrimp fishing results don't yield enough products to convince processing plants to buy the shellfish of local fishermen. Photo: Geneviève Gélinas

There are only two shrimp processing plants in the Gaspé Peninsula and the eastern part of the Lower Saint Lawrence region now, and both are in Gaspé, Pêcheries Marinard, in Rivière-au-Renard, and Crevette du nord atlantique, in Anse-au-Griffon. The Matane processing plant was destroyed by fire in March 2024 and the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts facility was closed several years ago.

In fact, of the eight Quebec-based shrimp fishermen active in 2024, five obtained lobster licenses in 2025. "They received a certain number of traps and for these guys, the logical thing was to take the lobster out to maximize their (spring and early summer) revenue," adds Mr. Element.

So far this year, four more Quebec fishermen and three from New Brunswick have obtained shrimp permits. "They weren't really fishing before the agreement was reached. Two of the boats fish shrimp cooked at sea. Two other boats are from Gesgapegiag and are expected to be active this year," explains Mr. Element.

He expects the captains of four additional Quebec boats to buy a shrimp fishing permit this year, two more from First Nations communities and two other captains who fished together in 2024 but who will use their own boats in 2025.

"The First Nations refused to go at sea for shrimp last year because of the resource decline but some communities will fish this year. The quota is higher, at 3,800 metric tons," says Patrice Element.

By comparison, in the 1990s and early 2000s, the gulf of Saint Lawrence annual shrimp quota was hovering between 25,000 and 30,000 metric tons. In 2024, the overall quota for the shrimp fishermen holding a permit in the Anticosti, Estuary, Sept-Îles and Esquiman zones reached only 3,060 tons. The Esquiman zone is reserved for Newfoundland fishermen. Patrice Element doesn't expect more than three New Brunswick shrimp fishermen to be active this year, although he cannot be sure.

When asked to assess the catch rate of 2025, Mr. Element hesitates a bit. "We have no statistics to compare apples to apples. The catch rate might be a little higher this year but I haven't seen (the results of) a fishing trip in the Estuary zone this year and I hear that it is a little better in Anticosti. We will know more a bit later. Shrimp fishing is basically starting," he says.

Will the current year be profitable? "The price would be attractive if we had volume. Profitability depends on three factors: quota size, the operating cost conditions and the price received. The fuel price is lower than two years ago but it remains at a high level. The quotas are low. The quantity is just not there to make it profitable. However, the resource is slowly picking up," points out Patrice Element.

Like last year, the two processing plants of the Gaspé Peninsula have been able to operate with shrimp imported from Norway.

"The shrimp landings in Norway are marked by phenomenal quantities. There are not enough processing plants in that country to process such quantities. The two Gaspé processing plants' managers are aware that with the quotas we have, they don't need us. Quebec fishermen delivered only 1.7 million pounds to our two processing plants last year. It was up to 15 million previously. The Gaspé Peninsula fishermen need the plants, but the plants no longer need us," sums up Mr. Element.

Coastal erosion becomes a concern for Festi-Plage

NELSON **SERGERIE**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PERCÉ - A new challenge is looming for Festi-Plage de Cap-d'Espoir, which held its 19th edition from July 24 to 26.

Each year, erosion and coastal flooding gradually eat away at the legendary site where the festival takes place.

"We lose a few centimetres year after year. For us, it's becoming an added challenge because we have to deal with high tides. Everything is designed so that our facilities don't take on water, but more importantly, so that festival-goers don't end up with their feet in the water. It's another logistical issue that will become interesting in the coming years," notes festival president Daphnée Pitre.

Despite the growing concern, Ms. Pitre says there is no threat to future editions.

Some 12,000 festival-goers were expected over the weekend. Photo: Festi-Plage de Cap-d'Espoir

"It's really just a matter of how we can move our things around on the beach. We still have a lot of leeway," she notes.

"This week, we set up the control room and the VIP lounge. One evening, we saw that the water was rising near our facilities. We sent the teams back to rearrange the control room and raise it a little higher so that the water would pass under it rather than crash against the wall," explains Ms. Pitre.

Still, the beach remains central to the festival's unique charm.

Beach replenishment work in Maria

NELSON **SERGERIE**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

MARIA – Three months after awarding a $25.7 million contract to Bélugas Construction of Boisbriand, beach replenishment work to protect Maria from erosion and coastal flooding is progressing well.

Trains and trucks are working in coordinated fashion to carry out this vast project, which covers Route 132 between the municipal beach and the post office, and protects the commercial area between the IGA market and the Lady Maria residence over a distance of 2.4 kilometres.

“It's going very well. We are very satisfied. The response has been good. The contractors are very competent. It's nice to collaborate on such a large project and have little impact on the municipality,” notes municipal liaison officer Luce Plourde.

The project includes research, characterization, transportation and installation of granular materials, extension of pipes, development of storm sewer outlets, installation of storm sewer manholes and various other work.

Few complaints have been made to the municipality so far.

“Using the train as the main means of transportation helps. Of course, there are trucks between the railroad tracks and the beach, but people are patient, and we hope they will remain so,” says Ms. Plourde.

The use of the railroad tracks to transport the necessary equipment is still in its early stages.

“It's going very well so far. We were making two train trips a day. On July 22, there were three. Ultimately, the goal is to get to four trips a day,” she says.

Two types of railcars are used: air dump railcars and hopper railcars that unload underneath, with the material being loaded in trucks by conveyors. From there, the trucks reach the shore where they unload the material.

“Residents and tourists are very happy with this option because it frees Route 132 from a lot of trucks,” the liaison officer continues.

The work is arousing curiosity. "People are venturing out to see what's happening on the beach. But they must respect the measures in place, because a construction site is still quite dangerous. They should stay away from anything orange," explains Ms. Plourde.

Beach replenishment work is progressing well.

Photo: G. Gagné

The municipality is working to develop access points to better view the work, particularly at Vieux-Quai Park.

A security perimeter is also being established near the train unloading area on Hirondelles Street to allow curious onlookers to view the operations.

The current construction zone is located around Town Hall, Vieux-Quai Park and the central sector. “Traffic is flowing smoothly,” says Ms. Plourde.

Regular rainfall is helping to reduce dust levels. Approximately 500,000 tons of material are required to replenish the beach.

In addition, experts concluded on May 7, that 50 buildings in the Pointe Verte sector are now under imminent threat from erosion and coastal flooding and constitute an imminent disaster.

A maximum of $385,000 per property is being granted for demolition or relocation. Those who choose to stay will still be entitled to municipal services. People have up to a year and a half to make their decision.

Every Friday, the municipality will publish a summary of the week's work and upcoming work on social media.

A dedicated page will also be available on the municipality's website.

Aggregate train traffic to ramp up until August 8

GILLES **GAGNÉ**

NOUVELLE – Luc Lévesque, director general of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG), says that the aggregate traffic between the Nouvelle quarry and Maria is currently reaching its optimal pace, which should be attained by August 8, and maybe a couple of days before.

Photo: G. Gagné

The SCFG hoppers are making two daily trips between Nouvelle and Maria since August 5. They are loaded at a siding called Leclerc, where limestone was exploited until the mid-1980s.

As of July 31, SCFG crews were making four to five trips per day. Three or four of those return trips were carried out with seven air dump cars, while the 23 hoppers acquired by the SCFG were used once a day.

“The contractor’s conveyor’s capacity was not able to keep up with the pace. It had to be adjusted and we also had to adapt to the hoppers’ slower unloading process. The quarry’s truck loading also had to be sped up and it is fixed now. By Tuesday (August 5), we should be able to use seven trains daily, as five return trips using air dump cars and two trips using the 23 hoppers should be in operation daily”, points out Luc Lévesque.

Around July 18-20, the SCFG team removed the top of the 23 hoppers, initially built as gravity cars to haul cement.

“The aggregate traffic gives us a good idea of what we can do with those cars. It is a good test. We can find other uses for them in the future,” adds Mr. Lévesque.

The hauling operation between Nouvelle and Maria has to be completed by mid-November, as the contractor in charge of the beach replenishment in Maria, Construction Béluga, must deliver the work before the end of the year.

Each air dump car has a capacity of 80 tons, while a hopper car can carry as much as 100 tons. The total volume of aggregates to be transported will range between 500,000 and 550,000 tons, according to the mayor of Maria, Jean-Claude Landry.

Editorial section

Gilles **Gagné**

Commentary

Twenty years ago, Smurfit-Stone was closing its New Richmond mill

The morning of August 4, 2005, was a sunny Thursday. From dawn, it looked like a perfect day. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, it was hot and dry, and the wind was low. However, a company based in Creve Coeur, Missouri, with another head office in Chicago, Illinois, triggered a nightmare for 300 Baie-des-Chaleurs-based workers through closing New Richmond's mill.

Their family members, their friends and just about everyone around them also felt the tsunami wave that ravaged the linerboard production facility and its neighbouring communities.

It was far from expected, despite a lengthy shutdown in July due to a low volume of orders, according to the owner, Smurfit-Stone. A light order book in the pulp and paper industry was rather usual in the middle of the summer. People don't shop as much as during the other three seasons. Linerboard is largely tied to shopping and consumption patterns.

Shutdowns also represented a way to create scarcity of products on the market, an attempt to increase the price of those commodities.

Consuming Chinese goods was a rising trend observed from the year 2000 and on. Therefore, demand for linerboard was increasing in China and other Southeast Asian countries, and diminishing in North America.

Southeastern Asia and China could produce linerboard and corrugated board, the two components of cardboard boxes. Across the Baie des Chaleurs, in Bathurst, New Brunswick, an unprofitable mill was producing corrugated board, about the same volume as New Richmond mill's linerboard.

Bathurst and New Richmond were simply dots on the map for the company's upper management. They decided to close both mills. The New Richmond mill had declared a $2.5 million profit for its June 2005 operations, and it was duplicating the mill's performance of prior months.

When Smurfit-Stone asked for the protection of the Delaware tribunal, who specialized in technical bankruptcy in 2009, the company owed $6 billion to its creditors.

That situation was mind-blowing. A company that hit a $6 billion bankruptcy wall had closed a profitable Gaspesian mill three-and-a-half years prior to that legal manoeuvre.

Explainable?

Of course, company officials had a "sound" explanation for that multi-billion-dollar hole. The 1998 merger of Jefferson Smurfit and Stone Container increased the firm's debt, and market conditions never allowed the merged company, Smurfit-Stone, to reach a reasonable debt ratio.

Of course, take two, a technical bankruptcy is never the fault of the company's management. Unpredictable, unforeseeable market conditions were to blame. But, isn't it the responsibility of capable managers to assess all possible contexts when they are evaluating situations? Isn't it what they claim to be able to do when they're hired to earn millions of dollars annually?

The New Richmond employees of Smurfit-Stone had voted nearly unanimously for a strike weeks before its closure, as a protest towards the company's negotiating team. Afterwards, company officials discretely blamed the closure of the facility on that strike vote.

The near belly-up conclusion came four years later. Add two more years and Smurfit-Stone's asset was acquired in 2011 for $3.5 billion by Rock-Tenn, an amount that was roughly one-half of the ailing firm's former book value.

Bad management, way more than a strike vote, explains the closure of the New Richmond plant.

The American way

The closure was prepared a few days before its announcement. Smurfit-Stone had sent armed security guards to a motel in Caplan, where the group waited for a call.

The mill had reopened the previous weekend following a shutdown. Most sawmills of Eastern Quebec were glad to send their trucks loaded with wood chips, shavings and sawdust to the New Richmond mill.

The plant's team had developed several years before an expertise that allowed the mill's machines to use a greater proportion of shavings and sawdust in the sheet production recipe. Shavings, the residue from sawmill's planers, and sawdust were sold at a

Continued on page 7

Fred **Kirch**

Guest Commentary

Donald Trump cheats at golf

Golf is more than a game; it's a character test. Unlike most sports, the game of golf is governed by honour. Players are expected to keep their own scores and play with integrity, even when no one is watching. There are no referees shadowing every shot.

Donald Trump's habit of cheating at golf is well documented. The way Trump plays golf is the way he lives his life. Rules are for other people, truth is optional, and appearing to win by any means necessary is the objective.

he stories of his cheating are confirmed by people who have played with him. In Commander-in-Cheat: How Golf Explains Trump, veteran sportswriter Rick Reilly documents a long list of his dishonest tactics, including kicking the ball out of the rough, taking "gimme" putts from six or eight feet away, miscounting strokes, and awarding himself wins in club tournaments (his clubs) that he never even entered.

On one occasion, according to Reilly, he used a second ball off the tee and then played whichever ball landed better. When he plays with celebrities or professionals, people who might beat him, he brings along a caddy whose job becomes moving Trump's ball to better spots while others aren't looking.

There's video proof of this. While visiting his golf courses in Scotland, at an estimated cost to the taxpayers of about $10 million, Trump was caught cheating on camera. As he approached his ball, which had fallen precariously close to a water hazard, his caddy, walking a few yards ahead of his golf cart, surreptitiously moved the ball to a safer location. Trump then casually played the ball from its new, improved lie. It was blatant, shameless, and entirely in character. As it turned out, it was seen by millions on television around the globe.

Trump cheats even when there is nothing at stake. It is his reflex to cheat. Golf is supposed to reveal character and in Trump's case, it does. It reveals a compulsive need to control the narrative and always declare victory for himself, no matter the facts.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the club championships he regularly "wins" at his own courses. In some cases, he has simply declared himself the champion without playing a full round, sometimes after playing alone. He has invoked a non-existent rule which allowed him to replace the winner because he once had a better score on a different day. These aren't mistakes. They are calculations meant to feed the myth of Trump as a natural winner. And like so much else in his life, it relies on people being either too afraid to challenge the fiction or too polite to do so.

He has claimed "Time" magazine covers that never existed. Many of these phony covers hang in his clubhouses.

Even in trivial details such as crowd sizes and weather forecasts, he cannot resist rewriting reality in order to flatter himself.

That same compulsion to manipulate outcomes in golf shows up in every area of his life. In business, Trump ignored his failures, exaggerated his wealth, and stiffed his contractors. In politics, he lied about President Obama's place of birth, spread lies about voter fraud, pressured election officials, and incited a violent attempt to overturn election results.

The problem arises when we normalize such dishonesty, blur the line between confidence and con artistry, and the line between showmanship and shamelessness. If cheating is harmless, then so is lying and blaming others. Eventually, rules become optional and truth becomes negotiable.

Golf is a game built on trust. A pencil and scorecard mean nothing if the player isn't honest. The same can be said of democracy, which depends on shared facts, fair play, and respect for the rules; particularly the rule of law.

Trump cheats in order to be able to appear to win. On manicured golf courses that he owns, surrounded by employees who won't contradict him, he fabricates victory and calls it greatness. He then moves to the Oval Office and does the same thing to the world.

(Taxes included)
1-year paper $50
6-months paper: $29
1-year digital $40
Outside Canada:
Contact office for a quote

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

SPEC welcomes letters to the editor on subjects relevant to topics covered by the paper. Letters must be kept within 300 words or less and may be edited for clarity or to remove any slanderous, sexist, racist or homophobic statements. We reserve the right to reject any letters. Opinions or letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies or beliefs of this newspaper. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include the address and number(s) for verification purposes (address & phone number will not be printed). The Publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.

Tel: **418-752-5400** **specs@globetrotter.net**

Vandalism in Bonaventure

NELSON **SERGERIE**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

Photo: Town of Bonaventure

Example of damage caused to Louisbourg Park.

