



## Gesgapegiag and Pin Rouge renew season ticket agreement

GILLES GAGNÉ

PIN ROUGE (NEW RICHMOND) – The September 20 Pin Rouge annual fundraising supper was marked by several highlights about extended support for the ski centre. However, the most appreciated form of support that evening came from Gesgapegiag’s director of leisure, Andrew Martin, who announced that the 2024 agreement providing 200 season tickets to the community will be extended for two more years.

Mr. Martin remarked that the development of Pin Rouge is a cause adopted by the Mi’gmaq of Gesgapegiag, “not only a mountain, but also an opportunity, an opportunity to move, to get together, to breathe the fresh winter air, and above all, to build a more active, inclusive and healthier region.”



Andrew Martin, right, and Kevin Arsenault, presented the agreement renewal between Gesgapegiag and Pin Rouge.

Photo: G. Gagné

During his speech, Andrew Martin reminded the audience that last year’s agreement also included ski training, equipment rentals and coaching to help people discover the sport.

“And you know what? It

was a success all along the line. Children, parents, sometimes mother-daughter and father-son duos, who put on skis for the very first time... Smiles, falls, yes there have been a few! But above all, a lot of pride and

fun,” added Mr. Martin.

### Long-term considerations

Mr. Martin underlined the lasting effect of Gesgapegiag’s

increased presence at Pin Rouge.

“What we saw was much more than people going down the slope: it was a community that took care of itself. It was the promotion of healthy lifestyles. It was the reappropriation of the winter territory, in a spirit of openness and regional participation,” pointed out Andrew Martin.

The renewal of the 2024 agreement for two years “clearly demonstrates Gesgapegiag’s desire to be involved in the long-term development of Pin Rouge, not only for our own community, but also for the entire region,” stressed Mr. Martin.

The Mi’gmaq people firmly believe “that sport, physical activity and access to nature

Cont'd on page 2

## Eco Baie-des-Chaleurs, a new environmental organization

GILLES GAGNÉ

MIGUASHA – A new organization, Eco Baie-des-Chaleurs, was officially founded on September 13 in Miguasha to oppose the Eco-Rock Dalhousie pozzolan exploitation project, but also to monitor all the initiatives that could cause environmental harm to the Baie des Chaleurs area.

About 50 people attended the launch at Auberge Miguasha, including Lisa Mosher and Jean-Marc Beaulieu, early opponents of Eco-Rock Dalhousie, Ashley Barnaby, of Listuguj, Member of Parliament Alexis Deschênes and Marc Fafard, a Sept-Îles citizen who has led a few environmental battles over the last 20 years.

Auberge Miguasha is located a few dozen metres from the Miguasha Park, a fossil reserve that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Incidentally, despite the park’s status, the Société des établissements de plein air du



Listuguj’s Ashley Barnaby reminded the attendees that the Mi’gmaq territory where pozzolan could be exploited was never surrendered by the First Nation.

Photo: G. Gagné

Québec, the SÉPAQ, still hasn’t taken a position on the pozzolan open pit mine project, which would be located about five kilometres away across the Restigouche river.

Jean-Marc Beaulieu, who has previously criticized SÉPAQ’s silence, pointed out that Eco Baie-des-Chaleurs will deploy vigorous efforts to counter EcoRock Dalhousie’s

venture, but the goal of the new organization is wider.

“The day we win, because we will win that fight, what do we do? We are good at reacting, as we won in Belledune (an incinerator project), we won against oil fracking. We won against those projects but after, we fall asleep. We want to foresee such projects and counter them before they take

off,” explained Mr. Beaulieu.

He is also worried about a project currently slated for Belledune, where a promoter is planning to revive a tank farm that was closed many years ago by Shell Oil.

“Consequently, why wouldn’t we create a marine protected area in the Baie des Chaleurs?” he asked.

The pozzolan project calls for the dredging of the channel leading to the Dalhousie wharf, in order to allow ships to reach it. That channel has not been used since 2012 or so, when woodchips were exported from that port.

Lisa Mosher remarked that dredging first, then ship loading day and night, all year long, will be detrimental to the marine habitat and overall quality of life of the people living in the area.

“Considering the size of ships, people in Carleton should also be very, very worried,” she summed up, in the sense that the pozzolan project far exceeds the limits of

Miguasha.

Listuguj’s Ashley Barnaby remarked that the Mi’gmaq territory of the area covers “31,000 square kilometres, which is larger than Belgium. Our territory was never surrendered, according to the treaty of 1752 (...) I ask you all to walk with us,” she concluded, upon receiving a round of applause.

Alexis Deschênes once again called on the environment departments of Quebec and New Brunswick to conduct a joint assessment of the pozzolan project in Dalhousie.

“Do we know the impact of the mine on lobster, on salmon? No, and the federal government has refused to carry out that study. It can be done commonly by both provinces,” he said.

Sept-Îles’s Marc Fafard affirmed that it takes team work to win a battle like that. “I am here to talk about the way we countered a uranium mine in my region but I didn’t do it alone.”

# A gesture against racism

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW RICHMOND – The Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Feminist Roundtable is launching a campaign to support immigrant women in the region who are victims of racism and discrimination.

The first phase of the campaign, which spans from Pointe-à-la-Croix to Paspébiac, focuses on creating feminist collages that address various issues in support of these women.

“The members of the roundtable are committed to working on this issue, which is emerging in communities and in the current social climate. There is a need and a desire to welcome people for the vitality of our communities, but we feel that there are certain barriers and prejudices,” says Nastassia Williams, the Roundtable’s coordinator.

The rise of identity politics may explain some of the difficulties immigrants face in being welcomed into local communities.

“In recent years, regardless of political affiliation, there has been a perception that immigrants are a burden. When we talk about the housing crisis or access to certain public services, we have targeted immigrants, when in fact the lack of social housing is the fault of the government, which has poorly planned housing construction,” says Ms. Williams.

“The reason we have overcrowded classrooms and



An example of slogans used by the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Feminist Roundtable.

Courtesy of the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Feminist Roundtable

a shortage of childcare services is not the fault of immigrants; it is the government that has not done its job. In this context, it is an easy way out for the government to blame immigrants,” the coordinator continues.

“We like to think that in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, we are warm and welcoming. But we see that there are many forms of direct or systemic racism due to a lack of rights or poor access to certain services. It’s very real,” notes Ms. Williams.

Some immigrants are even questioning whether they will stay in their communities given this climate.

In response to the Roundtable’s call, several organizations have shown their solidarity by prominently displaying the collages. New Carlisle’s Family Ties is one of them.

The awareness campaign will gradually be rolled out

elsewhere in the Gaspé Peninsula.

“There is a lot of criticism of the situation, but we thought it was interesting to point out that there are places and organizations that want to make these people feel at home,” says Ms. Williams.

“Other actions will be planned on this issue,” Ms. Williams adds.

## Gaspésie elected officials retain their government positions

Nelson Sergerie

QUEBEC CITY—The Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Bonaventure has been given additional responsibilities, while the MNA for Gaspé retains his.

This news followed the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) caucus meeting on September 18 in Quebec City. Both elected officials later announced their new duties on social media.

In addition to serving as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health, Premier François Legault has entrusted Catherine Blouin with the mandate of Government Assistant to the Minister of International Relations, Christopher Skeete, with a focus on Francophonie issues.

For Ms. Blouin, this new mandate provides an opportunity to work on a matter particularly close to her heart: the promotion and influence of the Francophone world. She noted that she will be discussing her specific role directly with Minister Skeete.

With the support of the Premier, Ms. Blouin says she is more motivated than ever to assist her colleagues in their new responsibilities.

Meanwhile, Stéphane Sainte-Croix will continue in his role as Government Assistant for regional affairs and fisheries. He will be responsible for supporting the new Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ), Donald Martel, as he transitions into his portfolio.

Mr. Sainte-Croix will also remain a member of the parliamentary committees on agriculture, fisheries, energy and natural resources, and transportation and the environment.

TRAINING RETREAT

## Indigenous cultural awareness

**November 15, 2025,  
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### PIN ROUGE:

*Cont'd from cover*

should be accessible to everyone, regardless of age, income and origin.”

Andrew Martin invited other collective administrations to follow the example of the agreement signed between Pin Rouge and Gesgapegiag.

“For Pin Rouge to reach its full potential, it takes more than individual efforts. We need a collective commitment. And that is why, this evening, we hope that our positive experience will inspire our municipal and regional elected officials to invest financially and politically in Pin Rouge, in line with what it represents for the region,” he said, before receiving another round of warm applause.

Mr. Martin reminded the audience that Pin Rouge is not solely a ski resort. “It is a driver for health, economic development, tourist attractiveness and, above all, for cohesion between communities. At Gesgapegiag, we believe in the potential of Pin Rouge. We believe in collaboration and we are ready to continue to do our part.”

Andrew Martin therefore invited “all those who have the power to move this project forward, (to) join us. Invest in Pin Rouge. Invest in the future of our region.”

The amount involved in the agreement between Gesgapegiag and Pin Rouge remains undisclosed for now.

The next edition of SPEC will feature an update on Pin Rouge’s administrative changes and investment project to upgrade the facility.

# Police Report

## Crash claims the life of a 29-year-old man

A 29-year-old man from Gesgapegiag died in a road accident in Maria on September 12 at approximately 11:30 p.m. when his vehicle collided with a car stopped on Highway 132 near the temporary traffic light installed at the beach replenishment construction site. According to the Sûreté du Québec, the victim was traveling eastbound when he struck a vehicle waiting at the traffic light. Both men involved in the crash were taken to a nearby hospital. The driver who caused the collision was pronounced dead, while the other man sustained significant but non-life-threatening injuries. A police officer trained in collision investigations attended the scene to determine the causes and circumstances of the accident. Speeding is believed to have been the likely cause of the crash.

## Former Sûreté du Québec spokesperson to undergo trial in June 2026

The trial of former Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Claude Doiron, charged with sexual assault of a minor, will take place in June 2026. On September 23, at the Percé courthouse, the defence and the criminal prosecutor agreed to hold the trial during the weeks of June 8 and 15.

The accused was present at the Percé courthouse on September 23 for the hearing of preliminary motions in this case, which lasted all day. A closed hearing, ordered by Quebec Court judge Pierre Lortie, prevents disclosure of the motions' content.

The court had been scheduled since the spring to hear these motions, which are related to Mr. Doiron's trial. The motions notably pertain to points of law that must be dealt with before the trial. Judge Lortie will render a decision on these motions on December 1.

Claude Doiron faces charges of sexual assault, sexual interference, and incitement to sexual touching of a minor under the age of 14. The alleged acts occurred between May 1 and September 30, 1988, in Cloridorme, before Mr. Doiron was employed by the Sûreté du Québec. The identity of the alleged victim remains under a publication ban.

## Holly Stanley to serve one year in prison

Quebec Court judge Janick Poirier sentenced Holly Stanley, a 45-year-old woman from Gaspé, to serve one year in prison and three years' probation for a \$200,000 fraud that occurred in 2017 and 2018. Holly Stanley forged documents to benefit from the will of a man who had passed away in 2017, depriving others of the inheritance.

Judge Poirier also ordered Ms. Stanley to repay \$40,000 over a period of 10 years. According to CHNC, the criminal prosecutor had recommended an 18-

month prison sentence, as well as a reimbursement of \$40,000, a three-year probation and a ban on an occupation linked with manipulating money. The defence attorney was suggesting a sentence of one year, to be served in the community, as well as a three-year probation.

## Impossible to explain Yan Francoeur's death

Coroner Jean-Pierre Chamberland is unable to determine the causes or circumstances surrounding the death of Yan Francoeur, who was reported missing on October 14, 2024. His death remains unexplained.

The man's body, in an advanced state of decomposition, was found on Penouille beach on December 12. Jean-Pierre Chamberland indicates that Mr. Francoeur lived in a residence for roomers in Gaspé. After not hearing from him for a while, a relative reported the disappearance of the man, who had certain health problems. Searches went underway, both on land and in the air, as well as along the banks of the York River, and surveillance cameras were reviewed.

People were also being questioned about the whereabouts of the man in his mid-forties.

On October 14, he was seen on a camera entering the rooming house, but the camera did not show an exit leading to Jacques-Cartier Street. He was not seen on the cameras from October 15 to 17.

Based on the state of decomposition, the coroner believes the death may have occurred on October 14, but without witnesses, the circumstances remain unclear. "We do not know what happened to Mr. Francoeur. Where did he go on October 15, 2024, after entering his residence around 3:43 p.m.? He certainly left, probably through another door. Did he approach a waterway or Gaspé Bay? Did he accidentally fall into the water or jump into it that day, and where and when exactly? We will never have answers to all these questions. No letter of intent was found at the home or on him," says coroner Chamberland.

"What is the primary cause of his death? Did he drown, was he intoxicated near the banks, or did he collapse? However, he had no serious medical condition according to the autopsy performed. With the evidence gathered during the investigation, I cannot conclusively determine whether it was an accidental death or a suicide," the coroner concluded.



Photo: Sûreté du Québec

## Violent fire ravages lobster tank farm in Cap-d'Espoir

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PERCÉ – A violent fire, possibly caused by an electrical fault, completely destroyed a warehouse containing a 350,000-pound lobster tank on September 22 in Cap-d'Espoir.

The owners, E. Gagnon et Fils, have already confirmed the warehouse will be rebuilt. The blaze also destroyed the century-old Maison Windsor, an abandoned house located next to the warehouse.

Dozens of firefighters from across the region, stretching from Gaspé to Chandler, battled the flames, which were reported around 6 p.m.

"The building was constructed in 2021. It was a warehouse for live lobsters," said Bill Sheehan, vice president of E. Gagnon et Fils.

The Cap-d'Espoir complex comprises five buildings. Thanks to the hard work of



The fire was very intense at its peak.

Photo: Jimmy Berthelot

firefighters, the damage was limited to two. When a wall collapsed on one of the burning buildings, a second structure was damaged, but crews managed to stop the fire from spreading further.

"It's a piece of the equation that we can't do without for the next season," said Mr. Sheehan, expressing his desire to rebuild the building before the lobster fishing

season. "It was state-of-the-art. We're going to try to do the same thing again. Without that live tank, we won't be able to buy and process the same amount of lobster," explains the vice president.

The challenge will be finding specialized equipment such as coolers and seawater filters or equipment to control the water temperature. "That will be the challenge. Build-

ing a concrete slab and a building takes time, but it's September. The next lobster season will be in late April-early May. That gives us a little time," says Mr. Sheehan.

Footage from cameras inside the building revealed sparks coming from a wall shortly before the fire. "It looks like it was electrical. With the cameras, around 5 p.m., we could see sparks.

That's where the fire started. Around 6 p.m., people in the area saw smoke coming out of the roof. The fire department was called, and the fire was already quite strong," notes Mr. Sheehan who praised firefighters for saving the other buildings. "Without that, several buildings could have been a total loss."

Fortunately, no jobs were immediately affected since the building was not in use at the time. "If the building wasn't there in the spring, jobs could be affected. We'll make different plans. We have different options available to us. We can try to sell more live lobsters. We have different locations in the village. But it's an important piece of equipment. It's a holding tank that could hold more than 300,000 pounds of lobster out of a capacity of 800,000. It's a building we can't do without," he emphasizes.

The losses are estimated at around \$5 million.



Gilles Gagné

## Commentary

### Remembering Fred Kirch

Fred Kirch, who wrote such good “guest” commentaries for The Gaspé Spec, passed away during surgery to repair a hip he had broken after falling at home. At the time of his passing, on September 11, at the age of 88, his last commentary, Tariff tantrums, had already been laid out and about to be sent to the printer. His article was released in the newspaper’s September 17 issue.

On September 12, the SPEC team reflected on “Fred”—as he preferred to be called, despite having long passed the age-80 milestone. Had we learned of his passing before giving the green light to the printer, we likely would not have changed the layout. The right way to honour his superior writing skills would have been to leave his commentary in the paper.

We owed him this kind of tribute, because his “Tariff tantrum” was another masterpiece, like the September 3 “Rolling out the red carpet for Putin.” Recently, he was feeling an urge to make people realize the destructive effects of Donald Trump’s attacks on democracy in the United States, where he was born and where he practiced law with excellence before settling in the Gaspé Peninsula.

“Writing helped him overcome his huge disappointment, that of seeing his country change,” expresses Marie-Josée Caron, Fred’s companion of the last 22 years.

And writing he did over the summer, six commentaries delivered between June and the end of August, the last two published in September. He was working on a seventh write-up when he injured his hip.

A retired judge from Delaware, Fred had the talent to dissect a topic clearly and sum it up in 650 to 750 words, a feat considering the complexity of the subjects. For a news editor, it was hard to see one of his commentaries come in and decide to put it away for a later read. There was a sudden urge to read it immediately, because it was thoroughly interesting. Reading Fred’s commentaries was suddenly becoming more urgent than real emergencies.

