

Major donation brings local Palliative Care Home closer to reality

MARY ROBERTSON
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CASCAPEDIA-ST. JULES - On July 24, a generous donation was made to the Maison de soins palliatifs de la Baie-des-Chaleurs, in memory of Diane Snow, the Executive Chef of the 3Camps fly-fishing lodges.

The \$100,000 donation was made by Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg, co-owners of 3Camps, and leaders of the Danbe Foundation in Ottawa. Known as a philanthropic power couple in the Ottawa region, Barbara and Dan have generously supported cancer research, mental health services, the arts, and many other charitable causes through their Danbe Foundation. In 2018, Barbara and Dan were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by Governor General Julie Payette for their philanthropic contributions and for inspiring a spirit of giving in Ottawa and beyond. Barbara



Junior St. Onge, Dre Marie-Hélène Basque, Barbara Crook, Dr. Simon Prévost and Kyle Bujold.

Photo: Heather Crosby

was also awarded the Order of Ottawa for her community work and philanthropy.

Diane started to work at Camp Bonaventure in 1999 as a cook. In the years that followed, she took on more responsibility by overseeing all the operations of kitchen management and the menus for the Salmon Lodge on the Grand

Cascapedia River, Camp Bonaventure and The Club on the Bonaventure River.

She enjoyed her work at the salmon-fishing camps and was an integral part of the hospitable and hard-working team of employees who welcomed anglers to the rivers every summer. Having worked there for so many

years, she was also a friend to many of the guests who returned to the camps year after year.

After being diagnosed with cancer, Diane received her first treatment in March of 2022. During that time, she and her life partner, Junior St. Onge, were also faced with the challenges of his mother's diagno-

sis of cancer. So, while dealing with her own health issues, Diane took it upon herself to help care for her mother-in-law until she passed in December of 2022.

After months of treatments, Diane was told that she was in remission and was able to return to work at the camps in 2023 with Junior, who was the Manager at Salmon Lodge.

When Diane's cancer returned, she remained optimistic and was determined to get through it again because she had her four young granddaughters to love and spoil. But after more difficult treatments, her family and friends' loving support, and much care from the doctors and nurses at Maria Hospital, Diane lost her battle to cancer on April 27, right before the start of the 2025 fishing season.

It was a devastating loss, not only for her family but for

Cont'd on page 6

Green light given to largest residential development in the history of Gaspé

JEAN-PHILIPPE THIBAUT
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - An agreement was officially signed between the Town of Gaspé and Gestion Bourgade for the creation of the Faubourg du Ruisseau eco-district, described by mayor Daniel Côté as "the largest residential and commercial development in the history of the Town of Gaspé."

The project was publicly unveiled on May 27. However, the agreement, which consists of some 700 pages of legal documents, had still not been initialed by both parties, a step that has now been completed. With this, the Gaspé town council confirms an investment of \$4.4 million through a loan by-law, for a total esti-



A glimpse of Faubourg du Ruisseau once the streets and paving will be completed.

Photo: Courtesy of Gestion Bourgade

ated value of \$8.8 million. The Town and Gestion Bourgade are thus two 50% part-

ners. The municipal share will be used, in particular, for the con-

struction of streets, water and sewer systems, as well as pedestrian and cycling lanes. It

should be noted that the borrowing by-law will require a citizen approval process. Afterwards, it will require Quebec's approval as well before it comes into effect.

"This is a historic moment and a crucial step for the future of Gaspé. The Faubourg du Ruisseau is not just a development project; it's the cornerstone of our growth for years to come," says Daniel Côté.

The municipalization of the streets could be completed by Christmas if all goes as planned. Work began this past spring. One entrance to the eco-neighbourhood will be located on road 198 near the RCMP building; another will

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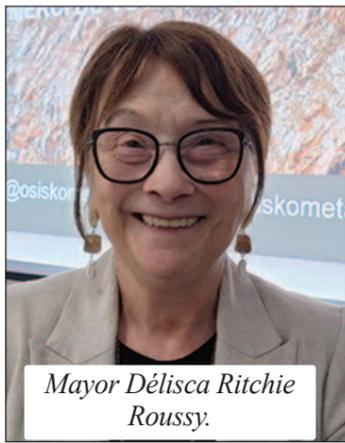
Water and sewer: Murdochville mayor concerned

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

MURDOCHVILLE - For once, the mayor of Murdochville is openly expressing concern about the condition of the town's aging water and sewer infrastructure, which is now more than 60 years old.

Driving through the streets, one can see areas where the pavement has bulged due to pipes running too close to the asphalt, creating visible bumps.

"We no longer have a choice. We can't wait any longer. The mining company hasn't arrived yet. It could become dangerous. It no longer makes sense," notes Mayor Délisca Ritchie Roussy, adding that the town cannot afford to wait another ten



Mayor Délisca Ritchie Roussy.

Photo: N. Sergerie

years.

A study conducted in 2014 estimated it would cost \$38 million to rebuild all the infrastructure, originally designed for a population of 5,000.

"We may be able to reduce the bill, but it wouldn't be done properly," says the mayor, who believes that the bill has certainly increased

due to inflation and overheating in the construction industry.

"It's as if we're always chasing our tails. The government is facing increasing financial difficulties. We're not the only ones who need help," the mayor continues.

Although Osisko, the company working to relaunch Mines Gaspé, has promised to help with infrastructure, the mayor does not want to rely solely on them.

"We don't approach them by always asking for money. They are nice people, after all. We don't want to become beggars. The mining company hasn't arrived yet," says the elected official.

Fortunately, the town's network is not experiencing major water losses and is not

currently at critical risk.

"It was a beautiful town with beautiful infrastructure at the time, but we need government assistance. I've complained about this many times on the air, but no one has ever come to our rescue," laments Ms. Ritchie Roussy, who arrived in Murdochville in 1972.

Since the closure of the underground mine and smelter, respectively in 1999 and 2002, the town has struggled to move forward.

"We were in a state of decay at the time. And today, things are no better," she says, though she insists she's not being defeatist.

"I'm impatient about everything that concerns us. I'd like my turn to come as soon as possible," she says, noting that a possible revival of the mine

will not happen before 2030.

She wants the issue to be resolved quickly so that she can deal with the influx of people who will return to live in her community.

"We're behind schedule! We're behind the times! People are repairing their homes, but we're no longer there. We had sent several apartment blocks to Gaspé, and we no longer have them. We'll have 1,000 workers during construction, and they'll need to settle in," the mayor continues.

"It worries me, never mind, Ms. Roussy. I rarely say this to my people, and it worries me because we don't want to lose face. Osisko is a good company, but they won't pay for everything, and that's normal too!" concludes the mayor.

Gaspé's participatory budget: Four projects up for vote

JEAN-PHILIPPE THIBAUT
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPE - For its second participatory budget in as many years, a monitoring committee has selected four projects that are now in the running to receive the most votes from the public.

The winner will see their idea come to fruition. Elected officials announced their plans earlier in April, following the success of their first participatory budget. The amount allocated has doubled from \$50,000 to \$100,000, but will be spread over two fiscal years.

A total of eleven projects were initially submitted this year by citizens and organizations. The voting period runs until September 10 on the town of Gaspé website. The winning project(s) will be announced at the municipal council meeting on September 15.

"The participatory budget is fully in line with the municipal council's desire to involve our citizens more in municipal decisions. We will be testing an improved and slightly adjusted formula this year. This collaborative approach is in line with the objectives of our recently adopted strategic plan," explains the mayor of Gaspé Daniel Côté.

Three of the four projects are valued at \$50,000 or less. If the two most popular projects are among them, the Town of Gaspé will be able to carry them out simultaneously. The fourth project is



A monitoring committee has selected four projects that are now in the running to receive the most votes from the public.

Photo: Jean-Philippe Thibault

estimated at \$100,000.

In detail

One of the selected proposals is the revitalisation plan for the Plourde mill site in Rivière-au-Renard. The goal is to develop a rest and relaxation area. The historic sawmill, built in 1909, belongs to the Town of Gaspé and was designated a heritage building in 1998. Its development is part of broader projects tied to Quebec's sea fishing capital. The cost is estimated at \$40,000.

If selected, this project would further enhance the extensive rejuvenation of downtown Rivière-au-Renard, which was inaugurated last September. Investments of \$8.7 million were made there before the development of a promenade, an observation tower, a beach replenishment and the Cap au large 4D experience.

The application for the

creation of Patrice-Quenneville Park, near the street of the same name – a new residential development near the Mont Béchervaise alpine resort – was also accepted. The idea proposed by Sarah Joncas would see the creation of a central green space including playgrounds and relaxation areas, trails, an agora and a community garden. According to the initiator, this project would promote neighbourhood life, socialising and activities for all ages. It is estimated to cost \$100,000.

A self-service sports equipment lending centre at the L'Anse-au-Griffon sports chalet is also proposed. The project, led by the Le Griffon Cultural Centre, would be carried out in partnership with the URLS (Regional Recreation and Sports Unit) and would require the installation of a multi-door shed on screw piles, at a cost of \$43,000. Users would ultimately be able to borrow var-

ious sports equipment independently.

Finally, an intergenerational recreational sports area near the Douglastown Com-

munity Centre could be created, with facilities promoting health, play and active living for all. The goal is to stimulate social engagement and a sense of belonging, revitalize an existing public space, promote local heritage and provide access to facilities that encourage regular physical activity. The total cost is estimated at \$50,000.

It's worth noting that the project selected during Gaspé's first participatory budget was the addition of playground equipment at St-Paul School in Saint-Maurice-de-l'Échouerie. A total of five projects were put to a public vote out of the 17 submitted. No fewer than 646 people participated in the voting process.

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A new Mi'gmaq experience in Forillon National Park

JEAN-PHILIPPE THIBAUT
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

FORILLON - The Micmac Nation of Gespeg and Parks Canada have been working closely since 2020 to develop traditional Mi'gmaq accommodation. Both parties want to offer visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in Forillon National Park. This will be possible starting next year.

The Um'tgi Wapg - Land of Dawn project was officially inaugurated on August 8. Five wigwams with a total capacity of 17 beds, have been erected at Cap-Bon-Ami, opposite the campsite of the same name, at the entrance to the first car park. These will be available for rent beginning in 2026 for overnight stays.

What's more, visitors will discover Mi'gmaq history, legends, cultural practices and spirituality through educational activities such as dreamcatcher and traditional basket making. Artifacts found in Penouille and reconstructed will also be on display.

"Guests will be able to learn about the culture of the Mi'gmaq Nation," explains Chief Céline Cassivi. "It's more than a tourist site, it's a living tribute to the memory, knowledge and spirituality of the Mi'gmaq. Visitors will discover our worldview. I am particularly proud of this announcement. It is a place of remembrance, but also a place that looks to the future."

In addition to five wigwams for accommodation, another longhouse-shaped building has been constructed as a reception centre. The project is described by many as unique in the province.

"It showcases Mi'gmaq culture in the Gaspé Peninsula by promoting appropriate and authentic tourism. As far as I can remember, this is the first time there has been such a wonderful collaboration between Parks Canada and an Indigenous community. Something this structured in a national park is a first," says Patricia Auclair,



The longhouse-style wigwam that will serve as the reception building at Cap-Bon-Ami.

Photo: Jean-Philippe Thibault

Acting Executive Director of Indigenous Tourism Quebec.

Last year, Ottawa signed a 25-year shared governance framework between Gespeg and Parks Canada to carry out joint projects in Forillon, while promoting Mi'gmaq cultural heritage.

Although the idea for the project dates back well before this agreement, it is a concrete step in that direction. "This agreement allows us to move forward together toward a more inclusive management approach where Gespeg's voice is fully heard, recognized and valued," notes Hugues Michaud, Executive Director for Quebec and Nunavut at Parks Canada.

It should be noted that the chosen site is a symbolic place for sun ceremonies, as it pays tribute to the thousand-year history of the Mi'gmaq people who inhabit it. The first Maw-iomi was held there in 2017.

Um'tgi Wapg - Land of Dawn is expected to be open on the same dates as Forillon National Park. Three jobs will be created in Gespeg. "This is in line with the agreement's objectives to create economic development opportunities. It's one of the main focuses, and we're very proud of it," said

Matthieu Côté, director of Parks Canada's Gaspé Peninsula Management Unit.

Ottawa has invested \$185,000 in the project, which is estimated to cost a total of more than \$500,000. The site was designed and built by members of Gespeg, including Martin Jean-Dubé, who is also a commercial fisherman for the Nation and who worked alongside his crew.

"I had already seen how it was done and how it worked at the Pointe-Navarre site. I started from there with that knowledge and questions for the elders. It's a modern version, but with a traditional feel. I'm very proud of it, since the project was started by my mother, who was a councillor in 2015."

His mother, Johanne Jean, explains that she launched the idea 10 years ago, when she was a councillor. She has also been an employee of the Gespeg Micmac Interpretation Site since 1993.

"We want to give visitors an authentic and unique Indigenous experience. Our guides will share our stories and tales. Thank you for taking the time to discover our culture, listen to it and experience it," she concludes.



Photo: Lise Bourget

Tourists no longer have access to the staircase at the end of Biard Street to reach Anse du Nord beach

Percé: No more access to Anse du Nord

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - The staircase at the end of Biard Street in Percé, which allowed tourists to descend to Anse du Nord beach, is no longer accessible.

The infrastructure will not be rebuilt after falling victim to coastal erosion.

The town had to intervene every fall. "It wasn't working anymore," says the Mayor of Percé Daniel Leboeuf.

Resident Lise Bourget is asking the town to at least take action to make the area more welcoming.

"Last year, they decided not to replace it, but they could remove the remains of the facilities, I think. It's really ugly for tourists who come to admire the Rock, and it seems very dangerous to me because people still go down there," she explains.

The town is working on a new concept

"The plan is to install an observation platform. Tourists will still be able to see Anse du Nord. Given the erosion that is occurring, it is not feasible to rebuild a staircase in the short term," explains the mayor.

There had been plans to install an aluminum structure for the descent that would have better withstood the onslaught of the sea.

"The slope is too eroded. We will not invest tens of thousands of dollars until it is safe," says Mr. Leboeuf.

Such infrastructure could be reinstated if the Department of Public Safety intervenes to protect the area, as the town has been requesting for several years.

"We'll see. Our request for protective work for the entire Anse du Nord is still pending with the Department of Public Safety. A project has been submitted. Studies are still being conducted. We hope that this part of the village will be protected," says the mayor.

The request is being made under the disaster prevention program. The protection of Anse du Nord is an important issue: nearly 20 homes and businesses in this area are vulnerable. There is also the fire station and the town's filtration plant at the end of the cove. If there were to be too much damage on this side, it would jeopardize the safety of the town.

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Guest Commentary

Quebec's 2025 Budget: A Vision of Obscurity and Corporate Favouritism?

On March 25, the CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec) administration unveiled its 2025 provincial budget, a document notably spanning projections until 2030. As is typical before an election, this long-term vision aims to project an image of stability and foresight. However, this budget, rather than offering clarity, is shrouded in ambiguity, making objective analysis a challenging, if not impossible task. A deliberate effort to obfuscate details while superficially adhering to transparency requirements is evident throughout the document.

The budget begins by acknowledging the economic uncertainties posed by U.S. trade policies, predicting an average 10% tariff over the next two years. This prediction, based on the notion that the trade war is a temporary strategy for renegotiating alliances, is arguably sound and even cautiously pessimistic—a prudent approach. However, this is where the budget's clarity ends.

A significant portion of the budget hints at substantial financial support for corporations through reduced obligations and deregulation. This support is framed as necessary to combat U.S. tariffs, but

the specifics are conspicuously absent. The budget avoids naming beneficiaries, leaving open the question of whether aid will prioritize local Quebec businesses or multinational corporations operating within the province.

The introduction of the CRIC (Tax Credit for Research, Innovation, and Commercialization) exemplifies this ambiguity. While presented as a tool to boost innovation, it predominantly benefits corporations. Small Quebec businesses and startups, often lacking the necessary cash flow, are unlikely to utilize this credit. The focus on research and innovation, often driven by profit-seeking corporations, raises concerns about its alignment with public interests. Historical data demonstrates that corporations, unchecked by strong unions, tend to prioritize profit maximization over employee welfare. The projected \$2 billion in savings over five years through fiscal simplification suggests a roll-back of regulations, mirroring concerning trends in other jurisdictions.

The budget's reliance on vague spending categories further obscures its intentions. Phrases like "Sustain and Dynamize Quebec's economy" (\$4 billion over five years), "Favourize region's participation in the economy" (\$750 million), and "Valorizing Quebec's Culture and Identity" (\$700 million over five years) offer no concrete information. While long-term projections inherently involve some uncertainty, the lack of specificity raises serious concerns about accountability.

The stated goal of "modernizing public services to increase efficiency" is equally troubling. While efficiency is desirable, this language echoes the rhetoric used to justify dismantling essential public services elsewhere. The budget's cuts to RenoRe-

gion and reported reductions in non-profit funding suggest a similar trajectory. These cuts, particularly to non-profits—organizations already operating with minimal resources—raise questions about the government's commitment to regional development and social welfare.

The budget's justification for these measures—achieving budget balance—is a familiar refrain. The narrative of crippling public debt is often used to justify austerity measures. However, public debt can serve as an investment in infrastructure and long-term economic growth. The lack of transparency regarding tax reforms, particularly the absence of measures to redistribute wealth more equitably, raises concerns about the budget's true beneficiaries. There is no mention of increased taxes on corporations or the wealthy, nor of regulations to curb excessive rent, food, or service costs.

This 450-page document, while voluminous, offers little substantive information. It reveals spending allocations but conceals the specifics of how and for whom these funds will be used. While individual critiques of specific budget items are valuable, it is crucial to examine the broader implications. This budget reflects a systemic unwillingness to address the root causes of economic inequality. The pandemic merely accelerated existing trends, widening the wealth gap.

The post-World War II era saw the implementation of policies that redistributed wealth and fostered greater economic equality. These policies, gradually eroded over the past 70 years, can be reinstated. In a democracy, we have the power to reshape our economic landscape. It is time to exercise that power.



Fred Kirch

Guest Commentary

Trump's unrelenting quest for glory

A few days ago, the White House floated the idea that Donald Trump should be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The justification? He has supposedly brokered "a peace deal every month" since returning to office.

Unless "peace deal" now means posting something incoherent on Truth Social, the bar for Nobel recognition has just collapsed. Even Trump's defenders would have trouble listing these eight miraculous monthly peacemaking triumphs. Perhaps this month's "deal" was him momentarily not insulting Canada.

But beyond the absurdity of the claim lies something even more revealing. This was Trump via his political mouthpieces asking for the Prize, which is a perfect reflection of the man. (For the record, the rules of the Nobel Committee do not allow a person to nominate themselves.)

When Donald Trump reaches for the Nobel Peace Prize, it's not about diplomacy, or peace, or legacy, it's about ego. It is about getting the Prize because someone else got it first, specifically, Barack Obama.