BONAVENTURE – Following recent incidents in Chandler, the Town of Bonaventure has also had to deal with acts of vandalism on its territory in recent days.

The Town issued a statement on July 22 following several incidents, particularly in Louisbourg Park, noting that the acts are "disturbing and compromise the safety, beauty, and well-being of our public spaces."

The Town specifically mentioned the intentional destruction of street furniture and municipal infrastructure, which caused significant damage and endangered safety; the illegal use of motorcycles on municipal property, including furniture such as benches and picnic tables; dangerous motorcycle riding on sports fields, causing significant damage to surfaces and endangering users; fires in restrooms and the dumping of paper, compromising cleanliness and safety; and the deliberate removal of flowers, ornamental plants, and signage from our streets, green spaces, and other locations.

"It's very unfortunate, but every year, we are victims of vandalism. This year, it's small motorcycles in particular that are causing damage. We arrive in the morning and it's damaged by motorcycles," laments Director General André Pineault.

In 2024, vandalism cost between $4,000 and $5,000, a bill that must be paid by taxpayers.

"Beyond the cost of replacing property, there are staff who are needed to make repairs and clean up. It's unpleasant for citizens who want to use the facilities because everything has been dirtied, and our employees can't clean up after every act of vandalism at all hours of the day and night. It's really a shame," notes the director general.

Surveillance cameras are in place at Louisbourg Park, and evidence has been collected in various ways.

"They have been in place since this spring. We have images, and they have been handed over to the police," says Mr. Pineault.

The Town reminds everyone involved that they are liable to legal sanctions, including fines, official complaints, and even prosecution.

In the event of a repeat offence, the Town reserves the right to take legal action without prior notice.

Photo: Facebook

Chandler's Beaux Sables Beach.

Rescue operation in Chandler

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - It was more frightening than serious on the afternoon of July 22 at Beaux Sables Beach, in Chandler's Newport sector, when two young teenage girls were rescued from the waters of the gulf of Saint Lawrence.

According to the Sûreté du Québec, the alert was raised around 1:30 p.m. The girls were having difficulty in the water, but rescuers acted quickly to prevent a tragedy.

Both girls were transported to Chandler Hospital by paramedics, as they were in shock. The rescuers, hailed as heroes, did not require hospitalization.

The beach was closed for the remainder of the day.

Police report

Fatal ATV accident in Barachois

The driver of an all-terrain vehicle died at about 6 p.m. on July 29 in the Barachois area of Percé following a fatal skid. The driver was a man in his seventies, living in the Percé area. "The investigation suggests that the ATV was traveling on Chemin des Coteaux and that the driver attempted to cross the intersection to reach Route Blondin," says Sûreté du Québec's communication officer Frédéric Deshaies.

It was at this point that the driver lost control of his vehicle and was ejected. Emergency services responded to the accident scene, and the man was transported to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

"A collision investigation was launched to determine the exact causes of the accident. It is too early to determine the contributing factors," adds Mr. Deshaies.

This death comes as the Sûreté du Québec reiterates its call for caution on the roads during the construction holidays. With the Percé accident, the number of deaths since the start of the holidays reached 18 as of July 29, the same number as last year for the entire holiday period. Five days remained in the construction break when the Barachois accident occurred.

"Two more people died yesterday (July 30) in Quebec City. So, last year's total is surpassed. We ask people to pay attention to contributing factors. What are they? Speeding, carelessness and driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs. In that regard, police officers' actions cannot curtail that. People must act responsibly. This year's statistics are far from great," adds Frédéric Deshaies.

The Barachois tragedy was the second major accident in two consecutive days in the Gaspé Peninsula. On July 28, a collision involving three vehicles in Pointe-à-la-Croix on July 28 left one person with non-life-threatening injuries.

Pascal Bergeron faces additional charges

Already charged with sexual assault since mid-February, former Environnement Vert-plus spokesperson and activist Pascal Bergeron now faces an additional charge of criminal harassment of his alleged victim. The alleged acts occurred between May 5 and 10 in the Baie-des-Chaleurs, according to New Carlisle criminal prosecutor Sam Bernard.

This new charge was filed on July 15. The 44-year-old man is scheduled to make his first appearance in this case on August 18 at the New Carlisle courthouse. "Pascal Bergeron will also return to court on August 20, this time in connection with the sexual assault charge, to which he entered a plea of not guilty on March 31," says Mr. Bernard.

Although the two cases are currently proceeding in parallel, Mr. Bernard confirms that the alleged victim is the same in both cases and that Pascal Bergeron will face both charges simultaneously in a possible trial. A publication ban is imposed on any information that could identify the victim.

Pascal Bergeron has been an advocate for environmental causes in the Gaspé Peninsula for approximately 12 years.

Carleton incident brings three young individuals to court

An incident on the morning of July 7 in the eastern part of Carleton has brought, and will continue to bring, three individuals to court, two young men and one young offender. Gunshots were reportedly heard by Alain Arsenault, who lives on the property where a wrecked car was found by the first police officers to arrive. "There is a new house under construction in the neighbourhood. So, it could have been gun shots or masonry nails being driven," he said the following day.

The Sûreté du Québec has been reluctant to release details about the case, to avoid hindering the investigation.

Quebec City's resident Orglin Salvatory Torres Emery, a young adult, is charged with wearing a disguise with intent to commit a crime, criminal harassment and assault with a weapon. He also failed twice to respect the conditions of his release in another court case. He is remanded in custody at least until his next court appearance, scheduled for August 18.

Cédric Cloutier, 18, also from Quebec City, also faces charges of wearing a disguise with intent to commit a crime, criminal harassment and assault with a weapon. He was released from prison and is expected to appear at the New Carlisle courthouse on September 8.

The young offender, aged 17, faces the same charges as Cloutier and will return to court on October 17.

One of the three accused was treated at the Maria hospital after being struck by a bullet.

The 73-place daycare centre in Gespeg will not open until January 2027

NELSON **SERGERIE**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The second daycare centre project approved in the summer of 2022 in Gaspé, at the CPE des Butineurs by the Ministry of Family Affairs, will not open until January 2027.

Several technical issues have delayed the development process.

The application was submitted in January 2022, and 73 places were approved, 80% of which are reserved for members of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg.

The construction of the facility, initially planned for Nation land near the Saint-Majorique administrative centre, has proven complicated.

From the beginning of the proceedings with the Town of Gaspé in the fall of 2022, two different maps emerged, raising concerns about a potential unmarked watercourse and wetlands on the selected parcel of land.

"We had to have everything evaluated and characterized. In the end, there was no watercourse, but there were two wetlands. We had to discuss it again and select a new location," explains Mylène Côté, director of the CPE des Butineurs and project manager.

Once the second site was selected, still on Nation property, but behind the administrative centre, further testing was required.

"We had the issue of the well and septic tank in that area. We had to conduct characterization tests to see what kind of treatment system would be possible. Each study had to be approved by the Department of Family Services before moving on to the next one. That's what caused the delay," continues Ms. Côté.

All these tests had to be conducted during the summer season.

Once these steps were completed, the feasibility study was submitted in January, and the CPE now hopes to open the new facility in January 2027.

The daycare centre will finally be built behind the administrative centre of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg.

Photo: Nelson Sergerie

"We will need the ministry's approval to continue. We have hired architects and engineers. Everything is proceeding as normal. Each step is taking a little longer than expected," notes Ms. Côté.

The facility will be a traditional construction, unlike the CPE Le Voyage de mon Enfance near Carrefour Gaspé, which is currently under construction as part of a pilot project using prefabricated buildings.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2026.

In 2022, the Quebec government allocated a budget of $3.3 million for the project.

"We'll see when construction will take place. There is always a small indexation. For the moment, that's the budget we have," calculates the director.

By comparison, the CPE project under construction near Carrefour Gaspé will cost $6 million, after several delays pushed back its completion.

The shortage of educators in the job market remains a major challenge.

"It's a big and exciting challenge. It's a real concern. We're working on it every day. We hope that the beauty of the project will attract people to the region," says Ms. Côté.

About 15 educators and three support staff will be needed. "We hope to have members of the Nation (filling these positions)," she says.

The three newly elected officials of Gespeg sworn in

NELSON **SERGERIE**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The three new members of the Band Council of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg have expressed their commitment to working collaboratively with the other elected officials, following their swearing-in ceremony on July 17.

Mark Sinnett, Placide Jeannotte, and Linda Jean were elected in a by-election held on July 13 to fill vacant council positions.

All three are members of the Elders' Circle, which had contested the results of last fall's election, arguing that it failed to respect the Nation's customs and traditions.

"We have been given a mandate and the trust of our members, who have told us that they want us to work together. It is in this spirit that we will begin and continue our mandate," said Linda Jean, who was designated to speak on behalf of the three elected officials.

Among their priorities are becoming familiar with key issues and working for the well-being of the community.

Following the September 2023 election, the Elders called for a review of the Electoral Code.

"This is a priority for everyone at the table. There are things to correct, look at, and discuss together," said Ms. Jean.

At one point, the Elders even considered legal action.

"The key words in our campaign were communication and working together. Yes, the courts are there, but to be able to make concrete decisions, it's better to be on the inside," said Ms. Jean.

Since the next election isn't scheduled until September 2028, there is time to reach a consensus on potential reforms.

In October, the Elders launched a petition to try to invalidate the results of the September election. Their primary concern was that the notice of candidacy and election was sent only by email to voting members, rather than by mail, which is the community's customary method of communication.

They argued that this had caused "serious harm to our population" by depriving many of their right to vote.

The petition collected 375 signatures.

Photo: Taken from Linda Jean's Facebook page

The three newly elected officials during their swearing-in ceremony on July 17. From left to right: Mark Sinnett, Linda Jean, and Placide Jeannotte.

The current interpretation of the Electoral Code leaves much room for ambiguity and does not address all scenarios—particularly when contentious situations arise, as they did in the last election, which resulted in a tie between two candidates.

The petition was rejected by the sitting Council, which ruled that the matter fell under the jurisdiction of the Chief Electoral Officer.

As a result of the decision, the candidate who finished third in the election ultimately became Chief.

After the initial petition, a second was launched in January, this time calling for the complete removal of the Council. However, that request went unanswered.

Trump's shadow still looms over supply management

NELSON **SERGERIE**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - Canadian dairy farmers remain concerned about the potential impact of future trade talks with the United States, despite the fact that supply management is now protected by law in Canada.

The regional president of Quebec Milk Producers, Normand Barriault, recently attended a national conference in Toronto where this issue was discussed in the context of the trade war with our southern neighbours, led by President Donald Trump.

"There are always threats. We talk about negotiations, but there are no negotiations to be had with him. He will impose what he wants. If he doesn't get what he wants, he'll cry about it anyway. No matter what Mark Carney (the Prime Minister of Canada) is willing to leave on the table, he'll never be satisfied," says the dairy farmer from Carleton-sur-Mer.

But one fact that President Trump does not mention is revealing.

"The Americans export more to us than we export to them. Trump will never say this publicly, but there are many more American products on our shelves or in processing than we export with our specialty cheese products, which American restaurateurs want because they love them," says Mr. Barriault.

Even when access is granted through agreements, Barriault notes that it is often limited. He gives the example of whole milk from Europe, which is technically permitted for import but has a short shelf life, making it difficult to export overseas.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Milk producers still fear the US president over supply management.

"He's a hyper-protectionist. It's almost like playing 'my daddy's bigger than yours,'" says the regional president.

The impact of weather on production

Mother Nature's capricious weather makes summer production difficult, even though producers remain optimistic and believe that the season will still be a good one.

"We thought we were going to have a very good year. We had an early spring with little snow to melt, but Mother Nature finally gave us a late and wet spring, which caused a delay between sowing and the first hay cut. It's been a bit of a turbulent year," notes Normand Barriault.

The combination of heavy showers every three days, humid heat, and then cold weather is causing the plants to grow quickly. "For grains and corn, we're going to have variable yields because the mounds will be great, but in the gullies, the yield will be lower," he notes, due to water accumulation in the lowlands.

The first hay harvest was generous, and the second, which is just around the corner, should also produce a very good yield. "It could be a record year in terms of volume, but we'll have to see about the quality," says Mr. Barriault.

A third harvest could be possible under current conditions. However, given the strong yields from the first two cuts, a third may not be necessary later in the season.

It remains difficult to predict how the rest of the summer will unfold, as everything depends on Mother Nature. "We're still expecting a good season," he concludes.

Gasoline: A difference that the mayor of Gaspé cannot explain

NELSON **SERGERIE**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The mayor of Gaspé says he cannot explain the eight-cent-per-litre difference in gasoline prices between his town and nearby Chandler following a drop in prices at the pump on July 17 in the area between Chandler and Cap-d'Espoir.

In that region, a litre of regular gasoline was selling for $1.47, while in Gaspé, no change had been observed, with the price still at $1.57 as of July 23.

"It's inexplicable to have an eight-cent difference between Gaspé and Chandler, and it's just as inexplicable that everyone changed their prices at practically the same time," said the mayor of Gaspé Daniel Côté.

The price drop spread quickly through the Rocher-Percé MRC on July 17.

According to data from the Régie de l'énergie, as of July 21, retailers in that MRC were earning an average profit margin of 11.3 cents per litre—similar to last year's average. In contrast, retailers in Gaspé were charging a 19-cent margin, compared to an average of around 12 cents last year.

"This is a sign that there is a lack of competition. That's why we've been calling on the Competition Bureau for years.

There is an eight-cent difference between the price of a litre of gasoline in Gaspé and Chandler.
Photo: N. Sergerie

We are asking them once again to do their job and demonstrate that there is a lack of competition, which is causing all sorts of abnormal, even absurd things to happen, and it is ordinary people who are paying the price," commented the mayor. Last September, the Competition Bureau concluded that there was no collusion in the Gaspé Peninsula to fix gasoline prices.

At the time, the bureau stated that "combating anti-competitive behaviour in the gasoline sector is a priority for the Bureau. It is for this reason that our investigators visited several regions of Quebec to better understand how gasoline prices are determined. These visits took place in eastern Quebec, including the Gaspé Peninsula, on July 18, 2024."

"To date, the information obtained has not allowed us to demonstrate the presence of anti-competitive activities in the retail gasoline sector," the Bureau added, reiterating that its role is to investigate price-fixing and other anti-competitive practices.

As an enforcement agency, the Bureau does not have the authority to regulate gasoline prices. This falls under provincial jurisdiction, the federal agency emphasized.

Since the Quebec government abolished the minimum price floor, no price adjustment has been observed in Gaspé, which continues to rank among the most expensive sectors in the province for gasoline.

Only the regions of Northern Quebec and the Magdalen Islands have higher prices than Gaspé.

Some gas stations in Gaspé have adopted similar lower prices, but the trend is far from widespread.

COMMENTARY

Cont'd from page 4

lower price to paper mills, as they were not supposed to be as strong, fiber-wise, as wood chips.

The New Richmond mill had developed a way to integrate more sawdust and shavings and therefore reduce its production cost. Moreover, the sawmills could find outlets for these two byproducts more easily. That explains why sawmills' operators were relieved to see the reopening of the linerboard facility.

At one point on the morning of August 4, that relief, and the jobs of 300 people, ended abruptly.

The armed security guards hired by Smurfit-Stone entered the mill, with a few of them informing truck drivers delivering sawdust byproducts that they would not be unloading their trailers.

