

300 people gather in Gesgapegiag for Truth and Reconciliation Day

GILLES GAGNÉ

GESGAPEGIAG – Approximately 300 people gathered in Gesgapegiag to mark Truth and Reconciliation Day in this Mi'gmaq community, the fifth since the day was officially recognized in Canada.

The group walked between the Wejgwapniag School and the Mawiomi grounds, including highway 132.

Once the march participants reached the Mawiomi ground, culture teacher William Jerome indicated that "we are not celebrating today, because we are hurting at the thought of all those young people who did not return home after being forced to attend residential schools (...) Children carry scars that are invisible."

In addition to the Mi'gmaq students from Wejgwapniag School, other students from



Photo: G. Gagné

About 300 people walked between the school and the Mawiomi grounds to commemorate the event.

Bois-Vivant school, as well as New Richmond High School, Natives and non-Natives, joined the march.

Mr. Jerome was pleased to

see the important role young people played in the commemorative march linked to the event, which was underlined throughout the community,

from daycares to elders.

"The children who died give us the courage to carry on. We will not forget them, not just today, but every day,"

added William Jerome.

The attendees were given small tobacco bags before proceeding to the sacred fire prepared by Mr. Jerome. Before people left the Mawiomi, he made a simple request.

"Just don't drop the tobacco in the fire and leave. Think of what happened to our children. Take your time", he asked people, and people, young and older, collaborated. The tiny tobacco bags put in the fire provided a moment of reflection to most people.

The origins of the orange shirt

The story of the orange shirt comes from Phyllis Webstad Jack's traumatic experience as a child. She is a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from

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Nearly 1,000 people walk for reconciliation in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – Nearly 1,000 people walked through the streets of downtown Gaspé on the morning of September 30 to mark the fifth annual walk as part of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which is observed across Canada.

"It gives us immense pleasure to see this. Every year, more and more people march to remember these children who never came home. They left for residential schools and never returned, while others came back scarred for life," said Céline Cassivi, Chief of the Micmac First Nation of Gespeg.

This was her first appearance since she was appointed chief of Gespeg nearly a year ago.

"We feel reconciliation.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Students from Belle-Anse School in Percé attended the walk.

We feel respect. We have some 800 children plus the population. People are supportive and on board. We are delighted to welcome them. It is very symbolic for

Gespeg," said the chief.

Quebec Minister of Relations with First Nations, Ian Lafrenière, visited Gaspé in August, where he stated that it was very important for him

to lay a solid foundation in the spirit of reconciliation.

Chief Cassivi notes the progress that has been made.

"We can feel it. We would perhaps like it to be felt

more. I am confident. The important thing is to talk, to respect each other, and I see a very positive future for First Nations," she says.

This year, students from C.-E. Pouliot High School were invited to participate in the walk, as were those from Saint-Majorique School, in addition to the now-established presence of those from Belle-Anse School in Percé and Gaspé Elementary School.

In addition, a dozen young people from the Centre de la petite enfance des Butineurs at the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles campus in Gaspé, along with their educators, joined the crowd.

"We can see the change. It's a small change. At first, we didn't hear much about it. Even today, children

Cont'd on page 9

The RéGÎM shuttle bus to Forillon more popular than expected

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – The summer shuttle bus service operated by the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (RéGÎM) to Pointe-à-Forillon has exceeded ridership expectations.

When the service was launched in July, municipal councillor Charlie-Maude Giroux-Bossé, one of the project’s instigators, hoped for 1,300 passengers and a 30% occupancy rate. The final tally showed 1,738 riders, for an efficiency rate of 40%.

“We are very happy with the results,” says the councillor.

A sequel to the summer project could be in the works. “We would like it to become a permanent project. We will have to sit down with our partners to see if that is possible,” says Ms. Giroux-Bossé.

The partners invested \$95,000 to make the project a reality. According to Ms. Giroux-Bossé, the shuttle’s midday departure contributed to its success.

“Currently, the only service available in the area is a morning departure from Rivière-au-Renard that returns only in the evening. I think the shuttle met a need for a round trip during lunchtime, which allowed people to be there ei-



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the launch of the shuttle last July.