This is the same Trump who openly cheats at golf and awards himself trophies at clubs he owns, simply declaring himself the winner.

And just days ago, he struck again, this time elbowing his way into the FIFA World Cup trophy

presentation. In a shameless display, he made himself the centre of the ceremony, eclipsing the players. While handing out medals to the athletes, he pocketed one for himself. The players were not thrilled. Somehow after that game, the large, gold World Cup trophy ended up in his White House office, a jarring visual, like a little league dad sneaking into the team photo.

In the military, what he does would be described as stolen valor. Posing as a hero for something you didn't do. For Trump it's simply business as usual: take the spotlight, grab the prize, and rewrite the story later.

That instinct isn't new. In 2019, while speaking to veterans, Trump made an off-hand comment that he wanted to award himself the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration awarded for acts of extraordinary valor in combat. "As you know, I'm not allowed to get it," he joked, "I wanted to give it to myself."

What sounded like a weak joke carried a familiar ring. If it's prestigious and visible, he wants it, earned or not. Today, an actual Medal of Honor hangs just outside his White House office, as if proximity alone confers merit.

To Trump, the Nobel Peace Prize is a trophy. A shiny, gold-plated trophy. Trump doesn't believe in earning trophies, he believes in declaring himself the winner and daring others to disagree.

But the Nobel Peace Prize isn't a prop for insecure men. It's not a consolation prize for presidents who feel unloved and underappreciated. It is meant to recognize courage, reconciliation, and progress, none of which are Trump's strong suits. His diplomacy is performative; his international record is chaotic. He praises dictators, punishes allies and sees foreign policy as a place to posture.

Trump's Nobel fixation is just the latest in a long

line of self-glorifying delusions. From the fake "Time" magazine covers that hung in his clubs, to the imaginary record-breaking inauguration crowd at his first inauguration, to his oft repeated, self-declared "most presidential except for Lincoln" status.

In the end, Trump doesn't care about peace. He wants applause. And if the Nobel Committee doesn't hand the Prize to him, he'll likely dig up an alternative to place on his mantle with his golf awards. Who knows, the Medal of Honor that now hangs on the wall outside his office, may find its way into his office to reside alongside the garish gold decorations that he has plastered on its halloved walls and his many awards including the World Cup trophy.

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Police cadet from Gaspé revives woman in Quebec City

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - A cadet with the Sûreté du Québec, Mikaël Denis, 21, from Gaspé, helped revive a woman who had lost consciousness at Montmorency Falls Park in Quebec City.

The incident occurred on July 12 on the footbridge overlooking the falls, located on the border between Quebec City and Boischatel.

Mr. Denis, along with his 19-year-old colleague, Maude Fournier, were on preventive patrol in public areas as part of their duties.

"Around 7 p.m., we went to Montmorency Falls Park to do some surveillance. We work on the Boischatel side and arrived on the east side. We got on the footbridge and people on the west side were waving to get our attention. That's when we moved toward them to see what was going on and saw a woman on the ground," the cadet explains.

The police recruit immediately sprang into action. "We made space around the victim, and I personally leaned over to check her vital signs and level of consciousness. The woman had a very weak pulse and was completely unconscious. We put her in the re-



Photo: Sûreté du Québec

Mikaël Denis and Maude Fournier at Montmorency Falls Park in Quebec City.

covery position," continues Mr. Denis.

As luck would have it, a doctor happened to be at the scene. "He came to help me, and on the phone, dispatch asked us to perform CPR, so the doctor and I took turns until the paramedics took over," says the cadet.

"I did what I could. We did our best, and everyone was satisfied," Mr. Denis says afterward.

During his training, he received emergency first aid training. "It's a course we take in college, and that's what helped me respond. The symptoms were something we had seen during training. It al-

lowed me to stay in control of the situation," explains the recruit.

This event reaffirmed Mr. Denis' career choice. Mr. Denis is studying in the two-year accelerated program in Police Techniques at Cégep Garneau in Quebec City. He will begin his final year at CEGEP in August and will complete his training at the École nationale de police de Nicolet.

The future officer would like to pursue his career in Gaspé or at least in the Gaspé Peninsula, though assignments with the Sûreté du Québec are determined by the organization.

No decontamination at MTQ site before 2026

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The presence of asbestos at the site of the former Ministry of Transportation service centre has prompted the Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI) to postpone decontamination work on the land until next spring.

In a request made by the SPEC the SQI, while the site has been inactive since the end of demolition work, the public corporation indicated by email that "the discovery of materials containing asbestos during the work has affected the scope, schedule, and costs of the project as outlined in the call for tenders." An environmental characterization study has been commissioned from Englobe "to provide an up-to-date overview of the site, specify the area to be decontaminated, and estimate the costs," also mentions the email sent to the SPEC.

"Land decontamination is a common practice, and a decontaminated site will ultimately become a healthier place. All safety and environmental protection measures will be taken to decontaminate the soil in question in full compliance with regulations governing the management of contaminated soil, particularly its remediation. Thus, all necessary precautions are being taken to ensure that the decontamination is carried out safely and that all contaminated soil is rehabilitated in accordance with current regulations," the SQI emphasizes in its email.

In October 2024, the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) intervened on the site and asked the project manager to modify its demolition procedure to take into account all the risks associated with this type of work in relation to the existing buildings and the materials found there. The centre, built in the 1950s, contained lead and asbestos.

Démolition des rivières de Lévis was awarded the demolition contract following a public tender at a cost of \$876,000. The SQI expects to begin the process of returning the land once the decontamination work is complete.

The Town of Gaspé conducted a consultation on the redevelopment of the 31,700-square-metre site, with several ideas but no clear consensus. A community hub, a knowledge hub, a sports hub, green spaces, housing and commercial development were among the proposals. Zoning in the town centre allows for many possibilities: housing, green space, commercial development, or even a knowledge hub for the area near the CEGEP.

The town expected to announce its plans before the municipal elections were called. When asked about the latest developments, the town indicated that it would comment on the matter once it had reviewed it.

Police report



Deadly collision claims one life in Listuguj

A traffic accident on August 12 on highway 132 in Listuguj claimed the life of a person and left another person seriously injured. The incident, involving three vehicles, occurred at the intersection of highway 132 and Riverside Drive early in the afternoon.

According to firefighters, one car failed to stop and was struck by a trailer. A third vehicle then collided with the first two. The jaws of life were used to free two victims. Firefighters performed CPR on at least one of the victims before both were transported to the Campbellton hospital.

The Listuguj Police Department stopped traffic along that stretch of highway 132 for several hours, but did not provide further details on the cause of the incident or the condition of the injured victim. The identity of the deceased was not released by the Listuguj police. Whether the victim was a local resident or a tourist remains unknown. Foul play is not suspected as of August 14, according to Michael Isaac, director of communications for the Listuguj Government.

The Sûreté du Québec was called to the scene of the collision. However, that police force is not commenting on the case, as it does not fall under its jurisdiction.

Two adults and two minors charged following attack in Saint-Omer

An armed assault occurred on the evening of August 7 in a Saint-Omer home. According to the Sûreté du Québec, "around 9 p.m., individuals broke into a local residence. An assault followed, using pepper spray or bear spray, against the occupants," indicates sergeant Frédéric Deshaies, Sûreté du Québec communication officer.

The investigation is ongoing and authorities believe the attack may not have been random, as the home appeared to be targeted. "No one was injured in the altercation," indicates Frédéric Deshaies, Sûreté du Québec's spokesperson.

The suspects' vehicle, traveling at very high speed westbound, was chased by the Sûreté du Québec in the Pointe-à-la-Garde area, but they were eventually lost from sight. However, thanks to information sharing between the various police forces, the officers were able to identify and locate the suspect vehicle in various locations. It was even captured by radar in the Kamouraska area, but at that time, its speed was reduced.

The four suspects, two adults and two minors, were finally arrested in Lévis at 4:20 a.m. on August 8 after abandoning their vehicle and attempting to flee on foot. The Lévis Police Department made the arrest, and the suspects were questioned and brought to the New Carlisle courthouse the same day.

"There is a publication ban on the identity of the two minors, whose cases will be handled by the Young Offenders Court. The two adults are Klaus Thierno Madjou Bah, 18, from the Montreal-Laurentides area, and Fabrice Malette-Jules, 18, from the Laurentides region. They are charged with break and enter, assault with a weapon, animal cruelty, wearing disguise with the intent of committing a criminal act and dangerous driving," points out criminal prosecutor Sam Bernard.

Three suspects were released following their court appearance, under the condition that they return later this year. The two minors will appear again on October 17, while Fabrice Malette-Jules is also scheduled for October 17. Klaus Thierno Madjou Bah's bail hearing was postponed until August 19, after SPEC's August 15 deadline.

Ariane Cayer is defending one of the youths, and one of the adults will be represented by a Montreal lawyer.

Carney measures for the forestry industry are “good, but more is needed,” says Alexis Deschênes

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – Alexis Deschênes, Member of Parliament for Gaspésie–Les-Îles-de-la-Madeleine–Listuguj, welcomes the support for the lumber industry announced on August 5 by Canada’s prime minister Mark Carney and offers his assistance to forestry industry stakeholders in the riding who wish to benefit from the measures.

The Bloc Québécois is pleased that the federal government is finally realizing the extent of the crisis facing this critical sector and is implementing the proposals put forward by the Bloc during the electoral campaign. However, that opposition party deplors the late and, above all, overly modest response.

Mark Carney announced that a sum of \$700 million will be available to the industry. It plans to provide up to \$700 million in loan guarantees for businesses in need and invest \$500 million, primarily in grants and contributions, to

boost product development and market diversification.

"During the electoral campaign, the Bloc Québécois proposed providing access to liquidity for forestry companies, requiring the use of Canadian wood in federal contracts, and diversifying lumber markets. I applaud the Prime Minister for listening to our requests, as he did with supply management, but I emphasize that these measures do not meet the industry's needs and that the loan guarantees will be essentially cost-free. The \$700 million ceiling on loan guarantees must be increased", says Mr. Deschênes.

"When we compare these announcements to the massive measures deployed for the automotive or steel industries, it quickly becomes clear that the forestry industry is far from receiving the same level of consideration. As global trade undergoes a profound transformation, Canada cannot afford to neglect one of its most deeply rooted sectors, which employs tens of thousands of



From left to right, Christian Bourdages from Scierie St-Elzéar, Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet, Member of Parliament Alexis Deschênes, Patricia Poirier, Steven Alain and Laura Poirier, all working with Luc Poirier, owner of Scierie Rosario Poirier.

Photo: Courtesy of Alexis Deschênes's office

people in regions often overlooked by Ottawa," also emphasizes the Member of Parliament for Gaspésie–Les-Îles-de-la-Madeleine–Listuguj.

Furthermore, Alexis Deschênes invites forestry industry stakeholders to contact his office if they need additional information or if they encounter difficulties accessing assistance measures once program details are known.

The Liberal government

also plans to double the use of Canadian lumber in residential construction through the Canada Homes program, which will begin this fall. Its goal is to build nearly 500,000 new homes per year over the next decade.

The August 5 announcement came after the U.S. Department of Commerce decided to increase anti-dumping duties on Canadian lumber to 20.56%. There is dumping

when the lumber, or any other commodity, is sold outside the producing country at a lower price than in the domestic market.

Canada also plans to invest \$50 million in skills development, retraining, and support for workers in the forestry sector. However, that measure is somewhat criticized by forestry labour unions because it is way lower than the amount earmarked for the companies.

DONATION

▶ Cont'd from cover

the owners and staff of 3Camps. The donation by Barbara and Dan to the Maison de soins palliatifs Baie-des-Chaleurs Palliative Care Home was a way to pay tribute to a remarkable woman who had touched so many lives with kindness, resilience and strength.

The Palliative Care Home project, launched in 2019, aimed to build and provide the communities within the MRCs of Bonaventure and Avignon with a peaceful and comforting six-bedroom hospice. Once completed, it will provide palliative and end-of-life care in a respectful environment and will also offer support for their loved ones, free of charge.

Dr. Simon Prévost, a family physician in the Bay of Chaleurs for more than 20 years, started an ambitious fundraising campaign in 2022 by biking across Canada. From the start of his practice in the region, he had devoted much of his time caring for patients in palliative care, both at home and in the hospital. Therefore, he knew that a hospice

was needed for these patients. His objective was to cycle from the Yukon to the Bay of Chaleurs so that he could raise \$100,000 for the construction of a palliative care building. With the encouragement of the local community, he raised more than \$135,000. Today, Dr. Prévost is still involved and acts as the President of the Board of Directors for the project. Their goal is to raise 5 million dollars by 2028, and at this time, they have raised more than 4.4 million.

Junior St. Onge shared that Diane would be happy to know that even though she is no longer here, she will be able to continue helping others. He said that she had always bought the fundraising tickets for the Palliative Care Home because she thought it was an important and much-needed cause to support. When it is completed, Junior said that he and her family will think of Diane and find comfort in knowing that her legacy of kindness will continue to live on within its walls.

Those wishing to support the Maison de soins palliatifs Baie-des-Chaleurs can contact their office for more information.

HOUSING

▶ Cont'd from cover

connect to Frémont Street, near the Esso service station.

Potential for 320 housing units

In May, during the presentation of the agreement in principle, the developer explained that up to 22 lots could be sold. The goal is to build housing and local businesses. The total potential is 320 new housing units. The notary firm Simard Côté Monette has already indicated its intention to acquire the first lot.

Phase 1 of the project includes the development of three new streets totaling 900 metres in length. Gestion Bourgade will not build the new buildings itself, but will handle the resale of the lots.

The company has acquired a huge parcel of land measuring over 1 million square metres. Other phases could be planned to further expand the area. A re-evaluation will be conducted in 2027.

"Our goal is to create more than just a residential neighbourhood: we want to build a sustainable living environment, integrated into its sur-

roundings and focused on the well-being of its residents. This project demonstrates our commitment to developing innovative and resilient communities for future generations," explains Sophie Bourdages, vice-president of projects and administration at Gestion Bourgade.

The Town of Gaspé has already indicated that it intends to purchase a few lots that it can subsequently transfer or resell. It has calculated that, ultimately, property tax revenues could represent new revenues of \$800,000 to \$850,000 annually.

The apartment vacancy rate in Gaspé was 0.3% last year, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The break-even rate is between 1% and 3%. A 2022 study by La Côte-de-Gaspé indicated that the MRC would need to

build 551 new housing units and provide 421 adapted housing units for seniors by 2026.

Assuming 320 housing units are built on the land, the first phase of the project could represent a value of \$65 million in new construction value.

The chosen location is also one of the few that can accommodate new homes connected to the water and sewer systems without too many problems.

"It's a strategic location," Daniel Côté explained in May. "The only area where we had a possibility of expansion in terms of the water and sewer systems was here around the town hall. We have space for our pipes, our treatment plant, and our drinking water wells. We're also close to services."



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Former linerboard mill worker remembers the sudden loss of her jobs, 20 years ago

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – Twenty years ago, on August 4, 2005, Smurfit-Stone suddenly announced the permanent closure of its paperboard mill in New Richmond, Gaspésie. The company decision took its 300 local workers and managers completely by surprise.

It was also the fourth economic blow in six years for the Gaspésie region. In October 1999, Noranda Mines announced the closure of the Murdochville mine, while Abitibi-Consolidated shut down the Gaspésia paper mill in Chandler just two weeks later. Then, in April 2002, Noranda followed suit by closing its Murdochville smelter.

Kathleen Paquet was on holiday that Thursday, August 4, 2005. She had stopped at the bank when an employee she was speaking with, Isabelle Cleary, kept asking her how she felt.

“I was answering that I was all right.” She then told me: “I just heard about the mill. They are closing it permanently. I just heard it on the radio, on CBC,” recalls Kathleen. “I didn’t have a clue. The mill was profitable. I could have saved some weeks of holiday” was my light reaction, but the shock was major,” remembers Kathleen Paquet.

Versatility

She was 50 years-old at the time. She had been hired by Consolidated Bathurst, the mill’s owner then, right after her commercial course at age 17.

“I was hired September the 6, 1971. I had worked at



Photos: G. Gagné

Kathleen Paquet worked in almost every department during her 33 years at the mill, including driving a fork lift in the warehouse, the section of the plant that is still standing today, visible in the background.

the office earlier that year for two weeks, before finishing my course. From September, I was in the “office pool” for six-seven years, filling in all over the place at the office. They called me “Girl Friday,” a compliment because I could do whatever they were asking me. “Next week, can you do something different, like such and such?” I would do it. While at the office pool, I remember typing invoices, 11 copies of them, for the paper (cardboard) going overseas by ship. “The company stopped using the wharf in the 1980s for overseas shipments. The company used the wharf for bunker C until the end though. After that, I was a secretary to the scalers for some years, at the wood department, managed by Edgar Leblanc,” she points out.

Until 1990, the linerboard mill was mainly supplied in fiber by a public piece of land bringing logs to the plant and by private woodlot owners.

In 1990, the company switched exclusively to wood chips and other by-products coming from sawmills. Kathleen Paquet therefore had to find a position in another department of the mill.

“I moved outside the office to get inside the mill. I chose to work in the stores as a clerk and typist, to prepare the part orders and their reception. Then, I switched to the counter of the stores. Later, I moved to the warehouse, where the trucks were delivering the parts. I learned to drive the forklift. I spent the last 12 years in the stores, full time,” she points out.

Discretion

Kathleen Paquet, despite being a discrete person, keeps good memories of the teamwork at the mill and its social side.

“You certainly see a lot of people. You don’t know all the names but it’s nice saying “hello” in the morning. There were Christmas parties. They were not my thing but I still attended a couple of them. I remember well the 25th anniversary of the mill in 1990. The company asked me if I would be interested in being part of the organizing committee. I joined. There was a big banquet at the Baie Bleue in Carleton. It was a nice event,” she sums up.

The aftermath

Kathleen Paquet was in shock for months following the August 2005 closure of the mill. She worked on a

2005.

“He was working at the steam plant. The day the mill was closed, he saw the security guards in their dark suits coming to kick them out. He and his coworker locked the door of the steam plant in order to take the appropriate measures to shut it down. The security guards finally made their way in the steam plant. My husband tried to warn them that it would be dangerous to leave the steam plant without shutting it down. He felt it was their duty to stay. He told me that his feet were barely touching the ground when he was escorted by the guards. That way of closing the mill was unnecessary,” recalls Alice Paquet.

She also remembers the solidarity that followed the closure. “As an Anglophone living in Cascapedia-St. Jules, I didn’t have many contacts with the other employees’ wives. After the closure though, if one of them saw me in a store or elsewhere, she would come and ask me if I was all right,” adds Alice.

“The company was ill-managed. The mill had been profitable before the summer shutdown. The company went bankrupt a couple of years later,” points out Kathleen Paquet.

After her Alberta stints, she started working for Middle Camp, one of the main fishing camps along the Grand Cascapedia river.