Journalists received a fax shortly after 9 a.m. stating that Smurfit-Stone was permanently closing the New Richmond and Bathurst mills.

It was a shock for everyone. It was another blow to Gaspesians, who had witnessed the closures of the Murdochville mine and the Gaspesia mill two weeks apart in October of 1999, followed by the closure of the Murdochville smelter in April 2002.

The New Richmond workers were called individually to come to the mill and pick up their belongings. Each was accompanied by armed guards, as if they were criminals likely to destroy something in the plant.

It added unnecessary fuel to an already tense situation. Other paper mills closed in Canada between 1999 and 2010. There is no good way to close a mill. However, the Smurfit-Stone way proved arguably the most inhumane. As employees and the public said at the time, it was done the American way.

Demonstrations and political pressure did not convince the company to reopen the profitable facility and sell it without a non-competition clause. A potential buyer would not have been allowed to produce linerboard in New Richmond.

The biggest part of the mill was demolished in 2010. The Town of New Richmond opted for an economic diversification strategy despite the fact that, having been built in 1965, the linerboard plant was one of the youngest pulp and paper mills in Quebec.

New Richmond recovered economically better than most one-company towns that experienced a closure of their main employers. However, not all the scars have faded for the people who experienced the August 4, 2005, shock.

The train at the cement plant in early fall

NELSON **SERGERIE**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

The Caplan Bridge is almost ready.

Photo: N Sergerie

NEW RICHMOND - After several delays, the train will finally reach Port-Daniel-Gascons in early fall, according to the president of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie.

In 2017, Quebec announced $100 million to upgrade the rail line between Matapedia and Gaspé. In 2020, an additional $135 million was added to the budget with a promise to reach Port-Daniel–Gascons by 2022.

However, in February 2022, another delay pushed the timeline to 2024. Then last fall, yet another postponement was announced, as some bridges were not quite ready and an issue had arisen with the tunnel near the cement plant. Since the plant itself was not yet ready to receive trains, the delay to spring 2025 was not perceived as a setback at the time.

One of the last remaining obstacles was the bridge in Caplan.

"The rails have been laid on the bridge. The ballast still needs to be installed on the approaches. Normally, we should be 100% operational by next week at the latest," said Éric Dubé, president of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie.

Even though the infrastructure is new, it must still undergo inspection to ensure compliance.

As for the tunnel, the Ministry of Transport has informed the company that the work should allow trains to pass through it to reach the cement plant this fall. Work on the approaches could continue even while trains are running nearby.

"We are hopeful, along with the department, that by early fall we will be able to reach the cement plant, which has been our goal since the beginning of the year," said Mr. Dubé.

All infrastructure between Caplan and Port-Daniel-Gascons will be inspected before the train is given the green light to travel to the cement plant.

Even if all preparations are not yet complete, the plant will still be able to load cement.

"We have plenty of ways to load cars even if the work is not finished. Our goal is to be operational as soon as possible. The day the rail allows us to get to Port-Daniel, you can count on us to load cement," said Mr. Dubé.

"I can't wait to make the news that the first cement train is leaving Port-Daniel," said the president after these multiple delays.

Herbicide on the railroad

The ZICO Conservation Society of Baie-de-Gaspé is once again denouncing the use of chemical herbicides to control vegetation along the railroad.

The organization has been fighting against these methods for years, pointing out that alternatives exist, and is once again calling for an end to spraying, as it endangers the health of citizens and the environment, noting that the railroad runs alongside residences with artesian wells, wetlands, salmon rivers, and the Chaleurs and Gaspé bays.

The organization points out that Switzerland and Sweden use hot water to control vegetation, and the White Pass and Yukon Railway, between Skagway, Alaska (United States) and Whitehorse, Yukon, has relied on mechanical means since 2016.

The organization emphasizes that other non-chemical methods are possible and should be prioritized.

Vehicles on the beach: Gaspé cannot intervene

NELSON **SERGERIE**
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Theoretically, the Town of Gaspé cannot prohibit motor vehicles from driving on local beaches.

In response to concerns about the presence of a few 4x4s on Douglastown Beach, the Town explained prior to July 23 that a provincial regulation permits fishermen to drive in these areas, creating a regulatory grey zone that limits municipal intervention.

However, the Town notes that barriers are installed when abuse is observed.

Both the Sûreté du Québec and municipal inspectors have spoken with some campers on the beaches to remind them that camping is prohibited.

The Town is urging those who still venture into these areas to stay on designated trails in order to avoid damaging these fragile ecosystems.

Sand couch grass is being planted this year in both Haldimand and Douglastown to protect the shoreline.

However, the context changed on July 25 when the Town of Gaspé issued an update about the situation. The message on the Town's Facebook page read as follows.

ZERO TOLERANCE ON OUR BEACHES

In response to recent disturbances and blatant disregard for the rules—especially at Douglastown Beach—the Town of Gaspé is tightening controls.

We even discovered that the barrier installed in Douglastown for several years (used in case of overcrowding and left open this year) was removed in the past few days. This is a regrettable act of vandalism.

After an urgent meeting with our partners from the Sûreté du Québec and the Mi'gmaq Nation of Gespeg, a joint decision was made: the awareness period is over and it is not enough.

Effective immediately, SQ officers and our municipal inspectors will issue tickets for any infractions of the regulations.

To be perfectly clear, here's a reminder of the key prohibitions:

NO CAMPING

Our beaches are not campgrounds. Fines ranging from $200 to $2,000 apply under our bylaw for repeat offenders. For nature stays, campsites are available at official campgrounds in Greater Gaspé: https://zurl.co/XHCZc

NO VEHICLES ON THE SAND

Motorized traffic destroys beach grass, the plant that holds our beaches together and protects them from erosion. This is a fragile environment, not a highway. While some exceptions are allowed under provincial regulations, tickets may be issued outside of those cases.

NO LITTERING

The rule is simple: take back everything you brought with you. Leave the area cleaner than you found it.

These rules are not meant to bother you but to PROTECT our natural heritage. We count on the cooperation of residents and visitors alike to enjoy our beaches responsibly. Thank you for helping preserve the unique beauty of Gaspé.

Suzette Arsenault goes down in history

Nelson Sergerie

BONAVENTURE – The only woman to have held the position of mayor of Bonaventure, Suzette Arsenault, now sees her name displayed in the municipal council chamber.

The council announced the unveiling of the newly named chamber during a special session on July 21. Ms. Arsenault served as mayor from 1989 to 1997.

Attending the ceremony with her family and former colleagues, the former mayor accepted this tribute with great emotion and gratitude.

In addition to bearing her name, a commemorative plaque recognizes both the room's new title and the Town's acknowledgement of the important role women play in municipal politics.

Ms. Arsenault was known for her leadership and determination.

"Suzette Arsenault did not enter politics for prestige! She wanted to carry out concrete projects, defend ideas, and move things forward. She helped shape the cultural identity of our town, notably with a major project: the restoration of the Acadian Museum and its recognition by the Ministry of Culture and Communications in 1990. It was her determination to move this project forward that led her into municipal politics," said Mayor Pierre Gagnon.

A suggestion box was made available to citizens at the town hall reception desk in July 2024 to collect ideas for naming the room following renovations.

The suggestions were reviewed by council members before being put to a vote, and Ms. Arsenault's name was chosen.

Douglastown author Jean-Marie Fallu launches book about the history of Percé

GILLES **GAGNÉ**

CARLETON – Douglastown-based author Jean-Marie Fallu recently launched a book about Percé, La fascinante histoire de Percé, which means the fascinating history of Percé, the first of two planned volumes. The first volume mainly covers the pre-tourism era of the town, when it was long known as "The Kingdom of Fishing," which also serves as the book subtitle.

Percé has been and remains a mythical and iconic place that captivates the people who are sensitive to beauty. Thus, the Mi'gmaq, the French fisherman, the Jersey merchant, the vacationer and the people of Percé. Over the centuries, they have been able to make it their place of belonging and shape their identity or their adopted home, a kind of changing and ever-mysterious paradise.

Mr. Fallu started accelerating his work on the book in 2020, during the first wave of the Covid-19 crisis. He had been gathering and classifying documents for at least 15 years and took the occasion provided by the pandemic to dig into the material he had collected, and look for additional information.

"My former girlfriend Chantal Soucy was living outside the region during the pandemic. We had worked together in the 1990s for Magazine Gaspésie. She is a good, efficient researcher and a solid proof reader. I invited her to join me in Douglastown, as we had more space to move here than in the city. So, she came over for a while and finally, we were back into a relationship. She became an invaluable ally in this journey, and a driving force in convincing me that we had to finish the book," explains Jean-Marie Fallu.

The book is divided in three chapters to cover life in society, the pride and freedom of Percé's early inhabitants and the role of fisheries. Mr. Fallu also goes back to the so-called "pre-historic" era, before people settled in Percé.

"I notably covered the French Regime period, which contributed to the development of fisheries. In 1659, upon moving to Nouvelle-France to tackle his new duties, Monseigneur Laval saw 10 fishing vessels in Percé, with 40 to 50 sailors per vessel. At that time, as historian Mario Mimeault reported in one of his books, one-eighth of Quebec's population was based in Percé. In 1672, Pierre Denis de la Ronde established in Percé Nouvelle-France's first maritime seigneurie. He was not forced to live on it though," underlines Mr. Fallu.

Photo: G. Gagné

Douglastown-based author Jean-Marie Fallu and Percé researcher Chantal Soucy added 280 photos and drawings to the book's main text.

"The fisheries were instrumental in the independence of the people who settled in Percé. For example, at one point, they didn't want a school tax, maybe influenced by (Charles) Robin, who was trying to convince them that getting an education would not improve their fate," he adds.

Geographically, the book covers the area between Cap Blanc, to the west, and the Pic de l'aurore hill, instead of today's municipal limits, hugely expanded by the 1970 amalgamation of neighbouring villages, from Cape Cove to Prevel, including Val d'Espoir, Cannes-de-Roche, Corner-of-the-Beach, Bridgeville, Barachois, Belle Anse and Saint-Georges-de-Malbay.

"It was already an enormous task to concentrate our work on the old limits of Percé. The book includes 280 photos and illustrations, as well as 180 side shorts, in addition to the main text," pinpoints Mr. Fallu.

The role of the Anglophone community

Although the book was written and published in French, Jean-Marie Fallu writes about the important role played by Percé's anglophone community.

"The Jersey people came from 1766 and on. The fishing companies settled then and controlled that field. Charles Robin never lived in Percé though. The buildings of his company were erected in 1790-1800. It is a chance that a few buildings were kept from this era, like the Chafaud museum, the adjacent little cook room and the Robin barn, which later became the Centre d'art. I also wanted to demonstrate that Charles Robin was not the only Jersey businessman to have a company in Percé. The Briards settled in the North Cove (Anse du Nord). The Lebouthillier Company was also founded in Percé, after its founder worked for Robin's. The Valpys settled in Cape Cove," further explains the author.

"Robin was a determining factor in populating Percé because he recruited workers. He went on to bring in Irish, Acadian, French Canadian and some Jersey people. In the latter case, they were mostly tradesmen instead of fishermen," specifies Mr. Fallu.

If the first book carries the mention "volume 1", it is because the "volume 2" is in preparation, he stresses.

"It will cover the period that saw the birth of the tourism sector in Percé. We are quite advanced. It will be ready for the end of the 2026 winter or the spring. If we look at tourism and fisheries, we understand that Percé has almost always depended on a seasonal economy," says Mr. Fallu.

"The book fills a gap in Quebec historiography, since the last history book of Percé dates back to the monograph Percé, published in 1947 by Father C.-E. Roy. I wanted to build a bridge between history—what furnishes the past—and memory—what remains of the past or what we seek to remember. I sought to understand, to recreate, to imagine the Percé of yesteryear, to offer a historical understanding of Percé's current landscape, a face that has changed considerably over time," he concludes.

Chapter 1, titled A World of Fishermen once translated, mentions the poetry of the place, the presence of the natives, the first European explorers, fishing under the French regime and the era of the Jersey companies.

Chapter 2 is titled To the Rhythm of the Islanders, explores life on Bonaventure Island, the presence of vacationers, and the tragedy of expropriation.

Chapter 3, Living in Percé land, covers the settlement and occupation of the territory, communication routes, religious influence, the quest for education, the administration of justice, the political sphere, medical care, commercial growth, the agricultural landscape, elegant houses, the land of legends, evocative places, and notable visitors and events.

Sainte-Anne-des-Monts continues studies to protect its coastline

Nelson Sergerie

SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS - More than two years after securing $14 million for the protection of its coastline, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts is continuing studies to properly safeguard the area between the wharf and the town's western boundary.

A project manager with extensive experience in erosion control in the Magdalen Islands has been hired and is now working from Haute-Gaspésie, coordinating efforts with various stakeholders.

"At this point, we are waiting for further surveys by the Ministry of Public Safety and (Université du Québec à Rimouski) UQAR to better understand the issue. It's a fairly lengthy process," says Mayor of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Simon Deschênes.

The mayor assures residents that public consultations will take place once potential solutions have been developed. Unlike in towns such as Maria, there is no immediate need for emergency action in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. "We are in a normal process, so to speak. We sometimes hear that things are moving faster elsewhere, but sometimes people are in an accelerated process. At that point, decrees are issued by the government because there is an urgent need for action. Here, we are on high alert, but there is no urgency. The town of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts is in a difficult situation," says Director General Martin Richard.

Initial work was projected for 2026 or 2027. The mayor noted that in Sainte-Flavie, the process of coastal protection took eight years. "We hope to do the work as quickly as possible, but at the same time, we want to make sure that the work is done right," notes Mr. Richard, pointing out that the current coastal infrastructure, built in the 1950s, has reached the end of its life cycle.

Innovative at the time, the concrete structures were built in the form of stairs. Today, they are no longer adequate. "We are up to date with our responsibilities. There are no homes at risk in the targeted area at this time. We have targeted this area as having the potential for major damage or disasters in the coming decades," says mayor Deschênes.

A few years ago, powerful tides brought massive blocks of ice onto First Avenue West. In the 1950s, a tidal wave even washed away part of the street. "The (St. Lawrence) river no longer freezes early in the winter season. Sometimes it doesn't freeze at all. The high tides in November, December, and January, without an ice barrier, mean that it's right on the shore. But there are no houses about to collapse. There is surf. That's why we were targeted," recalls Mr. Deschênes.

The Town of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts will contribute $1.2 million toward the coastal protection project.

Local Business Directory

The Gaspé SPEC 50 YEARS 1975 to 2025

1981 was the first full year of publishing weekly

HOLLY **SMITH**

EMILY **HOCQUARD**

GILLES **GAGNÉ**

NEW CARLISLE – The Gaspé SPEC reached another milestone in 1981 by succeeding in publishing weekly for a full calendar year. The team worked tirelessly to make this happen, and readers regularly sent messages of congratulations in response.

Vol 7. No 1
January 7, 1981

- In the volume 7, number 1 edition dated January 7, 1981, readers learned that Branch 172 donates money to the soldiers' memorial veterans' unit. Seven poachers were sentenced from 1 to 15 months in jail and will have to pay fines totalling $10,600 for one of the worst cases of poaching on the Gaspé coast. In his commentary, Terry Stanley, the new president of Sea Coast Publications writes about the goals for 1981 and highlights the farewell of Lynden Bechervaise, Betty Brown Flowers and Peggy Patterson from the SPEC team.