His vast culture was an asset for sure. Who would have thought of taking a tale of Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, written in 1837, “The Emperor’s New Clothes”, described by Fred as “a biting satire of vanity, cowardice, and self-deception”, and apply it to Donald Trump.

His commentary about the American president cheating while playing golf was another brilliant write-up.

### His Gaspé Peninsula days

An avid hiker during his prime and early years of retirement, Fred Kirch was a fan of the International Appalachian Trail (IAT). He walked all of it, including the Gaspé Peninsula part. That’s how he randomly met Marie-Josée Caron, during events linked to the 2003 official inauguration of the IAT.

Both were single and it didn’t take long for Fred to understand that he had met an outstanding person. He was just a few months away from retirement, and he immediately started making steps to become a permanent resident of Canada, and then obtain his citizenship. Both steps were made, in 2006 for the residency status, a year after their wedding, and in 2009 for the citizenship.

He liked to underline with his subtle sense of humour that he was the only American living in Saint-Siméon, as well as the only SPEC and CASA board member from the village as well. Marie-Josée had already been living there before their meeting.

He also liked to talk about his stays in the Saint-Yvon part of Cloridorme, where the Caron family lives. He loved how the unilingual American-born and bred man he was, could have fun in a family about as unilingual as he was, and still connect.

His father-in-law and he could barely exchange a word, yet they would often break out laughing together.

### Community involvement

Once settled in Saint-Siméon, Fred started doing research about various topics. He wrote long documents about the International Appalachian Trail including one, in 2009, that underlined questionable orientations and management flaws. He worked on that topic for half-a-dozen years before putting more emphasis on American politics, as Donald Trump was running for the United States’ presidency.

He also focused on regional stakes, including the cause of Anglo-Gaspésians. He joined the CASA and SPEC board of directors, and eventually became president of CASA’s board. He led his last annual general meeting on June 29, the day of the organization’s 50th anniversary celebration.

By then, he had grown physically weaker, the result of age and a heart condition that had required surgery in Quebec City in 2024. His voice was faint, but his mind remained remarkably sharp, as demonstrated by his last commentaries, “Trump cheats at golf” and “Trump’s unrelenting quest for glory.”

In fact, his declining physical state had sort of triggered an alarm and over the summer, he had accelerated the rate of his research, considering that the time left would be devoted to two things, reading and writing.

There will be no public ceremony or funeral for Fred Kirch. He was raised in a simple fashion by one of his grandmothers, after leaving the Amish community, and he wanted a simple departure.

At one point in 2026, members of the Caron family will go to sea, off the coast of Cloridorme and spread his ashes in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. This is what the former captain in the U.S. Navy, his first career before tackling law, wanted for his remains.

Thanks for everything, Fred.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am sure all our readers are familiar with the words of Fred Kirch in our recent issues of SPEC.

Fred recently passed away, but we are grateful that he had written several interesting commentaries that we shared with you all.

Fred served on the Board of SPEC, where he brought his experience as a former judge. He had recently stepped down, and we remain thankful for the guidance and perspective he provided during his time with us. He was also serving as President of the CASA Board of Directors.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers of Sea-Coast Publications, we extend our deepest condolences to his wife Marie-Josée, his family, his friends and his CASA family.

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# Gino Cyr seeks third term in Grande-Rivière

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE – First elected in 2017, Gino Cyr will seek a third term as mayor of Grande-Rivière in the November 2 election.

“There have been some great achievements. During my first term, we had investments of around \$14 million. During my second term, \$52 million. \$66 million and 60 projects completed,” says Mr. Cyr.

Such achievements have naturally increased the municipality’s debt service. As of December 31, the net debt stood at \$11 million.

“At the municipal level alone, that’s \$17 million in investments. In terms of debt, when compared to similar municipalities, we are below average. With the council, we have been able to carry out



Photo: N. Sergerie

*Gino Cyr to run for mayor of Grande-Rivière again.*

important projects,” says the mayor.

Among these achievements, the mayor points to the municipalization of the industrial park, a project that had been on the table since 1986.

The mayor also notes the water and sewer system, which connected 127 homes in Grande-Rivière-Ouest.

Looking ahead, the mayor says housing will be the central issue of the next term.

“It’s crucial. We commissioned a study by Raymond, Chabot, Grant, Thornton. We need 232 units. We are in the process of setting up a 24-unit intermediate housing project,” adds the elected official, pointing out that more details will be known once the official announcement is made.

The figure of 232 units may seem high, but it’s consistent with wider regional needs.

“In the MRC, there was talk of more than 400 housing units, and for Grande-Rivière, it was 232 units. We are working on a project with a new association,” stresses the mayor.

“We have a CEGEP,

ÉPAQ, at the residence level (a need to build a residence for students). At the municipal housing office, we have a waiting list of more than 100 names, with the arrival of the Innovation Hub. We are building 10 new residences per year. For a municipality of 3,500, we are not meeting the demand,” he said.

He wants seniors who are selling their homes to be able to stay in Grande-Rivière.

“There are also challenges in terms of local services. We have to maintain services. With an aging population, we want to maintain services,” said the elected official.

“We have a new dental clinic with young investors who are just out of school. We also want to have a veterinarian because people have to travel to Gaspé or Baie-des-Chaleurs to get service,” explains Mr. Cyr.

In the field of dentistry, a group of young professionals has launched a dental hygiene service, and the project is expected to expand.

“Within the family, there is someone studying to be a dentist. She is currently a shareholder in the clinic. As soon as she finishes her studies, she will be on site. We want to ensure that the service remains,” says the mayor, who also wants to attract a notary to the municipality.

For now, several names are circulating in the community as potential challengers to Gino Cyr.

“We’re hearing names, and we’ll see on October 3 if there will be any candidates, but personally, when I look at my track record and the situation in the town, I still want to work for the development of Grande-Rivière,” concludes the outgoing mayor.

# Sylvain Roy aims for Escuminac Town Hall

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

ESCUMINAC – Former Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Bonaventure from 2012 to 2022, Sylvain Roy is seeking a return to active politics, this time as mayor of Escuminac.

“It’s been three years since I left politics. I’ve decided to run for mayor of Escuminac. I feel very strongly about my community. It’s a small village at the beginning of Baie-des-Chaleurs that I want to help develop and use my experience and expertise to support,” the candidate told CHNC on September 17.

He chose to make the announcement on the air of that radio station, which has provided him a platform to comment on current events since his retirement from provincial politics.

When contacted afterwards to elaborate on his intentions, Mr. Roy confirmed that he would file his nomination paper on September 19, when the nomination period opens across the province.

For the moment, Mr. Roy is compiling the issues he wishes to bring to the table before presenting a platform for the November 2 election. The current mayor of Escuminac, Bruce Wafer, confirmed earlier in



*Sylvain Roy tries his luck at Escuminac Town Hall.*

Photo: N. Sergerie

2025 that he would not run for another mayoral term. He has been involved in municipal politics for close to 20 years.

Elected as a member of the Parti Québécois in 2012 and re-elected in 2014 and 2018, Sylvain Roy left the party on June 4, 2021, following a disagreement with its leader, Paul Saint-Pierre-Plamondon. He had finished second behind Liberal Party candidate Damien Arsenault in a fall 2011 poll held to find a successor for Nathalie Normandeau, who had retired from politics on September 6 of the same year.

He stated that “an event occurred that broke the bond of trust that existed between him and the leader of the Parti

Québécois.”

According to information circulating at the time, the FTQ’s criticism of the MNA to the party leader over Bill 59 on the modernization of the occupational health and safety law led Sylvain Roy to leave the caucus.

The former member of the National Assembly was the spark that led the Auditor General to look into the governance of the CISSS de la Gaspésie. The report severely criticized the organization.

Hunting and fishing issues also guided his political career during his 10 years in Quebec City.

During the 2018 election, Sylvain Roy also battled and overcame throat cancer.

# Chandler mayor satisfied with his term

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER – The mayor of Chandler, Gilles Daraïche is ending his first term in office with a sense of accomplishment.

That’s how the outgoing mayor reflected on his time in office during the September 15 public meeting, which marked his final opportunity to speak freely to the citizens.

“We had a great term. I promised to bring harmony back to Town Hall, which was lacking in the

four years before our term. The population needed harmony,” says the outgoing mayor, referring directly to the tumultuous term of former Mayor Louise Langlois.

The mayor recalls that Chandler had made national headlines, and citizens often expressed a sense of shame when mentioning the town.

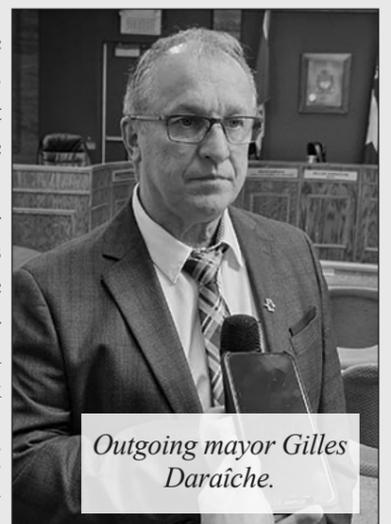
“It wasn’t pleasant for everyone. Now there is harmony. There is no more bickering. We are doing a lot with very little,” adds the mayor.

The elected official practiced an open-door policy. Mr. Daraïche emphasized the collaboration with councilors, the municipal administration, and workers employed by the town.

“We have to work together. That was a key point I wanted to make: harmony, collaboration, transparency, and integrity. I was present in all neighbourhoods. I did what I could,” points out the mayor.

Mr. Daraïche is seeking a second term. “I do it with all my heart,” concludes the elected official.

He will face at least one opponent: Dominique Giroux, who announced her intention to run in June. At that time, Giroux expressed her goal of improving services, though she did not yet define her campaign platform, opting instead to focus on working in harmony with all stakeholders involved.



*Outgoing mayor Gilles Daraïche.*

Photo: N. Sergerie

# Electoral map: Ottawa files its brief

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER – A significant milestone has been reached in the legal challenge brought by the Member of Parliament (MP) for Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj before the Federal Court of Appeal.

On February 21, the court upheld the abolition of the former riding of Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia.

The Attorney General has just filed his brief with the Court and Alexis Deschênes. Initially, the MP had indicated that he would take some time to read the Government of Canada's position before commenting, but he quickly changed his mind to avoid any misinterpretation by the court.

"The proceedings are continuing. We are now at the final stage of requesting a hearing and submitting our briefs. We have to do that within the next week," says

the MP.

Alexis Deschênes filed a brief in July, highlighting three main points: the law states that the riding must not be too large, that area must be a factor in the analysis, and that the electoral commission did not conduct a rational analysis in this regard.

"It is possible that we will have a hearing date at the end of 2025 or sometime in 2026," stresses Mr. Deschênes.

On February 21, Federal Court Judge Sébastien Grammond wrote in his 32-page decision that "the reasons given by the Commission to justify the elimination of the Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia riding were reasonable and consistent with the principle of effective representation developed by the Supreme Court. Indeed, relative parity of electoral power is its primary component. The Commission was aware of the issues related to the size of ridings in rural or re-

mote areas, but it was reasonable to conclude that these issues no longer justified the existence of a riding whose population was nearly 36% below the average population of Quebec ridings."

He further stated that "the Commission fully understood the legal principles governing its mission. It took into consideration the arguments presented to it during the public hearings. It accepted some of the suggestions made to it and modified the boundary between the proposed ridings of Rimouski-La Matapédia and Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj in order to respect the boundaries of the MRCs. However, it maintained its recommendation to eliminate the riding of Avignon-La Mitis Matane-Matapédia. Although the applicants disagree, this is a reasonable decision. I was not convinced that the Commission made the errors the applicants allege."

## Curiosity about the Matapédia-Les Plateaux merger

*Nelson Sergerie*

MATAPEDIA – On September 15, curiosity filled the air as approximately a hundred people gathered at the Rustico Club in Saint-Alexis-de-Matapédia for a discussion on the proposed merger between Matapédia and Les Plateaux.

"It was very interesting. People were interested. We are really pleased with the turnout," said Matapédia Mayor, Nicole Lagacé. People were able to ask questions or give their opinions on various issues that were raised.

"There was a bit of everything: questions about politics, political representation, the new name, what will happen at the administrative level. It was healthy for people to ask these questions," said Ms. Lagacé.

"People will be able to prepare to answer the questions asked on Monday evening (September 15)," she continued.

One of the main concerns for some residents is the potential impact on the identity of each community.

"Political representation received a lot of questions. Perhaps that goes hand in hand with identity," she noted.

However, Ms. Lagacé is cautious about drawing conclusions based on just one evening's event.

"People will continue to think about it, and I have the impression that they will be eager to take the next step this winter to explore the subject in greater depth. We sensed an openness to explore the subject further," explains Ms. Lagacé.

A consulting firm will compile the feedback from these ongoing meetings, and a report will be submitted in the spring. New municipal councils will then be tasked with making a decision.

A study outlining the potential advantages and disadvantages of the merger was also presented during the meeting. The document highlights potential financial benefits and the opportunity to strengthen territorial development. However, it also points to challenges related to political representation, local identity, and the transitional process.

# Passenger train return: Alexis Deschênes and Coalition to hold another event on October 11 in Matapédia

**GILLES GAGNÉ**

CARLETON – The mobilization to obtain the partial return of VIA Rail to Port Daniel continues, with a public rally scheduled for October 11 at Matapédia station, as Alexis Deschênes, Member of Parliament for Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj, recently announced in Carleton.

Mr. Deschênes is currently convincing fellow Bloc Québécois Members of Parliament to take part in the Saturday, October 11 event, scheduled for 9 a.m.

"I am not the only Member of Parliament (MP) affected by the fact that VIA Rail doesn't offer enough train frequency. A three-weekly train schedule is far from enough. So, I expect some colleagues to join me. The day before, I will take the train to get to my riding and invite other MPs to join me," explains Alexis Deschênes.

Although the train is scheduled to arrive in Matapédia shortly after 6 a.m., the rally itself will begin at 9 a.m.

Micheline Saint-Onge, spokesperson of the Coalition of Gaspésians for the return of

the passenger train, hopes that the citizens who are available that morning will come to Matapédia to express their support and put pressure on the public transporter.

"We are trying to organize a bus in order to encourage people to join us. I can't tell where that bus would leave to come to Matapédia. We would surely like it to start in Port-Daniel-Gascons or New Carlisle. We still have a bit of time to plan it. We ask people to look for details soon on our social media and media in general," explains Ms. Saint-Onge.

On September 12, the Coalition launched a document presenting all the major work carried out on the railway over close to a decade.

Alexis Deschênes and Micheline also made a follow-up on the September 6 major mobilization of 400 Gaspé residents at several stations between Matapédia and Gaspé.

Mr. Deschênes praised the Coalition's serious work regarding the 72-page comprehensive document inventorying the work carried out on the section between Caplan and Port-Daniel-Gas-



Photo: G. Gagné

Member of Parliament Alexis Deschênes and Micheline Saint-Onge of the Coalition for the Return of the Passenger Train recently held a press conference at Carleton's train station.

cons.

"This precise and well-illustrated document demonstrates the scope of the work carried out on the rail line. These large-scale projects now allow us to benefit from a refurbished infrastructure. After investing \$355 million in public funds, it would be unacceptable if this rail line were not also used for passenger transportation as quickly as possible," declared Alexis Deschênes.

The October 11 rally at the Matapédia train station is a way of "maintaining public

pressure on VIA Rail. It is one of the tools we have at our disposal to force the railway company to change its posi-

tion and finally commit to a partial return to Port-Daniel-Gascons," concluded MP Deschênes.





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# Paspébiac could replace its emergency unit

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PASPÉBIAC - The town of Paspébiac is analyzing the possibility of replacing its fire department bus.

The vehicle currently used as an emergency unit is nearing the end of its life, requiring significant investment, and is also outdated.

A notice of motion to this effect has been presented to the municipal council, proposing an expenditure of \$500,000 to acquire a new unit.

The refurbishment of the current vehicle is also being considered.

If the option to purchase a new vehicle is selected, the costs will be shared with the

four other members of the intermunicipal board, consisting of the municipalities of Hope, Hope Town, Saint-Godefroi and Shigawake.

"It's proportional to the population. I think we'll absorb 66% of the costs, with the other four municipalities covering 33%," says Paspébiac Mayor Marc Loisel.



Photo: N. Sergerie

## Gaspé: a new study for downtown

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Gaspé is commissioning an additional study to clearly define the future development of its downtown area.

This decision was made during the municipal council meeting on September 15, the penultimate meeting before the election period leading up to the November 2 vote.

Strong participation guided the future of the land vacated by the departure of the Ministry of Transport (MTQ) and possibly the arena, with 621 responses to a survey, 64 participants in various consultations, and 27 briefs submitted.