“I have been there for 16 years now. I am getting closer to retirement. I must also say that I worked at Richmond Manor for 10 winters,” concludes Kathleen, who can count on Alice as a coworker at Middle Camp.



Alice Paquet, right, is very proud of the way her sister Kathleen bounced back from the shock triggered by the closure of the mill.

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Smurfit-Stone mill's permanent closure: David Philippe and Louis Pedneault remember

GILLES GAGNÉ

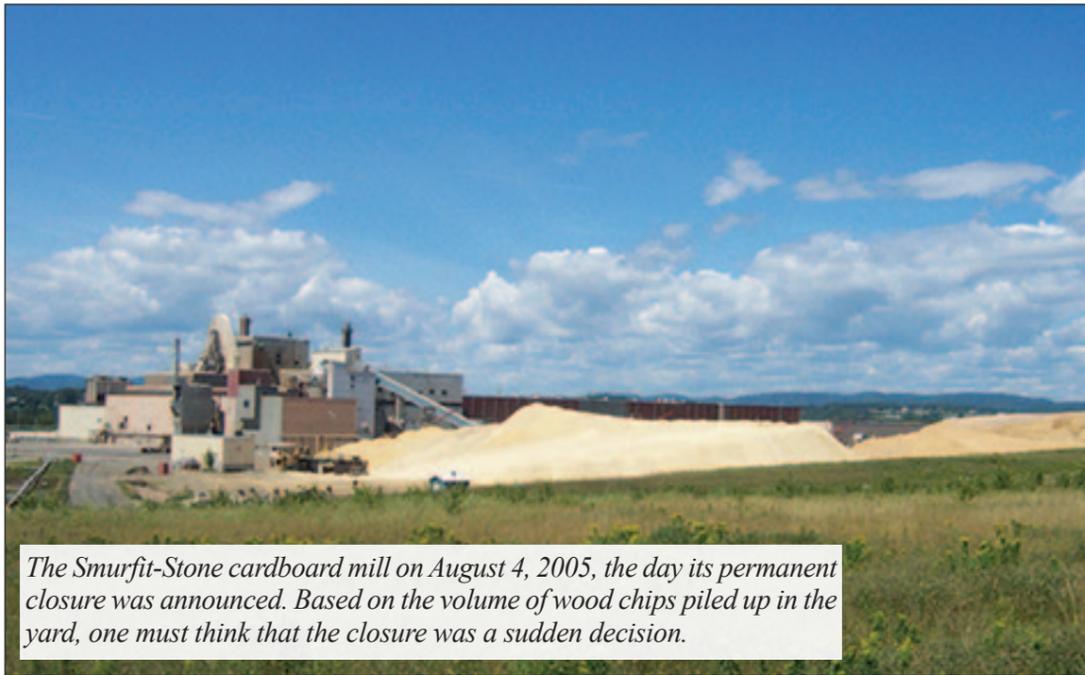
NEW RICHMOND – Louis Pedneault, a chemical engineer from Saguenay who relocated to New Richmond in 1971 to work at the cardboard mill, remembers well how the company announced its closure to local management staff. At that time, the plant's teams were gradually returning to work after a production shutdown that the firm had extended.

"The office staff was called to a meeting at 9:30 a.m. It didn't occur to me that it might be a closure. A guy walked in, a new vice-president, his name was Boivin, with two henchmen, security guards. He said, 'I'm announcing this morning that the Bathurst, New Richmond, and Portage-du-Fort plants are permanently closed.' He turned around and left the room. I never saw him again," recalls Mr. Pedneault.

It was a Thursday. He immediately went back home, with orders to return to the plant with his official employee identification—"my badge," he says—the following Monday. Louis Pedneault, however, noted that the news he had just learned had spread quickly.

"A woman who cleaned my house knew about it when I arrived. The radio stations were talking about it, and everyone was spreading the word," he recalls.

Smurfit-Stone had carefully planned the move a couple of days ahead. At the same time as employees at the plant learned the news, the media received a fax confirming the closure. Simultaneously, security guards, housed in a Caplan motel, had blocked access to the cardboard mill grounds to truckers arriving to



The Smurfit-Stone cardboard mill on August 4, 2005, the day its permanent closure was announced. Based on the volume of wood chips piled up in the yard, one must think that the closure was a sudden decision.

Photos: G. Gagné

deliver sawmill by-products—wood shavings, sawdust, and wood chips, in this case.

A sign that the move might not have been planned very long in advance though, the mill operators were still accepting those by-products for days and weeks prior to August 4.

Learning about the closure by random

Like many production workers waiting for their next shift, David Philippe, from Maria, learned he was losing his job when he stopped by his mother's house. He was 28 years old and had worked there for seven years.

"A friend, Roger Bois, now deceased, said to me, 'The mill is closing!' I replied, 'Did you just tell me I'm losing my job?' I then went to a meeting at the Club ouvrier. I was drinking at the time and went on a three-day binge, sleeping at coworkers' houses," he says, referring to a drinking problem he overcame two years later.

David Philippe remembers

going to collect his personal belongings from the plant the following week. "Each worker was accompanied by a security guard to their locker. It was as if the company thought we were going to wreck everything," he recalls.

"It was brutal. We went from being their employees to being nothing. Before the closure, we were being congratulated for breaking production records, and then suddenly, we were jobless. The company gave us exactly what was stipulated in the collective agreement. In my case, it was two weeks' pay per year of service. For my pension, I chose the lump sum instead of payments spread out over years upon my retirement," explains Mr. Philippe.

"I haven't mourned my job loss yet, and I never will," he sums up, adding that the attitude of the personnel manager had disgusted him before the plant closed. "He was someone who would move himself up through stepping on other people's heads," he explains.

Mr. Philippe admits it took him two years to get his life back in order and resolve his drinking problem. Already holding two vocational diplomas in pulp and paper, as well as in stationary machinery mechanics, he enrolled, on his father's advice, in plumbing in Rivière-du-Loup.

"I drank my \$21,000 during that course and came home on the line of credit. My girlfriend was pregnant, and I promised myself my children would never see me drinking. I finished drinking a month before finishing my course," notes Mr. Philippe, a well-known magician outside of work, a childhood passion to-

ward which he channeled his excess energy.

He also had to battle cancer five years after the mill closed. "I took a battery of tests, and it wasn't related to my work in pulp and paper," he says, referring to an illness that recurs occasionally, but which he attacks with passion.

New Richmond rebounded fairly quickly

Louis Pedneault, for his part, slowed down his work pace after August 4, 2005. He received offers the day it closed. At that point, he had worked in the pulp and paper industry for 34 years.

"It moves so fast in this world! When I got home on August 4, 2005, I said to myself, 'There's nothing I can do about it.' I got out my deck chair, my book, and the phone. By lunchtime, I'd already received two or three calls to recruit our young people at the mill. Some people actually offered me a job! But I must admit the first few days were a shock," he says, especially at the thought of production workers.

"It was unsettling. There were workers who weren't eligible for their pension, and some who were just a few days away from receiving it. To my knowledge, there were no exceptions on the part of the company. The funds were redistributed strictly according to the collective agreement," notes Mr. Pedneault, who then worked as a seasonal construction site assistant supervisor.

Even if the New Richmond cardboard mill was profitable the months before the July 2005 production shut-

down, Louis Pedneault believes it would have been closed two years later.

"At the end of the 1980s and 1990s, the Americans began building large cardboard mills, with a daily capacity of 1,200 tons instead of ours, at 600 tons. While maintaining a large paper machine, the fixed cost's burden is not more than maintaining a small one. It was a question of competitiveness. There was also a transfer of production units to China, based on the import of our recycling. For the past five to ten years, they've stopped wanting our sorted cardboard, which isn't of good enough quality," says Mr. Pedneault.

In September 2005, then-Quebec premier Jean Charest announced the creation of an industrial park in New Richmond to diversify the economy. He thus met the expectations of then mayor Nicole Appleby, who remained in office until 2013. She passed away a few weeks ago.

"We did well, for a small, single-industry town. We can give Nicole Appleby credit for that," assures Louis Pedneault.

"The industrial park is full. New Richmond has successfully diversified its economy, especially with regional businesses," concludes David Philippe.

Smurfit-Stone, for its part, was forced to seek protection from its creditors in January 2009, during a recession and due to debts approaching \$6 billion. This asset was acquired two years later for \$3.5 billion by the firm Rock-Tenn, now called West-Rock.

Only the northern part of the plant, the former warehouse, survived the wrecking ball and has since housed Fabrication Delta. Two large portions of the mill's land are occupied by the construction contractor PEC and Rail GD, a railway equipment repair shop.

The cardboard mill had opened in 1965 to find a Baie des Chaleurs outlet for the wood that then supplied mills in New Brunswick. Originally owned by Bathurst Paper, which became Consolidated-Bathurst, the company was later acquired by Stone Containers of Chicago in 1990. Irish company Jefferson-Smurfit then bought Stone Containers, becoming Smurfit-Stone.



David Philippe learned he was losing his job from a friend.

New Gaspésie firefighters association launched on August 1

HOLLY SMITH
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW CARLISLE - Firefighters across the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands now have a new way to work together and share their passion for helping others. The Gaspésie Firefighters Association was officially launched on August 1. The goal is to bring together fire departments from all MRCs in Gaspésie, as well as the Magdalen Islands, to support each other and promote teamwork, learning, and recognition.

“The creation comes from a desire to bring together all the firefighters of the Gaspésie region to proudly represent our profession and our shared passion,” says Mr. Joshua Boulé, spokesperson for the Association’s Board of Directors. “It all came from a whim while discussing with a colleague: why don’t we have activities with the firefighters of the municipalities around us?”

The Association includes all five MRCs in Gaspésie, plus the Magdalen Islands. Mr. Boulé says the Magdalen Islands were included because everyone deserves to be represented. “Every fire department has the right to be well represented throughout the region, regardless of borders – this is why we chose to integrate the Magdalen Islands into our association,” says Mr. Boulé. “They are too often forgotten and excluded from groups, but they still have the same passion as us,



Photo: Courtesy of Joshua Boulé

Mr. Joshua Boulé, spokesperson for the Association’s Board of Directors.

and are as professional as we are,” he adds.

Helping firefighters share skills and learn

The Association wants to help departments work better together by sharing knowledge and training. “We have the same duties towards citizens, and we all have the right to share our working techniques and our learning in order to become better,” says Mr. Boulé, “especially being far from large urban centres, and too often forgotten by them. We have a completely different reality from them, whether in relation to the alignment and access to training, and with the recruitment

and retention of staff.”

The Association will also offer training for situations that are common in the Gaspésie region. “We plan to offer training seminars related to the realities of the field, for example, the Chic-Choc Mountains and Forillon Park (rescue in isolated areas), rescues on large bodies of water with the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Chaleur Bay and around the Archipelago of Islands.” says Mr. Boulé.

Building community and recognizing dedication

Firefighters in Gaspésie often work in small teams and don’t get many chances to connect with others. The As-

sociation wants to change that. “We would also like to plan fraternization activities between firefighters to take the time to discuss, exchange and appreciate our work,” says Mr. Boulé. “We would like to plan activities periodically in each of our members’ sectors, and thus discover their equipment, their facilities and their working methods. These activities could be in the form of seminars, or activities such as dinners, friendly competitions, fishing tournaments, billiards, golf, hockey, baseball, soccer games.”

Fair representation for all

The Association is run by a democratically elected Board of Directors, and it was built to make sure all areas and department sizes are treated fairly.

“The primary goal is that each MRC/region is proudly represented and has access to the same opportunities and tools as everyone else,” says Mr. Boulé.

“We will try to have an equitable voice in order to represent all sizes of Fire Services in the Gaspésie,” he adds. “Considering that very few services are so-called full-time in the region and considering that there is only one industrial brigade at this time, the Association will be open to welcoming all those who wish to join in the same interest,” he continues.

Members will also be able

to exchange ideas more easily with other departments in the region. “They will have the power to exchange with people from the same region on various topics such as working conditions, training and intervention techniques, all of this more easily and accessible and with a wide scope,” says Mr. Boulé.

A stronger voice together

The Association also hopes to help firefighters speak with one voice when talking with municipal or provincial leaders.

“This is a rather sensitive question,” says Mr. Boulé, “but it will allow us to better evaluate the comparisons between services nearby – and further afield – and thus allow members to better express their needs to authorities with concrete examples.”

His message to fire departments that haven’t joined yet is simple: “You have everything to gain by joining us because we know in our profession that together we are stronger!”

How to join

Any fire department in the Gaspésie or Magdalen Islands is welcome to become a member. Information and a registration form can be found on the Association’s Facebook page (Association des pompiers de la Gaspésie) or by email at assopompiers-gaspesie@gmail.com.

Association du cancer de l’Est-du-Québec holds door-to-door campaign

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE - For the 37th year, the Association du cancer de l’Est-du-Québec is holding its door-to-door fundraising campaign. It began on August 11 and will end on September 30. Up to 1,207 volunteers will navigate across the Association’s territory, covering more than 1,774 streets in Bas-Saint-Laurent, Côte-Nord, Gaspésie, and the Magdalen Islands. The goal is to collect as many donations as possible to develop and maintain quality direct services for people

affected by the disease and their loved ones. Last year, that campaign demonstrated people’s generosity by raising \$191,725.

As a duly registered organization, the Eastern Quebec Cancer Association ensures that its fundraising efforts are secure for donors. When making a donation, make sure the volunteer is wearing an identification sticker and has the solicitation materials in the Association’s colours. To become a volunteer or for any questions about the 2025 campaign, people can contact France Caron at 418-724-



0600, ext. 2037, or toll-free at 1-800-463-0806. Donations to the door-to-door campaign

can also be made using the campaign’s online form: [\[ligne.org/aceq/PAP/\]\(https://www.jedonneen-ligne.org/aceq/PAP/\).](https://www.jedonneen-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

One-hundred percent of donations are reinvested throughout Eastern Quebec.

For over 40 years, the Eastern Quebec Cancer Association has maintained services that provide comforting support to people affected by cancer. Services include the Hôtellerie Omer-Brazeau, mutual aid and support at all stages of the disease, conferences and workshops, a kit providing warmth and well-being to people beginning intravenous chemotherapy or immunotherapy, and much more.

The Film and Television Bureau aims to attract productions and showcase the region

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON-SUR-MER – The Bureau du cinéma et de la télévision de la Gaspésie, the region's new film and television board, is officially launched, nearly 10 years after the idea was first expressed at the Percéides Festival in Percé, and after two years of preparation to bring it to fruition.

Images from the Gaspé Peninsula have been brought to the screen several times over the decades, but this distribution generally came in waves and was often, but not exclusively, left to chance script submissions from outside.

Documentarian Éli Laliberté, vice-president of the Gaspésie Film and Television Bureau, or BCTG according to its French acronym, believes the organization will meet several needs in the region, including breaking the isolation of some Gaspésie creators.

"We're going to have people to talk to. We're a bit isolated among creators. We often don't know each other. It will be useful to find the time to inventory resources," assures Mr. Laliberté, some of whose documentaries have been nominated for Géméaux Awards, Quebec's annual cinema awards.

He returned to the Gaspé

30 years ago and has had to deal with certain prejudices from urban areas ever since.

"They (people in the film and television industries) underestimate us. 'You live in the Gaspé. You probably can't deliver quality. [...] We want to attract films and television productions designed elsewhere, and there's all this work to be done to gain recognition. We can also emanate, meaning that the images that come out of the Gaspé are also those we produce, that our ideas, our vision, are projected elsewhere," analyzes Éli Laliberté.

History

In the mid-1980s, much of the filming of Fous de Bassan, a feature film released in 1987, was carried out in the Gaspé Peninsula, in Percé, on Bonaventure Island, and in Forillon National Park. In 1994, the series Miséricorde was partly filmed in Percé. In 1997, L'ombre de l'épervier, a Radio-Canada series, was also filmed in the Gaspé Peninsula, and was released in January 1998. In 2012, the film La maison du pêcheur was partly filmed in Percé.

Other filming took place before 1986 and since 2012. For example, in early June, an episode of the series Bon cop, bad cop was filmed in Gesgapegiag with plans to air in



Photo: G. Gagné

Indigenous rapper Quentin Condo will serve as a link between the region's Mi'gmaq and film producers.

2026.

Quentin Condo, a fishing guide and rapper from Gesgapegiag, advocated with his friends Anik Jean and Patrick Huard to have an episode of the series focus on an Indigenous subject and to have it filmed in his community. He quickly found a sympathetic ear from the couple. Mr. Condo was also appointed to the BCTG board of directors to liaise with the three Indigenous communities of the Gaspé Peninsula and the producers.

"The Bureau opens doors. Until recently, everyone worked independently. Now,

we have a chance to have a platform to go further. Bon Cop, Bad Cop began completely separately (from the Film and Television Bureau). We'd been pitching the project for two years. It was like a test run, and it went really well. My first role was as a consultant. We had to find places to stay and eat. I put people in touch to obtain these services. We really need the Bureau to find other productions," says Mr. Condo.

Marie-Chantal Perron sees a "Shining 2" in Gaspésie

Actress Marie-Chantal Perron also sits on the BCTG board of directors as a representative of Haute-Gaspésie, as she now owns a house in Cap-Chat. She says she experienced "an epiphany" while hiking to the summit of the Vallières de Saint-Réal, in the Parc de la Gaspésie, two years ago.

"It was only natural to promote the Gaspésie." What I would like is to be able to establish contact between people. I'm a chatterbox, I like to put people in touch. It's isolation that discourages people. If I can simplify the process by creating connections, we will develop networks and develop skills. Imagine, a Shining 2, at Mont Albert! ", she says, referring to the 1980 drama star-

ring Shelley Duvall and Jack Nicholson.

During the filming of Bon Cop, Bad Cop, the Montreal production team hired a few technicians from the Gaspé region, and was apparently very satisfied with the results, says Mathieu Lapointe, Prefect of the Avignon MRC. The BCTG will serve to professionalize Gaspé residents through skills recognition, which will subsequently facilitate local hiring during filming, whether for technicians or actors, he says.

"For two years, the MRC d'Avignon has hosted the project that led to the creation of the Film and Television Bureau, thanks to \$150,000 from an initiative called Signature Innovation. Three other projects in other sectors are being funded for three years from a budget of \$1.1 million. The five MRCs of the Gaspé region must now determine the amount they will allocate to the Bureau. We need \$295,000 a year to hire two people and provide them with an operating budget. Other organizations and other ministries will be approached," explains Mr. Lapointe.

Nine of the twelve positions on the BCTG board of directors have been filled, and the three vacant positions will soon be filled. Montreal producer Philippe Montel chairs this board.

A new student residence in Carleton-sur-Mer

NELSON SERGERIE

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - A new \$7.7 million student residence was inaugurated on August 11 in Carleton-sur-Mer.

Owned by Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles and built on land that belonged to the Centre de services scolaire René-Lévesque as part of a partnership, 24 apartments will be available to students.