Vol 7. No 2
January 14, 1981

- In volume 7, number 2, dated January 14, we see that the Holiday Train Service was plagued by delays, breakdowns and derailments. English Business Adopt Wait and See Policy over Sign Law, which elaborates on the December 31, 1980, deadline for Quebec businesses to francisize their legal names and any outdoor sign referring to that name. In the school round-up section, we see photos from New Carlisle High School's holiday showcase.

Vol 7. No 3
January 21, 1981

- Volume 7 issue 3, dated January 21, we see that Port Daniel West residents attend an information session about a possible merger with Port Daniel East. Fishermen are asked to repay employment insurance ranging from $1,000 to $1,700 due to an "unknown to the fisherman" regulation in the employment insurance act. We also see that Law 125 could reshape the peninsula's municipal counties. One of the principal objectives of this law is to give municipalities more efficient means of performing their tasks and managing their local development in accordance with the wishes of the local population. We read about the steps being taken to divide up municipalities to form MRCs.

Vol 7. No 4
January 28, 1981

- Volume 7, issue 4, dated January 28, headlines include Gaspe and Rimouski MP's Claim they share Passenger's frustration regarding the delays experienced by VIA Rail, New Carlisle's Oldest Citizen, Mrs. Barbara Anne Sawyer-Thompson, better known as "Ma Thompson," celebrates her 96th birthday and in Spec's Sports section, B.P.S Boys Capture Chandler Invitational Basketball Tournament. Readers also learn that effective March 1, 1981, subscription rates for Spec will increase to $12.50 yearly.

Vol 7. No 5
February 4, 1981

- Volume 7, issue 5, dated February 4, readers can see that the deep-sea fishing quotas have increased by 10%, the referendum held on January 18 and 19 regarding Port Daniel East and West merger was overwhelmingly voted against by 75% and the minimum wage will increase in April of 1981 to $3.85 and again in October 1981 to $4.

New Carlisle High School holiday showcase.

Vol. 7, No. 2

Vol. 7, No. 8

Vol 7. No 6
February 11, 1981

- In volume 7, issue 6, dated February 11, we see that the Bonaventure Regional Counsel becomes a reality, creating the MRC of Bonaventure for the small area including Grand Cascapedia to Port-Daniel West. Heritage funds help 14 regional organizations to carry out programs totalling $36,631. There is concern regarding coastal erosion at the regular meeting of the New Carlisle council, the question of the local wharf is discussed. Many residents express concern over the protection of the shoreline and the contours of the beach between the wharf and the harbour. Readers can also see that a three-day seminar is announced to consider the future management of the Atlantic coast herring and mackerel fisheries.

Vol 7. No 7
February 18, 1981

- In volume 7, issue 7, dated February 18, Mayor of Shigawake, Garry Hayes, believes that the government is using Gaspesians as pawns in the process of getting what they want. We also see that Shigawake had a population of roughly 700. Well-known Percé artist Suzanne Guité was tragically assassinated in her home in St. Augustin, Mexico, a name that may sound familiar to readers today as the Town of New Richmond later named its cultural centre building after her. The vacant seat on the Gaspé municipal counsel will be contested by three local residents, John Duguay, Guy Gaudreau and Fernand Bouchard.

Vol 7. No 8
February 25, 1981

- In volume 7, number 8, dated February 25, we see that the hopes for the re-opening of the Paspebiac fish plant are once again dimmed by the recent announcement of the withdrawal of the potential operators. We can see the full-page ad taken by the Regional School board of Gaspesia promoting its woodlot management program. In the school round-up section, readers can see Gaspe Elementary School's creative writing pieces, submitted by students of all elementary school levels.

Vol 7. No 9
March 4, 1981

- In volume 7, number 9, dated March 4, headlines include "Gaspe to Host Summer Games," at least 10,000 people are expected to visit Gaspe from July 22 to July 26 for this event. Organizers are searching for at least 700 volunteers. Union Nationale's new leader, Roch Lasalle, visits Gaspe as part of his "get acquainted" trip. Mr. Lasalle says, "economics are the first priority." Spec receives many letters from the English section of the Gaspe Polyvalent expressing their support and engagement with the newspaper. We can read how much they enjoy using the Spec as a learning tool inside classrooms and how they look forward to reading local English news.

Vol 7. No 10
March 11, 1981

- Volume 7 number 10, dated March 11, the cover shows "Arson Inquiries on the Coast," we read that Cyrille Delage, the Quebec fire commissioner, was in Chandler to over-see inquiries into several suspicious fires. Robert Pidgeon is announced as Liberal candidate for Gaspe in the next provincial election.

Next page

The Gaspé SPEC 50 YEARS 1975 to 2025

First full year of publishing weekly

Vol 7. No 11
March 18, 1981

• Volume 7 number 11, dated March 18, residents of Cross Point have formed an association of investors to pool their savings and accumulate enough money to buy "Matériaux Blanchet" sawmill or build a new one, in order to save one of the region's major employers. We see that a St. Patrick's Day snowstorm drops 70 cm of snow in the region's eastern end. Carrefour Baie des Chaleurs in New Richmond take a full-page ad announcing their March 25, 1981, official grand opening.

Vol 7, No 12
March 25, 1981

• In the volume 7 number 12, dated March 25, we learn about the augmentation of fines issued to people who drive over the speed limits. If a motorist is caught driving at a speed of 80km/h in a 50km zone, a hefty fine totalling $50 dollars would be charged. The mayor of Maria, Denis Loubert, announces that the provincial government has granted $100,000 to the municipality for the construction of a sports complex.

Vol 7. No 13
April 1, 1981

• In the volume 7, number 13, dated April 1, we are informed that crime on the coast has increased by 50 percent. There have been more armed robberies in the town of Fox River which has a population of 3,000, than in Rimouski which has a population of 40,000. Quebec premier René Levesque, and two cabinet ministers, visit Gaspé on a pre-election tour.

Vol. 7 No 14
April 8, 1981

• Volume 7, number 14, dated April 8, Quebec liberal leader Claude Ryan visits Gaspé and 400 people attend his speech. CLSC-Chaleurs establishes their budget for 1981-1982, which shows a surplus of $16,697 after examining revenues and expenses. In the centre spread, Sobeys promotes their weekly specials including fresh pork at only $0.79 cents a pound. Cheez Whiz is priced at $1.98 while one pound of soft margarine is only $0.59!

Vol 7. No 15
April 15, 1981

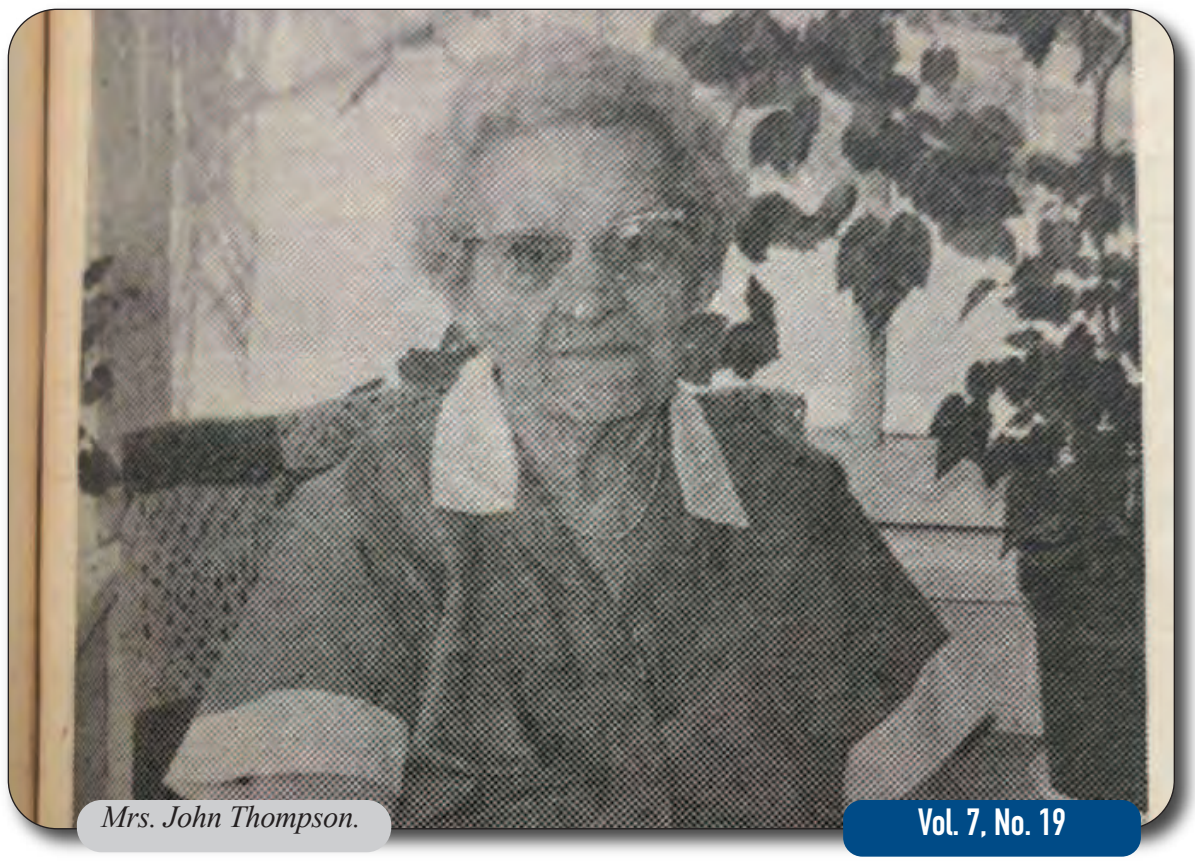
• Volume 7, number 15, dated April 15, we read about the concern regarding draggers and seiners from fishermen in Shigawake and Port-Daniel. Lobster season is set to open on the coast on April 27. The lobster fishing industry provides employment for 793 Québec fisherman. The Committee for Anglophone Social Actions (CASA) receives a grant in the amount of $70,400 from Rémi Bujold, Member of Parliament for Bonaventure, to provide the necessary human and technical resources to carry out their mission.

Vol. 7 No 16
April 22, 1981

• Volume 7, number 16, dated April 22, headlines include "$400,000 for 84 festivities." An article about funds that are allocated to 84 festivities in Gaspe to commemorate the 450th anniversary of Canada. In the "Problems in Shigawake" article, we see that fishermen in Shigawake/Port-Daniel are awaiting news concerning the crib, which is a large structure weighing over 100 tons, intended to be an extension to the Shigawake wharf.

Vol 7. No 17
April 29, 1981

• Volume 7, number 17, dated April 29, under the title "Employers refuse to negotiate, employees locked-out", we read that mechanics at four Gaspé garages, all members of the CSN Union, are "locked-out" by their employers after negotiations on a new contract broke down. The union asks for $400 for each employee, while management is only offering $250. On the cover we can also see the legendary sailing ship, "Bluenose II" will be visiting Gaspé on May 21 as part of a promotional cruise.



Mrs. John Thompson.

Vol. 7, No. 19

Vol. 7 No 18
May 6, 1981

• Volume 7, issue 18, which is dated May 6, readers learn about the death of Claudion Maldemay, who was asleep at Hotel Grenier and was unable to escape the flames of the tragic hotel fire. It is reported that a suspect was arrested for arson on the hotel, and for attempting to flee. Environment Canada officials meet with members of the municipal council in New Carlisle to discuss plans for major renovations to the harbour in the town.

Vol. 7 No 19
May 13, 1981

• Volume 7, number 19, dated May 13, headlines are, "Public Outcry Over CN Jobs and Stations," "Teachers Elect New President," Brad Syvret, a teacher at Gaspé Elementary School was elected president of the Gaspesia Teachers' Association at the annual general meeting, and a full-page article wishing Mrs. John Thompson a happy 94th birthday. In the historical segment, Ken Annett publishes part one of the life and career of William Wakeham of "One Ash" Gaspé.

Vol. 7 No 20
May 20, 1981

• Volume 7, number 20, dated May 20, in "Reserve Salmon Nets Seized," we read that over 37 officers with police cruisers, boats, jeeps and trucks entered the Maria reserve to make a seizure of illegal salmon nets. Milk prices are on the rise in the region and residents are expected to pay $2.66 for 4 litres.

Vol 7. No 21
May 27, 1981

• Volume 7, number 21 which should be dated May 27, is unfortunately missing from our archives.

Vol. 7 No 22
June 3, 1981

• Moving onto Volume 7, number 22, dated June 3, the front-page shows "Driving at its worst in Gaspesia," Monique Vézina-Parent, vice-president of the Regie de l'Assurance automobile, provides some rather disconcerting statistics, indicating the percent-

Page 13

The Gaspé SPEC 50 YEARS 1975 to 2025

From Page 13

First full year of publishing weekly

age of fatal accidents occurring in the region are almost double that of the provincial average. Another headline is "Gaspesian Bid for Sovereignty from Lower St. Lawrence." In this article, we read about Jean-Claude Cyr of Port-Daniel, representing the Baie Des Chaleurs Community Broadcasting Group, states that "it is time we stopped confusing the Gaspé with Rimouski and the Lower St. Lawrence."

Vol 7. No 23
June 10, 1981

- Volume 7, number 23, dated June 10, we read about the ongoing strike in Chandler involving municipal employees. "Tapp Family Reunion" highlights that for the first time in 22 years, the eight children of Anthony and Alice Tapp of Barachois are together as a family once again! In the Spec Sport Section, a gymnastics exhibition held at Gaspé Elementary School, under the supervision of coach Ron Mundle, prepared students for the Eastern Quebec Winter Games, scheduled for February 1982.

Vol. 7 No 24
June 17, 1981

- Volume 7, number 24, dated June 17. The cover story shows two photos and an article about "The Quebec Police Force Invades Restigouche," as police forces invaded the Restigouche Reserve subjecting "all Indians," regardless of whether they were fisherman, women or children, to the full brunt of the attack. Families were forbidden to leave their homes and one woman claimed she told the officers she and her children do not fish salmon. He allegedly replied, "all you – Indians are the same." On page 3, we read that ten men were arrested and two of them remain detained and charged with indecent exposure, resisting, obstructing and assaulting a police officer.

Vol 7. No 25
June 24, 1981

- Volume 7, number 25, dated June 24. Fisheries minister, Romeo Leblanc visits Percé, there are road repairs in Forillon National Parc, the minister of Cultural Affairs, Clement Richard visits Gaspé and Francois Reny is appointed the new director general of Communications Québec.