"We have proposals for a green space, an inclusive space, a space that can include sports, culture, housing—in short, a multi-purpose space," notes the Mayor of Gaspé Daniel Côté.

The town wants to take a broader view with a specific urban plan to completely rethink the future of the downtown area.

"We want to be consistent and coordinated with our other plans. This is a revitalization exercise that will be targeted at this sector," the mayor continues.

A more precise vision for downtown should be known by the end of next spring at the latest.

### No response for arena project

Gaspé has yet to receive any updates on the program that would allow the town to submit its arena project.

The mayor points out that the provincial government has allocated \$60 million for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

The elected official believed that the program

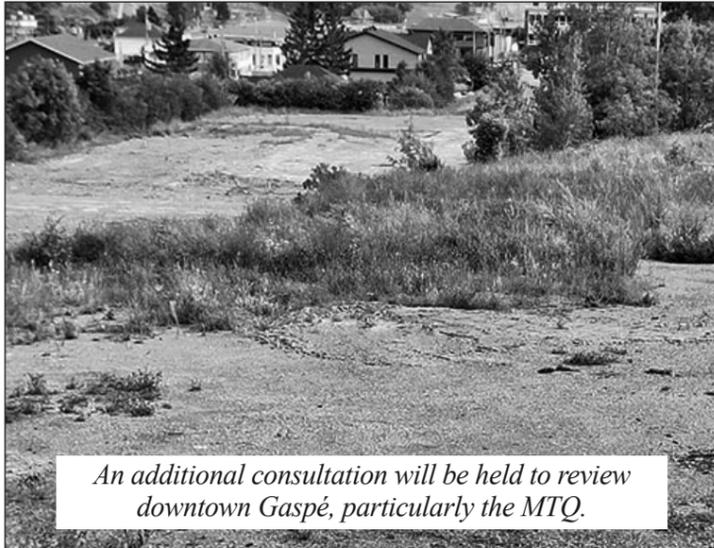


Photo: N. Sergerie

would be open for submissions at this time, with analysis this winter and announcements in the spring.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed that a program will be launched. A budget of \$60 million, based on the parameters of the latest PAFIRSPA, would cover three arenas in Quebec, but the needs are much greater than that," says the mayor, who hopes that the program will target large-scale projects, as there are several others for small projects.

### Hefty bill for waste management

The cost of waste collection in Gaspé will increase by 25% starting in September 2026 with a contract to a company with a head office in Quebec but whose administrators are in Ontario.

The cost for the first year will be \$2.8 million and will be indexed for the following four years. Another company had submitted a quote.

"The bill is shared in part with Éco entreprise Québec, which handles all recycling management, including collection and management. There will likely be an impact on citizens' rates," calculates the elected official.

Citizens can expect to see this impact starting in 2027.

Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd. is based in Montreal, but its executives, including CEO Danny Ardellini, are located in Aurora, Ontario. The mayor hopes that the collection issues experienced in recent years will improve under this new contract.

"We hope there will be fewer gaps. That wasn't the deciding factor in choosing the contractor. We don't have that latitude in Quebec. It's the lowest compliant bidder, according to a quote that was issued," the mayor points out.

### Participatory budget

The park project submitted by citizens on Patrice-Quenneville Street was selected as part of the 2025 participatory budget.

"There was a municipal lot that had been set aside to create a park. A citizens' committee developed a project that reflects the needs of the population. The park is exactly what people wanted," notes the mayor.

The park will be multi-generational and accessible, with a community garden inside. The \$160,000 project will receive \$100,000 in funding from the town, with the committee seeking addi-

tional funding from other partners.

"We hope that this project will be able to get off the ground as early as 2026," adds the mayor. The project received 2,660 points in the participatory vote.

Other projects submitted included the Douglas Recreation and Sports Area at the Douglastown Community Centre, a self-service sports equipment lending centre at the Griffon Cultural Centre, and the Plourde Mill Land Revitalization Plan, presented by the Rivière-au-Renard Seafood Capital Corporation.

The current council hopes the participatory budget process will continue, but the decision will be up to the new council that will take office in November.

### Paratransit will be transferred to the RégîM

Paratransit services on the Côte-de-Gaspé will be trans-

ferred to the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (RégîM).

"We are currently studying the merger. This is a decision made by the municipal council because there are always financial difficulties and there are ways to optimize services," notes the mayor, who is also president of the RégîM.

The Haute-Gaspésie and Baie-des-Chaleurs regions have already transferred their paratransit services to the Régie.

"Ultimately, it's less expensive and it strengthens the work teams. If an employee is on duty and gets sick, you can end up with a service disruption, whereas when you're part of a larger organization like RégîM, you have staff to fill in," notes Mr. Côté.

The council has approved a \$35,000 mandate to integrate transportation services into the RégîM.

## Dangerous Dog

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ—The Gaspé council has ruled that the dog responsible for attacking another dog will ultimately be euthanized.

After a notice was filed on September 2, the council made its final decision on September 15, as the animal's owner, Emmanuel Tapp, failed to come forward.

"This is not a purely political decision. We have expert opinions on the dangerousness of the animal that concluded it could be dangerous," says the mayor.

The incident occurred on July 17, when the dog, a Labrador mix, fatally injured a small dog.

The decision is based on regulations implementing a law aimed at promoting the protection of people through guidelines for dangerous dogs.

The owner had until September 24 to comply with the notice approved by the council. If the owner does not comply, the dog may be seized and euthanized, with all costs borne by the owner. As of September 25, the Town of Gaspé administration refused to make an update on the case, stating that the issue is now brought to judicial recourse, thus its refusal to comment on it.

# Rails now installed in Port Daniel tunnel

GILLES GAGNÉ

PORT DANIEL – An important step towards the resumption of railroad traffic east of New Richmond was made during the second week of September, when rails were re-installed in Port Daniel’s tunnel, located about a mile away from the Saint Mary’s Cement plant in the same town.

The last train to pass in the tunnel was the Amiral tourist train at the beginning of the summer of 2014. From the spring of 2015 and on, the railroad was put in a dormant state, a decision made by former Transports Québec minister Robert Poëti, when his ministry acquired the line from Matapédia to Gaspé.

That Liberal Party government decision was controversial considering that the Port Daniel cement plant was under construction at the time and was expected to become an important shipper for the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG).

The SCFG is a municipal entity that remained the freight transporter east of Matapédia after losing the property of the railroad due to financial problems that were made public at the end of November 2014.

When asked when traffic resumption will occur east of New Richmond, and specifically as far east as Port Daniel, the main source of freight between the two points, the director general of the SCFG, Luc Lévesque, stresses that a few steps must still be carried out.

“We have to make an inspection of all the structures repaired or rebuilt, the bridges and culverts for sure. We will also have a look at the stretches where the track was moved,” points out Mr. Lévesque.

The SCFG staff is waiting for the transfer of plans for all of the modified structures used by contractors selected by Transports Québec, most of the time following calls for tenders.

“We have not received those plans yet from Transports Québec, as far as I know,” adds Mr. Lévesque.

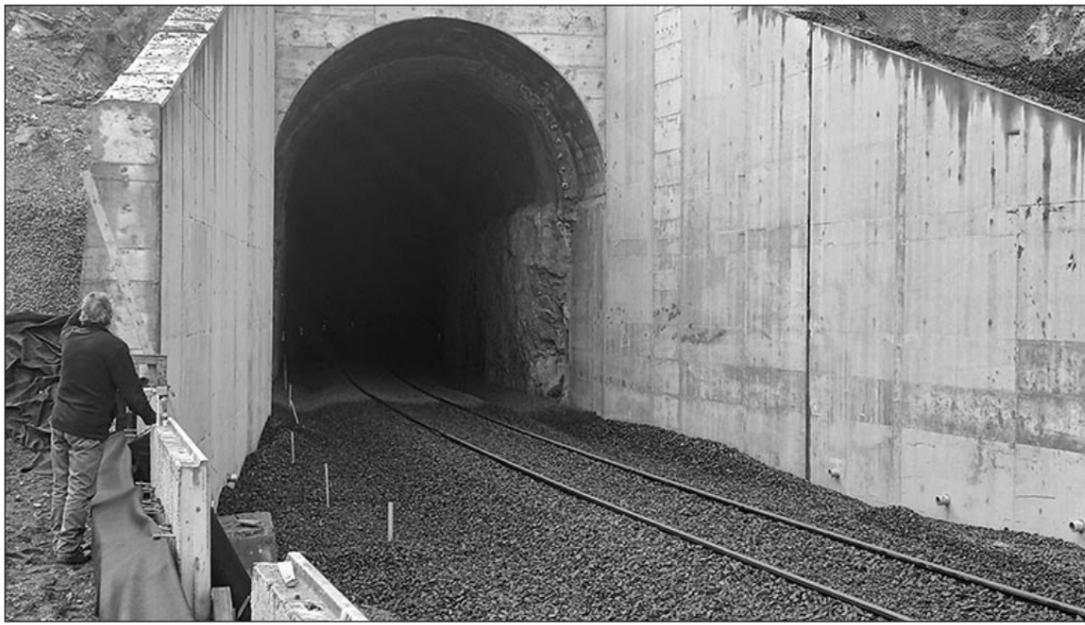


Photo: Gilles Gagné

Rails are now installed in the Port Daniel tunnel.

Most grade crossings located between New Richmond and Port Daniel have been inspected by Xrail, a firm that has been working in that field for years in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Luc Lévesque is uncertain about a date for traffic resumption between New Richmond and Port Daniel’s cement plant because he doesn’t control many factors, including the delivery of plans by Transports Québec. “It looks like November now,” he simply says.

Recently, Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Bonaventure, Catherine Blouin, stated that her government’s target was the end of October.

### Missed targets for eight years

All the targets have been missed since Quebec’s former Liberal Party premier, Philippe Couillard, committed to refurbishing the railroad between Matapédia and Gaspé, on May 5, 2017.

At the time, Mr. Couillard was talking about traffic resumption between Caplan and Port Daniel by 2020.

In April 2019, current premier François Legault said that it would take seven years to upgrade the line between Matapédia and Gaspé. In August of the same year, after repeating 2026 for the delivery of a refurbished railroad, he cut a year to the deadline when pressured by Gaspesian leaders refusing to accept

such a distant year.

However, Transports Québec has since repeatedly pushed the delivery date of the works allowing traffic resumption to Port Daniel, invoking all kinds of reasons, from coastal erosion to the complexity of certain calls for tenders.

As for the Port Daniel to Gaspé stretch of railway, some thorough repairs are underway from contracts signed in 2024, but other calls for tenders were simply cancelled due to their costs. Quebec’s Infrastructure Bureau, managing the province’s major infrastructure projects, decided following a provincial government decision, to go back to the drawing board in order to find ways to respect the \$872 million railway refurbishment budget announced in June 2023.

### Increasing cement traffic

Cement is currently loaded in ships and trucks at Saint Mary’s plant. Some of the cement loaded in trucks is transshipped to rail cars in New Richmond, thanks to the presence of an SCFG silo there.

In July, Canadian National Rail reconnected a huge silo located in Moncton to the railway, which led to an increase in cement loaded in New Richmond. The loading of cement in rail cars directly at the Port Daniel plant will also increase railway traffic at the cement plant as it will

Luc Lévesque expects to install a temporary pumping system at the Port Daniel cement plant in order to initiate the loading of cars before Saint Mary’s Cement’s new silo is ready.

“It is the system that used to be installed at Leclerc (Nouvelle) to complete loading cement cars before the replacement of the two Cascapédia-St. Jules bridges. It can be moved to Port Daniel and we will use it there. It can be connected to the plant’s silos,” he indicates.

Transports Québec had imposed a limit of ten loaded cement cars per week between 2017 and the end of 2020 on the old Cascapédia-St. Jules railway bridges due to their age.

eliminate transshipment in New Richmond. There is always a cost attached to transshipment.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Public notice to immovable owners and occupants of a business establishment

Polling date: November 2, 2025

By this public notice, Isabelle Vézina, the returning officer, announces the following to the owners of an immovable and the occupants of a business establishment.

1. You may have the right to vote if you are the owner of an immovable or if you are the occupant of a business establishment in the municipality since at least 45 days on November 2, 2025.
2. To have this right, you must be 18 years of age or older and be a Canadian citizen on polling day. You must not be under tutorship or deprived of your election rights on that date.
3. To exercise your voting right, you must submit the appropriate document:
  - If you are the sole owner of an immovable or sole occupant of a business establishment, you must submit an application for entry.
  - If you are one of the co-owners of co-occupants of an immovable or a business establishment, you must submit a power of attorney designating one person among you, who will be entered on the list.

To obtain the required form, contact the returning officer. Please send the completed form to the address provided below.

4. In order for the application to be valid for the current election, you must submit your form no later than October 16, 2025.

The application for entry on the list of electors or the power of attorney remains valid until it is replaced or withdrawn. If you want to replace or withdraw an existing application for entry or a power of attorney, please contact the returning officer.

### CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

25, rue Hôtel-de-Ville  
Gaspé Québec G4X 2A5  
(418) 368-2104 extension 8505

GIVEN at Gaspé, October 1, 2025.

Isabelle Vézina,  
Returning officer

**THEGASPESPEC.COM**

**418-752-5400**

**holly.smith@globetrotter.net**

# The CEGEP continues its work in Senegal

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

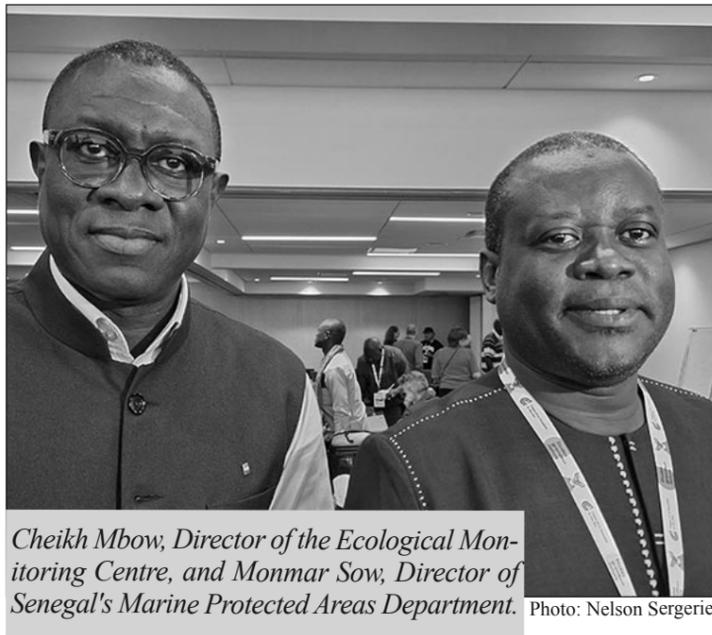
GASPÉ – Thanks to \$24.8 million in financial support from the federal government, the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles will continue its work in Senegal on an international cooperation project to train women and young people in sustainable economics in this African country.

This partnership with Senegal, which has been ongoing for more than 15 years, aims to develop food and entrepreneurial self-sufficiency.

The Professional Skills and Employability of Young People in the Environment (COPEJ) project aims to strengthen community resilience by integrating young people aged 15 to 34, along with women, into a sustainable, inclusive economic system that promotes adaptation to climate change.

It will be implemented in two biosphere reserves, the Senegal River Delta and the Saloum Delta.

The project will run for seven years and aims to address the threefold challenge facing Senegal: adapting coastal populations to climate change, combating poverty in rural areas, and promoting the socioeconomic integration of young people.



Cheikh Mbow, Director of the Ecological Monitoring Centre, and Monmar Sow, Director of Senegal's Marine Protected Areas Department. Photo: Nelson Sergerie

"It is the consolidation of professions related to the environment and the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. If this project is implemented successfully, it will lead to job creation in unexpected sectors," explains Monmar Sow, Director of Senegal's Community Marine Protected Areas Department.

The project will allow participants to identify specific skills and obtain qualifications, which is not currently possible.

The creation of micro-enterprises is also a target, with the goal of achieving an employability rate of 44%.

"We hope that the COPEJ project will make a significant contribution to increasing the

employability rate," says Mr. Sow.

The contribution of the Institut Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc will be important in the project in order to train people in targeted sectors such as yogurt or milk production and the processing of fruit, forest products, and seafood, particularly fresh oysters.

Three main areas are targeted: technical training for young women and men through two new training companies, which will be managed with an educational partner based in Senegal; the implementation of solutions promoting biodiversity restoration and adaptation to climate change in the Senegal River delta and Sa-

loum delta; entrepreneurship among young women and men in the fields of the blue and green circular economy.

"This skills-based approach remains, and it is this approach that COPEJ is using to overcome the difficulty of getting these professions recognized with recognized qualifications, which will increase product quality. These are concrete examples," continues Mr. Sow.