Nineteen apartments are reserved for CEGEP students, while the remaining five are reserved for the Centre de formation professionnelle l'Envol du Centre de services scolaire René-Lévesque.

The new residence is located about half-a-kilometre from the Carleton-sur-Mer campus and just across the street from the ENVOL trade school.

"We are aware of the housing shortage in the Gaspé



Member of National Assembly Catherine Blouin, Carleton-sur-Mer campus director Geneviève Bibeau, Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles director Yolaine Arseneau, and CSSRL director Sandra Nicol.

Photo: Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

Peninsula, particularly in Carleton-sur-Mer. We are convinced that there were students who had to put their studies on hold because they couldn't find housing. This is a breath of fresh air for the area," says CEGEP director Yolaine Arse-

neau.

She adds that the residence supports recruitment efforts. "We recruit internationally, outside the Gaspé Peninsula, and have partnerships with urban CEGEPs for student mobility. Offering accommoda-

tion close to campus is a positive factor for the CEGEP's development," she says.

The apartments rent for \$695 per month, including all services such as internet and air conditioning.

"Of course, the cost may

come as a surprise. These are beautiful apartments with a closed bedroom, an open-plan kitchen and living room, and a bathroom. Since it is owned by the CEGEP and funded by the Ministry of Higher Education, there is an operating budget. Of course, this has an impact on the cost charged to students," explains the executive director.

The project was completed in 10 months, with only exterior finishing work remaining. The \$7.7-million budget was respected, with Quebec covering 75 per cent of the construction cost.

Initially, the CEGEP and the school service centre each had their own student residence projects. "For the moment, we think it will meet the need. We'll see what happens next," said Ms. Arseneau. Of the 24 units, 19 are earmarked for CEGEP students and five for ENVOL ones.

Inauguration of Demeure-Toi in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The Demeure-Toi project, a 12-unit building designed to accommodate 11 adults living with autism spectrum disorder, was inaugurated on August 12 in Gaspé.

The Minister responsible for Social Services, Lionel Carmant, attended the inauguration and said he was proud to see this unique project in the East come to fruition.

“We have projects like Véro and Louis (show host Véronique Cloutier and actor Louis Morissette), but they are more institutional activities. Here, we really have adults who do activities every day independently. The support we offer them can propel them toward something else,” believes the minister.

The organization’s president, Claudine Dupuis, mother of an autistic child, described



Photo: N. Sergerie

There are still a few adjustments to be made before welcoming guests in late September/early October.

the project as a dream come true.

“To help them develop their skills and independence. We want to take them further and have them live independently in an apartment in the town

centre with minimal supervision. It’s every parent’s dream,” she says.

The first residents are expected to move in this October.

The organization has received \$9 million in funding

from the federal and Quebec governments, with additional support from the town of Gaspé. An annual contribution of \$275,000 from the Quebec government is also planned.

A defeat that gives pause for thought

Meanwhile the CAQ’s stinging defeat on August 11 in Arthabaska is a clear message to the government, according to Gaspé Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

He points out that his party has implemented significant changes and that the government must remain committed to its plan.

The elected official believes he is delivering the goods in Gaspé and is proud of it, but he remains aware that at the national level, there are issues that irritate citizens.

The elected official says he is delivering results in Gaspé and takes pride in that, while recognizing that some national-level issues have irritated citizens.

During his summer tour of the riding, Sainte-Croix listened to his constituents and emphasized that the party must return to the centre-right.

“Budgetary discipline is a recurring theme. We must accept the critical choices we have to make in Quebec. We have made progress in terms of identity. I don’t think we have anything to be ashamed of. Economically, some issues have progressed more favourably than others. We have moved far to the left lately. I think we need to return to who we are, to our roots, and embrace that,” says the MNA.

Stéphane Sainte-Croix will be a candidate in the October 2026 election.

Heat: records and forest fires

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – Several records were set between August 10 and 13 during the heatwave that affected much of the Gaspé Peninsula.

On August 14, three records were set during hot and humid weather, while drought and lightning caused three forest fires in the Gaspé region.

According to Environment Canada, the thermometer reached 35.6 degrees Celsius in Gaspé, eclipsing the 33.3 degrees recorded in 1953. Meanwhile, 24.2 degrees were measured in Cap-d’Espoir, breaking the 23.3 degrees recorded in 2021. Cap-Chat also set a new record with 27.3 degrees, surpassing the previous record of 26.7 degrees set in 1935.

However, the passage of a cold front on the evening of August 13 brought more seasonal temperatures. The cold front was accompanied by thunderstorms, and lightning sparked three forest fires northwest of Gaspé that day.

Two of the fires occurred in the late afternoon in the Lac Ross and Sainte-Julienne colony areas, and the most recent one in Anse-à-Valleau in the early evening. The latter was still active on August 14.

“We had a few thunderstorms and lightning struck in some areas. SOPFEU teams



A tanker plane worked to fight fires started by lightning.

Photo: Facebook, Andrée-Claude Perry

will continue to monitor the area where lightning struck to ensure they can respond if other fires break out,” said SOPFEU spokesperson Isabelle Gariépy.

The other two fires have been contained or brought under control. In total, some 1.1 hectares were ravaged.

“We had a tanker plane working to contain the fires. Firefighters on the ground worked on some of these fires. Work with a helicopter was done on one of these fires,” added the spokesperson, who noted that the ground is very dry and suggested people not light fires in the forest.

The fire on August 12 was a recreational fire and is considered to be under control by SOPFEU. Its area is minimal. It should be noted that before the rainfall on August 13, only

five millimetres of rain had fallen in the Gaspé region since the beginning of August. On August 13, Gaspé issued a ban on open fires in the area until further notice. The flammability index dropped back down to low levels thanks to the rainfall and seasonal temperatures on August 14.

Several records

On August 12, four records were set. The hottest spot was Gaspé with 36.1 degrees, breaking the 32.2-degree mark set in 1940 and 1953. Carleton-sur-Mer followed closely behind with 36 degrees, beating the 31.7 degrees recorded in 2002. New Carlisle saw the mercury reach 35.5 degrees, crushing the 29.1 degrees recorded in 2002. Cap-d’Espoir recorded

28 degrees, breaking the 23.1 degrees mark set in 2002. Cap-Chat tied the record set in 1940 and 1944 with 26.1 degrees.

According to Environment Canada data, on August 11,

the mercury climbed to 35.9 degrees in Carleton-sur-Mer, eclipsing the 32.8 degrees recorded in 1971. With the humidex index, it felt like 43 degrees. New Carlisle recorded 34.5 degrees—40 degrees with the humidex index—erasing the 31.1 degrees set in 1995. The mercury reached 28.7 degrees in Cap-d’Espoir, breaking the 26.2 degrees record set in 2005, with a humidex of 36 degrees. On August 10, Carleton-sur-Mer recorded 33.7 degrees and New Carlisle 32.5 degrees.

A heat wave – now referred to as an extreme heat event in meteorology – is defined as a period of at least three consecutive days during which the heat is particularly high and marked by a decrease in the temperature range between day and night.



Haldimand Beach was busy on August 12.

Photo: N. Sergerie

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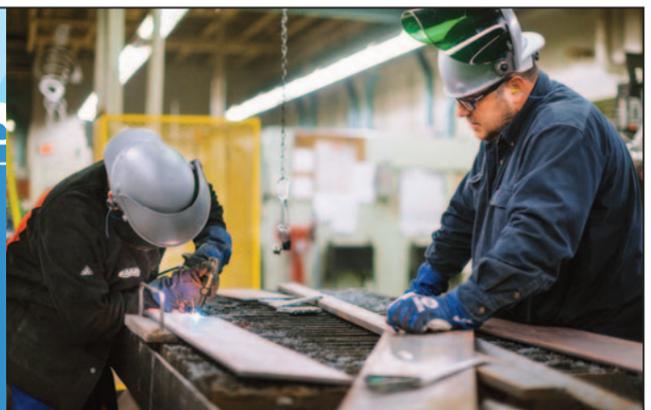
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SCAN ME

1982 a year of challenges and change

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE –In 1982, The Gaspé SPEC continued the ambitious pace of a weekly newspaper, publishing 51 issues that year and taking only a one-week break. Since implementing the 50-year supplement, the newspaper's team has reported about every issue published since 1975. We continue that work here with the highlights of 1982—though future supplements may skip issues to fit everything into four pages and include compelling images.

**Vol. 8 No 1
January 6, 1982**

- SPEC's volume 8, number 1, dated January 6, 1982, ran two topics on the cover, Sharon McCully's "Changes in gas prices announced," and "Interim director of Hôtel Dieu Gaspé doesn't rule out closing hospital," by Robert Alexander.
- The gas prices article addresses Quebec gas stations located along New Brunswick and Ontario borders. They must now deal with a new tax that convinces 80 to 90 % of drivers to get their fuel outside Quebec. Minister Alain Marcoux, of Quebec's department of Supply and Services, met some retailers in Cross Point on December 22, 1981, and proposes a new system that will reduce the tax for people filling up 30 miles of the border. The tax is gradually reduced as people near the border.
- The Gaspé hospital topic gives the position of Lewis Fitzpatrick, already director general of Sanatorium Ross, and appointed interim director general of the Hôtel Dieu hospital on December 7, 1981. He is also the mayor of Gaspé and explains that he must cut \$400,000 before the March 31 end of fiscal year, and \$1.5 million in 1983. He says that "the building would still be here, and open, but it would not be a hospital in the class Gaspeians now know."
- An article entitled "Hard times for SPEC" informs readers that the paper is losing \$150 weekly and that its management must raise its annual subscription rates to \$15 in Canada and \$20 elsewhere.



*Belle Anse School - Grade 1-2
Phoebe Pittman, Carol Syvret, Shirley McKoy.*

Vol. 8, No. 16

Historian Ken Annett published a long article about the "Early Schools in Gaspesia."

**Vol. 8 No 2
January 12, 1982**

- In the volume 8, number 2 issue, dated January 13, readers learn that Quebec's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Nutrition, Jean Garon called the Paspébiac fish processing plant a "white elephant," as quoted by Bonaventure Member of the National Assembly and Opposition leader Gerard-D. Levesque. The plant remains closed.
- Also on the cover, Sharon McCully runs an article entitled "Dalhousie-Miguasha ferry sold to Newfoundland." The Inch Arran was owned by captain Richard Warren-Perry since 1967. He says that operating it without a federal grant was no longer profitable. He is confident that another vessel able to take big trucks onboard would be profitable. Crew member Raymond Wafer tells that "I was the first one on the boat when it began its run (...) in 1967 and I was the last one off when it left Dec. 22 for the northern coast of Newfoundland."
- "Moïse" Roch Theriault and cult member "Nathan" Jacques Giguère end a hunger strike started in December after discussions with New Carlisle prison director Guy Coulombe. More court appearances are scheduled for Moïse soon. He faces 17 charges.
- Two Gaspé-area engineer-

ing students, Lynn Guignon and Bruce Jones, win the "New York Times Scholarships," awarded by Chandler's Gaspesia mill. Both men receive \$1,000 per year for four years and a summer job at the plant. The New York Times was an important shareholder of the mill in 1982.

- York's Savidant family celebrates five generations, from Mrs. Eddie Savidant to great-great-grandson Rockey Jean.

**Vol. 8 No 3
January 20, 1982**

- In the Volume 8, number 3 of SPEC, dated January 20, the cover shows "-72 Celsius with wind chill factor" and "Government official blamed by many MRC mayors," a matter dealing with agricultural land protection, urban planning, development and regulations decided in Quebec's capital. For example, Hopetown's mayor Robert Ross is strongly opposed to a plan to truck garbage out of the municipality.
- The cold wave was fuelled by winds of 70 kilometres per hour on January 18. The temperature was not a record, at -27 degrees.
- In the "Moïse" case, a report indicates that the Youth Tribunal hearing will be long, as the hearings for one of the seven children took two days. Further hearings will occur in March. The seven kids are in foster homes.
- Robert Alexander writes about the tense situation in Poland. He also reports on the

strong activities at the Gaspé shipyard, three years after its destruction by a fire, as 62 people work there.

**Vol. 8 No 4
January 27, 1982**

- In issue 4 of 1982, dated January 27, shows three headlines, "Gaspésia: \$25 million modernization program," "Natives tune into MLCP" and "Cult to vacate mountain before February 28." The results of the "CASA fiddle contest" are announced on page 2.
- The Gaspésia mill modernization article is short, as a storm delayed its announcement. The Restigouche natives are disgruntled because funding of their radio station will be managed by the Leisure, Fish and Games ministry, which spearheaded the June 1981 salmon raids.
- A Superior Court judge decides that Moïse's cult must leave the Lac Sec property before March.
- The winners of the fiddling contest were Maurice Beauchamp, Jean-Paul Bujold and Harold Willett.
- Janine Langis is the personality of the year and Ray Smith is the personality of the month in New Richmond.
- Robert Alexander interviews Rémi Dion, vice-president of the Federation of Social Affairs, the union representing health-sector employees, and he denounces Lewis Fitzpatrick's statement to the effect that the Gaspé hospital could close due to financial cuts.

- Concordia University and the Commission scolaire régionale de la Péninsule announce an off-campus, 16-day session giving six credits for the eventual obtention of a bachelor of education, teaching English as a second language.

**Vol. 8 No 5
February 3, 1982**

- The volume 8, issue 5, dated February 3, features on the cover the fast development of a "Small Settlement" of ice fishing shanties in the bay of Gaspé, growing from four to 65 in four years.
- In "Mixed reactions to Moïse's new domicile," Valerie Gilker writes that judge Yvon Mercier "slapped on a non-publication ban" on the hearings of the cult leader. The judge will deliberate until April 13 on a possible trial. While Roch Thériault and Jacques Giguère are still imprisoned, the other cult members are renting the Moulin home in New Carlisle. Several close and distant neighbours express dissatisfaction with the presence of cult members.
- In "Happy Birthday Mr. Court!!", readers see a picture of Escuminac's William Court, who just turned 102, with his great-grand-daughter Barbara-Ann, aged 10-months.
- In "Restigouche to receive FM station," it is now clear that Restigouche will not have to deal with the ministry of Leisure, Fish and Game in this file.

**Vol. 8 No 6
February 10, 1982**

- In SPEC's number 6, dated February 10, the biggest news appears on page 3, as minister of Leisure, Fish and Game Lucien Lessard announces that the Cascapedia river will now be managed by a group of natives and non-natives.
- Robert Alexander reports that five derailments took place in as many days in the Gaspé freight yard. An unidentified CN employee explains the situation by a lack of maintenance,

Next page

1982 a year of challenges and change

as ties are rotten and rails spread. CN replies that the weather causes ice build ups.

Vol. 8 No 7 February 17, 1982

- In issue 7, dated February 17, readers see on the cover that “Local 547 presents contract demands,” as Consolidated Bathurst New Richmond mill’s union representative Pat St. Onge explains what his members want for the next two years. In “Indians lobby to delay Constitution,” Maria reserve chief Bernard Jerome says native leaders from Quebec went to London, England, to ensure that their peoples’ rights will be protected in constitutional talks.

- “At 102, John LeScelleur says There is nothing better than the life of a fisherman,” the man explains how he enjoyed being a fisherman despite graduating from the Séminaire de Rimouski, which could have made him land an office job.

Vol. 8 No 8 February 24, 1982

- In number 8, dated February 24, “Parents upset when Bill 101 axes bilingual kindergarten,” “Gaspé Coast to receive full CBC English service by next year,” “Pee Wee player honored” and “Proposed restructuring of public education” are the headlines. The bilingual kindergarten was located in Douglstown. The CBC topic deals with a demand to get CBC Montreal instead of that of Saint John. The hockey player was Paul Willett, who later went on to have a highly successful professional career.

Vol. 8 No 9 March 3, 1982

- In its 9th issue of the year, dated March 3, SPEC puts on the front page “CRTC left to solve Gaspé South-CBC situation,” “Opening of underground garage only bright spot for Mines Gaspé” and “100th goal.” That 100th goal scorer was New Richmond’s Paul Willett. The preceding title indicates that 1982 looks like a bad year for Gaspé Copper Mines.

Vol. 8 No 10 March 10, 1982

- In issue 10, dated March 10, a picture and caption informs readers that New Carlisle’s first Carnival was an “immense success” with an in-depth report on page 10. Another headline reports the visit of Cultural minorities minister Gérald Godin, who promised to “give hell” to anyone refusing to display health sector English documents.

Vol. 8 No 11 March 17, 1982

- In number 11, released on March 17, Valerie Gilker reports on three Greenpeace members in Percé, opposed to seal hunting, while Sharon McCully writes “Rare fossil places World’s first known animal in Miguasha,” after interviewing Mona Parent, sister of Allan, who found that rare fossil. Allan, a promising geology student, had unfortunately died the previous summer in a car accident.

Vol. 8 No 12 March 24, 1982

- In issue 12, dated March 24, the headline reads “Chandler: English parents concerned over school integration” at Mgr. Sévigny Polyvalent, because their children could be regrouped with French students for music, arts and home economics. Former Gaspesian Ulric Girard writes a long historical piece about his dad Philip.

Vol. 8 No 13 March 31, 1982

- In the 13th issue of 1982, dated March 31, the front-page features four topics, “New Carlisle town hall: consultation or confrontation,” dealing with the winter opening of Green street. The “Where do we go from here” title provides a follow up on the Chandler school situation. The main headline though, “Are there drugs in our schools? You bet your kids’ health there are” describes what can be read in Sharon McCully’s article. A picture and

caption show cargo liner Delia D towed to the port of Gaspé from the Magdalen Islands because of a 15-degree list that shifted its load.

Vol. 8 No 14 April 6, 1982

- The April 6 SPEC, issue 14, presents an update on the joint corporation that will manage the Cascapedia river, “Gas strike gains momentum” to explain how some Eastern Quebec retailers remain closed on certain days to oppose the new tax. A Robert Alexander article explains what would be the impact of a Gaspé town restructuring if all the sectors were to be autonomous, municipal tax-wise. Some sectors would take a 147% bill hike. There is an article about the New Carlisle wharf being turned into a breakwater. Sharon McCully reports that a number of passengers taking the Good Friday train were left without seats due to overbooking. VIA Rail had no way of knowing how many seats were sold on its Gaspé line back then!

- We also see “Mines Gaspé bids farewell to Tom Duncan,” who moves to Belledune for a few years, and “Roland Jerome receives a diploma from St. Francis Xavier University” in that school’s Native alcohol abuse program.

Vol. 8 No 15 April 13, 1982

- The 15th issue, dated April 13, makes an update on the fuel situation in “Gas flows at consumers’ expense” following a tentative agreement with oil companies, but another strike is not ruled out. The “Delia D. still in rough water as seizure order granted” provides a follow up on the cargo liner, while “Foam victims meet with provincial MP” gives an idea of the ordeal awaiting owners dealing with a house insulated with urea formaldehyde. Valerie Gilker interviews Terry Stanley, president of SPEC, about the publication’s future, which is “far from bleak.”