Vol 7. No 26
July 1, 1981

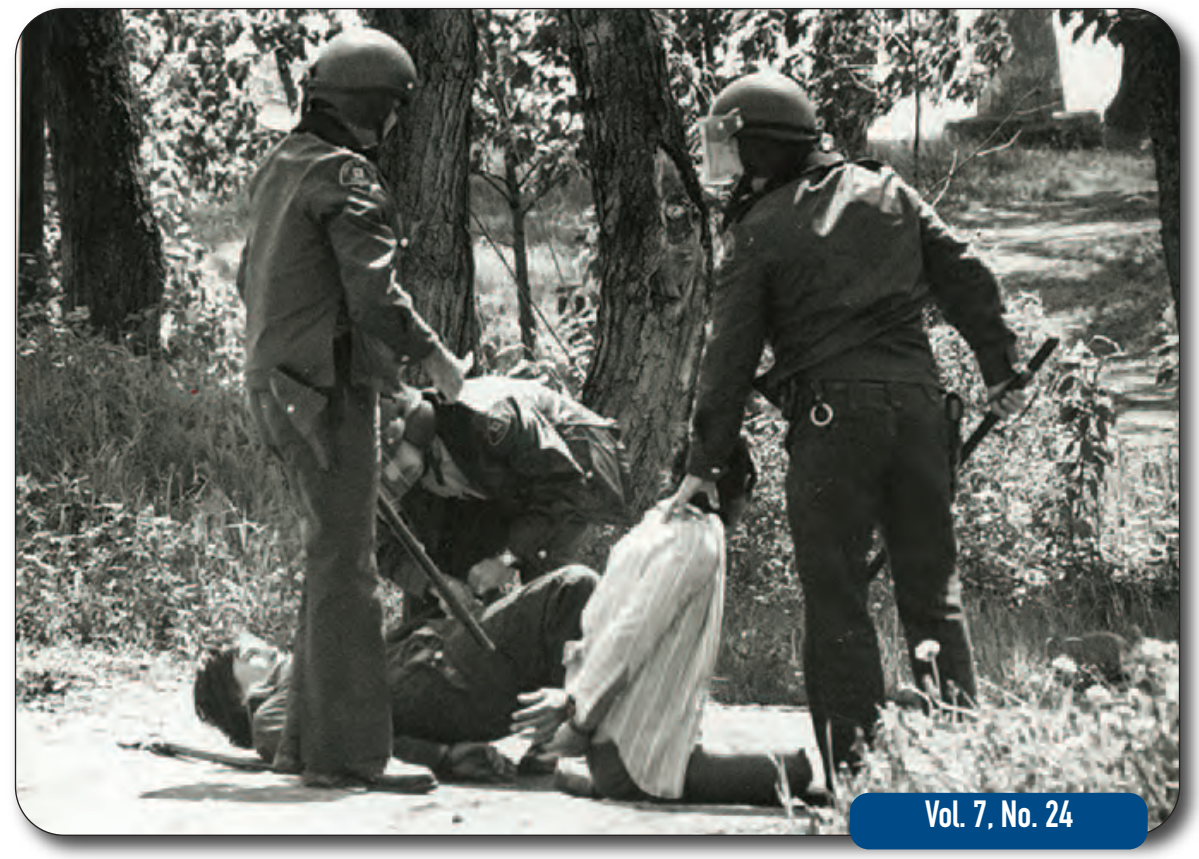
- Volume 7, number 26, dated July 1. The second annual international hydro-plane regatta gets underway in Gaspé. A helicopter crashes on the York River, causing no serious injuries, Maria signs a fishing agreement and Mrs. Arnold Girard, of Douglastown, retires from École Notre-Dame de Liesse in St. George de Malbaie after 22 years in teaching.

Vol 7. No 27
July 8, 1981

- Volume 7, number 27, dated July 8. The front cover pays homage to Terry Fox, who passed away on June 28, 1981, at the age of 22 years old. We read about the festivities that took place to celebrate the St. George de Malbaie centennial, and Maria has set up its own school, where children from the reserve will be taught by local teachers.

Vol 7. No 28
July 15, 1981

- In volume 7, issue 28, dated July 15. The front page promotes the July 18 to 26 Wakeham York Homecoming. We also learn that the 4-month long strike in Chandler finally comes to an end, the New Richmond pool opens its doors for the first time in 2 years and the gap between the rich and the poor widens in Quebec. We read that The Snowbirds will present an airshow on Paspebiac point.


Vol. 7, No. 24

Vol 7. No 29
July 22, 1981

- Volume 7, issue 29 of The Gaspé Spec, dated July 22. The headlines are "Wakeham York Homecoming," "The Gaspé Green Belt," stating that 1/6 of Gaspé is declared green zone, and "Jacques Cartier Makes Reappearance" showcasing the organizers who are preparing for the seventh Jacques Cartier Festival.

Vol. 7 No 30
July 29, 1981

- Volume 7, number 30, dated July 29. The cover talks about the official opening of the Eastern Quebec Games, which were held in Gaspé from July 22 to 26, "Spruce Budworm Infestation, Worse Than Ever." And due to a postal strike, social assistance recipients had to travel directly to their local social assistance offices to receive their cheques.

Vol 7. No 31
August 5, 1981

- In volume 7, number 31, dated August 5. Published on the front page is the "14 Milles: Asmuth/Plitt Battle to End," we read that a California swimmer, Paul Asmuth, wins the 6th "14 Milles" race in Paspebiac.

Vol. 7 No 32
August 12, 1981

- In volume 7, number 32, dated August 12: Summer student Marty Patterson, writes "Harmony – Man, Land and the Sea," an article about Forillon National Park. The fourth annual "Fast Ball Tournament" takes place in New Richmond, a tournament considered interprovincial, with 16 teams, including 3 from New Brunswick. Mary MacLean Campbell of New Richmond becomes personality of the month!

Vol. 7 No 33
August 19, 1981

- In volume 7, number 33 dated August 19: The Port-Daniel Tuna Festival begins; however, fishermen are discouraged that tuna is scarce.


Vol. 7, No. 24

Page 14

The Gaspé SPEC 50 YEARS 1975 to 2025

Gérard D. Levesque celebrates 25 years of political life and forty cyclists participate in the second cycle tour of Gaspesia.

Vol 7. No 34
August 26, 1981

• In volume 7, number 34, dated August 26: The winner is announced for the Port Daniel Tuna Festival, Arnold Walker of Port Daniel aided by his sons Donald and Darren Walker, hauled in the largest tuna weighing in at 1,014 pounds qualifying him for the Dr. Joncas trophy and $500 in prize money. Victor Lanteigne, of Caraquet, wins second and Lester Dow of Port Daniel wins third.

Vol 7. No 35
September 2, 1981

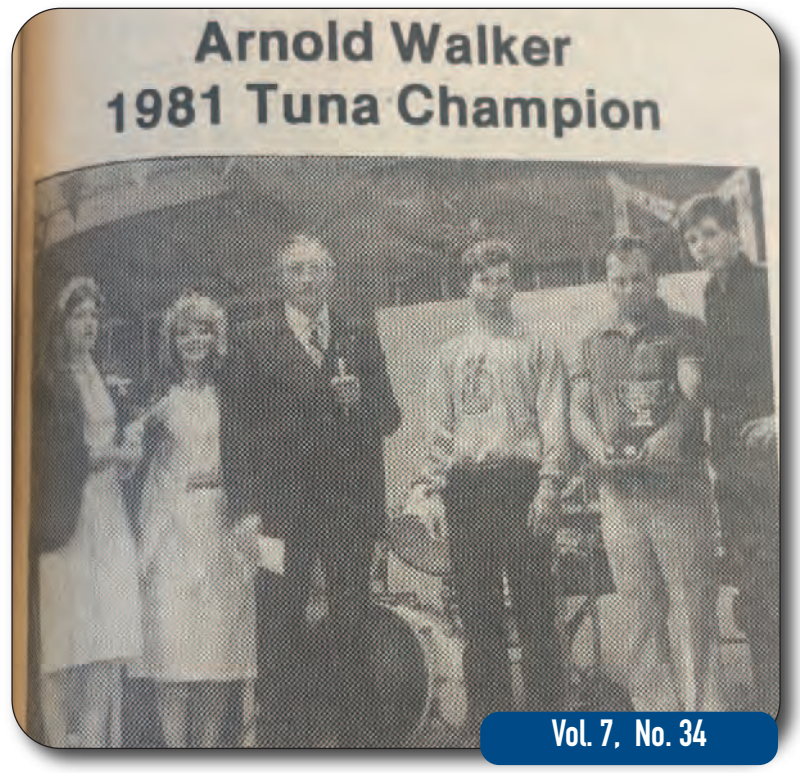
• In volume 7, number 35, dated September 2, readers are informed that the September 1 deadline has passed and that only unilingual French commercial signs are lawful in the province, according to article 58 of the French language charter. The SAAQ releases a report stating that there are fewer fatalities in the region and the local grocery store, Robertson Co. in New Richmond closes after 40 years of service.

Vol 7. No 36
September 9, 1981

• In volume 7, issue 36, dated September 9: Governor general Ed Schreyer visits Gaspé town hall while on vacation. Spec founder, Lynden Bechervaise, is elected to the board of directors of the council of Québec minorities (CQM). The town of New Richmond hosts an Antique Car Exhibition with over 30 exhibitors.

Vol. 7 No 37
September 16, 1981

• In volume 7, issue 37, dated September 16: Headlines are "School Enrolment down; French Immersion still unpopular with Board," "Council to Oppose Move of Sûreté de Quebec" and "Gaspesia Truck Rodeo" occurs in Nouvelle, where 38 eighteen wheelers participate.



Vol 7. No 38
September 23, 1981

• In volume 7, number 38, dated September 23: "Game Wardens on the Scene as Usual," informs residents about the rights and obligations of hunters. Jean-Claude Denis from Caplan, is named personality of the month.

Vol 7. No 39
September 30, 1981

• In volume 7, number 39, dated September 30. The cover shows that the second annual language conference was held in New Carlisle and Valerie Gilker writes a profile on Albert Quesnel, who has delivered 4,000 babies in the past 40 years.

Vol 7. No 40
October 7, 1981

• In volume 7, issue 40, dated October 7. The front cover article "190 Lose Jobs as part of Recovery Plan," explaining that Mines Gaspé has cut jobs, in order to lower its operating losses. The Department of Leisure, Fish and Game, announced hunters will be able to hunt does and fawns for one day.

Vol 7. No 41
October 14, 1981

• Volume 7, number 41, dated October 14: We read that five box cars left the train tracks in New Richmond, "The Lucky Dollar" grocery store, owned by Ralph Dea in Port-Daniel West, was destroyed by fire. Mr. Dea also lost his residence in this tragic incident.

Vol. 7 No 42
October 21, 1981

• Volume 7, number 42, dated October 21: Readers learn that a verdict on the New Richmond mill pollution case is expected soon. Fines ranging between $600 and $30,000 per offence could be imposed if the mill is found guilty. The Québec government is rethinking the closure of the New Richmond police station after receiving feedback from residents.

Vol 7. No 43
October 28, 1981

• Volume 7, number 43, dated October 28: We read about the plan to eliminate school boards entirely and have each school operate as a public corporation. The Caplan movie theatre is destroyed by a fire and vandalism on the coast is rising.

Vol 7. No 44
November 4, 1981

• Volume 7, number 44, dated November 4: On page 1, we see that the verdict for the New Richmond mill has been deferred until 1982. Also on the cover, we read about a land slide eroding roughly 40 feet of bank, threatening the railroad track around Howell's Cut, near Gaspé. Kerry Assels, of Shigawake, gets the green light to open a sawmill.

Vol 7. No 45
November 11, 1981

• Volume 7, number 45 dated November 11: There is a controversy regarding Sandy Beach (Gaspé) land zoning. The maximum employment insurance benefit will increase to $210 a week. We read about serious vandalism in New Carlisle, with many unsolved cases including a $3,000 damage to the New Carlisle High School windows.

Vol. 7 No 46
November 18, 1981

• Volume 7, number 46 dated November 18: There will be no tax increases for the MRC of Bonaventure. CTV coverage should soon be available to residents of Gaspé and Percé.

Vol. 7 No 47
November 25, 1981

• Volume 7, issue 47, dated November 25: We learn that Bernard Jerome has been re-elected Chief of the Maria Reserve. Irene Dallain writes "A Lasting Memorial to Hong Kong Veterans."

Vol 7. No 48
December 2, 1981

• Volume 7, issue 48, dated December 2: The coast is gearing up for the holiday season with many parents sending photos to the Spec of their children waiting to meet Santa Claus.

Vol. 7 No 49
December 9, 1981

• Volume 7, issue 49, dated December 9: We read that residents are discouraged about the recent tax increase on gas and beer. Some people on the coast choose to travel to New Brunswick to fuel up. The Quebec association of protestant school boards takes a full-page ad promoting the need for school boards.

Vol 7. No 50
December 16, 1981

• Volume 7, issue 50 dated December 16, 1981, is unfortunately missing from our archives.

Vol 7. No 51
December 23, 1981

• Volume 7, issue 51 dated December 23, 1981: Spec's annual Christmas edition is spread over 60 pages, 37 of which were ads from local businesses wishing our readers happy holidays! In this edition, we read that five "Moise" cult members were found criminally negligent in the brutal death of 2-year-old Samuel Giguère. We also see that Gaspé ranks second highest in fire-caused losses in Quebec.

The Salmon War of 1981 would be unthinkable today

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – The striking intervention of 275 Quebec Provincial Police officers on June 11, 1981, in what was then called "Restigouche", now Listuguj, to seize nets and arrest Mi'gmaq people who were "illegally" fishing salmon would be unthinkable today, even though relations between First Nations and the federal and provincial governments remain far from perfect. The raid is still considered a dark mark on the Quebec government's record in dealing with First Nations.

However, as former Listuguj chief Allison Metallic remarked in 2021, when the "Salmon War" was reminded to the local population, 40 years later, the terrible incident solidified the community. Mr. Metallic believes that, without that shocking event, Listuguj might have been fully assimilated.

"This project has been made possible by the Community Media Strategic Support Fund offered jointly by the Official Language Minority Community Media Consortium and the Government of Canada."

Canada

Let's glow!

EMILY **HOCQUARD**

PORT-DANIEL - The third edition of the "Glow in the Dark" event in Port-Daniel took place on Sunday, July 27, drawing an even larger crowd than the organizers had anticipated. A total of 378 adults participated, along with many minors—though the latter were not included in the official count.

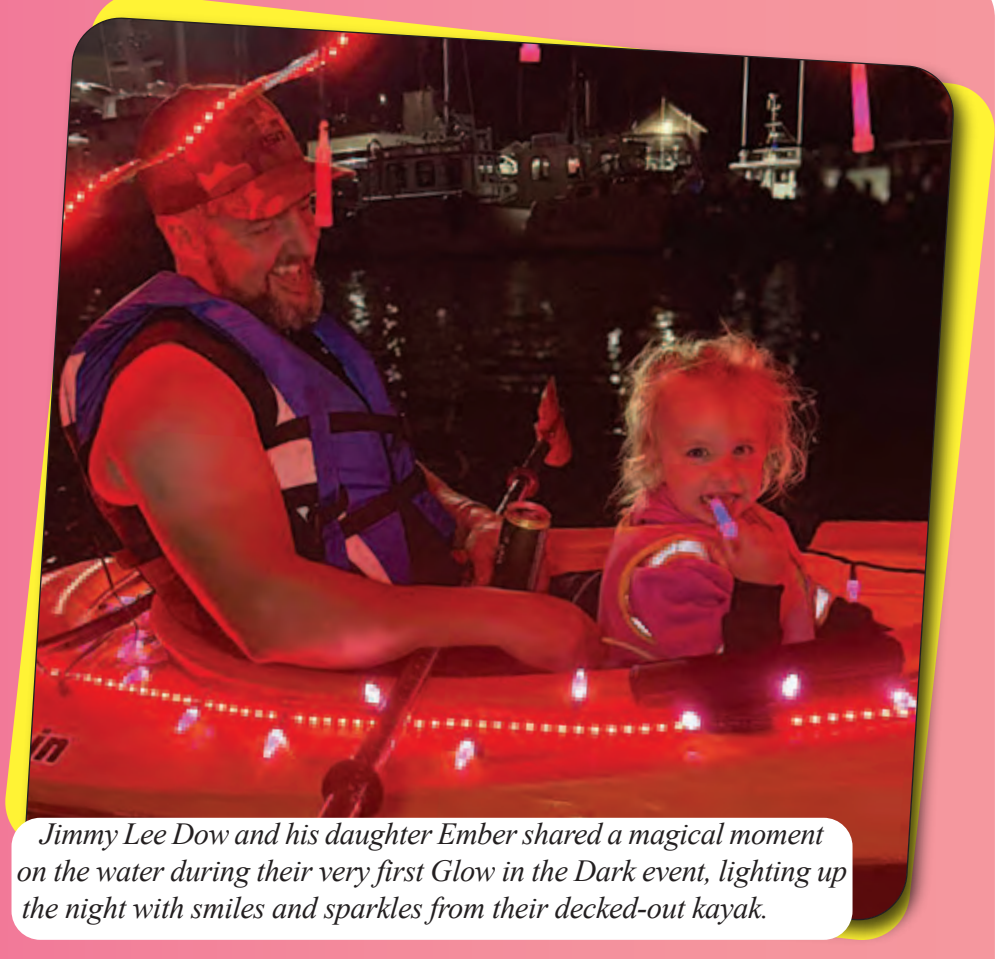
Kayaks and paddle boards were transformed with glow sticks, neon lights, and vibrant colors. As the vessels launched from the boat ramp at the wharf after dark, the harbour lit up like a floating city, alive with flickering lights and vivid smiles.