Photo: Nelson Sergerie

ther in the morning or in the afternoon, rather than for a whole day. We can see that frequency makes a difference,” she notes.

The success may also signal a need to adjust the regular RéGÎM schedule. “The RéGÎM schedule is not

adapted to the needs of the population. Think of the elderly people of Cap-des-Rosiers who go down in the morning and only come back in the evening; it’s much too long for them. Having a round trip at lunchtime would certainly be more suited to the

needs of the population,” says Ms. Bossé Giroux.

Although the partners covered the shuttle’s cost, users were asked to make a voluntary contribution. Origin-destination statistics have not yet been compiled. Transportation was provided by Synnott Bus.

Cathy Martin files lawsuit against her community government

GILLES GAGNÉ

LISTUGUJ – Listuguj Band Councillor Cathy Martin is filing a defamation lawsuit against the Mi’gmaq community government. Ms. Martin alleges that her rights were violated during the June 19 council meeting.

Simultaneously, she is filing a second lawsuit for defamation and deliberate promotion of hatred against members of the band council and the community, who demanded her resignation as a Mi’gmaq government councillor during the same June meeting.



Photo: Gilles Gagné

Cathy Martin stays on the council during the legal process.

These legal actions are tied to the events that led to the death of a young woman, Savannah Metallic last June. This tragedy occurred in an apartment attached to Cathy Martin’s house.

According to the June 19, 2025, meeting minutes available on the band council website, 13 community members attended the session, which took place a few days after the young woman’s passing.

Councillor Sky Metallic requested that the council discuss Savannah Metallic’s death before the scheduled agenda items, a proposal approved by Chief Scott Martin, resulting in a revised agenda.

During the discussion, Donna Metallic, a community member, identifying herself as the spokesperson for

Savannah Metallic’s family, notably requesting among other things, that Cathy Martin’s relatives and friends withdraw from the meeting. Two people left the room, Chief Scott Martin, who is Cathy Martin’s brother, and Jill Martin, the council office director. Cathy Martin, for her part, was reached by phone later in the meeting because council members wanted to speak with her.

Ms. Martin has chosen not to comment publicly due to the ongoing legal proceedings. She remains a councillor and continues to serve on the band council.

For the same reasons, the Listuguj Mi’gmaq Government has declined to comment on the matter.



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Incentives introduced to attract workers to CISSS

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – The Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS) and the Syndicat des infirmières, infirmières auxiliaires et inhalothérapeutes de l’Est du Québec (SIIEQ) are negotiating bonuses and lump sums to encourage healthcare workers to come to, or remain at, the CISSS de la Gaspésie.

On September 29, the APTS and the CISSS announced an agreement to implement concrete solutions aimed at boosting recruitment and retention across various job titles.

Three separate projects have emerged from this new agreement: a lump sum for moving to the region, i.e., a relocation bonus to offset the costs of moving and settling



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

SIIEQ President Pier-Luc Bujold.

in the region; a referral/peer recruitment bonus and housing allowance for interns; and a retention bonus if they join the organization.

"The APTS is delighted

with the implementation of concrete measures and financial incentives to attract people to remote areas, as well as the partnership established with the CISSS de la Gaspésie. The Gaspé Peninsula is a magnificent region and an exceptional place to live, but that is no longer enough. We need to do more to attract and retain professional and technical workers in our region," said Jenny Tardif, APTS national representative for Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

"We know that our region and the CISSS de la Gaspésie are attractive environments for many interns, technicians, and professionals. This new agreement increases the attractiveness of our organization and could quickly have a positive impact on workforce recruitment and retention," said Martin Pelletier, Presi-

dent and CEO of the CISSS de la Gaspésie.

The union represents laboratory technicians, public health employees, rehabilitation workers, radiology workers, and DPJ (Youth Protection Directorate) workers, among others.

The SIIEQ is not to be outdone

The CISSS is also in discussions with the nurses' union to unlock the same kind of incentives. Some are already in place.

"We are in discussions. There have been scholarships to study nursing in respiratory therapy, scholarships for nursing assistants to study to become nurses. Very recently, we had lump sums to attract respiratory therapists to the Gaspésie region," notes union president Pier-Luc Bujold.