"I have often looked at the CEGEP's achievements in the field. There is no project that has not been designed with the communities to meet their needs and aspirations. The investments we make have several advantages, including sustaining activities and creating a collective dynamic. The CEGEP's achievements continue to flourish after the end of the project," says Cheikh Mbow, director of the Centre for Ecological Monitoring, on the college's involvement in Senegal for more than 15 years.

Since their collaboration began, it has been difficult to measure the progress made with concrete statistics.

"You have to see that these are processes. If you are interested in development, gradually, the CEGEP has created an office. The scope of activities in the field is diverse, but there is a focus on resource conservation," said Mr. Sow.

"There has been a gradual strengthening of governance frameworks and women's workspaces. In the beginning, the natural resource conservation chain was strategic," adds Mr. Sow, referring to interventions in the Saloum Delta in a development effort that has been ongoing for 10 years.

"But the work is not finished. That's why this COPEJ project complements the whole thing. Why? Because we don't have a diploma. That's where COPEJ's work will be interesting," concludes Mr. Sow.

"It's really the most successful project so far. It brings together all the elements that have been successful in past years. We are happy to have a more sustainable project with greater impact," says Éric Couillard, director of continuing education at the CEGEP.

For the CEGEP, this project will also increase opportunities for student and teacher mobility through international cooperation in various fields of study.

"As the project evolves, there will be networking and co-construction where our young people will have a real impact in the community and participate. It's a great experience for them to do internships to put what they've learned in their study programs into practice," says Mr. Couillard.

## A university branch in Gaspésie gets underway

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

RIMOUSKI - Announced in 2022 with \$1.3 million in funding from the Quebec government, the Université of Québec à Rimouski's (UQAR) branch in Gaspésie is taking shape with the hiring of two professors.

The hirings were officially announced internally on September 15. "The first two in a series we hope to make. We have Jim Cabot, who arrived in Baie-des-Chaleurs, and Hélène Durocher in Gaspé," notes Julien Lambrey de Souza, director of continuing education and off-campus services at UQAR.

"UQAR has a university branch in the Gaspé Peninsula, and since this announcement, we have been working very hard with the university community. We were already present with the training programs we were launching, but it was always in response to a need identified in the community. Now, what we want to do is be

there for college students so they can pursue university studies without having to move away and continue to reduce the exodus," says the director, noting that those who leave the Gaspé Peninsula do not always return.

Professors will be able to develop partnerships with organizations. "It's much more effective if they're on site," continues Mr. Lambrey de Souza.

The branch's initial mandate is to offer training in four priority areas: education, health, social services, and administration. "From there, a mobilization took place and positions began to be posted in various departments of the university," says Mr. Lambrey de Souza.

Additional positions are being posted, including one in nursing and one administrative role; one administrative position has already been filled.

Training will be offered according to the programs. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing is offered in a hybrid format,

with in-person classes held in laboratories at the Gaspé campus of the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles. Other programs are structured based on training needs and pedagogical considerations.

"When classes are in person, we collaborate with our partners in the community, in our branches, to welcome students and create a university life," says the director.

However, there is no question of creating a campus based on the existing model in Lévis.

"That's not what we're looking for. The goal is to meet the needs of the communities. We don't necessarily want to build for the sake of building. That's why we have partnerships in the community, especially with the CEGEP in the first place, especially in these times when budgets are more limited," he says.

In terms of attendance, the university has not set strict targets, focusing instead on accessibility while maintaining minimum thresholds to allow small cohorts to start.

### The two professors' backgrounds

Originally from Gaspé, Jim Cabot-Thibault graduated from UQAR with a bachelor's degree in secondary education (mathematics), a master's in education, a DESS in school administration, and began doctoral studies. His master's thesis examined the effects of learning chess on the spatial skills of junior high students.

From 2014 to 2025, Mr. Cabot-Thibault held various roles in special education and educational management within the Quebec Ministry of Education and the René-Lévesque School Service Centre. He recently resumed doctoral studies at UQTR, focusing on the educational success of students with disabilities or learning difficulties (EHDAA) in regular classrooms.

"Our region deserves to have a university offering. It will meet the needs for initial and continuing education. The context is excellent," notes the

professor.

Hélène Durocher, a specialist in bullying in nursing, joins UQAR as a professor of nursing. She holds a doctorate and a master's in nursing from the Université de Montréal and focused her thesis on the theoretical co-construction of bullying situations within nursing practice in Quebec.

Her research interests include health promotion in socially vulnerable contexts, environmental health, primary care, quality of care, and health ethics. Before joining UQAR, Ms. Durocher worked for nearly 18 years in clinical and youth rehabilitation settings and also taught at Université de Montréal.

For Ms. Durocher, joining UQAR's branch in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands is an immense privilege. She hopes to actively contribute to training nursing students to strengthen community resources. Her approach to research emphasizes field-based collaboration to ensure results are practical and meaningful.

# Towards another record-breaking tourist summer

**NELSON SERGERIE**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

**GASPÉ** - The 2025 summer tourist season could set a new attendance record. Preliminary data released on September 3 by Tourisme Gaspésie shows positive visitor turnout.

"We had higher occupancy rates in June and July. We expect August and September to be very, very good months," notes Tourisme Gaspésie Director Joëlle Ross.

According to data from Tourisme Québec, the number of occupied units in June was up 6% compared to 2024, setting a new record. In July, despite a slight slowdown at the beginning of the month, occupied units still showed a 5% increase compared to the previous year, also reaching a historic high. Official occupancy rates for August are not yet available.

However, a survey conducted by Tourisme Gaspésie among accommodation es-



Photo: Tourisme Gaspésie, Mathieu Dupuis

*The Carleton-sur-Mer marina.*

tablissements reveals that a higher proportion of them report being "almost full" or "full" than during the same period in 2024.

"Sometimes, it feels like it's full. But in July, the occupancy rate was 79%. So there's still room in Gaspésie," notes Ms. Ross.

Booking remains the key word, as people often have the impression that there's still room outside of the con-

struction holiday period. "It's very important to book, especially to have options and the places where you really want to stay," recommends the director.

With accommodation supply having stabilized, the region is seeing renewed growth in occupancy. "In recent years, units have been added, which caused the occupancy rate to fluctuate. But this year, we don't have more

units. They're fuller than before," explains Ms. Ross.

The majority of establishments surveyed say they are satisfied with the season to date.

The large proportion of clientele remains from Quebec. "It's possible that our Quebec profile will increase a little given all the Quebecers who haven't been to the United States. Americans weren't a large percentage of our visitors. It's about 3% over a full year. Losing the United States isn't a major issue, but attracting Quebecers who used to go to the United States is important," she says. The development of Ontario (markets), but especially the Maritimes, a local clientele, will allow for a longer season.

September and October look promising so far. "Things are looking very good. It's always the temperature that plays a role in these months. The most difficult period is between when the leaves fall and the snow ar-

rives. The landscape is one of the major attractions, and that's what influences the fall clientele," says Ms. Ross.

The Farmers' Almanac predicts a snowy and cold winter, which could be good for the winter tourism season, even though the last one went well despite the lack of snow.

"It's still a good number of overnight stays, better than ever before. Snowmobiling is definitely a big part of it, and we'll hope for snow," hopes the director.

The full report on the 2025 summer season will be presented in November at the Gaspésie Tourism Industry Symposium, which will be held this year in Carleton-sur-Mer.

For the period from May to September 2024 inclusively, Tourisme Gaspésie estimated the number of visitors at more than 679,000, a 2% increase over 2023, with economic spinoffs of \$427 million, which represented an increase of 6%.

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## SPEC turns 50: 1985, ten years of publication

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – Forty years later, 1985 looks like a “back to normal” period, after the hard times of the 1980-1983 span, marked by a severe recession, and after 1984, a year of festivities still tainted by the uncertainty deriving from the previous economic slump. Most anglophones were also relieved to see the electoral loss of the Parti Québécois.

**Vol 11, No 1  
January 8, 1985**

• In SPEC’s first issue, two first-page articles are linked, as readers learn that the Bonaventure MRC mayors favour, following a vote of 12 to 3, the town of Bonaventure for the location of a Baie-des-Chaleurs CEGEP campus. However, an announcement made in Gaspé on December 17 confirms that Carleton gets the nod. Also on page 1, a “Study shows (that) MRC Avignon (is the) poorest of the poor” in the region. A fourth title, “VIA service under study” mentions that the through Montreal-Gaspé train, re-implemented on May 29, 1983, will be assessed an additional year by the Railway Transport Commission, even if VIA Rail at last opted to continue it permanently. Inside, “Alliance Quebec study reveals declining population of anglophones” mentions that the English-speaking population reduction has accelerated between 1976 and 1981, compared to 1966-1976. Historian Ken Annett runs a long article about the Tuzo family.

**Vol 11, No 2  
January 15, 1985**

• In the January 15 issue of SPEC, “Golden opportunity produces faint glimmer”, readers see that a proposal from

French parents to rent space at New Carlisle High School is well received by a fair number of anglophone parents, but not by most teachers, who fear a loss of cultural identity. “New Richmond gets boot from MRC” reports on the mayors’ decision to kick New Richmond out of the administrative board because mayor Jean-Marie Jobin refuses to commit to his town remaining part of the MRC. “CEGEP demonstrators reroute buses”, “Liberals choose delegates for convention”, “New Richmond Juniors to Provincials in Curling”, “No transfers involved at Quebec Tel” (Telephone) and “Sewage plan on hold” in New Carlisle are the other page 1 titles.

**Vol 11, No 3  
January 22, 1985**

• “Seniors subject to study”, “CLSC Val Rosier aims to improve service to Anglos” and “Underwater Hydro Cable to Magdalen Islands” make the front-page titles of January 22 issue of SPEC. The study on seniors will examine health care, finance, CLSCs, volunteer agencies and long-term care. The Val Rosier CLSC, a name that was eventually dropped, was serving the Corner of the Beach to Anse-à-Val-leau sector. The underwater Hydro cable was planned for 1988.

**Vol. 11 No 4  
January 29, 2025**

• “Gymnix prepare for Eastern Quebec Games” about the upcoming winter games in Amqui, “SOI program teaches intelligence”, pertaining to a guidance program offered at Bonaventure Polyvalent School, and “Request refused due to lack of space”, which means that francophones will not go to New Carlisle High



*Crystal Duguay, daughter of Kenneth and Sarah Duguay of Shigawake meets Gerard D. Levesque.*

School, are the front-page titles. A photo also shows Kimberley Flowers, 13, who has won \$100,000 with a Loto Québec scratch ticket. Inside, readers see that “New Richmond continues battle for CEGEP”.

**Vol 11, No 5  
February 5, 1985**

• The February 5, 1985, featured front-page headlines including “Gaspé (Coast) mail re-routed (to Mont-Joli) because of Campbellton dispute”, “Smelt fishing sport enjoyed by hundreds” in Miguasha, “William Court celebrates 105th birthday”, a classic follow up for the SPEC, and “Simulated air crash at Gaspé airport”. Inside, a photo-caption mentions that four CN employees, Gilbert Coull, Hayden Sams, Bill MacWhirter and Keith Vibert, at Gaspé’s motive power shop are honoured for their safety record. “Fire destroys local business” reports on the destruction of Magasin Touzel, a large clothing store in Barachois. A “Committee studies highway construction delay” relates to the reconstruction planning woes of the Oak Bay to Nouvelle West road, one of the most dangerous stretches of Gaspé roads.

**Vol 11, No 6  
February 12, 1985**

• In SPEC’s February 12, 1985, issue, the headline “Fequet murder trial expected to last three weeks” reported that a Lower North Shore resident, Louis Fequet, 19, is charged with the murder of Odille Lemay, a nurse. The trial is taking place in New Carlisle. “MP Gray dinner guest of Chamber of Commerce” in New Carlisle, “Tower to provide CBC” for Wakeham, York and Sunny Bank, and “Commissioners hear Bill 3 summary” make the other headlines. Bill 3 is a new education bill replacing bill 57, slated to reduce the power of school boards across Quebec.

**Vol. 11 No 7  
February 19, 1985**

• In SPEC’s February 19, 1985, issue 7, the main title, “VIA to make changes in Gaspé” deals with VIA Rail’s decision to merge the Chaleur and Atlantic trains between Montreal and Matapedia, where they are separated. The decision will be effective on June 1. “New Business and employment committee formed” informs readers that CASA put up an organization to provide

employment and business support to anglophones. It is chaired by Diane Sawyer. “Telephone service to offer information” about education opportunities and “All schools must offer religious instruction choice next year” are the other page 1 titles.

**Vol. 11 No 8  
February 26, 1985**

• The February 26, 1985, issue 8, featured “Fequet sentenced to four years on manslaughter conviction” makes the headline of SPEC. Louis Fequet, now 20, admitted in writing having killed nurse Odille Lemay on July 22, 1984. The verdict was rendered by a jury on February 22 in New Carlisle. The slaying had occurred in Old Fort, Lower North Shore. “Wakeham-York Carnival a major success” and “New Carlisle winter carnival” are the other page 1 titles.

**Vol 11, No 9  
March 5, 1985**

• In SPEC’s March 5, 1985, issue 9, the front page led with “Order of Canada for Gaspé MP” reports on Charles-Eugène Marin’s recognition for his role in the region’s health care. In “Harrison Home continues to provide home for seniors despite obstacles”, Sharon McCully presents a long feature about the home active for 14 years in St. Jules. “Invest, it’s time”, “Peter Campbell selected 6th personality of the year” in New Richmond, “A portrait of Percé Rock 225 years ago”, “Heard of any good tax return lately” and “Forum on family policy” are the other main titles.

**Vol. 11, No 10  
March 12, 1985**

• In the March 12 issue,

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Lynden Bechervaise named to board of Canadian Sail Training Association” and Newport fish plant workers demonstrate in Montreal” are the two headlines. Mr. Bechervaise’s nomination is notably linked to his involvement in the Loyalist 200 sailboat project. The fish plant controversy stems from the fact that Pêcheries Cartier, created by the federal government to acquire four plants, still has not rehired workers, weeks from the season start. A picture shows an ice sculpture created during the New Carlisle Carnival. Inside, Ken Annett retraces the history of the Beebe family.

**Vol. 11 No 11  
March 19, 1985**

- In SPEC’s March 19, 1985, issue 11, the front page led with “Hello Brian...” mentioning that a phone call to prime minister Brian Mulroney is part of the strategy of Newport’s fish plant workers who are still in the dark about their rehiring, three weeks before fishing season starts. “Crown to appeal Fequet sentence, verdict” deals with Louis Fequet’s trial result, a verdict of manslaughter and four years of prison, rendered in February. “Provincial grant to Gaspé centre town” mentions a \$750,000 sum to upgrade the business area. “TNB company tours region” is the other page 1 title. Meanwhile, Lionel J. Boudreau writes “Recollections: the railways of the Gaspé Coast”.

**Vol 11. No 12  
March 26, 1985**

- In the March 26, 1985, issue 12, the lead story, “Solution sought to senior housing project” makes the headline because there is an acute shortage of seniors’ residences between Cap-Chat and Chandler, including Gaspé. “Protestors block road at Newport” reports on a March 21 demonstration held by 150 of Newport’s 369 Pêcheries Cartier plant workers who are waiting for a job. “Alliance Quebec representative visits Gaspé Coast”, “Proposed VIA schedule for Gaspé”, “Gaspé Liberals start campaign”, “St. Pat’s celebrations in St. Jules and Douglastown”, “School enrolment stable for next year”, “Gaspé wharf given go-ahead” and “Magdalen Is-

lands horse provides background for children’s tale” are the other page 1 titles. The Gaspé wharf reconstruction’s necessity had been identified in 1983.

**Vol 11. No 13  
April 2, 1985**

- In “Young people plead for jobs”, published on April 2, Sharon McCully attended a New Richmond meeting regrouping 38 English-speaking youths aged 16 to 30. The message: they want to work in the area. In “Step project for homecoming festival”, we learn that a summer theatre employment program has been approved. It is sponsored by the Wakeham-York Homecoming Committee. “Farmers show confidence in QFA” presents the positive impact the Quebec Farmers Association has had in region’s auctions.

**Vol 11. No 14  
April 9, 1985**

- In SPEC’s April 9, 1985, issue 14, the front page led with “Military tragedy claims Gaspesian”, reports on Kevin G. Kennedy, of Douglastown, died when two Canadian Forces Hercules cargo planes touched in mid-air near Edmonton. “Fish plant workers launch hunger strike” deals with recent development, or lack thereof, regarding Newport’s fish plant. “Radio Gaspésie expanding coverage area” and “CBC welcomes regional input” are the other main titles.