Maryse Beaudin, of Port-Daniel–Gascons, initiated this "tradition" in 2023. What began as a simple gathering among friends on the water quickly escalated into an event with 120 participants after a single post on Facebook. "I was encouraged to launch this event because of the exceptional site we have here in Port-Daniel and the rising interest and popularity in nautical sports these last few years," she shared.

The success inspired Ms. Beaudin to plan a larger event. "We worked for one year on the preparation for this event. The committee met every month and put in hours of work," says Ms. Beaudin. Local sponsors have increasingly shown their support as the event has grown. This year, Entretien ND was a major partner—not just financially, but also through its outstanding labour and support before, during, and after the event.

"The event went very well, except that we fell victim to our own success and ran out of certain things after 1:30 in the morning, but we were resourceful and worked with local merchants to stock up on supplies," Ms. Beaudin says.

From the bridge above, the wharf, and the surrounding beaches, hundreds of spectators watched the glowing spectacle. A marching band, cotton candy, bar service, live music and even fireworks added to the festive atmosphere. When asked about the event's future, Ms. Beaudin said, "As for doing it again next year, we weren't planning on it, but given the incredible turnout, I think we'll do it again."



Jimmy Lee Dow and his daughter Ember shared a magical moment on the water during their very first Glow in the Dark event, lighting up the night with smiles and sparkles from their decked-out kayak.

Tracy Lee Pelletier brought her signature style, and a spooky sidekick, to the water once again, proudly keeping her streak alive as a participant in every single Glow in the Dark event to date!

From the bridge above, hundreds of spectators watched the participants.

Anouk lit up the water with her glowing paddleboard and bright smile as she joined friends for this year's unforgettable Glow in the Dark event.

For the first time, the Glow in the Dark event featured a lively performance by the Majorette marching band.

Photos: Anouk

Pioneer Days 2025 brings community together at Camp Fort Haldimand

HOLLY **SMITH**

FORT HALDIMAND – Residents and visitors gathered from across the Gaspé Coast from July 23 to 27 to take part in Pioneer Days 2025, a week-long celebration of heritage, community spirit, and summer fun at Camp Fort Haldimand.

Pioneer Days has become a much-loved tradition, honouring the region's early settlers while building new memories among friends and neighbours. Held each summer, the event brings people together to enjoy live entertainment, local food, games, and time-honoured activities in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Festivities kicked off on the evening of July 23 with the opening of the silent auction at 6:30 p.m., followed by an official welcome and light refreshments. Guests were then invited to take part in line dancing lessons for beginners, which led into an open dance session that brought energy and laughter.

July 24 highlights included a Cold Plate Supper, served to a full crowd with advance tickets. The evening continued with Gift Bingo for those 18 and older, offering prizes and plenty of friendly competition.

On July 25, local talent took centre stage during "Amateur Hour," a showcase of music, comedy, and surprises from participants of all ages. With a modest $5 entrance fee, the show drew a supportive audience and plenty of applause.

July 26, began with a hearty breakfast, followed by a busy Crafter's Market and children's activities. The afternoon Tock tournament was unfortunately cancelled this year.

July 27 schedule brought a more reflective tone, beginning with an outdoor church service. The silent auction closed at noon, followed by a light lunch, ticket draws, and the official wrap-up of the week's events.

Throughout Pioneer Days, attendees could also purchase 50/50 tickets, homecoming reprint cookbooks, and membership cards. Funds go directly back to the children's camp which is held every Summer for two weeks.

Once again, Pioneer Days proved to be a celebration of community connection, local pride, and shared traditions. As the week came to a close, many left already looking forward to next summer's gathering.

Guests were then invited to take part in line dancing lessons for beginners, which led into an open dance session that brought energy and laughter.

The newly acquired tent was put to good use during Pioneer Days at Fort Haldimand Children's Camp, after the Rec hall was temporarily closed for repairs.

Photos: Rebecca MacDonald

Local historians inspire the Family Ties art workshop theme

DAVE **FELKER**
PROJECT COORDINATOR

NEW CARLISLE - Throughout the summer of 2025, Family Ties will be continuing to host artistic workshops, themed "Do you see what we're saying?" These sessions invite participants to explore new art skills while capturing their favourite Gaspesian expressions in their creation. To help explore these expressions, we turn to local historians to give some context behind them.

In 1936, Olive Willett Smith published a travel guide about her tour of the Gaspe coast with her family, two years prior. 85 years later, one of her descendants, historian and native Gaspesian Walter Willett, did a similar tour and published a revisited version of Olive's account.

Walter highlights the experiences shared by Olive in her original book, noting the encounters with the fishermen and the fishery industry which was in full bloom during the 30's. She recalls her visits to the many fishing ports along the coast. One expression of note comes from a passage where she talks of her experiences in Carleton, a fishing hub in 1934. In speaking with the locals, they described the "large schools of herring that are caught in nets and used for food and fertilizer for the ground" as "Chaleur Bay Turkey." This expression resurfaces in Art Campbell's book, "Mots and Phrases of the Gaspe" where salt herring is referred to as "Gaspe Turkey."

Another local phrase, "Gaspé steak," had a very different meaning. According to Art Campbell's book, "Men working in the woods wouldn't think of going for any extended periods without a substantial supply of bologna (Gaspe steak). It is easy to prepare, tasty and reasonably priced." Reasonably priced. My, how times have changed.

Remember Olive's recounting of local expressions next time you go into a poissonnerie. Ask the person behind the counter for some of the finest "Chaleur Bay Turkey". And as you fry up that bologna with a little brown sugar, tell all your friends how you enjoy a prime cut of "Gaspe steak."

Gaspé the Romantique Revisited by Walter Willett offers a modern reflection on Olive Willett Smith's original travel guide through the Gaspé Coast.

Photos: Dave Felker

You can purchase Walter's book, Gaspe the Romantique Revisited from the store front at the CASA office in New Carlisle or online at gasperoadtrip.com.

Check out the Family Ties Facebook page for the art workshop times and locations.

This project is made possible through funding from Canadian Heritage.

Shigawake Fair and Music Festival lineup

GILLES **GAGNÉ**

SHIGAWAKE – The annual Shigawake Agricultural Fair and Music Festival returns August 14 to 17 with a full schedule of family-friendly activities, agricultural contests and a music lineup that promises to entertain all ages. The event kicks off August 14, with the traditional wine and cheese, an activity that has become a tradition over the years.

On Friday, August 15, the morning will feature baking, handicrafts, vegetables and crops contests. All items must be received by 11 a.m. for judging. The same rule applies for livestock entries, including cows, pigs, goats and sheep. In the afternoon, the single horse haul and traditional games take centre stage.

On Saturday, kids will be in for an exciting day with activities such as the petting zoo, story time, temporary tattoos, water table, sand box, magician David Philippe and face painting.

Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the young attendees will be offered Dance with fly movement, the Tots and wheels pageant, three takes of Les Cabinettes Show and cotton candy cones, between noon and 2 p.m. in the latter case.

Pamela Rooney.

Photo: G. Gagné

Registration for the volleyball tournament will take place at 11:30 a.m.. Meanwhile, the participants of the horse show will have to register before noon. The ever-popular lawn tractor race will kick off at 5 p.m.

Various food vendors will be on site, effective Saturday and extending their presence until Sunday afternoon.

On Sunday, August 17, the Gymkhana registration period will take place at 10 a.m., with the competition starting at noon. The Gospel service will be held at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m. participants in the poultry, domestic pet and exotic animal contests will be required to register, while the results will be released at 1 p.m.

Artist Lulu Berlue will be active between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to paint faces. The double horse haul will start at 2 p.m.

A diversified music side, as always

Since 2009, the Shigawake Agricultural Fair has integrated a music festival to its program, with considerable success. This year makes no exception, as music begins on Thursday evening, with an open mic featuring special guests, followed by the Thursday Night Jam Band, all under the big tent.

On Friday, the Trough will be activated at noon, thanks to country singers Nash Stanley and John Gedeon Jr., followed by Mountain Whisper, a rock-country blues band, and by Big O String Band, offering bluegrass music. Two open jam sessions also appear on the program.

Under the tent, evening attendees will hear the rock pop music of Cropduster/Antics Road show, followed by Gaspé native country singer Pamela Rooney, while Ron's Fantasy, a fixture in Shigawake, will complete the line up.

Saturday is a huge day. At the Trough, The Uptune, offering 1980's retro, will start the afternoon, followed by MLou's pop-rock-folk repertoire, Jonny Arsenault's indie rock, Rachella Wred's indie rock as well, an open jam beginning at 4 p.m., followed by Daphne and friends' country music. After the big tent's evening line up, Urockaoke, a live karaoke band, will animate one of the biggest parties in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Saturday, the bands scheduled under the tent will be Dance and Boots Fire, the Tricultural Jam with Roger Lee Martin, Norman Parent and Dave Felker. The Big O String Band, Max Bujold and the Milestones, Rockin' Blues, Aaron Check, Jonny Arsenault, The Irish Descendants, the loyal Barr Brothers, as well as Tammy Adams and the Country Road Band, will follow.

On Sunday, Max Bujold, Claude Arsenault and two open jam sessions are scheduled in the Trough.

Under the tent, Gospel music will start the day's program, followed by Rachella Wred, Hallarsen, Brad Barr, Shaina Hayes and the Irish Descendants.

The exact schedule is available on Page 24 of this week's issue of SPEC.

Know before you cast: 2025 Fishing Rules for the Gaspé Coast

HOLLY **SMITH**

NEW CARLISLE – If you plan to go fishing this summer along the Gaspé Coast, make sure you know the rules. The Government of Quebec has updated its sport fishing regulations for 2025, and there are important details for anyone hoping to catch bass, flounder, mackerel, char, salmon, or lake trout.

Most of the Gaspé region is part of Zone 1, which includes coastal waters as well as many inland lakes and rivers. The regular sport fishing season for most species in this zone runs from May 15 to September 10, unless other rules apply for specific areas. Some rivers and special zones, called ZECs (Controlled Harvesting Zones), may have their own regulations that anglers must follow carefully.

Bass

Bass, including striped bass, can be fished from May 15 to September 10. The daily limit is six bass per person. For regular bass, there is no minimum size, but striped bass must be between 50 and 65 cm to be kept. Striped bass are under close monitoring, so keeping fish outside that size range is not allowed. Conservation efforts aim to protect the striped bass population, which has faced pressures in recent years due to habitat loss and overfishing. Anglers are encouraged to handle bass carefully and release any fish that do not meet the legal size limits.

Flounder

Flounder, including halibut, are also allowed during the same season. These fish are grouped under the "other species" category. That means there are no size or daily catch limits for recreational fishing. However, this does not apply to commercial fishing, which follows different rules. While flounder are abundant along the coast, anglers should be aware of sensitive habitats such as spawning grounds and avoid disturbing these areas to help maintain healthy fish populations.

Mackerel

Mackerel can be caught from May 15 to September 10 as well. Like flounder, there are no restrictions on size or how many you can keep under provincial sport fishing rules. Still, there are concerns at the federal level about the health of mackerel populations, so it's important to stay informed in case new limits are introduced. Since mackerel are an important food source for other marine species, sustainable fishing practices are encouraged to keep the ecosystem balanced.

Char

Char, which includes both brook and Arctic char, can be fished during the regular season. The daily limit is 10 char, with a maximum of 2 Arctic char included in that number. There is no size limit, unless you are fishing in a protected tributary. Some estuary areas in Zone 21 have stricter rules to protect sea-run char (anadromous char) that swim upriver to spawn. Because these fish are sensitive to environmental changes, it's important to respect closures and catch limits designed to support their long-term survival.

Lake Trout

Lake trout are also in season from May 15 to September 10. The daily limit is three trout per person, and only one of those can be longer than 60 cm. Trout must be kept either whole or gutted with skin and bones intact so wildlife officers can identify the species. Lake trout prefer deep, cold lakes, and their populations are monitored closely to ensure fishing pressure does not lead to decline.

Bass fishing has become a favourite pastime for both tourists and locals along the Gaspé Coast.

Photo: J. O'Connell

Atlantic Salmon

Atlantic salmon rules are more specific. The season varies depending on the river. In many rivers, only catch-and-release is allowed. Where you are allowed to keep salmon, you can take up to two per day, and they must be at least 30 cm long. For landlocked salmon, the limit is also two per day, though some rivers may have size restrictions. Many of the Gaspé's best-known salmon rivers—like the York, Bonaventure, Dartmouth, and Cascapédia—are managed by local conservation groups or ZECs, and permits or reservations may be required to fish there. These groups work hard to protect salmon habitat and support sustainable fishing, so following their rules is important.

Additional Tips for Anglers

A few final reminders: All fish must be identifiable, which means you can clean them, but fillets must have skin or bones left on. Also, you are not allowed to use live or dead bait fish in most cases. Shrimp may be used as bait, but only in certain rivers, usually for smelt. Using the correct bait and following gear restrictions helps protect fish populations from unintended harm.

Before heading out, always check local signs and maps or visit the official Quebec government website at quebec.ca for updates. Regulations can change during the season, especially if conservation needs arise. The province's iPêche app (available in French only) is another good tool to help you stay on track with fishing rules and seasons. It provides up-to-date information, including closures, limits, and species-specific guidelines.