- This issue is particularly rich in subjects, with “BPS Boys volleyball team win,” “Death of cattle still unex-

Local Student Studies In Jamaica



Spec reporter, Kelly Caldwell.

Vol. 8, No. 33

plained” in St. Georges de Malbay, Radio Gaspésie’s “English hour to have format change” and “Joe Delaney honoured as outstanding citizen” in Douglstown.

Vol. 8 No 16 April 20, 1982

- In issue 16, released on April 20, New Richmond citizens will soon have “Evaluators to explain tax assessment,” while the hot season will be busy in Paspébiac, with “Summer Games and 14 miles back to back.” The death of cattle in St. Georges is caused by a parasite attacking the animals’

lungs, stomach and intestines. Despite losing \$11,000, Jacqueline and Cletus MacGregor stay in farming. Moise Thériault and Jacques Giguère get sentences of 30 and 16 days respectively for charges of obstruction. The other charges remain pending.

Vol. 8 No 17 April 27, 1982

- In issue 17, dated April 27, readers see on the cover “Social

Page 15

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service problems, a Pandora box,” “Thinking about becoming a landlord? It could cost you everything: including the house” and “Cultural Affairs minister assesses local needs.” The first title follows an Atlantic Provinces Workshop. The minister of Cultural Affairs was Clément Richard. Ivan Robertson, commander of the Gaspé district no. 1, runs a letter to congratulate Dave Doherty on his weekly “Legion Topics.”

**Vol. 8 No 18
May 4, 1982**

- In issue 18, dated May 4, some inside titles are as interesting as front-page ones, which notably features “Maple sugar time in St. Jules.”
- Valerie Gilker reports on the “Shigawake wharf; a sign of government neglect.” Readers also see that MP Rémi Bujold has earmarked \$50,000 for the 25 workers of the Charles H. Nadeau sawmill, destroyed in March.
- Quoting a La Coulee article released by Mines Gaspé, Robert Alexander points out that the Murdochville firm pays \$42 million in yearly salaries and purchases \$10 million in services.

**Vol. 8 No 19
May 11, 1982**

- In the May 11 issue, number 19, the front page shows then prime minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, who “confirms Eastern Quebec development plan.” Details will come later. In “Restigouche raid relived in court,” Valerie Gilker reports that 9 of the 11 Mi’gmaq charged with obstruction and resisting arrest were fined \$25 after pleading guilty. Robert Barnaby and Donald Germain refuse such plea. Mr. Barnaby is fined \$50. Judge Yvon Mercier refuses to believe Donald Germain’s claim that he was beaten by three cops. The judge even says that he had hired a professional photographer to shoot his treatment. He imposed a \$250 fine.

**Vol. 8 No 20
May 18, 1982**

- In issue 20, released on May 18, readers see that “Gaspé District Royal Canadian Legion meets” in Murdochville,

that Gaspé’s Larry Carey was the most outstanding student of the year in tele-broadcasting at Belleville’s Loyalist College, while there is a “Deadlock over salmon agreement” in Restigouche. Robert Alexander reports on Albert Cassidy, who says after a train trip that “the food in jail beats VIA Rail.”

**Vol. 8 No 21
May 25, 1982**

- Four titles made the front page of May 25, number 21: “Port Daniel Ballet off to a good start,” “Provincial Fisheries building gets under way,” “Moïse boutique to open soon” and “New Richmond holds 4th annual spring festival.

**Vol. 8 No 22
June 1, 1989**

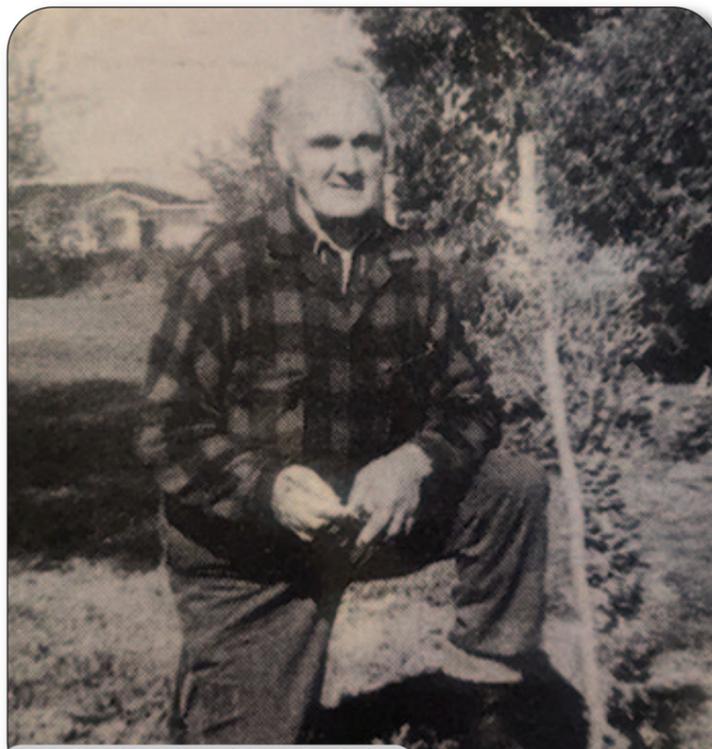
- Issue 22 of 1982, dated June 1, features “Major (forest) fires in Nouvelle and Shigawake” and “Home destroyed on Maria reserve.” Both incidents didn’t cause injuries.

**Vol. 8 No 23
June 8, 1982**

- In the June 8 issue, number 23 shows “Special liberal committee consults with Gaspésians on education” and “Pavillon Benoit Martin to open in April”, the latter article stating that the new 60-unit for chronically ill seniors will be delivered ahead of schedule! Three Gaspé snowmobile racers, André and Bruno Chrétien, as well as Watson Baird, mourn the May 8 death of their former teammate Gilles Villeneuve, killed during Formula 1 Belgium Grand Prix’ qualifications. “Big” Bob Barter celebrates his 90th birthday in Cascapedia.

**Vol. 8 No 24
June 15, 1982**

- The June 15, number 24 issue, the cover shows “Amputees tour Quebec.” Gilles Cédillot and Henri Gagné, wheelchair athletes, want to raise \$200,000 for fellow amputees. In “Principal demands for effective security system ignored,” Robert Alexander writes about a 13-year old student who was physically abused. “Director general retires” shows New Richmond’s Phil Doddridge receiving a



Mr. Smith Astles of New Carlisle and his 42 inch lettuce plant.

Vol. 8, No. 40

wood carving at the annual meeting of directors general in Lachute.

**Vol. 8 No 25
June 22, 1982**

- In issue 25, dated June 22, “Bill 101 - Our day in court” tells the story of parents legally contesting the law. The “Acid spill at Murdochville” recounts the June 5 release of 3,600 tons of acid caused by a valve malfunction. “New report indicates danger areas of Gaspé highways” outlines a study released to diminish the region’s alarming number of traffic accidents. In “Salmon and Celebrities,” Sharon McCully visits Lorne Cottage with its manager, Warren Gilker.

**Vol. 8 No 26
June 26, 1982**

- On June 26, issue 26, “Laurin tables school board restructuring paper” explains the fear of the anglophone population to lose control of democratically elected school boards. A “3rd annual International Hydroplane Regatta” shows the winner, Harry Richardson, of Ogdensburg, New York. Sandy Beach’s Joe Patterson caught a 38-pound salmon on York river.

**Vol. 8 No 27
July 6, 1982**

- In issue 27, dated July 6, SPEC runs “New Carlisle Festival: competing with the elements,” “Percé honours (Suzanne) Guité and (Alberto)

Tommi” and Mines Gaspé: further reductions.” In the latter article, the mine management postpones the return to full production later than its initial plan, which was the end of October. Production will resume in August, with 860 of the plant’s 1,545 workers.

**Vol. 8 No 28
July 13, 1982**

- Progressive Conservative leader Joe Clark makes the front page of the 28 issue of the 1982 paper, dated July 13, as he makes a four-stop “informal tour,” visiting Gaspé, Percé, New Carlisle and Maria. Former hockey player Jean Béliveau stopped in Campbellton, while “New Carlisle (is) under stiffer water control,” as 50 households saw “gritty substances.”

**Vol. 8 No 29
July 20, 1982**

- Issue 29, dated July 20, mentions the August visit of Official languages commissioner Max Yalden, “Mini-Festival, a grand success” for the Wakeham-York Homecoming, “Good Samaritan Lodge to hold open house in New Carlisle as part of its 100th anniversary. A July 11 head-on collision in Cross Point claimed seven lives, after a bar fight.

**Vol. 8 No 30
July 27, 1982**

- Issue 30, dated July 27, one can see “Natalie Dubé cuts her

first record.” The 13-year-old Fontenelle singer recorded her first record. “Geologists study Gaspésie,” “No sign of recession at New Richmond Expo” are other cover topics. Inside, the Restigouche band launches a \$1.5 million lawsuit against Quebec for the June 1981 raid.

**Vol 8. No 31
August 3, 1982**

- In issue 31, dated August 3, “Ever popular Plitt takes top honour” in the “14 milles” swimming race. “Consolidated Bathurst employees accept 12% pay increase” and “Eastern Quebec Games” are the headlines.

**Vol 8. No 32
August 10, 1982**

- In issue 32, dated August 10, readers see that Mines Gaspé’s acid spill cost \$1.5 million to the firm. The Bergeron-Reid team finished first at the New Richmond’s Rally, while the New Richmond Fair schedule is completed. Inside, Jim Gilker shows how he makes hay with 90-year-old machinery.

**Vol 8. No 33
August 17, 1982**

- In issue 33, dated August 17, “Bujold (MP Rémi) announces major CCD projects”, for Canada Community Development, “Language commissioner tells Anglo-Gaspésians to organize and make noise,” and “Railway speed between Matapedia and Gaspé debated” are the headlines.

**Vol 8. No 34
August 24, 1982**

- The number 34 issue, dated August 24, features “Major archaeological find on coast under study.” The ship, spotted at Point St. Peter, had 12 canons and sank there between 1700 and 1750. Maria reserve held its 6th annual Pow Wow on August 6-8, as reported by Ms. Roland Jerome. Consolidated Bathurst is found not guilty on pollution charges laid in 1979 but the Quebec government might appeal. Inside,

Valerie Gilker writes a feature on porcelainière Enid Legros.

**Vol 8. No 35
August 31, 1982**

- In issue 35, dated August 31, Helen Bond writes “Gaspé tourist industry on the decline,” while Robert Alexander’s “5 months from Hopetown to hell,” tells the story of Hong Kong veteran Bill MacWhirter. The “Shigawake Fair Results” are mentioned on the cover.

**Vol 8. No 36
September 7, 1982**

- In issue 36, dated September 7, “Sandy Beach wharf closed” makes the headline, as Robert Alexander quotes Mines Gaspé’s superintendent Derreck Pannell, frustrated that the firm must move its ore unloading operations to Mont-Louis, a wharf less protected against high winds. Mr. Pannell figures that the \$600,000 Mines Gaspé paid to the federal government in using fees over five years would have warranted good maintenance. Other headlines include Lynden Bechervaise’s decision to step down from CASA’s presidency and “Schools come into computer age.”

**Vol 8. No 37
September 14, 1982**

- Issue 37, dated September 14, features “Royal Rifle’s Hong Kong veterans hold reunion in Gaspé” and “Nouvelle Truck Rodeo” on the cover. The Hong Kong reunion attracted 311 participants! The paper runs three texts about it.

**Vol 8. No 38
September 21, 1982**

- “CRTC denies extension of cable service”, from Cross Point to Maria, “Task force to demonstrate against Laurin on November 1,” “Gaspé school fire drills, all school tested” and “Consolidated Bathurst,” about another spill at the New Richmond mill, are the 38th issue headlines, dated September 21. Inside, Ronald Jacques

is elected chief of Restigouche and Don Miller becomes president of CASA.

**Vol 8. No 39
September 28, 1982**

- Issue 39, dated September 28 covers a 48-English-students switch to French schools due to the lack of immersion program. “Cuts endanger CEGEP’s anglophone sector” and a photo of SPEC’s new board also appears on the cover.

**Vol 8. No 40
October 5, 1982**

- In issue 40, dated October 7, “Moïse sect ordered disbanded,” readers learn that judge Charles Quimper forces cult members to live separately with their spouse and blood relatives. Moïse Thériault receives a two-year sentence for the castration of member Guy Veer.

- Another headline reads “Ronnie does it”, about the show of singer Ronnie Prophet. “Speculation scandal in Newport” and “Catholic school board calls Laurin plan an improvement” make other headlines.

**Vol 8. No 41
October 12, 1982**

- Issue 41, dated October 12, shows “Gaspé needs to shape up to encourage tourists” and “Gaspé mayor demands action from Cyr” deal with the state of the Sandy Beach wharf. “BPS without Kenny Ward like apple pie without apples” covers his departure for another challenge. “Dr Laurin to address Home and School” is the other headline. Readers learn inside that Valerie Gilker leaves the SPEC for another project.

**Vol 8. No 42
October 19, 1982**

- “NRHS – Answer to French busing problem?” makes the main title of issue 42, dated October 19. It deals with the distant possibility of French

kids attending New Richmond High School. In “The Armed Forces want you – but not right now,” we learn that some Anglo-Gaspésians prefer enrolling in Bathurst instead of Rimouski because of recruiting quotas. “Régime pédagogique under discussion” is the other headline.

**Vol 8. No 43
October 26, 1982**

- In issue 43, dated October 26, “National record set by Gaspésian lawyer” deals with Lucien Grenier’s victory for client, Chandler’s Marcel Dugal, who became paraplegic after a road accident caused by poor snow removal. “October 24-30 Small business week” and “Demonstration against (Camille Laurin’s) white paper planned” also make the cover.

**Vol 8. No 44
November 2, 1982**

- “Another walkout at CHNC”, as employees want better salaries, and “A good pitch for a bad product,” about Camille Laurin’s white paper, are the main titles of SPEC’s issue 44, dated November 2. In Murdochville, a blast, shown on the cover, brought down 300,000 tons of ore.

**Vol 8. No 45
November 9, 1982**

- Issue 45, dated November 9, shows New Carlisle’s “Soap Box Derby,” “Teachers to stage walkout Nov. 10” and “Delebo Inc. and Atlantic Trading – small businesses of the year.” Delebo was the Nouvelle sawmill’s name then and Atlantic Trading was a Matapedia major food distributor.

**Vol 8. No 46
November 16, 1982**

- Issue 46 was released on November 16 with a striking headline, “Mines Gaspé: 42% additional cut in workforce.” It is supposed to be a temporary layoff. The current workforce goes from 900 to 520. Poor copper prices are the cause. “Common front stages 24-hour strike” also makes the cover.

**Vol 8. No 47
November 23, 1982**

- In number 47, dated No-

vember 23, readers see “Strike?” on the front page, a follow up on scattered strikes undertaken by health and education employees. A picture of the first snow fall shows happy children. “Gaspé Marina – Club nautique awards Gaspé Legion” presents the organization’s appreciation for the support given by the Legion.

**Vol 8. No 48
November 30, 1982**

- In SPEC’s 48 issue, dated November 30, “Strike threat still real,” about public employees, “Operation click click December 1-7”, about the necessity to fasten seatbelts, Minister balks again”, about the postponement of Camille Laurin’s visit, and “Vintage group entertained”, about a show for seniors, make the cover. On page 6, Robert Alexander interviews Cynthia Patterson on her historical research.

**Vol 8. No 49
December 7, 1982**

- In issue 49, dated December 7, “35 employees (are) laid off” temporarily at the New Richmond mill, while “Le Chaleur” newspaper’s owners deny a rumour about its closure. “Matane proposal still under study” deals with the possible construction of a

paper mill. “Anglophone Gaspésians condemn bombings” presents the community position as bombs were found near Quebec’s minister of Education office. “Teachers-Hospital workers vote on final offer” features the public employees’ upcoming vote.

**Vol 8. No 50
December 14, 1982**

- Issue 50, dated December 14, the “RSBG announces plans for immersion in ‘83” comes back to English-speaking students attending French schools because of an immersion program absence. The “Delia D sails again” informs readers that the cargo liner is repaired and will soon leave Sandy Beach. New Richmond also presents its “New logo for Recreation Dept.”

**Vol 8. No 51
December 21, 1982**

- Issue 51, dated December 21: the Christmas paper features Holiday Season messages. However, readers notably see “Fitzpatrick quits!!!,” as the director general of the Gaspé hospital refuses to lengthen his interim mandate. He had affirmed earlier that he considered closing Hôtel-Dieu.

Between 1982 and 2025, there are differences and similarities

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – In 1982, Gaspésians had to fight hard to keep their wharves, Shigawake in fishing and Sandy Beach in commercial navigation. That is not counting New Carlisle’s wharf, which was turned into a breakwater in 1982. That federal authorities’ poor infrastructure reality still prevails in 2025, barring exceptions.

Some fights were lost over the years, the commercial wharves of New Richmond and Carleton, as well as Mont-Louis, on the north side of the region. In fisheries, the Marcell wharf was also lost years ago and the situation at Shigawake remains shaky.

Meanwhile, the courts have improved the treatments of Native issues immensely since 1982. It would be hard to imagine a judge like Yvon Mercier refusing to believe a Mi’gmaq salmon fisherman like Donald Germain in 2025. Mr. Germain’s ordeal did not end in 1982. We will see an outcome in the next supplement. Stay tuned.

“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.”



International and national photographers on tour between August 21-23

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - A highpoint of Rencontres de la photographie en Gaspésie, which this year is taking place under the theme of Passages, Rencontres on Tour will once again be hosting national and international artists for an August 21-23 event that brings people together and where artistic creation takes centre stage.

The public is invited to attend a series of free get-togethers, including guided tours of exhibitions in different enchanting sites on the Gaspé Peninsula.

The tour kicks off on Thursday, August 21, at Carleton-sur-Mer's municipal beach, easily accessible along Highway 132. Visitors can explore Hidden Village by Japan's KAI Fusayoshi, who will be present to share insights into his work that transports viewers to the everyday life of his hometown in Japan.

At 5:30 p.m., the nearby Bibliothèque Gabrielle-Bernard-Dubé will host Le Livre Photo 2025, showcasing photobooks by this year's guest artists, who will discuss their creations. The library is located next to the church, in the Quai des arts, Carleton's cultural centre.

At 6 p.m., the Vaste et Vague artist centre on the Quai des arts' first floor opens its doors for Unknown, an exhibition by French photographer Stéphane Duroy. The photographer will be on hand, and the public will get to discuss the work, which resulted from his exploration of the United States, following the path taken by migrants and which gives us another perspective on the "American dream."

As night falls, around 7:30 p.m., Rencontres moves to the edge of the beach in Maria to contemplate the lyrical work stemming from the one-of-a-kind collaboration involving Italian photographer Alessandra Calò, Gaspesian writer France Cayouette and the public.