**Vol. 11 No 15/16  
April 23, 1985**

- The April 23, 1985, issue 15 (numbered 16) updated readers on the Newport fish plant hunger strike with “Hunger strikers experience headache, fatigue” provides an update on the Newport fish plant workers’ decision to fast, in the cafeteria of the Pêcheries Cartier facility, as they still don’t know if they will work over the fishing season. “Eastern Quebec shows 50% increase in highway deaths”, also appears on page 1. The data includes Lower Saint Lawrence’s results. A picture shows the “Gaspé Figure Skating Club”. Inside, readers learn that Pierre Nadeau, found guilty of murder without pre-

meditation for the 1981 shooting of Nouvelle’s Marc Francoeur, entered a plea of guilty to a reduced charge of manslaughter. He now has two years less a day to serve in prison, instead of six. His original sentence was 10 years.

**Vol 11. No 17  
April 30, 1985**

- In the April 30, 1985, issue readers see “West Hill High Band tours Coast”, about an internationally acclaimed band, “Maria band to ask for new salmon quotas” following a short-term Quebec government plan to phase out aboriginal salmon fishing, and “Looking for an apartment?”, make the front-page. The apartment topic shows the first movement of Murdochville towards Gaspé. Over two days, four sections of buildings traveled on road 198; 84 units were moved during that first operation, due to the mining activities reduction.

**Vol 11. No 18  
May 7, 1985**

- “Re-organization of roads department raises questions” is the main headline of SPEC’s May 7 issue, number 18. It pertains to Quebec’s Transport ministry, and could mean less jobs for Gaspé, but more for New Carlisle. “Religious option reflects needs of society” covers a future education orientation giving parents choices, including that of moral instruction only. “Micmacs offer alternative school to reserve children”, “CASA fiddling contest” (won by Gérard Durette of Gaspé), “A Vondenvelden vignette”, “Les Petis ballets de New Carlisle featured in concert” and New Carlisle Chamber of Commerce celebrates first year” are the other page 1 titles.

**Vol 11. No 19  
May 14, 1975**

- The SPEC celebrates 10 years of publication in its May 14 issue, number 19, through showing its first front page, dated May 14, 1975. The other main titles are “Suspicious fire destroys CHNC building”, “Major employment project for Newport”, “Cable for Gaspé”, “Business information session, a success” and “The role of re-

gional press examined”.

- The CHNC fire destroyed the Paspebiac radio transmitter. Newport’s employment project pertains to forestry and tourism, an attempt to ease the uncertainty linked to Pêcheries Cartier’s plant. Inside, New Carlisle’s Alberta Thompson, a mother of 14 children, turns 98. Sharon McCully also signs “SPEC fulfills objectives set 10 years ago”.

**Vol 11. No 20  
May 21, 1985**

- In SPEC’s 20th issue, dated May 21, “Crime rate decreases in Region 01” reports a 13.36% rate fall, but data also includes Lower Saint Lawrence, part of Region 01. “Nine jobs eliminated with new CN system” explains that the implementation of the “manual block communication system” leads to those upcoming June 1 layoffs. “Lobster fishermen will have another good year”, despite a small price reduction. “Road construction map still under discussion” gives an idea that determining the place highway 132 will pass between Oak Bay and Nouvelle is difficult.

**Vol 11. No 21  
May 28, 1985**

- “Gaspé MP Marin loses two members of riding executive” and “PCB spill discovered following inter-provincial delivery” are headlines of SPEC’s 21st issue of 1985, dated May 28. The spill was caused by out-dated Hydro-Québec trans-

formers transiting by truck between the Magdalen Islands and Rimouski. A picture and caption show New Carlisle kindergarten children picking dandelions.

**Vol. 11 No 22  
June 4, 1985**

- SPEC’s June 4 issue, number 22, carries the “Social services under investigation” headline. The administrative process covers the whole Region 01, including the Gaspé Peninsula. “Local clergyman names cardinal” mentions that Edouard Gagnon, a Port Daniel native, was elevated to cardinal on April 27, in Rome.

**Vol 11. No 23  
June 11, 1985**

- The June 11, 1985, issue celebrated SPEC’s 10th anniversary with the single front-page title, “SPEC is 10 years old” The issue highlighted an event held three days earlier marking the milestone. CBC was on hand then. Six pictures are showing staff and guests. Inside, Art Campbell runs another “Nature Corner” column, which he started a few months prior to that. His immense knowledge of birds is put to good use.

**Vol 11. No 24  
June 18, 1985**

- “MRC applying the letter or



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the logic of the law” makes the main title of SPEC’s 24th issue of 1985, dated June 18. It deals with the MRCs’ obligation to enforce some responsibilities received from the Quebec government. “Hope for NCHS French immersion fading” represents the end of a debate initiated at year’s dawn. “Beaudin sweeps Liberal convention” informs readers that André Beaudin will represent that party in the Gaspé riding, after ousting Lewis Fitzpatrick. “BT to be sprayed on local woodlots” explains that a biological insecticide will be used to control spruce budworm.

**Vol 11. No 25  
June 25, 1985**

- In SPEC’s issue 25, dated June 25, “De-indexing of (Canada) pensions alarms seniors” and “Fishermen want justice” are the main headlines. The Progressive Conservative government will index pensions only when the cost of living increases by 3% or more. The second article deals with fishermen wanting to fish everywhere in a large zone, instead of only in the subzone where their permit was acquired. A picture-caption combo mentions that the Topaz, a New Zealand sailboat, calls at Paspebiac, where she joins the Loyalist 200 event.

**Vol 11. No 26  
July 2, 1985**

- “Bill 3 declared unconstitutional” crowns the front-page of SPEC’s July 2 issue, number 26. The Superior Court sidelines a bill that would have replaced Protestant and Catholic school boards by English and French school boards. In “Shigawake council dispute unresolved”, readers learn that a court decision is awaited to determine if employee Rolande Beebe could revoke her decision to resign before the municipal council’s acceptance. “New administration for Auberge Fort Prevel” is the other big front-page title. However, “As we go to press” reveals that Progressive Conservative finance minister Michael Wilson has rescinded his promise to de-index pensions.

**Vol 11. No 27  
July 9, 1985**

- Media takes a lot of space in SPEC’s number 27, dated July 9. “CHNC strikers invade M.P.’s office” features radio station workers who occupied Darryl Gray’s riding offices to express their frustration after two-and-a-half years of strike. “CBC radio: reaching out to the Gaspé” explains the public broadcaster’s decision to add a late afternoon show based in Quebec City instead of Montreal. “ATV prospects brighten in Barachois area” reports on the Gaspé South Telecasting Syndicate efforts to get the ATV signal to the Barachois to Saint-Georges area, including Bougainville.

**Vol 11. No 28  
July 16, 1985**

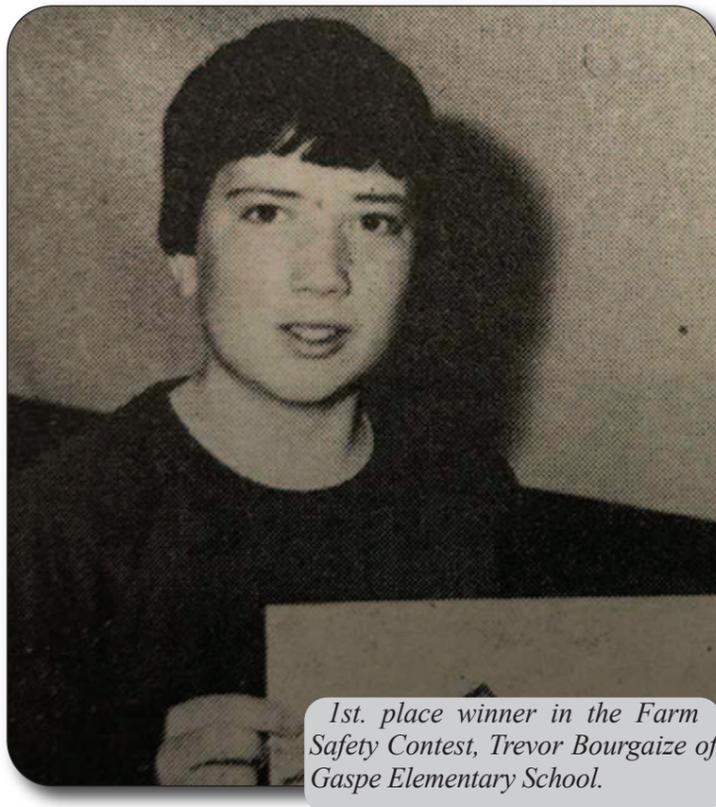
- In SPEC’s issue 28, dated July 16, “CLSC-CSS amalgamation: changing roles for social services”, we learn that anglophones fear that the new way to offer community and social services will leave them in the cold. “Loyalist Village plans progressing” unveils many aspects of the New Richmond project, including an upcoming feasibility study. “Community unites to retain CN station” reports on the mobilization undertaken by the citizens of Barachois, Saint-Georges, Bougainville and Bridgeville to save the Barachois station.

**Vol 11. No 29  
July 23, 1985**

- “Inauguration of the Frederica Giroux building”, which pertains to the downtown Gaspé federal building, worth \$2.456,000, and “Fauvel Golf expanding to 18 holes”, a design by Wade Gifford, are the front-page titles of SPEC’s July 23 issue, number 29. A picture-caption shows that big trees were snapped by a July 16 storm in New Carlisle.

**Vol 11. No 30  
July 30, 1985**

- “Telephone story has strange ring” caps page 1 of SPEC’s issue 30, released on July 30. An investigation tries to shed light on a calling card use of former Gaspé riding Member of Parliament Alexandre Cyr after he lost the September 1984 election. The calls originated from offices of the



*1st. place winner in the Farm Safety Contest, Trevor Bourgaize of Gaspé Elementary School.*

newly elected Progressive Conservative Party government. “Pêcheries Cartier up for sale” reports of the federal government decision to sell its four plants. Other page 1 titles are “Tourism report”, “Inauguration of N.C. apartments” in New Carlisle, “St. Pat’s reunion”, about Chandler’s school, and “Local youth to become page”, presenting New Richmond’s Ward Branch.

**Vol 11. No 31  
August 6, 1985**

- “New group home for juveniles” in Restigouche is the biggest title of SPEC’s issue 31, dated August 6. The new home will allow youths, often young offenders, to stay in the community instead of being sent elsewhere. “New Carlisle road to be constructed” reports on the project to rebuild highway 132 between New Carlisle West and Paspebiac West. A picture-caption combo shows salmon anglers on the Cascapedia river. Inside, Sharon McCully runs her second article entitled “Quebec’s welcome mat in need of mending”, where she plays a unilingual tourist trying to find English services between New Richmond and Gaspé.

**Vol 11. No 32  
August 13, 1985**

- “Prov leaders open \$15 million plant” covers the August 10 opening of Newport’s new fish processing plant, called Société des pêches de Newport. Premier René Lévesque is on

hand. It will be one of his last public events in that role, as a Parti Québécois leadership race is taking place, as shown by the other front-page title, “Pierre Marc Johnson tours region in bid for leadership race”. Inside, readers learn that Fleurant’s Point William Court, the oldest Gaspesian, died on August 6, at age 105. Californian Paul Asmuth won the Grande Anse-Paspebiac 14-mile swimming race again, ahead of Argentinian Claudio Plitt.

**Vol 11. No 33  
August 20, 1985**

- In SPEC’s issue 33, dated August 20, “Inauguration of Battle of the Restigouche Historic Site” makes the headline, as the park located in Pointe-à-la-Croix provides a look at the last attempt by France to reconquer Quebec. “Local man to turn pro boxer” presents New Richmond’s Richard Hardy’s decision to box. “RSBG tables ’85 budget” presents the capital budget of the Regional School Board of Gaspesia.

**Vol 11. No 34  
August 27, 1985**

- “First Gaspé pull – roaring success” makes the headline of SPEC’s August 27, issue 34. The “pull” involves categories of vehicles engaged in a tug-of-war, based on their motor’s capacity. “Concert hall recommended” for New Richmond is another major page 1 title. “P.Q. candidates meet in Rimouski is a reminder that a

provincial election is coming. Inside, “Shigawake Fair improves with age” reports on the latest event. Consolidated Bathurst also celebrates the 20th anniversary of the New Richmond mill.

**Vol 11. No 35  
September 3, 1985**

- “P.Q. outlines voting procedure” tops issue 35, dated September 3, as the Parti Québécois leadership race will crown a new premier to replace retiring René Lévesque. “New Richmond Agriculture Fair a huge success”, “Gaspé to seek Toyota plant” and CASA’s “Business committee has full slate” are the other front-page titles. A picture shows a Paspebiac couple, Simone Horth and Pierre-Aimé Duguay, who won \$1,063,434 on Lotto 6/49.

**Vol 11. No 36  
September 10, 1985**

- In SPEC’s issue 36, released on September 10, “Gulf Company gets school board contract” reports on the Regional School Board of Gaspesia’s decision to fill up its 11 buses at Gulf service stations. It raises the ire of independent owners. The decision was based on Gulf offering a 4% discount, higher than Irving and Shell. “\$215,000 invested in Auberge Honguedo”, based in Maria, and a picture-caption of an elephant race on Gaspé’s main street also take some front-page space. Inside, New Richmond’s “Ward Branch (is) chosen as House of Commons page”.

**Vol 11. No 37  
September 17, 1985**

- In SPEC’s 37th issue, dated September 17, “Good news and bad news to Gaspesians, Sharon McCully reports on the Canadian Transport Commission’s decision to close seven VIA Rail stations in the Gaspé Peninsula, Saint-Alexis, Maria, Cross Point, Cascapedia, Caplan, Saint-Siméon and Saint-Godefroi. The Barachois station will remain open though. “Local girl enters Canada Quality Teen pageant” explains how Lisa McGregor,

of York, was selected for that pageant, after being chosen Miss Gaspé County Fair. “Hydro cable to connect Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Chandler” mentions that the project has entered its second development stage. Inside, readers are informed that CHNC’s 34-month strike, the longest in Canadian broadcasting history, is about to end after mediators’ interventions.

**Vol 11. No 38  
September 24, 1985**

- “BPS technicians course produces scholarship student” reports on Mannis Rooney, a Bonaventure Polyvalent automotive technician program, who earned a \$500 scholarship handed out by the American company Fel-Pro, a manufacturer of gaskets and sealants. In the same issue 38, dated September 24, Sharon McCully presents “The future of SPEC”, where she draws a worrying picture of the regional media, following interest shown by a New Brunswick newspaper in acquiring it. A picture shows children using New Carlisle High School’s playground.

**Vol 11. No 39  
October 1, 1985**

- “SPEC approaches new era” makes the main title of SPEC’s October 1 issue. Outgoing president Normand Desjardins sums up the context by saying that “SPEC is in the adolescent stage, complete with periods of insecurity, questioning and frequent identity crises”. The other page 1 title, “Michael Goldbloom addresses CASA AGM”, reports on the president of Alliance Quebec visit to New Carlisle, praising CASA for its leadership in its approach to the issues related to anglophones. Inside, Ken Annett runs “The Loyalist Settlements on the Gaspé Peninsula”.

**Vol 11. No 40  
October 8, 1985**

- In SPEC’s issue 40, dated October 8, Engelhard-Troy

wedding commands wide interest” provides details of the Charlene Engelhard wedding to American singer John Troy, at Cascapedia river’s Lorne Cottage, owned by the Engelhard for 30 years. “Quebec youngsters eating poorly” and Liberal Party leader Robert “Bourassa promises justice for all in Quebec” during his Bonaventure visit are the other front-page titles.

**Vol 11. No 41  
October 15, 1985**

- “Bourassa tours Gaspé region” makes the headline of SPEC’s issue 41, dated October 15. It follows up on the previous week’s article, as Robert Bourassa prepares the upcoming election by talking about fisheries. In “New Richmond hosts second annual track and field meet”, Sharon McCully writes mainly about the human side of the meet that involved the participation of 300 students, notably the long trip of the Magdalen Islanders. Another Lower North Shore murder trial takes place in New Carlisle, that of Mutton Bay’s Riley Mansbridge, charged with the slaying of his wife.

**Vol 11. No 42  
October 22, 1985**

- In SPEC’s issue 42, dated October 22, “Girls have right to abortion without parental consent” reports on a largely unknown part of the law. “Quebec regions falling behind provinces in French immersion” presents a situation expressed at the Canadian Parents for French Whitehorse convention. “Riley Mansbridge sentenced to life imprisonment” reports on the conclusion of the Mutton Bay trial. “Henri Lemay seeks second mandate” is the other front-page title, Mr. Lemay being the Gaspé riding Member of the National Assembly.

**Vol 11. No 43  
October 29, 1985**

- In the October 29 issue, number 43, “Police investigat-

ing murder of Barachois man” and “James McBrearty offers candidacy for Bonaventure county Parti Québécois are the main headlines. Percy Thompson, owner of the local hotel, was shot in the face. Nobody witnessed the murder. “Municipal elections soon” and “Rural Schools conference futuristic theme”, are the other page 1 titles. In SPEC’s section 2, Pierre-Marc “Johnson signals shift to right shows new openness to English”, an article written by Bernard Saint-Laurent.