TIDE PREDICTIONS

Sponsored by The Gaspé Spec

Carleton	Paspebiac	Gaspé
Saturday, August 9	Saturday, August 9	Saturday, August 9
09:51 a.m. - 0.33m ↓	09:53 a.m. - 0.30m ↓	09:30 a.m. - 0.49m ↓
03:10 a.m. - 2.35m ↑	03:00 a.m. - 1.99m ↑	02:29 a.m. - 1.73m ↑
09:08 p.m. - 0.37m ↓	09:00 p.m. - 0.29m ↓	08:12 p.m. - 0.60m ↓
03:39 p.m. - 1.57m ↑	03:22 p.m. - 1.30m ↑	02:53 p.m. - 1.02m ↑
Sunday, August 10	Sunday, August 10	Sunday, August 10
10:23 a.m. - 0.27m ↓	10:27 a.m. - 0.28m ↓	09:59 a.m. - 0.46m ↓
03:51 a.m. - 2.41m ↑	03:43 a.m. - 2.00m ↑	03:06 a.m. - 1.76m ↑
09:53 p.m. - 0.30m ↓	09:50 p.m. - 0.26m ↓	09:01 p.m. - 0.45m ↓
04:18 p.m. - 1.72m ↑	04:06 p.m. - 1.42m ↑	03:27 p.m. - 1.12m ↑
Monday, August 11	Monday, August 11	Monday, August 11
10:54 a.m. - 0.23m ↓	11:00 a.m. - 0.27m ↓	10:28 a.m. - 0.43m ↓
04:31 a.m. - 2.41m ↑	04:25 a.m. - 1.96m ↑	03:43 a.m. - 1.74m ↑
10:40 p.m. - 0.25m ↓	10:40 p.m. - 0.25m ↓	09:52 p.m. - 0.43m ↓
04:57 p.m. - 1.88m ↑	04:49 p.m. - 1.52m ↑	04:04 p.m. - 1.23m ↑
Tuesday, August 12	Tuesday, August 12	Tuesday, August 12
11:25 a.m. - 0.22m ↓	11:31 a.m. - 0.29m ↓	10:56 a.m. - 0.43m ↓
05:12 a.m. - 2.34m ↑	05:05 a.m. - 1.87m ↑	04:21 a.m. - 1.68m ↑
11:30 p.m. - 0.24m ↓	11:31 p.m. - 0.28m ↓	10:45 p.m. - 0.46m ↓
05:37 a.m. - 2.02m ↑	05:31 p.m. - 1.61m ↑	04:43 p.m. - 1.35m ↑
Wednesday, August 13	Wednesday, August 13	Wednesday, August 13
05:55 a.m. - 2.20m ↑	5:46 a.m. - 1.73m ↑	11:26 a.m. - 0.43m ↓
11:59 a.m. - 0.23m ↓	12:00 p.m. - 0.34m ↓	04:59 a.m. - 1.58m ↑
06:20 p.m. - 2.13m ↑	06:14 p.m. - 1.68m ↑	11:43 p.m. - 0.46m ↓
Thursday, August 14	Thursday, August 14	05:25 p.m. - 1.45m ↑
12:22 a.m. - 0.26m ↓	12:25 a.m. - 0.34m ↓	Thursday, August 14
06:40 a.m. - 2.00m ↑	06:28 a.m. - 1.56m ↑	05:39 a.m. - 1.43m ↑
12:34 p.m. - 0.27m ↓	12:30 p.m. - 0.39m ↓	11:58 a.m. - 0.45m ↓
07:07 p.m. - 2.20m ↑	06:59 p.m. - 1.72m ↑	06:11 p.m. - 1.54m ↑
Friday, August 15	Friday, August 15	Friday, August 15
01:21 a.m. - 0.33m ↓	01:26 a.m. - 0.40m ↓	12:46 a.m. - 0.51m ↓
07:28 a.m. - 1.76m ↑	07:14 a.m. - 1.38m ↑	06:22 a.m. - 1.26m ↑
01:13 p.m. - 0.33m↓	01:03 p.m. - 0.45m↓	12:32 p.m. - 0.32m ↓
07:58 p.m. - 2.22m ↑	07:49 p.m. - 1.74m ↑	07:02 p.m. - 1.60m ↑

TIDE PREDICTIONS

Sponsored by The Gaspé Spec

Carleton	Paspebiac	Gaspé
Saturday, August 16	Saturday, August 16	Saturday, August 16
02:29 a.m. - 0.41m ↓	02:37 a.m. - 0.46m ↓	01:58 a.m. - 0.56m ↓
08:23 a.m. - 1.53m ↑	08:08 a.m. - 1.21m ↑	07:11 a.m. - 1.09m ↑
01:57 p.m. - 0.42m ↓	01:42 p.m. - 0.50m ↓	01:11 p.m. - 0.52m ↓
08:57 p.m. - 2.21m ↑	08:47 p.m. - 1.76m ↑	08:03 p.m. - 1.62m ↑
Sunday, August 17	Sunday, August 17	Sunday, August 17
03:50 a.m. - 0.48m ↓	03:58 a.m. - 0.48m ↓	03:21 a.m. - 0.60m ↓
09:29 a.m. - 1.34m ↑	09:16 a.m. - 1.08m ↑	08:12 a.m. - 0.93m ↑
02:53 p.m. - 0.50m ↓	02:34 p.m. - 0.55m ↓	02:00 p.m. - 0.56m ↓
10:04 p.m. - 2.18m ↑	09:56 p.m. - 1.77m ↑	09:18 p.m. - 1.63m ↑
Monday, August 18	Monday, August 18	Monday, August 18
05:22 a.m. - 0.49m ↓	05:20 a.m. - 0.45m ↓	04:52 a.m. - 0.60m ↓
10:47 a.m. - 1.23m ↑	10:39 a.m. - 1.01m ↑	09:54 a.m. - 0.83m ↑
04:06 p.m. - 0.57m ↓	03:41 p.m. - 0.58m ↓	03:04 p.m. - 0.60m ↓
11:18 p.m. - 2.18m ↑	11:09 p.m. - 1.81m ↑	10:44 p.m. - 1.65m ↑
Tuesday, August 19	Tuesday, August 19	Tuesday, August 19
06:43 a.m. - 0.44m ↓	06:35 a.m. - 0.39m ↓	06:21 a.m. - 0.56m ↓
12:10 a.m. - 1.22m ↑	11:58 a.m. - 1.01m ↑	11:56 a.m. - 0.83m ↑
05:31 p.m. - 0.58m ↓	04:57 p.m. - 0.57m ↓	04:22 p.m. - 0.62m ↓
Wednesday, August 20	Wednesday, August 20	Wednesday, August 20
07:47 a.m. - 0.38m ↓	07:38 a.m. - 0.31m ↓	07:30 a.m. - 0.51m ↓
12:32 a.m. - 2.22m ↑	12:19 a.m. - 1.87m ↑	12:03 p.m. - 1.69m ↑
06:48 p.m. - 0.53m ↓	06:08 p.m. - 0.51m ↓	05:40 p.m. - 0.60m ↓
12:46 p.m. - 1.50m ↑	01:02 p.m. - 1.06m ↑	01:08 p.m. - 0.89m ↑
Thursday, August 21	Thursday, August 21	Thursday, August 21
08:38 a.m. - 0.32m ↓	08:31 a.m. - 0.25m ↓	08:19 a.m. - 0.48m ↓
01:37 a.m. - 2.50m ↑	01:20 a.m. - 1.93m ↑	01:07 a.m. - 1.73m ↑
07:51 p.m. - 0.46m ↓	07:11 p.m. - 0.43m ↓	06:50 p.m. - 0.55m ↓
02:19 p.m. - 1.45m ↑	01:56 p.m. - 1.14m ↑	01:57 p.m. - 0.97m ↑
Friday, August 22	Friday, August 22	Friday, August 22
09:20 a.m. - 0.29m ↓	09:16 a.m. - 0.22m ↓	08:58 a.m. - 0.45m ↓
02:31 a.m. - 2.34m ↑	02:14 a.m. - 1.97m ↑	01:59 a.m. - 1.75m ↑
08:45 p.m. - 0.39m ↓	08:07 p.m. - 0.36m ↓	07:49 p.m. - 0.51m ↓
03:06 p.m. - 1.60m ↑	02:42 p.m. - 1.23m ↑	02:37 p.m. - 1.06m ↑

Announcements

Obituary

MULLIN: Norman "Junior"
February 18, 1937 – March 27, 2025

Norman "Junior" Kerry Mullin passed away peacefully on March 27, 2025, in Brockville General Hospital.

Junior lived most of his life in Gaspé, Quebec, with short stints in London, Ontario and Edson, Alberta. In 2016 he moved to Gananoque, Ontario to be closer to his daughter.

Survived by life-long partner, Gladys and children, Dane (Jackie), Lynn (Velma), and Lorraine (Mario). Cherished grandfather to Cody, Natasha, David, Dylan, Danielle and Derek.

Junior was a man of very few words. He was happiest in the woods or in the garden and always had a newspaper in his hand when he was not outside. He was a hard-working, selfless man and was always there to lend a helping hand, from clearing snow for the neighbours to sharing the bounty from his garden.

It was a full house for his departure, and we are sure there was a big welcoming party for him on the other side. With lights lit by a friend in Israel and a good wind blowing he likely made a quick trip to the other side.

His love for gardening, dogs, and playing cribbage never went unnoticed. His sense of humour will live on in all who knew him.

Funeral to take place on Friday, August 15, 2025, at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in York Centre, followed by a Celebration of Life at the Gaspé Legion.

In Memory

BOURGAIZE: Ada
BOURGAIZE: Lennox

In loving memory of a dear mum, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away August 16, 2012. Also our dear brother Lennox Bourgaize who passed away July 4, 2021, we love you both.

May the winds of heaven blow softly,
And whisper in your ear.
How much we love and miss you,
And wish that you were still here.
Gone from our sight,
But never from our hearts.

Forever in our hearts and deeply missed by Dolly, Merle, Clayton (Eleanor), Bradford (shirley) and families.

WARD: Elliott Clarence

In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, who passed away on August 13, 2003.

Within our hearts we always keep,
A special place for you.
And try to do our best to live,
As you would want us to.
As we loved you, so we miss you,
In our memory you are near.
Loved and remembered for always,
With the passing of each year.

Sadly missed and forever loved by daughter Frances (Bernie), grandsons Mark (Erin) and great-grandsons Reid, Cole, Benn and Kevin (Courtney) and great-granddaughters Avery and Carys and sons Ken (Chris), Everette, Wayne (Monique) and grandson Dave (Josiane) and great-granddaughter Julia, great-grandsons Elliott and James and grandson Brian.

COAST ROUND-UP

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

Classifieds

LOOKING TO BUY: Antiques of all kinds: furniture, dishes, trinkets, toys, tools, items from the first and second world wars, cast iron items, hockey helmets from the 70's. For further information contact Francis at 418-368-9167.

Coast Round-up

GASPÉ

Gaspé County W.I.

September 6: Gaspé County W.I. will be hosting the annual W.I. fair at the York River Community Hall, 702 York Boulevard West. The hall will open at 3 p.m. for public viewing of all the exhibits. A delicious salad supper will begin at 4:45 p.m., take-out is also available, cost: adults $15 and children $10 (12 and under.) We look forward to seeing lots of people participate in our local W.I. craft fair and supper again this year. Everyone is welcome.

SHIGAWAKE:

Shigawake Music Festival and Agricultural Fair

August 7: Thirsty Thursday in the barn with CHNC band from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

HOPE:

Hope Baptist Church

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Meetings

Sundays: Breaking of Bread for believers - 9:30 a.m., Gospel meeting and Sunday School - 2 p.m.
Thursdays: Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 7 p.m. Everyone welcome! For more information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

NEW CARLISLE:

Kempffer House

The tea room is 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.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club

August 9: Classic Car Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the River Lodge. $5 entry fee. BBQ with hot dogs, corn, and salads. Rain date: August 10 at the same place and time. For more information, call 418-392-2995 or 418-392-4686.
September 15: Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.
September 20: A Harvest Bingo will begin at 1 p.m. until finished, doors open at 12 p.m.
October 20: Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.
November 17: Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.
December 21: Annual General Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m

UNITED CHURCH NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, August 10
10 a.m. Service
Sunday, August 17
10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN
Sunday, August 10
10 a.m. Service
Sunday, August 17
Service at Fairgrounds

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, August 10
St. James - Wakeham
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 17
St. Philip - St. John Sandy Beach
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, August 10
New Carlisle
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Port Daniel
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 17
Shigawake
10 a.m. Gospel Service at Shigawake Fairgrounds

Announcement Deadlines

August 13 for the **August 20** issue
August 27 for the **September 3** issue
September 10 for the **September 17** issue

Business & Professional DIRECTORY

On the Lighter Side...

FARMERS MARKET WORD SEARCH

P	J	S	O	F	J	J	U	U	H	C	R	U	H	H	Y	P	U	M	A
G	A	O	H	U	J	N	S	J	F	E	O	D	P	B	S	P	F	P	E
J	T	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	D	F	I	R	G	S	J	B	K	K	R
Y	I	M	O	E	S	R	G	I	G	M	P	A	N	E	R	K	R	C	Y
M	B	N	O	G	I	I	C	C	S	M	I	G	C	H	U	E	W	E	P
B	E	I	N	P	G	Y	I	G	C	H	C	Y	K	C	A	H	C	U	H
J	L	D	P	B	N	N	G	A	A	I	K	H	Y	A	U	E	R	G	S
U	I	K	E	J	A	E	S	H	L	M	L	U	M	E	U	Y	C	E	F
H	W	R	K	G	W	U	M	E	E	W	E	S	P	P	S	A	D	R	K
J	T	H	R	P	G	J	T	D	O	Y	S	L	A	N	O	S	A	E	S
R	F	O	A	B	W	I	K	L	B	T	B	A	H	W	N	C	E	T	P
A	M	G	R	H	R	P	S	M	E	D	A	K	P	F	J	K	R	G	M
S	E	I	R	R	E	B	W	A	R	T	S	M	F	P	T	N	B	H	R
S	J	O	D	D	M	E	E	G	S	U	A	B	O	Y	L	S	L	Y	I
I	R	M	J	U	R	K	O	A	R	F	W	R	H	T	T	E	Y	N	P
A	S	C	D	T	A	G	M	Y	A	T	E	K	S	A	B	E	S	M	L
S	J	F	D	A	F	P	U	N	E	J	E	S	E	E	H	C	Y	T	A
T	O	T	E	I	L	S	S	U	O	L	C	J	G	I	B	S	T	L	N
K	P	O	K	E	S	U	A	E	N	J	H	D	A	G	R	M	M	E	T
R	S	K	S	J	Y	G	L	B	R	S	F	D	N	M	H	C	O	M	S

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

APPLES
BASKET
BREAD
CHEESE
CIDER
CORN
EGGS
FARMER
HERBS
JAM
OIL
ORGANIC
PEACHES
PICKLES
PLANTS
PUMPKIN
SAMPLES
SCALE
SEASONAL
SIGN
STRAWBERRIES
SYRUP
TOMATOES
TOTE

Peach Cobbler

Ingredients
1 1/2 cups of self-rising flour
1 stick of butter
1/2 cup of water
2 cups of sugar, divided
4 cups of peaches, peeled and sliced
1 cup of milk
ground cinnamon (optional)

***Preheat** oven to 350 degrees*
***Combine** peaches, 1 cup of sugar, and water in a saucepan and mix well. Bring to a boil and simmer for 10 minutes. Remove from heat.*
Put the butter in a 3-quart baking dish and place in the oven to melt.
***Mix** the remaining 1 cup of sugar with the flour and add milk slowly to prevent clumping. Pour mixture over melted butter. Do not stir.*
Spoon peaches on top, gently pour syrup over the top and sprinkle with ground cinnamon.
Batter will rise to the top during baking.
***Bake** for 30 to 45 minutes.*
***To serve,** scoop onto a plate and serve with your choice of whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.*

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Peach

SPANISH: Melocotón

ITALIAN: Pesca

FRENCH: Pêche

GERMAN: Pfirsich

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to agriculture.