Last year, during Alessandra Calò's time in the Gaspé, some residents responded to the two artists' call and entrusted them with family archive photos, images that served as the starting point for the created work. The Voices is both an unprecedented installation where poetry and photography meet, and a book that will be released for

the first time on this occasion. The public will be able to acquire it on site, with a dedication by the artists.

August 22: from Matapédia to Percé

On Friday morning, a free bus tour departs from the Quai des arts in Carleton-sur-Mer at 8:30 a.m. The first stop is Gare de Matapédia – Pôle artistique et communautaire, the Matapédia station, for a screening of Jocelyne Allouche's film HOB0 in the presence of the artist. HOB0, a word borrowed from American culture, designated people who stowed away on freight trains as they traveled from town to town looking for seasonal work.

At 11 a.m., Masako Miyazaki (from Montreal and Japan, will comment on her work The Other Side, exhibited on the Battle of the Restigouche National Historic Site in Pointe-à-la-Croix. It shows a dreamlike series created in Tokyo and whose approach was revisited by the artist in Montreal where she currently lives.

At noon, the public is invited to the Auberge Miguasha campground in Nouvelle for a tour of the exhibit Creatures of Wander, the result of a photographic mission undertaken in the Eastern Townships by the duo Pépité & Josèphe. The artists will be there to discuss the creative process of this astonishing work. The trip back to Carleton-sur-Mer will take place around 1 p.m.

In the afternoon, at 3 p.m., a get-together with Ève Cadieux, a Quebec artist, is scheduled on the Paspébiac boardwalk, where she'll be presenting I have seen the future, a body of work that brings together images testifying to what remains of a number of universal exhibitions around the world.

Then, at 4:30 p.m., near Cantine du Chenal in Chandler, renowned Canadian photographer Geoffrey James introduces us to Canadian Photographs, a "monumentally intimate collection" that "journeys into the diverse soul of the nation."

The day will end at 6 p.m. in the majestic setting of Percé with a tour of the exhibit I thought of you (again), with commentary by Mélissa Longpré, a Carleton artist, at the Charles-Robin historical centre in Île-Bonaventure-et-du-



The Carleton site of the Hidden Village by KAI Fusayoshi.

Photo: Normand Rajotte



A view of the Canadian Photographs exhibition by Geoffrey James in Chandler.

Photo: Robert Dubé



Italy's Davide Degano's exhibit Romanza Meticcio is on display near the Maison Horacio Le Boutillier in downtown Gaspé.

Photo: Robert Dubé

Rocher-Percé National Park. The exhibition shows affecting images of inanimate bird specimens that awaken our connection to vulnerability and disappearance.

From Gaspé to Marsoui

The last day of Rencontres on Tour will get started at 9:30 a.m. in the town of Gaspé near Maison Horacio Le Boutillier with a tour of the exhibit Romanzo Meticcio by Davide Degano, of Italy, in the presence of the artist.

With a social-documentary

approach, the prints explore Italy's ongoing struggle to define itself as a multicultural nation.

Then the tour will lead the public to the other side of the peninsula, to Mont-Louis, starting at 1 p.m., to meet up with Quebec photographer Cassandra Reynolds, who'll be presenting Plante père (Father Plant), a project that pays tribute to the artist's father, a horticulturist, with captivating photographs taken in the family garden.

Rencontres on Tour will wind up in Marsoui at 3 p.m.

with a tour of the exhibition I became the volcano by Reno Salvail, from Quebec, born in 1947 and who passed away two years ago. For 30 years, he travelled the planet with the aim of connecting telluric, cosmic, and anthropological phenomena. The artist's family will be on hand to chat with the public.

All activities are free to the public, and exhibitions will remain on display until September 30. For the full program, visit the Rencontres internationales de la photographie website.

Quebec to revisit gasoline prices in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ—While the price of a litre of regular gasoline has gradually declined over the summer throughout the Gaspé Peninsula and elsewhere in Quebec, the Gaspé region has bucked the trend, with gasoline selling for \$1.57 per litre for several weeks.

Meanwhile, gasoline sold for \$1.49 in the Chandler region, just over 100 kilometres from Gaspé, on August 13. A litre was selling for around \$1.50 in Baie-des-Chaleurs, \$1.54 in Haute-Gaspésie and \$1.51 in Matane and Rimouski.

This observation prompted the Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Gaspé, Stéphane Sainte-Croix to question the profit margins charged by gas retailers in the region. According to data from the Régie de l'énergie, the profit margin was 19.3 cents on August 13 in Gaspé, compared to



Photo: N. Sergerie

Gasoline was still selling for \$1.57 per litre in Gaspé on August 13.

13 cents in Baie-des-Chaleurs and 11.5 cents in Rocher-Percé.

The Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) government is looking into this issue. Stéphane Sainte-Croix is already discussing it with the

Minister of Energy.

"We have already begun discussions on this issue in light of what we are seeing this summer. As it is well documented in the region, I am using this to make my case. Yes, we will

take up the fight again in the future," says the MNA.

When asked about the nearly 10-cent difference between Gaspé and Chandler, Mr. Sainte-Croix points out that the price floor was abolished to stimulate competition.

"Clearly, there is still a long way to go here," says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

"In terms of profit margins, there may be an explanation behind this phenomenon that largely accounts for the difference between Gaspé and other areas of the Gaspé Peninsula," he comments in a brief analysis.

Back in July, the mayor of Gaspé was unable to explain the price difference between Gaspé and Chandler.

"It's a sign that there is a lack of competition," said Daniel Côté, calling once again on the Competition Bureau to do its job.

Last September, the Competition Bureau concluded that

there was no collusion in the Gaspé Peninsula to fix gasoline prices.

The bureau stated at the time 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 office noted, recalling that its role is to investigate price fixing and other anti-competitive behaviour.

As an enforcement agency, the office does not have the authority to regulate gasoline prices. That task falls to the Quebec government, the federal agency added.

Gaspé: First steps toward the 500th anniversary celebrations in 2034

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - With discussions underway since 2023, Gaspé is preparing to take an important first step in the preparations for the celebrations surrounding the 500th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's arrival on July 24, 1534.

When asked on July 24, as the town celebrated its 491st anniversary, Mayor Daniel Côté provided an update.

"We are starting gradually. It's still in its infancy. The goal is to set up a governance committee in 2026 to properly plan the 500th anniversary celebrations. There's no question of waiting until the last minute," noted the mayor, recalling that this is a historic day that marked the meeting of the peoples and the birth of French America.

"It's an important symbolic day," he added.

The next eight years will be used, in particular, to convince governments to invest in festivities "of national and international scope," said Mr. Côté.

The Micmac Nation of Gespeg will play a major role. "For us, it is absolutely essen-



Photo: N. Sergerie

The Jacques Cartier cross emblem, which was restored in 2024 and is located on the grounds of the Musée de la Gaspésie.

tial that they be involved so that we can also tell the story from the Indigenous perspective and not just from the European perspective, as in our history books," he added.

Preliminary steps have been taken with Saint-Malo, France, the starting point for Jacques Cartier, who claimed "the New World" in the name of the King of France when he arrived in Gaspé and symbolically planted a cross.

"We want everyone to benefit," concluded the

mayor.

As part of its strategic planning, the town has set its sights on this first chapter in the history of North America. The elected official does not want to repeat what happened in 2009 during the 475th anniversary, when the committee at the time had only one year to organize the festivities.

In his initial reflections, the mayor also considered hosting the Quebec Games in 2034.

Employment rises in July across the region

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Employment is doing relatively well in Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine in July with 41,700 people working, according to Statistics Canada.

That's an increase of 1,400 compared to June and 1,000 compared to July 2024.

Of the total, 35,400 were full-time positions, an increase of 1,800 from June and 1,700 compared to July 2024. Approximately 6,200 people were employed part-time.

The labour force, which includes people who are working or actively looking for work, increased to 44,300 compared to 42,900 a year ago. Meanwhile, the number of unemployed remained relatively stable at 2,600 compared to 2,200 last year.

The unemployment rate dropped to 5.9%, down from 8.6% in June. It stood at 5.1% in July 2024.

Surplus of \$619,000 in Carleton-sur-Mer

Nelson Sergerie

CARLETON-SUR-MER - Carleton-sur-Mer recorded a surplus of \$619,000 for its 2024 fiscal year on a budget of \$11 million.

The financial report was submitted to the municipal council on August 11, although the law normally requires submission by the end of June.

"It was a year in which we saw increased revenue from taxes and transfer duties. We had an excellent season at the campground, which exceeded our budget," explains Mayor Mathieu Lapointe.

Despite the delay, Mr. Lapointe is not concerned about sanctions from the municipal commission.

Looking ahead to 2025, he noted that if current trends continue, the fiscal year could end with a surplus. "It will depend on attendance at the campground and golf course in September. But so far, 2025 is looking great," says Mr. Lapointe.



Photo: N. Sergerie

The Baie-des-Chaleurs Military Museum marks 80 years since the liberation of Canadian prisoners

MARY ROBERTSON
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW RICHMOND - The Baie-des-Chaleurs Military Museum in New Richmond hosted an open house on Saturday, August 9, to solemnly mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Canadian prisoners of war during the Second World War.

During the 1930s, Japan was expanding its empire through military conquests across East Asia. In response, Canada, along with other Western nations, imposed economic sanctions. The situation changed abruptly on December 7, 1941, when Japan launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. It was then that Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King and his cabinet declared war on Japan, making Canada the first country to officially do so.

At the time, Canada had already been at war with Germany for more than two years. Just hours after the assault on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese forces struck Allied positions across the Pacific, including the British colony of Hong Kong. Two Canadian regiments, the Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers, had been deployed there weeks earlier to help support the colony's defences. Many of the young men in these regiments had left the safety of their homes in Canada to answer the call of duty during the Second World War. Most of them had never travelled beyond their hometowns, and as they crossed oceans, they could not have imagined the dangers and atrocities that awaited them.

The Japanese invasion of Hong Kong was overwhelming, and after 17 days of intense fighting, the British Colony surrendered to the Japanese on December 25, 1941. Of the 1,975 Canadians who took part in this battle, 557 were killed or died in prison camps in the years that followed.

On August 15, 1945, known as V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day), Japan surrendered, and thousands of Allied prisoners of war, including many Canadians, were liberated after spending years of captivity in harsh conditions, including forced labour, disease and starvation in the prisoner of war camps.



Photo: Mary Robertson

In the picture, left to right, Darlene Dimock, Natalie Clark, museum director Tom Eden, Nancy Doddridge, Louis Sexton and Lenny Willett, at the tree-planting ceremony.

Some of the men returned home, but they were forever changed physically and mentally by what they had seen and how they had been treated by the Japanese in the camps for almost four years.

The August 9 event held a special significance for the local Bay of Chaleurs community because many young men from the area had experienced these hardships. Their innocence was their first casualty, but their bravery helped shape the freedom that we take for granted today.

During the open house, the Museum Director, Tom Eden, took guests around the museum on guided tours. He later invited everyone to join him for a tree planting ceremony to honour the local men who had been Prisoners of War.

Nancy Doddridge, daughter of the decorated veteran Phil Doddridge, who had been a prisoner of war for 44 months in the internment camps in Japan, spoke about the importance of the event.

"Today's tree planting marks 80 years since the liberation of Canadian prisoners of war held in the Pacific during the Second World War. We gather to honour the courage of those who fought in Hong Kong, to remember those who never returned and to stand with the families whose lives were forever changed." She thanked the many volunteers and supporters of the Military Museum, and she paid tribute to her late father for his determination to build the museum and shape its future.

Tom Eden has always been interested in the military history of the Gaspé Coast because several members of his family had gone to war. Coming from a large family, he grew up listening to stories about how they had bravely fought for their home and country. He joined the army as

a young man and later returned to the Coast. Although he was interested in its history, he never expected to be managing a military museum.

Due to his determination and tireless efforts, the new permanent exhibition at the Baie-des-Chaleurs Military Museum presents a captivat-

ing tribute to local veterans. It features a large and rare collection of artifacts, including uniforms, medals, military equipment, and even a wedding dress sewn from a World War II parachute. Multimedia displays, historic photographs, and recorded stories bring the past to life, engaging audiences of all ages.

The Museum is both a place of learning and a space of remembrance, honouring the courage and sacrifices of those who served. Its mandate is to preserve an important part of our Gaspesian history and to offer the community and visitors a better understanding of the local men and women who fought for our country.

As the community reflected on the 80 years since Liberation Day, the legacy of our local war heroes who fought to safeguard our future remains within the walls of this heritage site. The museum is a reminder that freedom is hard-won and that it is our responsibility to remember those who secured it. It is also a lesson from our past, so that we as Canadians and Gaspesians never have to face those challenges again.

Éli Pelletier from Gaspé wins a haul of medals

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Gaspé swimmer Éli Pelletier capped off an outstanding performance at the Canada Games in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, earning four medals, two of them gold, between August 10 and 14.

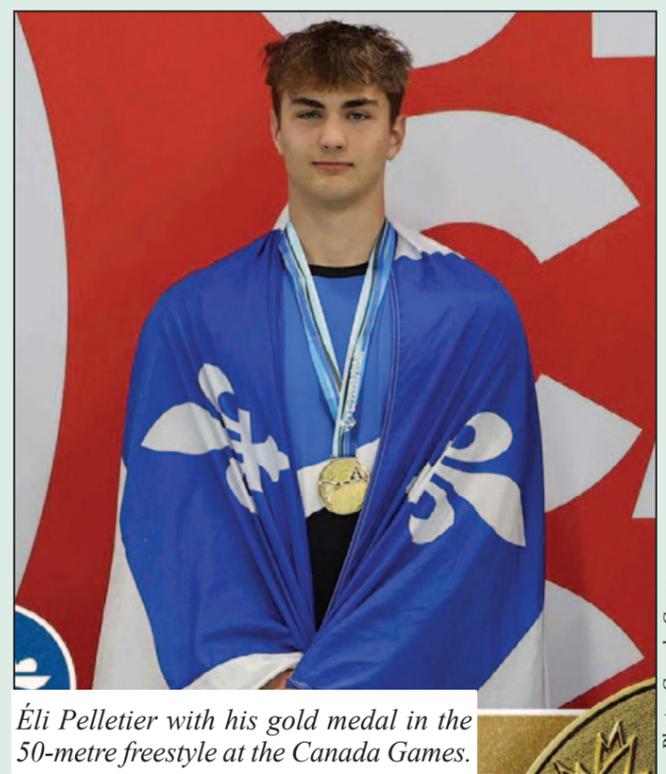
He opened his competition in spectacular fashion on August 11, winning gold in the 50-metre freestyle with a personal-best time of 23.82 seconds.

Riding the wave of that success, he then set another personal best in the 200-metre backstroke, finishing seventh with a time of 2:11.64 and achieving the Canadian Junior Trials standard.

On August 12, Éli Pelletier added a silver medal to his collection in the 50-metre backstroke, clocking in at 26.80 seconds. Later that day, he swam the anchor leg in the 4 x 100-metre freestyle relay, surging ahead to secure another gold for Team Quebec.

The 17-year-old came close to the podium on August 13, placing fourth in the 100-metre backstroke final with a personal-best time of 58.41 seconds.

He wrapped up his medal haul on August 14, winning bronze in the 100-metre freestyle with a time of 52.23 seconds. He also competed in the 4 x 100-metre mixed freestyle relay that same day, where Team Quebec narrowly missed the podium, finishing fourth.



Éli Pelletier with his gold medal in the 50-metre freestyle at the Canada Games.

Photo: Canada Games

Barachois youth space launches fundraising drive to finish renovations

HOLLY SMITH
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

BARACHOIS – Vision Gaspé Percé Now (VGPN) is launching a crowdfunding campaign to complete a new bilingual youth space in Barachois. Although the project has been planned for years and construction started last spring, delays and rising costs have slowed the progress.

Project Coordinator Emma McGinnis explains the vision behind the project: “The vision is to create an inviting, safe, and accessible gathering space for local youth — designed around their expressed needs — where they can participate in activities, connect with peers, and access services without having to travel far from home.”

The space will be open to all youth, but there is a particular focus on local English-speaking youth. “Primarily for local English-speaking youth, including the 25 Anglophone students at the local high school and the 65 English mother-tongue children ages 0–14 in the census area. This does not include youth who are bilingual who attend the French schools in our area. We also want to mention that we are promoting this space as completely bilingual and want to make sure ALL youth are included,” Ms. McGinnis stresses.

Ms. McGinnis notes that the youth space will fill a significant gap in the community. She says, “It addresses the lack of any local youth gathering space (the nearest is over 40 km away), limited transportation options, and barriers to accessing services for English-speaking youth in a rural, socio-economically challenged area.”

Construction delays and cost increases

Construction on the youth space began in March 2024, but Ms. McGinnis explains that delays and deviations from the architect’s plans led to a dispute with the original contractor. “This required bringing in a new contractor and materials, increasing the budget by \$175,000. Unfortunately, that is all that can be said.”



VGPN’s bilingual youth space in Barachois is the focus of a new crowdfunding campaign to help finish renovations and welcome local youth.

Photo: Emma McGinnis

Currently, she explains, “the space is an idle construction site with the second floor inaccessible to the community until work is finished below.” Safety regulations are the main reason it cannot yet be used. “Due to the fact that buildings need to have two fire escapes and currently the second stairway is under construction, the second floor cannot be utilized until the construction is complete, regardless of the fact that the second floor is basically finished,” Ms. McGinnis points out.

Crowdfunding goal

VGPN still needs additional funding to finish the work. Ms. McGinnis says “Up to \$150,000 from community and foundation donors.” The crowdfunding campaign on La Ruche runs from August 12 to September 13. “Our campaign is for \$25,000, and if we reach our goal, La Ruche has a program that will match our goal to make it a total of \$50,000 raised,” she adds.

The donations will cover the final stages of construction. According to Ms. McGinnis, “funds will help complete a welcoming space for youth aged 12–17, offering bilingual programming focused on mental health, creativity, leadership, and social connection. Interior work includes finishing the extension (drywall, paint, tiles), a secure stairway, and electrical systems. Outside, we’ll install a basketball

court and complete drainage and siding. This dedicated space will host drop-ins, creative workshops, peer support groups, and active living activities. Every dollar helps us open before the end of 2025.”

How to help

Ms. McGinnis emphasizes the importance of financial support. “Financial contributions, whether large or small, to help close the funding gap and complete the renovations,” are needed to move the project forward. She also encourages people outside Barachois to “donate to the fundraising campaign and help spread awareness of the project.”

VGPN is offering rewards to thank donors for their generosity: A \$50 donation receives a personalized Social Media Shoutout on the organization’s Facebook page. For \$100, donors get a handwritten thank you card from a local youth. A \$250 donation earns your name on a laminated poster inside the youth space. At \$500, donors receive a framed photo of the youth space with a signed certificate of recognition. And for \$1,000, your name or business name will be engraved on a plaque inside the youth space.