**Vol 11. No 44  
November 5, 1985**

- The upcoming Quebec election is visible in SPEC’s issue 44, dated November 5. “Gerard D. Levesque seeks 9th mandate as Bonaventure county MNA”, “Gerard D. Levesque launches campaign” and “Bonaventure county candidates agree to public debate” are the page 1 titles. A picture shows a New Richmond High School Halloween party. In section 2, Gaye Wadham reports on “Library week in Douglstown”. With Remembrance Day coming, Dave Doherty runs the photos of six Gaspésians who lost their lives during World War II.

**Vol 11. No 45  
November 12, 1985**

- In SPEC’s issue 45, dated November 12, “Poll shows majority of voters undecided”, the results of a Bonaventure riding survey, and Pierre-Marc “Johnson promises linguistic guarantees for institutions” illustrate that a Quebec election nears. “Man surrenders to police after 48-hour stand-off” at Fauvel is

the other page 1 title.

**Vol 11. No 46  
November 19, 1985**

- SPEC’s 46th issue, released on November 19, features include, “Gaspésians celebrate Armistice” covering Remembrance Day ceremonies in Gaspé and New Carlisle. “Three charged in \$2 million bank fraud” and “Bourassa unveils development program for rural regions” are the other page 1 titles. The three men charged with fraud will be back in court on December 11.

**Vol 11. No 47  
November 26, 1985**

- As the December 2 election nears, “Poll shows Liberals have firm hold on Bonaventure County”, “McBrearty promises hospital study for Bonaventure MRC” and “Gaspé Liberals meet Anglophones” make the headlines of SPEC’s November 26, issue 47. “Police investigating Restigouche murder”, about the slaying of Mervin Isaac, 20, also makes page 1.

**Vol 11. No 48  
December 3, 1985**

- In SPEC’s 48th issue, dated December 3, “Horse and buggy bridges getting shaky” reports on the poor state of the structures built in 1896 allowing vehicles to pass from St. Jules to Grand Cascapedia, under and parallel to the railroad bridge. A request to build real bridges goes back 50 years, writes Sharon McCully. “Barley Bree entertains Gaspésians”, about an Irish group offering shows in Gaspé and New Richmond, and “CHNC employees

threaten legal action” are the other page 1 titles.

**Vol 11. No 49  
December 10, 1985**

- “Education conference reveals common problems – individual solutions”, a preparation for Quebec’s Estates General scheduled for April 1986, “School board commissioners re-elected by acclamation” and “Gaspé elects (André) Beaudin, Liberals sweep province” are the front-page titles of SPEC’s December 10 issue, number 49. Inside, “Bonaventure County says it again”, referring to another win by Gerard D. Levesque, by 6,800 votes.

**Vol 11. No 50  
December 17, 1985**

- “Christmas Greetings” makes the headline of the December 17 issue of SPEC, the 50th. A photo shows carollers singing in New Richmond area’s seniors’ homes. “Preliminary hearing slated in \$2 million bank fraud” makes the other front-page title. Gilles Bazinet, a Royal Bank manager, Yvon Lacroix, of Lacroix Lumber, and accountant Jacques Leblanc are charged with committing theft and fraud. Lucien Grenier defends Mr. Lacroix and Mr. Leblanc. He explains that Gilles Bazinet accepted a credit line request after it was turned down by the Royal Bank head office. The hearing is scheduled for February 12-13 in New Carlisle. Inside, the SPEC runs an editorial coming from Ottawa Journal’s John MacLean. This has been the case for a few months.

## SPEC 1985-2025: Hydro-Québec’s underwater cable project is dropped

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – In 1985, Hydro-Québec announced a plan to send electricity to the Magdalen Islands through an underwater cable between Chandler and the archipelago. The cable was originally scheduled to be installed by 1988. We will see in future press reviews how it evolved over the years but we know as of 2025 that Hydro-Québec decided on June 4 to opt for the rebuilding of the Magdalen Islands generating station, which consumes fossil fuels. That decision followed a 2023 announcement that the public utility was temporarily suspending its underwater cable project following a Quebec Energy Board 2022 request to conduct further studies.

The construction of the new generating station should be completed in 2035. To alleviate greenhouse gas emissions, Hydro-Québec has also opted to install a 6.8 megawatts wind farm on the islands, and provides grants covering up to 50% of solar panels’ installation cost. The total cost of the power generating station remains unknown. Over recent years, Percé’s L’Anse-à-Beaufils was supposed to be the starting point of the underwater cable.

“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.”



# Housing: A new player aims to add 200 to 300 units per year in Eastern Quebec

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – A relatively new player, the Société de développement de l'est (SDE), is committed to housing development in the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence with the intention of adding 200 to 300 new rental units per year in these two regions.

The Société de développement de l'est, or Eastern Development Corporation, a non-profit organization, aims to achieve its objectives by promoting economies of scale through the use of prefabricated units, as well as through annual regional group purchasing of materials and architectural concepts.

Philippe Dufort, president and chief executive officer of the Société de développement de l'est, explains that the formula developed by his organization allows small rural municipalities to benefit from rental units at the same construction cost as those in larger cities, such as Gaspé, Rimouski, or Rivière-du-Loup.

"We're promoting the construction of 'six-plexes', six-unit buildings. With a common building concept and group material purchases, we're able to offer projects at the same price in a town as in a city. A six-unit building in Saint-André (de Restigouche, near Matapédia) will cost the same per unit as 300 units in Rimouski. As soon as we place group orders, we lower the unit price. To do better, we need to achieve economies of scale," explains Mr. Dufort.

These homes, being owned by a non-profit organization, do not fuel the speculation that has gripped certain segments of the private housing market, a phenomenon aggravated by the pandemic and the desire of many urban residents or suburban residents from large cities to settle in more rural areas.

The Société de développement de l'est (SDE) is leveraging the rental housing experience of a partner, CMétis, already a developer and builder of 36 units, with two other projects about to come to fruition.

## A first project in Cap-Chat

The SDE has been active



Photo: G. Gagné

*Collective housing projects are needed in Gaspésie to accelerate demographic recovery.*

for several weeks, spearheading a 36-unit housing project in Cap-Chat, on the northern side of the Gaspé Peninsula. The investment amount is not yet official, "but it will be more than \$10 million," explains Philippe Dufort.

As a partner in launching its activities, the SDE, a social economy enterprise, is counting on the Regroupement des MRC de la Gaspésie, a region characterized by a housing shortage that prevents it from capitalizing on its attractiveness and improving its population growth.

The president of the Table des préfets de la Gaspésie, Mathieu Lapointe, points out that housing needs are difficult to establish precisely, but he relies on a recent study. "There is a need for 1,000 units in the very short term. The region is number one in Quebec in terms of attractiveness," he says.

The commitment of the Gaspé MRCs to housing has led to the addition of 400 units in recent years, notably through regional programs totaling \$2 million in assistance, but the needs remain as high as in 2020, says Mr. Lapointe, hence the need to participate in the creation of the SDE.

Non-profit rental housing giants have emerged in Quebec in recent years, but they "have no appetite for our region. The advantage (of non-profit rental units) is that these non-market housing units will remain available for future generations," argues Mathieu Lapointe.

## Other Support

The Eastern Development

Corporation is also counting on the support of recognized experts in the construction field, such as the Alliance of Affordable Housing Corporations of the Territory of Quebec, better known under its French acronym ACHAT.

"The report we published in May 2025 shows that to reach the 20% mark (for non-market housing), we must consolidate the sector, accelerate professionalization and, above all, support the rise of large non-profit developers. The Eastern Development Corporation already embodies this shift," emphasizes Sébastien Parent-Durand, executive director of ACHAT.

Alexis Deschênes, Member of Parliament for Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj, applauds an initiative like the SDE's and is committed to liaising

between the organization and federal programs aimed at accelerating housing construction.

"The Gaspé Peninsula has a positive net migration of 300 to 400 more citizens per year. If we are able to create housing, it will give us greater momentum. My goal is to lead the battles and ensure that funding arrives," explains Mr. Deschênes.

The SDE is confident it will secure funding from Quebec and Canadian government housing financing sources.

"The SDE serves the region by pooling the needs of various municipalities in order to be considered for federal and provincial volume programs. We're targeting projects of 200 units. Currently, these subsidies are virtually impossible for rural communities to obtain. Our model of pooling regional projects within a single portfolio will therefore allow the

Gaspé region to obtain its fair share of public housing investments in upcoming Canada Houses programs and the new component 4 of the PHAQ (Programme d'habitation abordable Québec) for "qualified developers" from the Société d'habitation du Québec," explain Annabelle Gagné and Philippe Dufort of the SDE.

This fourth component of the PHAQ can cover up to 60% of project costs to ensure affordable rent. "We will also develop a significant portion of our non-market units with-

out any subsidies," they add.

Ambroise Henry, executive director of the Groupe Ressources en logement collectif de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine, is closely monitoring the SDE's progress. He welcomes efforts to increase housing supply in the region but calls for dialogue to avoid duplication that could derail projects that have been incubating for years.

"Just us, at Groupe Ressources, could develop 200 units as early as 2026 (...) We need to find avenues for collaboration. There have been openings (to dialogue). I see areas of cooperation, synergies to be sought. It's a whole ecosystem," he analyzes.

He notes that major non-profit firms like the Angus Development Corporation and Mission Unitainés have not brought their projects to the Gaspé Peninsula or the Islands. "Quebec stopped in Rimouski," he notes.

What will happen if a major Quebec builder of prefabricated units wins the bulk of the units resulting from SDE projects, and these units are manufactured outside the Gaspé Peninsula?

"We favour local contractors and local and environmentally friendly materials," assures Philippe Dufort, noting in passing that Habitations Mont-Carleton, a Gaspé Peninsula-based manufacturer of prefabricated homes based in Carleton and Maria, is in contact with the SDE.

## Gaspé informs public services about major projects

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – Following the well-known mishap with Logements HAN regarding the connection of telecommunications services, the Town of Gaspé has assured the public that when large-scale projects are launched, public utilities will be informed well in advance of any development ventures requiring additional capacity.

This concern arises with the major project currently underway by Gestion Bourgade in the Dean Creek area, near downtown.

"There is a delegation of municipal works to the land developer. Normally, it is part of the protocol that utility companies be informed and prepare accordingly," notes the mayor of Gaspé Daniel Côté.

He clarified that, in this specific case, no construction is occurring under a building permit at the moment.

Sophie Bourdages, Vice President of Gestion Bourgade, explains that the necessary process has already been completed.

"We, like public utilities such as electricity, fiber optic telephony, and cable television, will be buried, and the work will be done in parallel with the construction site to serve the neighbourhood with water and sewer services, since this requires excavation," says Ms. Bourdages.

Distribution points for these services have been planned at the entrance to each lot, allowing property owners to connect to the utilities.

The excavation and utility installation work is scheduled to be carried out this fall.

# 24th Virée Trad offers multi-cultural content, local food, arts and crafts

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - The 24th Virée Trad festival team will offer a wide range of cultural activities, from October 10 to 12 in Carleton. The program will once again be deep in new artistic offerings in traditional music, song, and dance featured in the Gaspé Peninsula's fall.

During the Thanksgiving long weekend, fifteen shows and twelve living heritage activities will bring together 35 Quebec, Indigenous, Acadian and Breton artists and artisans, bearers of traditions and drivers of magical moments.

The 7,500 expected festival-goers will also be able to indulge in the popular dance evening, jam sessions, and the largest public market in the Gaspé, featuring 36 local food producers and 21 arts and crafts artisans, including Indigenous people.

The music lineup notably includes Genticorum, from Quebec, Startijenn, from France, Traverse, whose members come from Quebec and the United States, La Famille LeBlanc and Mylène Comeau, both from New Brunswick, La Sporée, É.T.É., DJ DaOvee, Ghislain Jutras, La Nef and Yaëlle Azoulay, all from Quebec.

They will perform in four venues: the Quai des Arts studio, with a capacity of 168 seats, the MRC Avignon stage tent, with 300 seats, the Naufrageur microbrewery, with 130 seats, and the convention centre, with 400 seats, located adjacent to Riôtel, the former Baie Bleue.

For Samuel Téguel, festival director, La Virée Trad is "an opportunity to connect and celebrate our living heritage. Every Thanksgiving weekend since 2001, we've been privileged to see thousands of people gather in Carleton-sur-Mer," he says.

"Festival-goers, artists, and volunteers traditionally respond in large numbers to this invitation to celebrate the richness of our cultural heritage. Traditional music, song, and dance are a source of celebration, sharing, and exchange. It's this closeness between all those involved in the festival that makes it such a popular event," adds Mr. Téguel.



Gesgapegiag's Stephen Jerome will offer a demonstration of basket-making on October 11, and a workshop the following day.

Photo: Virée Trad

## More than just shows

In an effort to foster exchange and sharing between festival-goers and artists, several activities are free, including: the opening performance, violin, guitar, and basket-making workshops, an introduction to jigging, a guided tour of the cemetery, a talk about jigging, and a lecture on the Jean Trudel Fund (digital and public audio and video archives) with Laura Risk.

To close the festival in style, several artists from the program will be leading the La Virée Trad Evening, a free trad jam session open to the public, where everyone is invited to participate.

Crowned "Grand Master of Living Tradition" in 2020 by the Quebec Living Heritage Council, Stephen Jerome, a unique professional artisan from Gesgapegiag, will offer a black ash basket-making workshop. From selecting the tree along the Cascapedia River to creating the supple ribbons and weaving the baskets, numerous techniques are used. Mr. Jerome takes great pleasure in sharing his craft with members of his community and anyone interested in traditional basketry. He will offer an outside demonstration of his know-how on Saturday, October 11 at 2 p.m., at the Quai des arts, and he will animate a workshop the following day, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., inside the Quai des arts, located between the church and the Carleton CEGEP.

Circus workshops are also part of the Virée Trad program,

which features performances by local musicians.

## New in 2025

The festival will welcome the dance company La Sporée, which will present its latest creation, L'écho des racines, a choreographic project born from a fruitful dialogue between flamenco and Quebec jig, two percussive practices with seemingly opposing dynamics. Bringing together eight experienced dancers and musicians, the work explores the links that implicitly unite these two traditions.

Taking a contemporary approach, L'écho des racines illustrates the perpetual transformation of traditional forms.

## Public market

The festival offers an important showcase for the region's organic food production and its crafts. Freshness, flavours, tastings, and local supply chains are on the program for the largest public market in the Gaspésie, which will bring together 36 producers and 21 artisans from the region.

In collaboration with Gaspésie Gourmande, the public, artists, and volunteers will be able to enjoy on-site food service, prepared by the bakery and pastry shop La mie veritable, using local products.

A vegetarian meal will also be offered with Le Comptoir. The Bistro and the rolling pub of Microbrasserie Le Naufrageur will also be present on-site.



The sunflowers are too small, which means that the traditional maze cannot be set up due to the drought.

Photo: Ferme Bourdages Tradition

## A very dry summer in Baie-des-Chaleurs

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – Unsurprisingly, the summer was very dry, with only half the normal precipitation between June 1 and September 1, according to Environment Canada.

In New Carlisle, June was close to normal, but drought conditions set in during July and August. A total of 128 millimetres of precipitation fell, half the normal amount of 273 millimetres. June saw 72.9 millimetres compared to the normal amount of 94.4 millimetres. In July, just 38.2 millimetres fell versus the normal 95.5 millimetres, and August was even worse with only 16.5 millimetres out of the usual 82.9 millimetres.

Gaspé also experienced a virtually dry summer with 148 millimetres out of 270 millimetres, though rainfall was more evenly distributed across the peninsula. At the Michel-Pouliot Airport, June recorded 36.2 millimetres, compared to a normal average of 78.7 millimetres. July saw 60.4 millimetres out of 100.3 millimetres, and August 48.1 millimetres out of a normal average of 91.2 millimetres.

"Combining the three months of the meteorological summer, if we compare with the normals for the entire Gaspé Peninsula and Baie-des-Chaleurs, we see rainfall deficits for the entire summer. This is more significant in Baie-des-Chaleurs. The only exception is the northern part of the peninsula east of Matane and west of Murdochville, where we are slightly above normal," explains meteorologist Alexandra Cournoyer.

The summer of 2024 was also a dry one. "The deficit was greater in 2025. If we go back to 2023, two years ago, we had the opposite scenario with above-normal precipitation," notes the meteorologist.

"We are in the top five Augusts with the least precipitation," she continues.

Drought is synonymous with hot weather. "For much of the Gaspé Peninsula, we were above normal for these three months," Ms. Cournoyer notes.

## Heat record in Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – With 29 degrees recorded at Michel-Pouliot Airport in Gaspé, a new heat record was set on September 18, according to Environment Canada data. The previous record of 27.8 degrees dated back to 1968.