R F A S R E M

Answer: Farmers

HOROSCOPES - August 6 to August 12

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Try to get the whole picture before you proceed, Aries; otherwise, you may be moving along blindly and that can make matters worse. Patience is a valuable asset right now.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, sometimes a major conflict ends when one party walks away and finds something better to occupy them. Identify the source of your frustration and then decide if it's worth it to proceed.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
You can seemingly energize the people around you, Gemini. They will flock to you for inspiration this week, and you can make all sorts of connections this way.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, this week you may be able to see beyond the coincidences that keep cropping up and straight to the true meaning of things. Pay attention to your instincts right now.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, if you are called upon to tell a story or get people to see their common interests, your flair for drama should come in handy. Others will have so much fun being around you.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
You and someone you work with are butting heads this week, Virgo. You want them to act in a certain manner, and it could be frustrating to you if they fall short of expectations.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
A new opportunity pops into your life, Libra. You may rethink your current surroundings, whether at work or at home. This could be an exciting time for you.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Carve out some time for creativity, as it is what you are all about right now, Scorpio. Give in to the impulse to knit, paper craft or get involved in the theater. Stimulate your brain.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
The right answer to the questions you have been seeking should appear exactly when you need the message, Sagittarius. You'll have to be a little more patient for the time being.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you have questions about how you can best help the people around you, and that is by being honest with yourself and your actions. Keep everyone in the loop.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
You are ready for a break from your responsibilities, Aquarius, but something keeps dragging you back into certain tasks. Figure out a way to wrap up the to-do list, then escape.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, there are a million thoughts competing for space inside your brain. It may be best if you write things out and sort them so you can give everything the attention it deserves.

HOROSCOPES - August 12 to August 19

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
This week you are unstoppable, Aries. Your confidence will be shining brightly for all to see, and the right people are bound to take notice. Expect to tackle some projects.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, small comforts will bring big happiness to you this week. Plus, your natural charm will draw others in. A surprise in your home life will make your heart soar. Enjoy the moments.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, your words will be magical this week whether you're pitching ideas or chatting with friends. There's not much you can't say that people will not hear and take to heart.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, this week you may be building something meaningful, whether it is in love or work. All of the steps you are currently taking will help establish security and happiness in your life.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Your creativity is on fire right now, Leo. People are drawn to your warmth and charisma. This is a great time to start something new or share a talent with others.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Something that felt out of place begins to align perfectly right now, Virgo. You might be tapping into your inner wisdom, and it's guiding you toward some much-needed success.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, new connections will be coming your way, meaning that you may have different avenues for social connections. Get out and meet people as much as you can.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Your drive is unmatched right now, Scorpio. Whatever goals you have established you are pushing through faster than would seem possible. Stay focused, but celebrate your progress.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Adventure is calling, Sagittarius. You might be planning a trip or diving into a new study subject. This week a fire will be lit and your optimism is contagious.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a breakthrough in your life may be brewing. You are increasingly making smart choices that can offer long-term dividends. Stay open and trust the process.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Connections with others are a primary focus for you this week, Aquarius. Whether you are exploring love, friendship or new business opportunities, fresh energy comes into play .

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
You are in your element this week, Pisces. A creative idea or unexpected kindness makes the week extra special. Focus on some self-care and keep giving off positive vibes.

Why supporting local businesses is important

HOLLY **SMITH**

NEW CARLISLE - The Gaspé Coast is full of special places like family-owned restaurants, small stores, and local artists. These local businesses are more than just places to shop or eat, they help make our communities stronger, friendlier, and more interesting.

What does "Support Local" mean?

When we say "support local," we mean buying things from businesses in our own region, like those in New Richmond, Gaspé, Bonaventure, or Chandler. Instead of shopping online or at a big chain store from outside the area, you choose to spend your money at places owned and run by people who live here.

It could be something simple, like picking up lunch from the local canteen, buying fresh vegetables from a roadside stand, or getting your hair cut at a neighbourhood salon.

How it helps the economy

One of the biggest reasons to support local businesses is that more of your money stays in the community.

According to a study by LOCO BC, a Canadian group that supports independent businesses, when you spend $100 at a local business, about $63 stays in the community. If you spend the same amount at a large chain, only about $14 stays in the local economy. That's a big difference!

This money helps pay for local jobs, school programs, public services like libraries and sports fields, and even local events.

Creating jobs for local people

Local businesses are more likely to hire local workers. This means your neighbours, friends, or even your family members might get jobs at these places. And when people work in their own towns, they're more likely to spend their paychecks nearby too, keeping the cycle going.

Keeping our communities special

Every town on the Gaspé Coast has its own unique style and feeling. Local businesses help shape that identity. A bakery in Maria might be known for a special kind of pie, while a craft shop in Percé might sell handmade jewelry you can't find anywhere else.

If we all shopped only at big chain stores, every place would start to look the same. Local businesses help give our towns personality and pride.

Better service and local knowledge

People who run local businesses often know their customers by name. They care about the people they serve because they're part of the same community. That means better service, helpful advice, and even a few extra smiles.

If you've ever been to a shop where the owner knows exactly what kind of candy you like or recommends the perfect gift, you know how special that is.

It's better for the environment too

Shopping local is also good for the planet. Products don't have to travel as far to get to you, which means fewer trucks on the roads and less pollution in the air.

Plus, many small businesses on the Gaspé Coast use local ingredients or make their goods by hand, which usually creates less waste.

Challenges local businesses face

It's not always easy to run a small business. Owners have to compete with large companies that can offer lower prices or fast shipping. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many small shops lost customers or had to close for a while.

But people all over the Gaspé Coast stepped up. They ordered takeout, shopped local, and told their friends about their favourite local spots. This community support made a big difference.

How can you help?

Even kids can help support local businesses! Here are a few ideas:

- Ask your family to buy groceries or treats from local shops.
- Visit farmers markets and try something new.
- Buy birthday or holiday gifts made by artists in your town.
- Share your favourite local store or restaurant with your friends.
- Say thank you to business owners who work hard for their customers.

Photo: Davina Gallant

Juliana Gallant and Leah Couture enjoy a delicious breakfast at Ferme Bourdages, complete with fresh strawberries grown right on the farm, a sweet way to support local!

Why it matters for the future

If we want our towns to grow and stay strong, we need to support the people who build them. Local businesses are an important part of that. They give back to the community, create jobs, and keep our towns full of life.

So next time you're about to shop online or head to a big store, stop and think: can I get this locally? If the answer is yes, give your business to someone in your own community.

Together, we can make a difference

It might seem like just a small choice, buying a sandwich, a book, or a gift from a local place, but every little bit counts. When we support local businesses, we help make the Gaspé Coast a better place for everyone.

From dugouts to lookouts

The Diamonds win B series at Maria softball tournament

Elaine Sexton

The Cascapédia–St-Jules women's softball team, The Diamonds, emerged as winners of the B series at the annual men's, women's, and mixed softball tournament held recently in Maria.

The multi-division tournament brought together teams from across the region for a weekend of competitive play. The Diamonds secured their win through consistent teamwork and strong performances throughout the series.

Organizers, volunteers, and all participating teams contributed to a successful event.

Photo: Haley Gallan

The Diamonds, emerged as winners of the B series at the annual men's, women's, and mixed softball tournament held recently in Maria.

Three-Peat for "Couples Therapy" at Hope softball tournament

Elaine Sexton

HOPE – For the third consecutive year, the team Couples Therapy won the Hope Mixed Softball Tournament.

The roster included Joshua Willett, Laura Harrison, Nicholas Willett, Katie Major, Kyle Martin, Emily Coull, Andrew Martin, Miranda Willett, Mariah Allen, and Chris Renouf. Keishawn Bradstreet and Geoff MacWhirter filled in as substitutes.

Players represented the communities of Cascapedia–Saint-Jules, Gesgapegiag, New Carlisle and Port Daniel. Team members were joined by their children following the win.

Play Ball

Photo: Miranda Willett

Team members were joined by their children following the win.

Six-year-old reaches the summit of Mont Jacques-Cartier

Holly Smith

PORT-DANIEL – Six-year-old Azalea Dupont-Walker of Sherbrooke, Quebec, reached new heights this summer, literally, by hiking to the top of Mont Jacques-Cartier with her father, Samuel Dupont-Desbiens, on July 28.

Located in the Chic-Choc Mountains of Gaspésie, Mont Jacques-Cartier is the second-highest peak in Quebec, standing at 1,268 metres.

The trail to the summit is an 8.3 km round-trip with steep, rocky terrain, often taking adults several hours to complete.

Azalea, the daughter of Julie Walker and Samuel Dupont-Desbiens, tackled the challenge with determination and a positive attitude. Her grandparents, Benjamin Walker and Wanda Hottot of Port Daniel, are especially proud of her achievement.

Photo: Samuel Dupont-Desbiens

Azalea's climb is no small feat, it proves that even the biggest mountains can be conquered by little legs and a big heart.

Photo: Rebecca MacDonald

Campers at Fort Haldimand Children's Camp had a blast during the 2025 Colour Run, racing through clouds of bright powder and making colourful summer memories with friends.

Shigawake Music Festival de musique

2025

Billets / Tickets
LAISSEZ-PASSER / WEEKEND PASS: $45
(avant / before August 1 aout)
LAISSEZ-PASSER / WEEKEND PASS: $55
(à partir de / as of August 1 aout)
12 ans et moins-Gratuit / 12 years and less-Free

JEUDI 14 AOÛT
THURSDAY AUGUST 14TH
Free / gratuit

TENT
19h00 Open Mic and special guests
20h30 Thursday Night Jam Band (Mixed)

VENDREDI 15 AOÛT
FRIDAY AUGUST 15TH
$20 day pass (includes fair)

TROUGH
12h00 Nash Stanley & John Gedeon Jr (country)
14h00 Mountain Whisper (rock country blues)
15h00 Rockin' Blues Trio (rock blues)
16h00 OPEN JAM
17h00 Big O String band (bluegrass)
19h00 OPEN JAM

TENT
19h00 Cropduster / Antics Roadshow (Rock Pop)
20h45 Pamela Rooney (Country)
22h30 Ron's Fantasy (rock pop)

SAMEDI 16 AOÛT
SATURDAY AUGUST 16TH
$25 day pass (foire inclus)

TROUGH
12h00 The Uptune (80's retro)
13h00 MLou (duo) (pop rock folk)
14h00 Jonny Arsenault (indie rock)
15h00 Rachella Wred (indie folk)
16h00 OPEN JAM
21h00 Daphne and friends (country)
00h00 uRockaoke (live band karaoke)

TENT
10h00 Dance with Fly Movement (kids)
11h00 Dance with Boots Fire
12h00 Tricultural Jam with R Martin, N Parent, D Felker (country folk)
13h00 Big O String Band (bluegrass)
14h00 Max Bujold & the Milestones (rock)
15h00 Rockin' Blues Trio (rock blues)
16h00 Aaron Check (indie rock)

19h00 Jonny Arsenault (indie rock)
20h00 The Irish Descendants (Irish Maritime)
21h00 The Barr Brothers (indie rock)
22h00 Tammy Adams and The Country Road Band (country)

Camping
Camping Rustique hors site gratuit
Free rustic offsite camping

DIMANCHE 17 AOÛT
SUNDAY AUGUST 17TH
$15 day pass (includes fair)

TROUGH
12h00 OPEN JAM
13h00 Max Bujold (rock)
14h00 OPEN JAM
16h00 Claude Arsenault (mixed)

TENT
10h00 Gospel Music Service
12h00 Rachella Wred (indie folk)
13h00 Hallarsen (folk)
14h00 Brad Barr (indie rock)
15h00 Homegrown Singer Songwriter
16h00 Shaina Hayes (indie folk)
17h00 The Irish Descendants (Irish Maritime)

ATM/GUICHET SUR LE SITE
Official partners / Partenaires officiels

FACTOR Canada
Municipality of Shigawake
MRC de BONAVENTURE
CASA 50th Anniversary

Exposition / Fair

JEUDI 14 AOÛT
THURSDAY AUGUST 14TH
Free / gratuit

18H00 Soirée d'ouverture vin et fromage / Opening night wine and cheese

VENDREDI 15 AOÛT
FRIDAY AUGUST 15TH
$20 day pass (includes music)

8H00 - 11H00
Pâtisseries, artisants, récoltes et légumes (y compris les jardins d'école) doivent être reçus avant 11h pour le jugement. Les animaux (vaches, cochons, chèvres et moutons) doivent également être sur place et enregistrés avant 11 heures pour être jugés.

Baking, handicrafts, vegetables and crops (including school fair gardens) must be received by 11:00 for judging. The animals, cows, pigs, goats and sheep, must also be on site and registered by 11:00 for judging.

11H30 Inscription au 60 ans et plus, tournoi de volleyball (4 contre 4) / Registration for the 60+ volleyball tournament (4 VS 4)

13H00 Tire de chevaux / Local single horsehaul

17H00 Jeux traditionnels / Traditional Games

TOUTE LA FIN DE SEMAINE / SERVICES ALL WEEKEND:

Exposants / Vendors
(samedi et dimanche / Saturday and Sunday)
Crème glacée / Ice cream
Bar
Cantine / Canteen
Food vendors

Shigawake Fair Foire agricole

2025

SAMEDI 16 AOÛT
SATURDAY AUGUST 16TH
$25 day pass (musique inclus)

10H00 - 16H00

Zoo pour enfants, heure du conte, tatouages temporaires, table d'eau, bac à sable, magicien, peinture de visage (11h30 - 13h), et plus.
Petting zoo for kids, story time, temporary tattoos, water table, sand box, magician, face painting (11:30 - 1PM) etc.

10H30 Concours "tots and wheels" "Tots and wheels" pageant.

10h00 Dance with Fly Movement (kids - tent)

11H00 - 12H00 Les Cabinettes Show - Take 1

11H30 Inscription au tournoi de volleyball (4 contre 4) / Registration for the volleyball tournament (4 VS 4)

12H00 Ouverture des présentations de chevaux (inscription avant 12H00) / Opening horse show (horses must be registered before 12:00)

12H00 - 14H00 Cônes de barbe à papa pour les enfants / Cotton candy cones for kids

13H00 - 14H00 Les Cabinettes Show - Take 2

15H00 - 16H00 Les Cabinettes Show - Take 3

17H00 Course de tracteurs à gazon / Lawn Tractor Race (inscription $20)

Billets / Tickets
LAISSEZ-PASSER / WEEKEND PASS: $45
(avant / before August 1 aout)
LAISSEZ-PASSER / WEEKEND PASS: $55
(à partir de / as of August 1 aout)
12 ans et moins-Gratuit / 12 years and less-Free

DIMANCHE 17 AOÛT
SUNDAY AUGUST 17TH
$15 day pass (includes music)

10H00 Gymkhana registration / inscription

10H00 Messe Gospel / Gospel Service

12H00 Gymkhana

13H00 Jugement des volailles et d'animaux domestiques et exotiques. Les volailles doivent être enregistrées avant 11h00.

Poultry, domestic pet & exotic animal judging. Poultry must be registered before 11:00.

13H00 - 16H00 Lulu Berlue

14H00 Tire de chevaux double / Double Horse Haul

15H00 Fin de l'exposition / End of the fair (pickup all submitted handicrafts in loft)

FACTOR Canada
Municipality of Shigawake
MRC de BONAVENTURE
CASA 50th Anniversary