What’s planned for the space

The youth space will serve as a safe and welcoming place for youth to hang out and participate in activi-

ties. Ms. McGinnis explains, “activities led by an on-site animator with a background in youth work, partner presentations, and programs tailored to youth needs in a safe and secure environment. It is also just a space where youth can come and hangout away from their house.”

Partnerships will play a key role. According to Ms. McGinnis, “organizations will use the space to meet with youth, offer services, and run activities on-site. More specifically, Aire Ouverte in Gaspé will have a small space to use in order to run their programs and have a safe space for youth to come in to talk to mental health professionals.”

Long-term sustainability

VGPN already has plans to keep the youth space operational in the long term. Ms. McGinnis says, “VGPN already runs over 20 funded projects annually, so programs that already exist will keep it funded and opera-

tional. We also use the Barachois Rec Centre (which is where our youth space is located) as our satellite office, so 3-4 employees are stationed there full-time.”

Strong community support

Interest in the project has been strong from the start. Ms. McGinnis says, “youth were directly consulted on the design, and the need for a local youth space has been identified by the community and partner organizations. We have support letters from the schools in the area, both CJE’s in the area and La Maison des Jeunes de Gaspé. The campaign has a video that goes along with it. If you look on the registration page.”

For Ms. McGinnis, the most rewarding part so far has been “watching our community come together to help finish this space and seeing the interest and excitement from our youth!”

The next steps

If the crowdfunding campaign reaches its goal, VGPN hopes to open the youth space as soon as possible. “ASAP! We originally wanted to open last September, now this September, so literally as soon as we can!!” says Ms. McGinnis.

Looking ahead, Ms. McGinnis hopes the youth space will become “a permanent, youth-centred hub in Barachois that ensures equitable services for local youth and serves as a bridge for accessing resources, opportunities, and community connection.” With the campaign underway, VGPN is calling on the public to help make that dream a reality.



1-418-788-2080

4, Boulevard Perron,
Pointe-à-la-Croix,
Quebec

Up and Coming Gaspesians

ELAINE SEXTON

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES - Jacob Désilets-Starrak, son of Luc Désilets and Stacey Starrak of Cascapédia-St-Jules, decided at a young age that he wanted to join the military.

In September 2024, at just 18 years old, he successfully completed his basic military training at the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School (CFLRS) in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. This intense course tested recruits physically and mentally, teaching teamwork, leadership, and resilience.

He then pursued his occupational training as a gunner at the Artillery School located at the 5th Canadian Division Support Base in Gagetown, New Brunswick. There, he learned advanced technical skills, including the operation and maintenance of artillery systems, precision targeting, and coordination within a combat team.

Now a full member of the Regular Canadian Armed Forces, Private Désilets-Starrak serves with the 5th Artillery Regiment of Canada, based at the 2nd Canadian Di-



Photo: Sgt Geneviève Lapointe and Cpl Catherine Robert, Valcartier Imagery Services

Jacob Désilets-Starrak, decided at a young age that he wanted to join the military.

vision Support Base in Valcartier. His achievement marks the beginning of a promising career dedicated to service and excellence.

SPEC takes great pride in presenting the accomplishments of our future genera-

tions to our readers. Submissions highlighting young individuals making an impact in their communities or achieving personal goals are welcome. Stories can be submitted to holly.smith@globetrotter.net.



Eagle's Club Awards First-Ever Student Bursaries

Elaine Sexton

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES - The Eagle's Club has awarded its first-ever student bursaries to three individuals who have demonstrated a strong commitment to community involvement and are pursuing post-secondary studies in education, public safety, or health-related fields.

Each recipient will receive \$500 to support their educational journey.

This year's bursary recipients are: Emma Starrak-Désilets, Courtney Gallan and Dylan Budd.

The Eagle's Club initiative aims to recognize and encourage young people who contribute to building stronger communities through their chosen career paths.

Community garden grows food and friendships

HOLLY SMITH
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW CARLISLE - The Family Ties Community Garden has been a bright and busy part of the community since 2012. It began after a strategic planning session where members shared that they wanted to be more self-sufficient. Since then, the garden has grown into a place where people not only plant vegetables but also build friendships and learn new skills.

"Anyone who is a member of Family Ties and is interested in gardening, as a beginner or more experienced, can join the community gardens and have a

plot," explained project coordinator Ariane Arsenault.

"They are always welcome to our garden socials, which we host every Thursday mornings. We serve refreshments, delicious snacks, and some homemade baking goods. It is one of the member's favourite activity, giving them the opportunity to mingle with other fellow gardeners and also having Marie Claude our garden specialist on site to answer any questions about their crops."

The Thursday morning socials are a highlight for many members. They give people a chance to connect, share ideas, and enjoy the fresh air. As Ms. Arsenault explains, "The com-

munity garden is a great way to bring the community together, to learn about gardening and also form new friendships."

Each summer, about 15 to 20 gardeners take part. "New participants and also some who have been in the gardens for years," says Ms. Arsenault. "They grow a variety of vegetables and herbs, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, peppers etc. Family Ties also grows many fruit trees, herbs, garlic and flowers, which we harvest to use in our collective cooking group activities." These cooking sessions use the garden's fresh produce to make healthy meals, giving members the chance to learn more about food preparation and nutrition.

The garden is supported by several funding partners and generous community donations. "It is funded through various avenues, mainly Centraide GIM, the MRC of Bonaventures Social Development Plan and a wonderful partnership with Collectif Alimentaire," said Heather MacWhirter, Executive Director at Family Ties. "The garden also receives numerous donations each year of seeds, plants and materials," she adds.

Running a community gar-

den comes with its challenges. "We would say that our challenge is to always improve our collective garden, in order to be at its full potential. Adding structures, plots and beautifying it every year," says Ms. Arsenault.

Even with the work involved, Ms. Arsenault says the rewards are worth it. "My favourite part of working at Family Ties is having a sense of belonging and helping to

bring the community together. And the summer is a very pleasant time of the year to work, in the gardens, planning group fruit foraging and organizing workshops on food transformation. Always a busy summer but much fun!"

Looking ahead, Family Ties hopes the garden will continue to grow, offering fresh food, friendship, and learning opportunities for years to come.



Family Ties Garden.

Photo: A. Arsenault

Announcements



Obituaries



AFFLECK: Patricia Joanne

Patricia Joanne Affleck unexpectedly passed away at the age of 81 on July 14, 2025. She was surrounded by the love of her dear husband and children as she entered her eternal home into the arms of her most beloved saviour, Jesus Christ.

Patricia was born October 21, 1943, in Johnson City, New York, daughter to the late John and Alice (Curry) McBride. She was the third-born in a family of six children. Patty, as she was affectionately known, was a joy and encouragement to all.

Throughout life she carried an easy laugh, radiant smile, a beautiful singing voice and a love of music and dance. These qualities, paired with an ability to sense and respond to the needs of others in compassion and wisdom, made her a truly remarkable and beloved individual. Many considered her their “best friend.” Perhaps her most steadfast trait was an unwavering faith in God nurtured each morning in quiet devotion and prayer.

Pat was a devoted wife to her first husband, Rick Krissel, married August 22, 1964. Together, they had four children and built a successful business. Rick died suddenly on January 6, 1983. As a widow, Pat provided for her family’s needs while working as a bank teller and was highly respected and valued by her employer and in her community.

In 1985, while attending a Cub Scouts meeting with her youngest son, Pat met John A. Affleck, whom she eventually married. Together, they enjoyed 37 years of marriage and friendship while working to blend a family of seven children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Death cannot sever their bond and deep love for each other, or diminish their many unforgettable shared experiences, accomplishments and memories.

Pat devoted her life to family and to those in need. She had a special heart for young children.

In the Binghamton, New York area, she served as a room mother, was involved in Scouting, worked as a grief counselor in the Primary Play therapy program in public schools, was a youth leader at church, and served as a Hospice volunteer for seven years. Professionally, Pat worked as Worship Leader in The Methodist Church and developed a successful gift basket company, Affleck’s Baskets and More. She was on the Board of Directors for The Naturalist Club in Vestal, New York.

In The Villages, Florida, she was involved in an after-school program and a prayer shawl ministry. Pat loved singing in a choir devoted to bringing joy to the elderly in nursing homes, and she organized and inspired many to deepen their faith through women’s

bible study. She was an avid quilter and lovingly made each grandchild a beautiful quilt upon their graduation from high school. Pat never stopped learning! She pursued lessons in piano, embroidery, clogging, ukulele, and exercise.

At their homes in Vestal, New York and later in The Villages, Florida, John and Pat enjoyed bird watching, golf, antiquing, spending time with friends and family, and faithfully cheering on the Buffalo Bills and their beloved, but often beleaguered, New York Mets. They enjoyed summers at a family home on the Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec, which they lovingly restored together and where they hosted many a Spiedie shish kebab party with lively music and fun. They were a dynamic duo, always welcoming and up for discovery and adventure.

Everyone cherished Pat’s unrelenting optimism and inspirational guidance. She was always fully engaged in your story, and conversations ended with positivity and likely a good laugh. Pat’s sense of humour was integral to her very being, sometimes off-beat, but always disarming and lovable. She challenged herself and others to tackle fears and triumph over them as she lived a life of continuous learning that energized everyone who knew her. She was a devoted counselor and a companion to those in her life, showing up with consistency and care, levity and seriousness, perceptiveness and prayer. To know her was to be blessed.

Pat is survived by her loving husband of 37 years, John Affleck; sons, Rich Krissel (Erica) and Matthew Krissel (Kara); two daughters, Kim Krissel (Jake) and Kelly Krissel (Thi); one step-son, John Affleck, Jr. (Amanda); two step-daughters, Laural Affleck Oltmer (Bill) and Amy Affleck Meyer (Mark). Pat is survived by one sibling, her brother: Rick McBride.

Her memory lives on in her grandchildren: Alexis, Rachel, Jana, Kelsey, Anna, Eliza, Alexander, Madeline and Addie; great-grandchild: Daisy. She will be greatly missed by all.

A celebration of Pat’s life open to friends and family will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 13, at New Covenant United Methodist Church, 3470 Woodridge Drive, The Villages, Florida, 32162.

The family would like to extend special thanks to the wonderful friends and neighbours who have helped in practical and prayerful ways over the past month.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Pat’s name to: Florida United Methodist Children’s Home: Residing Hope, <https://residinghope.org/donate/> or Hospice Foundation of America: <https://hospicefoundation.org/donate> please offer condolences at www.baldwincremation.com



BRIAND: Tim

Tim Briand of Dauphin, Manitoba passed away on June 19, 2025, at the age of 46 years.

Tim is survived by daughter Charlotte of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; brother Nick of Calgary, Alberta;

parents Jane and Fulton Briand of Dundurn, Saskatchewan; as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He worked as a plumber in various locations until settling in Dauphin where he found family again. One of his cousins described Tim as having a “larger-than-life” personality.

A big thank you to the medical, technical and support staff of Dauphin and Brandon Hospitals. The family also acknowledges and is grateful for the care and support given to Tim by his coworkers and friends notably Robb, Frank, Jory, Chad and Marty.

May Timothy’s return back home to the creator’s energy-conciseness be a safe and happy journey.



MCKAY: Gladys Julia Maud

December 6, 1918 - June 23, 2025.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Gladys Julia Maud McKay which occurred at the Residence St-Joseph in Maria on Monday, June 23, 2025, at the age of 106 years and six months.

Predeceased by her father Austin McKay, mother Maud Caldwell, and sisters Emma and Olga.

Gladys was an avid reader and she enjoyed travelling, going to restaurants, keeping up with the news.

She loved cats, dogs, flowers and hummingbirds and she enjoyed visits from her friends and spending time with them. And she loved talking on the telephone. In all Gladys loved and appreciated life to the fullest.

Visitation was held at her home in Cascapedia-St.Jules, on Thursday July 10, 2025. The funeral service took place at Saint Andrew’s United Church in New Richmond on Friday July 11, 2025, at 3 p.m. with Reverend Pierre Momberg officiating. Hymns were “Shall We Gather at the River”, “Amazing Grace”, and “Abide with me”. The organist was Sheila Starrak. The eulogy was given by Kathleen Paquet. The pall bearers were Alan Barter, Dwight Coull, Guy Boudreau, Barry LeBlanc, Irvin Meredith and Gordon Dell. Burial was in the United Church cemetery in New Richmond followed by a reception in the church hall provided by the ladies of St. Andrew’s.

Gladys will be sincerely missed by all who knew and admired her. Donations can be made in memory of Gladys McKay to a Charity of your choice.

Announcement Deadlines:

August 27 for the **September 3** issue
September 10 for the **September 17** issue
September 24 for the **October 1** issue
October 8 for the **October 15** issue

VIBERT: Patricia Ann (née Haig)

December 4, 1946 - May 25, 2025

In Loving Memory of Patricia Ann Margaret Vibert (née Haig).

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Patricia, wife, beloved mother and grandmother who passed away on May 25, 2025, at the age of 79.

Patricia dedicated her life to caring for others and her unwavering support will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know her. In her memory, a celebration of her life will be held in Corner of the Beach. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to Corner of the Beach Historical Society that Patricia was passionate about and where she will finally lay to rest.

Forever remembered by husband, Sunny, daughters, Michelle (Keith), Tina (Bobby), and Corry-Lynn (Zeb), grandchildren, Ali, Eithan, Lauren, Lexi and Sunny Iohahi:io

Rest in peace, dear Patricia. Your love and light will remain in our hearts forever.

**In Memory****DUMARESQUE: Everett John**

In loving memory of Everett John Dumaresque Howatson. March 18, 1924 - August 20, 2016.

"I Have Not Gone"

*You think I've gone,
That I am dead,
And life has lost its will.
But look around,
I am right there,
Living with you still.
I watch your tears,
I feel your pain,
I see the things you do.
I weep as well,
each time you cry,
My soul, it lives with you.
It gives such joy to hear you laugh,
And do the things you do.
And when you smile o'er by gone days,
I smile right with you too.
For we're still one, just you and me,
One mind, one soul, one being.
Walking forward into life,*

*Though only you are seen.
And in the stillness of the night,
When the pain it really starts.
Stretch out a little with your mind,
And draw me to your heart.
For I am always right in there,
Always by your side.
For you have been,
All my life's days, my joy, my love, my pride.*

Greatly missed but never forgotten. Joanne, Kim, Janet and Ray.

**MCDONALD: Brian**

In loving memory of a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away, August 27, 2024.

*Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same.
We have to hide our heartaches,
When someone speaks your name.
Sad are the hearts that love you,
Silent the tears that fall.
Living our lives without you,
Is the hardest part of all.
You did so many things for us,
Your heart was kind and true.
And when we needed someone,
We could always count on you.
The special years will not return,
When we were all together.
But with the love within our hearts,*

You will walk with us forever.

Until we meet again, always missed and remembered by Norma and family.

Thank You

Friends and neighbours of Gladys McKay wish to express their thanks to Reverend Momberg, Sheila Starrak, the choir, the ladies of St. Andrews, the pall bearers, Mario Boudreau, Cathy Buttle and the staff at Henri Thibodeau Funeral home. A special thank you to the staff and nurses of the Residence St. Joseph for the excellent care and kindness shown to Gladys during her stay of two and a half years.

Obituary: 150 words - \$50

150-250 words - \$55

250+ words - quote will be provided

In Memory: 150 words - \$35

150-250 words - \$45

Funeral, Celebration of Life, Card of Thanks, Engagement, Birth, Prayer, Birthday - \$35**Wedding - \$55**

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COAST ROUND-UP**COAST ROUND-UP: \$8 per week
CLASSIFIED: \$8 per week****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., takeout 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:****St. James****Anglican Church****September 27:** St. James Anglican church will be hosting a Harvest supper at the Shigawake Community Centre, 320 Route 132. Takeout will begin at 4 p.m.

and sit down will begin at 4:30 p.m. Cost: adults \$20, children \$10, under 6 free.

HOPE TOWN:**Hope Town Sports Club****September 14:** Hope Town's 22nd annual Terry Fox Walk, registration will be between 12:30 - 1 p.m. at the Hope town Community Centre, the walk will start 1 p.m. Please join us to raise funds for this worthy cause. For more information please contact Linda MacWhirter at 418-751-4398.**HOPE:****Hope Baptist Church****Sundays:** Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. Worship service beginning at 11 a.m.**NEW CARLISLE:****Kempffer House**The tea room is back beginning **July 2.** Open every

Wednesday with sittings at 1 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Cash only, children \$8, adults \$12, and \$15 for the alcove. Reservations required. For more information, call 418-752-1334 or email heritagenc@globetrotter.net.

NEW 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.**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: 50+ Club****September 20:** A Harvest Bingo will begin at 1 p.m. until finished, doors open at 12 p.m.**September 15:** Meeting

beginning at 6:30 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 24**

10 a.m. Service

Sunday, August 31

10 a.m. Service

UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN**Sunday, August 24**

10 a.m. Service

Sunday, August 31

2 p.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA**Sunday, August 24****New Carlisle**9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Port Daniel
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist**Sunday, August 31****New Carlisle**11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Hope Town
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Shigawake
7 p.m. Evensong**PARISH OF GASPÉ****Sunday, August 24****St. Matthews - Peninsula**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 31**St. Pauls - Gaspé**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

On the Lighter Side...

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



HOROSCOPES - August 20 to August 26

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

You are likely to experience a week full of thoughtfulness and introspection, Aries. You are searching for a new source for self-fulfillment, and may be inspired by another's ideas.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, now is the time to identify your priorities. Figure out what you want or would prefer to do before you start taking any steps forward. This is the only way to get satisfaction.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Prepare for a week that will pose some challenges, Gemini. A last-minute project at work may test your mettle.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

The plan may have been to stay isolated until you get all of your tasks done, Cancer. But those closest to you have some other ideas; they might invade your

quiet cocoon.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, there's more than one way to approach a project. Remain receptive to new ideas and take time to think things through before choosing a path forward.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, your independent streak may need to be tempered in the days ahead. Teamwork is the name of the game so make a concerted effort to be a good team player.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Right now you might not feel you are in the correct place in your profession, Libra. Is your current role too restrictive or does it not challenge your skills? You might want to start looking around for new challenges.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, now is a great time to take the bull by the horns. An opportunity to be assertive and take on a

leadership role presents itself this week. You're ready.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you may be taking stock of your professional life and goals. Be sure you plan accordingly to balance the work side with your personal needs.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Something unusual may happen to you this week, Capricorn. Be ready for the unexpected. This also is a good time to tie up some loose ends that you have been overlooking.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

There is nothing to stop you from asking for help from time to time, Aquarius. While you certainly enjoy the satisfaction of getting things done, assistance is necessary from time to time.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Hard work is starting to pay notable dividends, Pisces. Enjoy the fruits of your labors, but remember to keep your nose to the grindstone.