September is shaping up to be a very hot month. Since the beginning of the month, the average temperature has been 14.9 degrees, compared to the normal average of 11.9 degrees. Cooler weather is forecast for the coming days, which should bring the average down.

Last year, the monthly average was 13.5 degrees. Meteorologists note that a difference of more than two degrees is considered significant.

## Lack of rain

The precipitation deficit also continues in September. In Gaspé, between September 1 and 23, only 17.7 millimetres of rain was recorded, compared to the normal 91 millimetres.

The situation is just as dry in Baie-des-Chaleurs. New Carlisle received only 15.4 millimetres, including 12.9 millimetres on September 6 alone. Baie-des-Chaleurs received only 16.5 millimetres in August.

présente

# FESTIVAL LA VIRÉE TRAD



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10	5.30 p.m.	<b>La Famille LeBlanc</b>	Marquee stage MRC Avignon	Free
	8 p.m.	<b>La Sporée - L'écho des racines</b>	Studio at the Quai des arts	\$35
	9.30 p.m.	<b>Startijenn</b>	Marquee stage MRC Avignon	\$20
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11	10-5 p.m.	Public market	Cégep Court	\$8 (admission fee to access the site)
	12 p.m.	Various shows at the MRC Avignon stage and activities for children held by Satourne Circus School.	Cégep Court	\$8 (admission fee to access the site)
	2 p.m.	<b>La Nef - Baratin d'marins</b>	Studio at the Quai des arts	\$25
	8 p.m.	<b>É.T.É</b> with <b>Ghislain Jutras</b> : câll. Traditional dance evening	Congress Center	\$10 Standing \$15 Sitting
	11 p.m.	<b>DJ DaOvee</b>	Microbrewery Le Naufrageur	\$ 15
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12	10-5 p.m.	Public market	Cégep Court	\$8 (admission fee to access the site)
	11 p.m.	Various shows at the MRC Avignon stage and activities for children held by Satourne Circus School.	Cégep Court	\$8 (admission fee to access the site)
	1 p.m.	Folkloric afternoon	Studio at the Quai des arts	\$10
	7 p.m.	<b>Traverse and Genticorum</b>	Studio at the Quai des arts	\$35
	9:15 p.m.	La Veillée de La Virée Trad with the artists participating in this 24 <sup>th</sup> edition. Jam Session. All trad musicians are welcome.	Quai des arts lobby	Free

**SPECIAL DEALS AND DISCOUNTS LA VIRÉE TRAD PASSPORTS \***

\* access to the site is included with each passport

**\$60**

**Aweille au Studio**  
L'écho des racines +  
Traverse / Genticorum

**\$40**

**Pied au plancher**  
Veillée de danse +  
Traverse / Genticorumg

**\$30**

**Pour veiller tard**  
Startijenn +  
DaOvee DJ set  
d'Roches

**\$110**

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Access to  
all shows

# Services available to those without a family doctor

**PENNY MACWHIRTER**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

HOPE TOWN - According to the 2024 OurCare report on Canada, developed in partnership with McGill University, Quebec is one of the worst-performing provinces in the country, with over two million Quebecers not having access to primary care.

According to the Canadian Medical Association website retirement is one of the main reasons the number of family doctors in Canada isn't keeping up with demand. Their website states that out of Canada's 48,000 family doctors, 14,000 of them graduated over 30 years ago. On top of that less than one-third of medical school graduates choose family medicine. If the trends continue, the Government of Canada estimates that the country will be short 20,000 family doctors by 2031.

The government of Quebec has developed several programs to assist those without family doctors, with the first step being to ensure your name is on the wait list and that your contact information is up-to-date.

## How to register for family doctor waiting list

**Online through the Quebec Family Doctor Finder (GAMF)** [https://sel.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/GRL/LM\\_GuichAccesMdFamCitoy/en](https://sel.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/GRL/LM_GuichAccesMdFamCitoy/en)

**Online through the Quebec Health Booklet** <https://carnetsante.gouv.qc.ca/portail>

**By telephone:** BAIE-DES-CHALEURS: 1 866 568-8136 or 418 759-3443 poste 7960, CÔTE-DE-GASPÉ: 418 368-3301 poste 13333 and ROCHER-PERCÉ: 418 689-2261 poste 2020.

## Eligibility

To be eligible you must have a valid medicare card, must not already have a family doctor, reside at the address listed with the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec and be 14 years of age or older (if required for a minor, the guardian must make the request).

## Waiting time

According to the Government of Quebec website, "Once you have put your

## Welcome to the digital Primary Care Access Point (GAP)

The digital GAP directs all Quebecers towards the healthcare service that best meets their needs.

### Health services access point

Evaluate your needs with the assessment tool.

Fill the questionnaire

### Do you have a prescription for a blood test or would you like to be vaccinated or immunized?

Book an appointment online.

Book an appointment

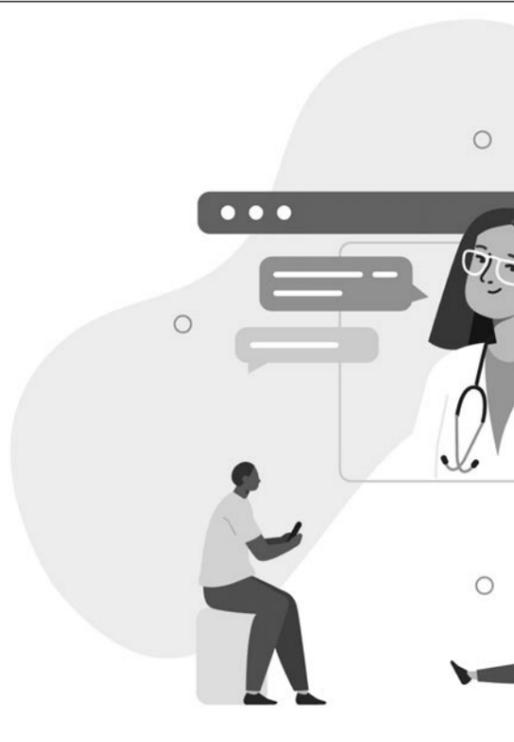


Photo: P. MacWhirter

*The GAP service can assist you by helping you find the service that best meets your needs.*

name on the waiting list, your request will be evaluated and priority assigned based on your health. It is impossible to determine exactly how long you will be on the waiting list. The waiting time can vary depending on the availability in your region and the number of people on the waiting list for your territory."

## Changes in your situation

If your health situation has changed since you made your request, it is advisable to update your file. You can do this through the GAMF (link listed above).

## Primary Care Access Point (GAP)

If you are on the wait list but need to see a health professional (non-emergency situation), the GAP service can assist you by helping you find the service that best meets your needs.

The Primary Care Access Point will make a recommendation tailored to your needs and the options available to obtain a health or psychosocial service. The service may refer you to a pharmacist, support program or be informed about the best home care.

The GAP online form can be found at <https://gap.soinsvirtuels.gouv.qc.ca/en>. You will be given a variety of types of medical issues to choose from. You'll also need your medicare card on hand in order to complete the

form.

If you need help filling out the online form, you can call 811, option 3. Agents will assist you so that you receive a call back from a Primary Care Access Point agent without having to wait on hold. The GAP hotline is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends and public holidays.

The GAP service can help you with: Active health issues such as pain, infections, injuries, prescription renewals, health forms such as those needed for your driver's licence or sick leave and recommendations for services and support.

## Call back

A Primary Care Access Point agent will call you to assess your health needs and direct you to the most appropriate resource. After an initial assessment, you may receive health advice, a referral or appointment. Call back times for the Gaspé Peninsula are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Please keep in mind that the GAP service is not for emergencies. If your health condition requires immediate intervention, you must call emergency services or go to the nearest emergency room.

Not having a family doctor is more than just an inconvenience, for some people, such as Michel Couture, it can impact their livelihood. Mr. Couture is a

transport driver, who has been without a family doctor for two years. The family doctor he had for over ten years retired some time ago. Later, his newborn daughter was flown to Quebec City for hospitalization and upon her release she was assigned a family doctor. Upon the family's first visit with Dr. Audrey Smith, agreed to take the entire family as patients. However, she retired two years ago.

Mr. Couture, who is diabetic and has high blood pressure, previously would go to the CLSC to get his prescriptions renewed. However, he recently learned about the GAP service and used it to have his prescriptions renewed. "The GAP service is

very slow. I called and then it took four days for them to call back. The call back was from a nurse practitioner. She temporarily extended my prescriptions for two months and between now and then a doctor is supposed to call me for a full renewal. She told me however, that if I don't get a call back from a doctor, I'll have to go to the CLSC to get them renewed," explains Mr. Couture.

Getting a full medical and medical forms filled out that are necessary to maintain his commercial trucking licence is also complicated with no family doctor. Mr. Couture is hoping that he will be able to use the GAP service for those forms when the time comes because otherwise it is a very long wait to get them done at the CLSC.

Marvin McWhirter and Diane Keating are also without a family doctor. Diane had a family doctor when she lived in Ontario, but not since moving to Quebec. She's been about 10 years without a doctor, but does have her name on the list. Mr. McWhirter has never had a family doctor. Despite living in Hope, he continues to see and have follow-up with a diabetes specialist in Montreal. He finds it quite stressful not having access to a family doctor.

It is interesting to note that SPEC conducted an informal survey of 25 anglophones living in the Bonaventure MRC. Only two of the 25 people questioned had heard of the GAP services.

## Quebec Health Booklet

*Penny MacWhirter*

HOPE TOWN - Although the Quebec Health Booklet, won't help you find a family doctor, it is a great tool, especially for those without family doctors.

By going to <https://carnetsante.gouv.qc.ca/> you can sign up to have access to much of your medical file. Select "New User" and follow the steps to authenticate your identity. Once complete you will have access to the prescriptions you've been prescribed, view your blood test results, view imaging and scan reports and see any scheduled appointments.

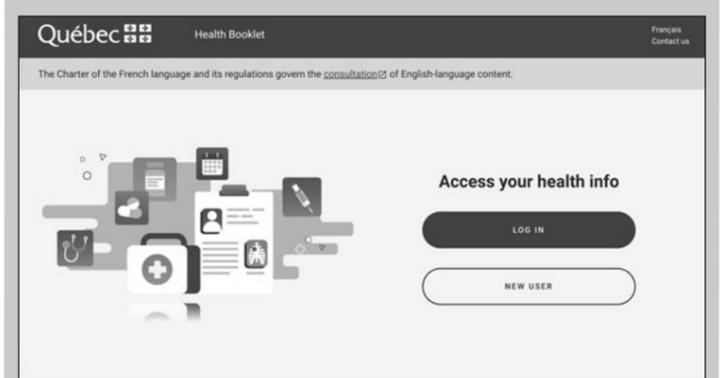


Photo: <https://carnetsante.gouv.qc.ca/portail>

# Family Ties looks at Gaspesian expressions

## Gaspé English unique in its frequent use of French

By Cynthia Dow

NEW CARLISLE - The English language as spoken here in the Gaspé has been influenced by many mother tongues. But one thing that sets it apart from other English dialects in Quebec and across Canada is the many French words and expressions used on a common basis.

It was McGill linguistics professor Charles Boberg who, working with student Jenna Hotton (who has Gaspesian roots), prepared what was likely the first-ever study of Gaspesian English in 2014. The study results were published in the journal *English World-Wide* in 2015.

One of the interesting aspects of the study was that English-speaking Gaspesians are more likely to adopt French words, such as “dépanneur”, “chômage”, and “guichet”, than anglophones living in Montreal.

Looking at Art Campbell’s charming booklet “Mots and Phrases of the Gaspé,” self-published in 1995, one can see that adoption of French words and phrases goes a long way

back in the history of Gaspesian English.

According to Mr. Campbell, French food references are frequent, with use of the terms “bouillon”, “fricot” and “grillades”. Entire phrases are sometimes referred to in French, such as “faire la cambuse”, “Perdrix aux Choux” and “Sea pie” (cipaille).

Mr. Campbell indicated that “chiard” is used in St. Jules to signify a meal of leftovers, and it may well come from the French word meaning “ground meat”.

French expressions have also been invited into local English lingo in describing the weather, such as “mally venter” (a severe storm, from “mal vent”) and “tant tiver” (adopted from “temps d’hiver”).

And how about naming animals? “Lucifee” is a frequently used word for the Canada Lynx, adapted from “Loup cervier”, an old French name for the wildcat. Then there’s “mager” or a thin salmon from the French “maigre”.

Botanical examples are also on the menu: “pissy-beds” rather than “pissenlit” (dandelions), and “immortelles” for

pearly-everlastings.

More plentiful still are words related to activities every family once took part in. Using “flambeau” or torches when spearing eels, dealing with “chicots” in the woods (dead trees that may be threatening passersby), and “pore-dashing” down the local river (from “portage”).

“Paillasse” has been used rather than the English “straw tick” (a mattress stuffed with straw) and “veye” is a time for visiting, likely from the French “veille”.

Probably everyone knows what “magané” means, and the name frequently give to the river wardens, “gardeen,” is likely derived from the French “gardien.”

Gaspé English even has its own version of “dirty dancing” as housewives who hosted a dance would outlaw what was called “frotte-fourches.” The reader can use their own imagination to determine what that means!

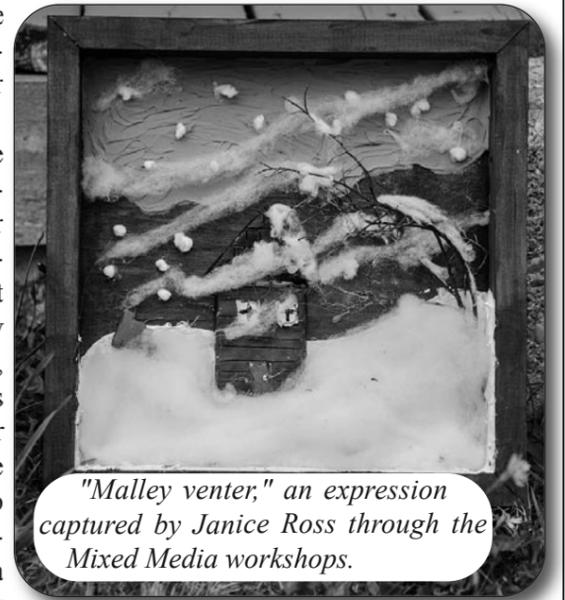
British dialects have also marked our mother tongue. “Wisht, wisht” or “be quiet” is of Scottish origin. “Ganzey,” which means a jacket may well

come from the Irish “geansai” or sweater.

And the Gaspé’s original mother tongue, Mi’gmaq, has lent quite a few expressions, such as “babiche” for the rawhide thongs used to make snowshoes (a French adaptation of the Mi’gmaq word “ápá-píj” meaning “cord” or “thread”) and “wanigan”, a cookhouse on the river. Another Mi’gmaq word frequently heard is “pabino” for the high-bush cranberry.

“Bogan”, a back-eddy along a river is perhaps derived from the Malecite “pecelaygan” or “stopping-place.”

Some expressions may sound French but have quite different beginnings. For example, “shivaree” is an old European costume of creating a noisy commotion to shame someone in the community. It used to be



“Malley venter,” an expression captured by Janice Ross through the Mixed Media workshops.

employed along the Coast when two older people got married.

And while “pannikin” may sound like it has Mi’gmaq roots, it is actually derived from the Suffolk dialect in England. According to Mr. Campbell, it means “a small tin pan without a handle.”

We are indebted to Arthur Prentice Campbell, late of Grand Cascapedia, for penning such a compendium of Gaspesian expressions long before computers and Google could make the research more accessible.

## Experience the Gaspesian Expressions art exhibit at the market during Fallfest



“Where everyone is part of the family.”

Immerse yourself in artwork created and inspired by our talented local community. These pieces beautifully showcase some of the Gaspe Coast’s most iconic expressions, and they’re sure to leave you grinning from ear to ear.

Look for the Family Ties kiosk at:  
**Fallfest Market**  
 9AM - 1PM  
 Saturday, October 4th  
 Fallfest - Cascapedia St. Jules

This project is supported by:



Canadian Heritage

Patrimoine canadien



# Announcements



## Obituary



### SULLIVAN: Joseph Bryan

October 7, 1946 – September 9, 2025

It is with deep love and sadness that we announce the passing of Joseph Bryan Sullivan on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, in Oakville, Ontario. Bryan passed peacefully surrounded by his devoted children, Trevor, Heather, and Kathleen. Born on October 7, 1946, in Shigawake, Gaspé, Quebec, to Leonard and Cecelia (Tapp), Bryan was the youngest of three children. He joins his sister Sandra and is survived by his brother Henry (Stella).

Bryan was a beloved father and leaves behind his children, Trevor (Jessica), Heather, and Kathleen (Matt), along with the mother of his children, Lynn. He was a proud grandfather to James Joseph, Jonathan Leonard, and Charlie Bryan. His family was the centre of his world, and he treasured every moment with them.

Bryan will be remembered for his love of golf, his appreciation for music, his quick wit, and his endless storytelling. Known for his warm smile and the jokes he was always ready to share, he brought joy and laughter to friends, neighbours, and all who knew him.

Bryan ran his own successful business that specialized in metal stamping. He loved what he did for a living and was passionate and hardworking.

A Celebration of Life was held in Bryan's honour on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Blue Springs Golf Club in Acton, Ontario. Family and friends were invited to come together to share memories and celebrate a life so well lived.

Bryan will be dearly missed, but his spirit, humour, and kindness will continue to live on in the hearts of those who loved him. "I had a good time" - Sully



## In Memory



### ASTLES: Mary Beth (née Hocquard)

In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother who passed away on October 11, 2019.

*You left us beautiful memories,*

*Your love is still our guide,*

*Although we cannot see you,*

*You're always at our side.*

Love always: Raymond, Dean, Sandy and families.



In loving memory of those we lost so suddenly seventeen years ago:

### RENOUF: Charlene

November 19, 1978 - October 12, 2008

Our daughter, step-daughter and sister, loved and forever in our hearts and on our minds by Mom, Darin, Adam (Melody, Gideon, Sybil, Nathaniel and Caleb) and Christopher (Bethany, Benjamin and Claire) and

### BENWELL: Rebekah

October 4, 2001 - October 12, 2008

Our granddaughter and niece, cherished and dearly missed by Grandma, Grandpa, Uncle Adam (Melody, Gideon, Sybil, Nathaniel and Caleb) and Uncle Christopher (Bethany, Benjamin and Claire).

*The years may wipe out many things,*

*But this they'll wipe out never.*

*The memory of those happy days,*

*When we were all together.*

*We think of them in silence,*

*Their names we oft recall.*

*But there's nothing left to answer,*

*But their pictures on the wall.*

*Just when their lives were brightest,*

*Just when their hopes were best.*

*God called them from among us,*

*To a home of eternal rest.*

### RENOUF and BENWELL:

In sweet loving memory of two precious girls who left us so suddenly in a tragic accident seventeen years ago on Thanksgiving, October 12, 2008. Granddaughter Charlene Ada, 29 and Great-granddaughter Rebekah Joan, age 7.

*Time may hide the sadness,*

*Like a smile that hides the tears.*

*But precious memories never fade,*

*Despite the passing years.*

*And as we loved you, so we miss you,*

*In our memory you are near.*

*Loved, remembered, longed for always,*

*As it dawns another year.*

I will always love and remember you both. Till we meet again. Love, Nana (Pearl).

### Happy 90th Birthday Dad



*Love from Texas - David, Gina, Jessica, Kyle, Amelia, Abigail, David, Katelyn, Tobin, Shiloh. xoxox*

### Happy Birthday



### Peter Almond

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*9 Decades of Memories*

*1080 Months of Happiness*

*4680 Weeks of Love*

*32,850 Days of Wisdom*

*788,400 Hours of Laughter*

Thank you for your years of hard work and dedication to us, your family. You've given us a firm foundation to build our lives upon through your guidance and love.

Today we celebrate you and wish you many more years. Much love from your five grateful children, seven amazing grandchildren and five marvelous great-grandchildren.

**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**  
*Please add an additional \$10  
 if including a photo.*

## Classifieds

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

## Coast Round-up

### YORK:

**York River Seniors**  
**October 26:** A Harvest Supper will be held at the York River Community Hall. Takeouts will be from 4 to 4:45 p.m. A first seating will be at 5 p.m. with a second seating at 6 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. Diners over the age of 18 are permitted to bring their wine as the Club has procured an alcohol license. Welcome to all.

### HALDIMAND:

**Christmas Market**  
**November 22:** Camp Fort Haldimand will be hosting a Christmas Market (baked goods, handmade items and unique gifts) at the Gaspé Elementary School from 9 a.m. to noon. Tables are available to rent for \$15 by contacting Rhonda Stewart at forthaldimand@gmail.com

### GASPE:

**Christmas Sale**  
**November 1:** The Friends of St. Paul's will be having

its Christmas Sale in the basement of the St. Paul's Church beginning at 9 a.m. There will be a wide variety of goods for sale, a bake table, raffle tickets and snacks. Everyone welcome!

### MALBAY:

**Harvest Supper**  
**October 11:** Harvest Supper at St. Peter's Church Hall in Malbay. Two seatings are available, 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Take-outs from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets will be pre-sold starting Tuesday September 16. Contact Janet Harvey at 418-355-4899. E-transfers are available.

### BARACHOIS:

**Mountain View Golden Age**  
The Mountain View Golden Age 50+ Club fall activities are:

**Tuesdays:** Weekly indoor curling beginning at 1:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays:** Weekly evening card games at 7 p.m. starting October 22.

**October 18:** Turkey Supper, \$10 for members and \$125 for non-members. Takeout begins at 4 p.m. with 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. seatings. Contact Janet Harvey for pre-sale of tickets

**October 24:** Money Bingo beginning at 7 p.m.

**November 17:** Annual General Meeting for members only beginning at 1:30 p.m. Please note that

membership fees for 2026 will be increased to \$25 on January 1. Early bird rate of \$22 to the end of the year. Please contact Janet Harvey at 418-355-4899 for more information.

### HOPE:

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

### NEW CARLISLE:

**New Carlisle Legion**  
**October 4:** Fall Supper will be held at the New Carlisle Anglican Church beginning at 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., take-out and delivery available between 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Cost: adults \$15, children (12 and under) \$10. To reserve please call Carol at 905-987-3294.

**October 31:** Halloween dance with DJ Ash (18+)

**December 6:** Annual Christmas gift bingo.

**December 13:** Christmas dance with Tammy Adams.

**December 14:** Santa visits the legion.

**December 31:** New Years eve dance, details to follow.

### 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

**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.

### ROTARY CLUB WINNERS

**The winners for the week of July 1 are:** Verna Sexton, Éric Arsenault, Benoît Bujold, Mariette Arbour and Bernard Jerome.

**The winners for the**

**week of July 6 are:** Jean-Marie Bujold, Marie-Claude Horth, Succession William Dow, Christine Gagné, Daniel Babin, Sylvain Verreault and Manon Landry.

**The winners for the week of July 13 are:** Édouard Marsh, Jean-Marie Bujold, Suzanne Gauthier, Patricia Fournier, Benoit Bouffard, Gabriel Lacroix and Serge Cyr.

**The winners for the week of July 20 are:** Évelyne Ouellet, Michelle Pineault, Yannick Cormier, Gérard Henry, Guylaine Bujold, Donald Boudreau and Alexandre Thériault.

**The winners for the week of July 27-31 are:** Léon Arsenault, Gérald Dubé, Mario Bouchard, Marie-Claude Allard and Gail Martin-Harrison.

### UNITED CHURCH NEW RICHMOND

**Sunday, October 5**  
10 a.m. Service  
**Sunday, October 12**  
10 a.m. Service

### UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN

**Sunday, October 5**  
10 a.m. Service  
**Sunday, October 12**  
2 p.m. Service with communion

### PARISH OF GASPÉ

**Sunday, October 5**  
**St. Andrew's, York**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**Saturday, October 11**  
**St. Andrew's, York**  
11 a.m. Service of the Word and the Blessing of Animals. (Please bring your pet companions on a leash for blessing and treats.)

**Sunday, October 12**  
**St. James, Wakeham**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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# On the Lighter Side...

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



## October

October is a month that captures the essence of change and the beauty that enriches our spirit on all corners of this great Gaspesian region.

On this vast peninsula we call home, October brings with it the chemistry of ripened glory and a picturesque beauty that stretches into the far-off distance.

When we step outside, we automatically feel those leaves crumbling beneath our feet, and that crisp Chaleur air reminds us that shorter days and longer nights are almost on our doorsteps.

Let's all embody the spirit of October, like the marigold flowers blooming in the distance, textured with blessings, so we may fully embrace autumn's bittersweet temperatures and its refreshingly crisp mornings.

## Thanksgiving

As "Thanksgiving" is approaching, many Gaspesians prepare themselves for a time of precious moments of warmth, laughter, unconditional love and friendship within their own families. Today, in our busy lives we miss the true meaning of "Thanksgiving."

The heart of thanksgiving is giving thanks and we can all multiply these blessings by filling our hearts with kindness, joy and understanding in which giving thanks can happen each day of the year.

Thanksgiving is more than a gathering; it is that quiet reflection of how God is showering our blessing each day.

Gaspesians are grateful of who we are and where we live because the doors are always open so we can gain access to true unlimited inspiration that all small towns do have.

*Ken Ross, New Carlisle, Quebec.*

## FALL DAYS

## WORD SEARCH

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

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

### WORDS

ACORN	CRISP	LEAVES
APPLE	FALL	MAPLE
AUTUMN	FOLIAGE	PUMPKIN
BONFIRE	GOURD	SCARECROW
CIDER	HARVEST	SPICE
CINNAMON	HAYRIDE	SWEATER
CORNUCOPIA	HEARTH	THANKSGIVING

### HOROSCOPES - September 28 to October 4

**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20 - Your energy is off the charts this week, Aries. This is the perfect time to start a new fitness regimen or tackle projects that you've been putting off for a while.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21 - Focus on your finances this week, Taurus. A new opportunity to increase your income or make an investment comes your way. Your practical nature will facilitate sound decision-making.

**GEMINI** – May 22/Jun 21 - Your communication skills are very powerful right now, Gemini. Whether it is a difficult conversation or a creative collaboration, you will find the right words to express yourself.

**CANCER** – Jun 22/Jul 22 - Take some time for self-care this week, Cancer. Your intuition is strong and your inner voice will lead you to what will ul-

timately bring security and comfort.

**LEO** – Jul 23/Aug 23 - Leo, you are shining brightly right now. This is your time to be seen and celebrated. Step into the spotlight at work or in your social circle. Your confidence will be contagious.

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22 - Productivity and organization are the name of the game this week, Virgo. You will feel a sense of satisfaction from checking off tasks and bringing order to your surroundings.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23 - Your natural charm and diplomatic skills make you a sought-after companion, Libra. This means your social life may be buzzing right now with plenty of people staying close.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22 - You are in a powerful position to achieve your professional goals,

Scorpio. A new project or recognition at work might be on the horizon. Stay focused.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21 - Adventure is calling you, Sagittarius. Whether it is travel plans, a new work project or trying a new restaurant, you will be seeking novel experiences this week.

**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20 - Take some time for deep reflection, Capricorn. You can find clarity by looking inward and understanding what drives you. Expect some good news by midweek.

**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18 - Your relationships are a great source of joy this week, Aquarius. You may connect with others who share your unique vision and ideas. Don't be afraid to be yourself.

**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20 - Creativity is flowing right now, Pisces. Devote some time to a passion project, whether it is art, music or writing. It is alright to daydream a little while as well.

### HOROSCOPES - October 5 to October 11

**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20 - This week is all about fresh starts, Aries. The stars are aligning to give you the green light on a new project or personal goal. Don't hesitate to jump on the first step.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21 - Focus on building a solid foundation this week, Taurus. Whether it's in your career or personal life, your hard work and persistence will pay off in a big way.

**GEMINI** – May 22/Jun 21 - Your social calendar is buzzing, Gemini. This week you could be a magnet for interesting conversations and new ideas. Don't be afraid to network and share your thoughts.

**CANCER** – Jun 22/Jul 22 - Expect a breakthrough in your personal life, Cancer. You'll gain a new sense of clarity and emotional understanding, allowing you to move forward with confidence.

**LEO** – Jul 23/Aug 23 - Your leadership skills are

on full display, Leo. This week you'll be called upon to inspire and guide others. Don't be shy about stepping into the spotlight at work or in a group setting.

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22 - This is a week for practical improvements, Virgo. Take a look at your daily routines and find small ways that you can be more efficient. Organize your space or adopt a new health habit.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23 - Harmony in your relationships is a prominent theme this week, Libra. Your diplomatic nature will help you resolve any lingering conflicts and form deeper connections.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22 - A powerful transformation might be underway, Scorpio. You might feel an urge to dig deeper and uncover hidden truths, both in yourself and in your life. Embrace the process of growth.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21 - Expand your horizons this week, Sagittarius. You'll feel a strong pull to learn something new, whether it is a skill or a different language. Your optimistic outlook is contagious,

**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20 - Your hard work is about to pay off, Capricorn. This week you may see progress on a long-term professional goal. Some well-deserved recognition may be on the horizon.

**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18 - This week you could find joy and inspiration by connecting with like-minded people, Aquarius. A collaborative project or a group event will be particularly successful.

**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20 - Pisces, dedicate some time this week to new pursuits. You may be itching to try something new and this is the time to sign up for a class or get out and meet new people.

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SCAN ME

# Cascapedia-St-Jules Fall Festival: An event you won't want to miss!

## Weekend Program

Thursday October 2

**6 PM:** Start of mixed softball tournament  
**6 PM - 8 PM:** Jam session in the tent

Friday October 3

**6 PM:** Mixed softball tournament  
**6 PM:** Open darts tournament  
**8 PM:** Music in the tent with Nash Stanley  
**12 AM:** Electro Party with DJ WAVE



Saturday October 4

**9 AM - 1 PM:** Market  
**9 AM - 4 PM:** The silent auction room opens  
**10 AM - 12 PM:** LULU BERLU!  
**10 AM:** Registration for Washers Tournament with Jenna B.  
**10 AM:** Pumpkin carving & Crafts with Bright Beginnings  
**11 AM:** Soap box derby  
**1 PM:** Start of Washers tournament  
**1:30 PM:** Boots Fire - Line dancing in the tent  
**2 PM - 4 PM:** Carnival Games with LULU BERLU!  
**6 PM:** Méchoui supper (tickets must be pre-purchased)  
**6:30 PM:** Music with Antics Road Show  
**9 PM - 12 AM:** Music with Hillside Country Band

*Canteen, Food Truck and Bar Service  
all weekend long!*

Sunday October 5

**8 AM - 11 AM:** Brunch brought to you by the Rotary Club (\$15 Adults, \$6 Children 6-17, Free Children 6 and under)  
**10 AM:** Softball semi-finals  
**10 AM:** Guide competition along the river  
**10 AM:** Face painting with Lynda Leblanc  
**11 AM:** Chili contest - come taste homemade chili and vote for your favourite!  
**12 PM:** Music with John Gedeon  
**1 PM:** Washer Finals  
**1 PM:** Bouncy Castles  
**2 PM:** RC CAR races  
**2:30 PM:** Music with Mountain Whisper

**A&R DECORATIONS**  
ENJOY THE FEST!  
166 Rte 299  
Cascapedia GOC ITO  
418 392-4686



**ROYAL LEPAGE**  
**VILLAGE**  
*Gaspésie*  
Enjoy the festival!  
**Christian Cyr**  
Residential and commercial real estate broker covering the Baie-Des-Chaleurs  
(418) 392-9927  
109, Boulevard Perron Ouest  
New Richmond, GOC 2B0

**ARPO**  
GROUPE - CONSEIL  
138C, ROUTE 132 WEST  
NEW RICHMOND (QC) GOC 2B0  
**ANNIE-CLAUDE ARSENAULT**  
ENGINEER  
annie-claude.arsenaault@arpo.ca  
418-391-1520  
arpo.ca  
Enjoy the Fall Fest!

**HYUNDAI**  
**GASPESIE AUTO**  
**Bonaventure**  
339 Avenue de Port Royal  
Bonaventure GOC IEO  
418 534 2191  
gaspesiehyundai.com

**BAIE DES CHALEURS**  
**TOYOTA**  
Wishing you a wonderful weekend!  
20 boul. Perron ouest  
Caplan GOC 1H0  
(418) 388-5544  
toyotabaiedeschaleurs.com

Municipality of  
Cascapedia-St-Jules  
Wishing you a wonderful  
Fall Fest!  
(418) 392-4042

**Annie Malerie**  
Pour le bien-être de vos animaux  
All you need for your pet!  
A team attentive to your needs with your animal at the heart of our concern!  
255, boul. Perron Est  
New Richmond, GOC 2B0  
(418) 392-4144  
Wishing you a happy and memorable weekend

**MAC AUTO**  
WISHING YOU A FUN FILLED FESTIVAL!  
134, boul. Perron Est  
New-Richmond, GOC 2B0  
581-886-3676

Happy Fall Fest from the team at **Garage Pizzeria!**  
134, boul. Perron Est  
New-Richmond, GOC 2B0  
(418) 392-4385  
Garage Pizzeria

**RIVER LODGE**  
277 RTE 299  
CASCAPEDIA, GOC ITO  
ROOM RENTAL - SHORT TERM  
(418) 392-7302 OR (418) 392-4688