HOROSCOPES - August 27 to September 2

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

You're feeling bold this week, Aries. Use a surge of energy to speak out about something that needs to be said. Be mindful of how others may receive it.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Stability and home life are in the spotlight, Taurus. You may be called to handle something domestic or financial. Use your natural patience to avoid impulsive decisions.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, conversations will flow with ease this week, and you'll be a magnet for interesting ideas. If you have been waiting to pitch an idea, do it right now.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may assess your value right now, both financially and emotionally. An important decision requires you to have a level head. It's a great week to update a budget.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

This week invites you to step into the spotlight, Leo. This is just where you like to be. Don't be afraid to own your power and reveal something personal to friends and family.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you are more introspective than usual. Take time to reflect and recharge this week. Old memories or unfinished business might resurface and you have to face it head on.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Your social life picks up, and someone in your network may present a useful opportunity. Be open to collaboration, Libra. Just don't say yes to too many things at once.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Currently your ambition is in focus and others are noticing, Scorpio. A professional opportunity may come your way, but don't rush the details. Trust your

intuition when negotiating.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

You are craving inspiration and something new, Sagittarius. This is the week to explore new ideas, travel or study something interesting. A philosophical discussion might come up.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, change is in the air whether you invite it or it finds you. Emotional matters may require some extra attention right now.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, all of your partnerships are going smoothly right now. You may need to readjust your expectations to reflect your productivity. A turning point comes into play midweek.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Think about looking at your daily habits, Pisces. Figure out if anything needs to be tweaked. You need to take care of yourself and prioritize your health.

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EMILY HOCQUARD
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

SHIGAWAKE - In the small town of Shigawake —where the salt air meets fertile fields—Shaina Hayes is quietly cultivating something truly special. After living away in Montreal for years, she's returned home for the season with seeds in her pocket, and a heart full of purpose.

Shaina, born and raised in Shigawake, has always been drawn to the rhythms of the land. Coming from a farming family, she is no stranger to hard work and determination.

While many may know her as a musician, this summer she has strongly focused on a different kind of creativity—gardening. With rows of leafy greens, colourful root vegetables, and climbing vines taking over her family's property, Shaina is transforming a simple plot of land into a thriving garden oasis.

Having studied agricultural sciences at McGill University, Shaina has always had a strong interest and love for growing and nurturing things. From admiring her mother's garden as a child to becoming a first-year apprentice in a quite limited program at McGill, she then spent a second year running the Macdonald Student-run Ecological Gardens at the university; her admiration for gardening grew with exclusive experience. "I learned so much, it was like an amazing summer-camp. Intensive work energy and some of the best years of my life. I made life-long friendships, learned my work ethic and learned how much stuff I could get done in a day. I also learned how much I loved that kind of gardening while I was there," Shaina tells SPEC.

After graduation, Shaina also worked for one of Québec's leading basket farms called Tournesol. "They also do seeds; they are one of the major organic seed producers in Québec for vegetables," she explains.

After some time, she was employed by a restaurant that had gardens of their own which Shaina became responsible for. The Covid pandemic hit while Shaina was entering her second year of employment with the restaurant. Shaina lost her job as a gardener as the hospitality industry faced widespread closures and cutbacks. Her job could no longer be justified. Rather than walk away from



While many may know Shaina as a musician, this summer she has strongly focused on a different kind of creativity, gardening.

Photo: Emily Hocquard

the land she had tended, Shaina saw an opportunity to adapt. She and the restaurant came up with an arrangement. She would continue cultivating the garden, growing vegetables both for the restaurant's now-limited needs and for a basket system of her own. The deal allowed her to maintain a livelihood while doing what she loved and supporting local food access along the way. Shaina transformed a moment of uncertainty into one of initiative and resilience.

Once things settled and began to go back to a state of normality after a year, Shaina decided to rent her own plot of land elsewhere. She moved the fridge she had built and bought equipment of her own. "That is where I have been farming for the last three years, but with music it (gardening) had to take a back burner." After peaking in 2022-2023, Shaina had to take a step back from producing vegetables to go on tour and commit herself to her music career.

SPEC asked Shaina why she chose to return this year to farm on the coast and her answer was quite simple. "It's in my heart, obviously I just love it here and feel that deep guilt of not being here when I'm not," she explained. "Primarily I just wanted to come back. My dad has land here, so it was an easy thing to test out without needing to make big investments," she goes on. "I just love it here, is the short answer," she adds.

Currently Shaina is growing over fifty different crops at her family home in Shigawake. She has a tunnel infrastructure to help extend her season as much as possible. We find a

great balance of leafy greens, fruity crops such as cucumbers and tomatoes, root vegetables meaning things like carrots, beets and radishes and a miscellaneous category including onions and fennel and many different herbs. Shaina explains that the goal of a basket program is to offer variation and represent all the different groups of vegetables. Producing many different categories to harvest as early as possible, all during the season and of

course at the end as well. "As much as it is harder to grow here in theory, it is also nicer to grow here," Shaina says. "Things do grow extremely well, way better than I thought," she continues. With the different climate comes different challenges. Shaina's return to the land at home is a gentle but powerful reminder of the value of local, seasonal produce. "I was getting a little bit burnt out of the city. It is very expensive to be there; it

has gotten a lot colder socially and less interesting for me. I miss being here and the sense of community and the connection to the place and the people," Shaina states.

For Shaina, this isn't just about growing food—it's about sharing it. She's a regular vendor at the local market in New Carlisle, where her kiosk is quickly gaining a reputation for its quality and variety. Locals and tourists alike are drawn to her vibrant display. Shaina manages to sell out every weekend, sharing her tasty fresh vegetables with surrounding communities. Her garden is a palette of textures and colours; each row planted with care and intention.

Looking ahead, the future is still unclear. "Next year I will be growing again, to what capacity is sort of a year-by-year thing, as it has been since the beginning for me." Shaina informs SPEC. "I want to be here as much as I can, and I want to keep growing stuff," she mentions.

As summer stretches on and the garden continues to flourish, Shaina Hayes is sowing more than seeds—she's planting community, inspiration, and a deep appreciation for the land she calls home.



AUGUST 21-24 AGRICULTURAL FAIR

<p>THURSDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JAMMING SESSION WITH NEW RICHMOND MUSICIANS CIRCLE <p>FRIDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JAMMING SESSION WITH NEW RICHMOND MUSICIANS CIRCLE • GYMKHANA OPEN • MUSIC WITH MOUNTAIN WHISPER FOLLOWED BY ANTICS ROADSHOW <p>SATURDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRUNCH • JUDGING OF COSTUMED ANIMALS • FACE PAINTING AND GAMES FOR CHILDREN • JUNIOR 12 - GYMKHANA • 3D (ADULT) GYMKHANA • MUSIC WITH 1. JAMMING SESSION WITH NEW RICHMOND MUSICIANS CIRCLE 2. JOHN GEDEON JR 3. NASH STANLEY 4. NASH AND JOHN 5. THE GARAGE BAND <p>SUNDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRUNCH • PRIZES FOR GYMKHANA • MAGICIAN DAVID PHILIPPE • JAMMING SESSION WITH NEW RICHMOND MUSICIANS CIRCLE • LAWN MOWER RACES 	<p>ENTRANCE PRICE</p> <p>THURSDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 AND UNDER : FREE • 6 TO 12 : FREE • 13+ : FREE <p>FRIDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 AND UNDER : FREE • 6 TO 12 : \$5 • 13+ : \$15 <p>SATURDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 AND UNDER : FREE • 6 TO 12 : \$7 • 13+ : \$20 <p>SUNDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 AND UNDER : FREE • 6 TO 12 : \$5 • 13+ : \$10 <p>WEEKEND PACKAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 AND UNDER : FREE • 6 TO 12 : \$15 • 13+ : \$40
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Deep roots: Preserving local farming

EMILY HOCQUARD

PORT DANIEL - Local farmers are the heart of our communities—and they do a lot more than just grow food. From fresh veggies to delicious eggs and homemade jams, local farms bring flavour, variety, and personality to our plates. Farmers play a vital role in the health, economy and sustainability of our communities.

While large-scale agriculture dominates global food production, local farmers provide a more direct connection between people and the food they eat—offering benefits that go beyond the dinner table. Plus, there's something special about knowing where your food comes from and who grew it. It creates a sense of connection—to the land, the seasons, and your community.

One of the most significant advantages of supporting local farmers is the freshness and nutritional quality of their produce. Fruits, vegetables and eggs from nearby farms often arrive at markets within a day or two of being harvested, meaning they're not only fresher but also retain more nutrients compared to products that have traveled long distances.

Local farming also strengthens the economy. When consumers buy directly from farmers through farmers' markets or local grocery stores, more money stays within the community. This helps sustain jobs, promote entrepreneurship, and build regional food security.

Environmentally, local farms tend to use more sustainable practices and produce a smaller carbon footprint. Fewer transportation miles mean reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and many small farms focus on soil health and biodiversity.

Beyond economics and environment, local farmers help preserve rural traditions, knowledge, and landscapes. Their work connects us to the seasons, to the land, and to a more transparent food system.

Farming is often a family tradition, passed down through generations with deep roots in the land. It's more than a job—it's a way of life built on hard work, love, and respect for nature. These farms carry stories, wisdom, and values that connect families to their past and communities to their food. Children grow up learning the rhythm of the seasons and the importance of caring for the earth. This bond with the land isn't just practical—it's emotional. Supporting local farms means supporting families, traditions, and a way of life that values connection, sustainability, and love for the land. It's a simple way to eat well, support your neighbours, and make a positive impact in the area, now and for the future.



Photo: Sadie Gallibois Hayes

Siblings Daisy and Leonard Hayes with their father Joshua Hayes from Bayside Farm, admiring the growth in their oat field.

Celebrating Agriculture



Photo: Courtney McGuire Bujold

Elizabeth Bujold, daughter of Courtney McGuire Bujold and Kyle Bujold from McGuire Farm, checking in on their cattle!

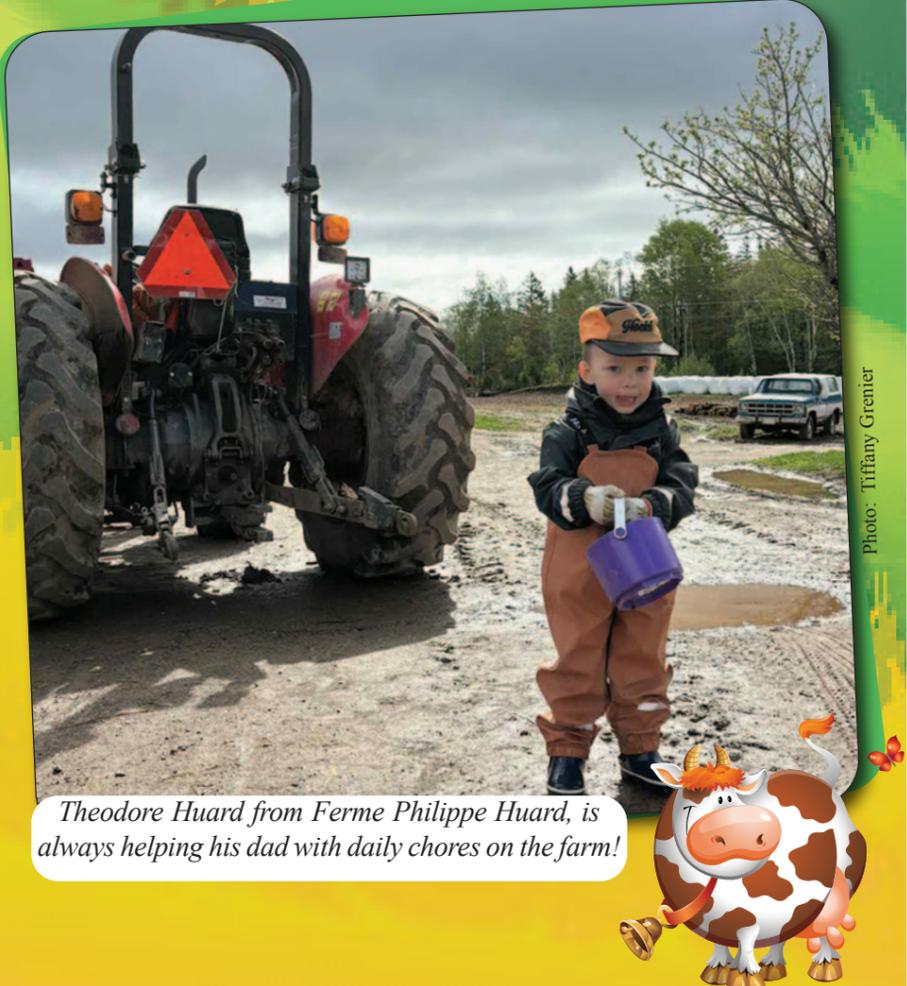


Photo: Tiffany Grenier

Theodore Huard from Ferme Philippe Huard, is always helping his dad with daily chores on the farm!



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Growing up one grade at time

JILLIAN O'CONNELL

PORT DANIEL – Moving from one grade to the next is more than just advancing academically, it's a meaningful milestone in a student's personal and educational journey. Whether transitioning from elementary to middle school, middle to high school, or simply progressing to the next grade level, each step brings a unique mix of excitement, challenges, and opportunities for growth.

Toddler to Preschool

For many children, the first significant step in their

educational path begins with the move from toddlerhood into preschool. This stage often marks a child's first experience in a structured learning environment outside the home. Through routines and play-based learning, preschool lays the groundwork for essential social and academic skills. Though the initial separation from home can be difficult, preschool plays a crucial role in preparing children for future success.

Grade-to-Grade Progression

Each grade level introduces new academic expecta-

tions and social dynamics. These incremental changes help build a strong foundation for long term learning and development, reinforcing important skills year after year.

Elementary to Middle School

The transition from elementary to middle school is one of the most notable changes in a student's academic life. Students encounter a more complex school structure, multiple

teachers, changing classrooms, lockers, and increased homework. Socially, they begin to explore their identities and develop a stronger sense of independence, all while navigating shifting peer dynamics.

Middle to High School

Entering high school brings even more responsibilities and thinking. Students face higher academic expectations and begin to consider their futures more seriously, exploring potential career

paths and post-secondary options. With access to a wider variety of electives and extracurricular activities, they also gain greater opportunities to discover their interests and talents.

Transitions between school levels represent more than just new classrooms, they are key turning points in a student's development. From early days of preschool to the critical years of high school, each stage shapes not only academic success but also personal growth, confidence, and resilience.



Healthy Nut-Free Snack Ideas for School

Emily Hocquard

PORT DANIEL - Packing school snacks that are both healthy and nut-free can be a challenge, especially with allergy restrictions in place. With a little creativity, you can provide your child with tasty, energizing options that they will truly enjoy!

Fruits and vegetables are always a great option. Different colours and textures offer excitement for your little one when opening their lunch box each day. Try apple slices with sunflower seed butter (a safe alternative to peanut butter), or veggie sticks like carrots, cucumbers, and bell peppers with hummus. Grapes and berries are a popular go-to, they are easy to pack and naturally sweet!

Whole grain options like whole wheat crackers, mini pita pockets, or rice cakes pair well with cheese cubes or yogurt for added protein. Hard-boiled eggs are another great protein-packed option and easy to prepare ahead of time.

For a fun twist, snack skewers with cherry tomatoes and mini pickles, or fruit for a sweeter version are always a hit with kids! The switch between sweet and savoury gives variety to a packed lunch.

Always check labels to make sure packaged snacks are school-safe and nut-free. The goal to a well-balanced lunch is to offer diversity through good food that will feed your little one and give them the energy they need to learn and grow! With a mix of flavours and nutrients, your child's snack time can be healthy, delicious, and worry-free!

Back to School

CASA's Bright Beginnings Team would like to wish all new and returning students a year full of new adventures of learning and fun!

To get informed on current activities in your community, contact Kayla Gallan

418 752 5995 EXT. 106

kayla@casa-gaspe.com

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Staying safe on the bus: Essential tips for students

HOLLY SMITH

NEW CARLISLE - As the school year approaches, many students prepare to hop on their school buses for the first time, or the hundredth time!

Whether your child is new to riding the bus or a seasoned commuter, understanding bus safety is key to ensuring every trip to and from school is safe and stress-free.

The Gaspé Coast is known for its rural roads, changing weather conditions, and long bus routes. These factors make bus safety a top priority for families and school transportation services. Whether it's slippery fall leaves or early winter frost, being cautious on and around the bus can help prevent accidents.

Before boarding: Stay alert and prepared

Be ready at your gateway: Since most students get picked up right at their own driveway or gateway, it's important to be outside and ready a few minutes before the bus arrives.

Stay clear of the road: Wait safely on your property, not on the road or driveway itself, to avoid traffic hazards.

Boarding and Riding the Bus

Wait for the Bus to Stop: Only approach the bus once it has come to a complete stop and the driver signals it's safe to board.

Use handrails: Encourage children to use the handrails when getting on and off the bus



An extended stop sign means stop — obeying bus signals is key to keeping students safe this school year.

to prevent slips or falls.

Stay seated: Once on board, remain seated and keep aisles clear. Moving around can distract the driver and create hazards.

Listen to the Driver: The bus driver is there to keep everyone safe. Students should follow instructions and behave respectfully.

Getting off the bus

Stay seated until stopped: Remain seated until the bus is fully stopped at your driveway or gateway.

Use Handrails: Use the handrails when stepping off to avoid falls.

Step safely onto your property: Move quickly and carefully onto your property and away from the road.

If crossing the road: Always wait for the driver's signal, look both ways carefully,

and cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus where the driver can see you.

For parents: Supporting bus safety

Review safety rules: Talk

with your child about bus safety before the school year starts and review regularly.

Know the route and schedule: Familiarize yourself with the bus route and pickup times.

Keep driveways clear:

Make sure your driveway or pickup area is safe and free of obstacles.

Report concerns: If you notice any safety issues at your pickup spot or on the route, report them promptly to school officials.

A community effort

School bus safety is a shared responsibility between students, parents, drivers, and the community. By working together and staying alert, it can ensure every child's ride to school is safe and comfortable.



Back to school

The crisp fall air is knocking at your doorstep, along with the arrival of "Back to School." The grind is waiting for students of all ages to begin.

After a summer of activities, sightseeing and visits, students are now ready to dive into true education, expanding their knowledge and embracing the truth that education is the backbone to our future.

Many of us understand that the capacity to learn is a gift, and the ability to learn is a skill. Students also know that the willingness to learn is a choice, it all comes down to working hard and being kind to others.

In 2025/26 school year, let students strive for progress, not perfection. Throughout the year, new friendships will be formed, new beginnings will unfold and new challenges will arise. One of the beautiful things about learning is that no one can take it away from you.

Have fun, students! Let this year be filled with accomplishments, positivity and success.

Ken Ross, New Carlisle

**WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL**

GET READY TO EXPLORE. LEARN & GROW

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome you to this new school year.

May it be filled with exciting new discoveries, meaningful connections, and a passion for learning.

ESSB is committed and proud to accompany you on this educational journey. Remember that you are capable, valued, and supported.

Together, let's make it a year of growth and achievement to remember.

Best wishes,
Denise Simoneau, Director General