The union hopes to see a wave of migration to expand the workforce, with the goal of making the CISSS independent of private agency workers by October 2026.

"We have tight budgets. We're trying to do as much as we can. Part of the analysis is that we will no longer be able to rely on independent contractors. This has been our union's wish for several years," notes Mr. Bujold.

In some sectors, agency workers have already disappeared, but it remains more difficult in others.

"To achieve this, measures must be put in place. As long as there is no improvement in working conditions in the network, and as long as it does not listen more to people, there will be challenges. Improvements must be made so that people come, but also stay," suggests Mr. Bujold.

Obstetrics: no easy solution

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – Finding a solution to the shortage of obstetricians is proving to be no easy task.

Although the CISSS de la Gaspésie is studying the issue through various committees, the network reluctantly admits that it is powerless to find a solution.

Over the summer, shortages worsened once again at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, a problem that has persisted for several months. Even Gaspé experienced shortages toward the end of the summer.

"In all transparency, there is no easy, miracle solution. We need more nursing staff, and that is no small task. We are actively recruiting, but the bottom line is that we currently lack the nurses needed to offer obstetric services," says Director of Nursing Maxime Bernatchez.

In Haute-Gaspésie, five positions are required, yet only one person is employed by the CISSS. The other positions are covered by independent contractors. The provincial government has given the hospital until October 2026 to move away from using independent staff.

At the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital, nurses were selected to undergo obstetrics training at the CHUL in Quebec City to gain experience.

"It worked in part. We



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

The balance remains precarious for maintaining obstetrics services in the Gaspé Peninsula.

were able to expose two nursing resources. Eight nurses from the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts emergency department were trained for obstetric emergencies. The ecosystem we operate in makes it difficult to move these resources without reducing the services offered in the emergency room in order to offer them in obstetrics," says Mr. Bernatchez.

Recruiting nursing graduates remains a challenge. "We are very active in recruitment. We attend many job fairs to promote the nursing profession in the Gaspé Peninsula in

collaboration with the union. The profession is very broad. Nurses can choose to practice or update their skills in many programs or services. For obstetrics, we have a challenge," continues Mr. Bernatchez.

The possibility of offering bonuses to attract recruits is being discussed. "Work is underway with the union at our facility. We have begun this reflection process to improve our recruitment mechanisms. We are working closely with Santé Québec. This is an avenue we are considering for the coming years," says Mr. Bernatchez.

THE FLU STILL EXISTS

Photo: MSSS

The first flu virus begins to circulate

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The COVID-19 virus is making a modest resurgence, while other respiratory viruses remain quiet for now. That's the picture emerging nearly a month after the start of the school year.

"We are seeing a slight increase in COVID-19. For other viruses, such as influenza or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), it's still quiet. COVID circulated a little this summer, but now we're seeing a slight increase," explains Jean-François Lefebvre, medical advisor with the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Public Health Department.

Despite the increase, there is no cause for public health concern. "For now, we're not seeing the big waves we've seen in the past. It's a cyclical infection. After several months of calm, we were expecting to see an increase in transmission," the doctor continues.

Last year, a vaccine was offered to seniors and young infants to help counter RSV. "It has been useful in reducing the burden of RSV and hospitalizations for young babies. The antibodies given at birth have been very helpful," the specialist notes.

Whooping cough, which saw a strong wave last year and into early 2025, is now under control. "Whooping cough is no longer circulating widely. It's a disease that occurs between the ages of four and six. We're still monitoring it. We don't expect a big increase this year," Dr. Lefebvre says.

As for the flu, predictions remain difficult. "Last year, the flu arrived much later. When will it arrive this year? Will it be earlier or later? There will definitely be a flu season," is all Dr. Lefebvre will say.

The fall vaccination campaign for various viruses will take place in the coming weeks. Details will be announced once the schedules are finalized.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Does Mark Carney really want all those pipelines?

Since the April 28 federal election, Canada’s Prime Minister Mark Carney has regularly mentioned his ambition to see the country access to an energy powerhouse status.

He has repeatedly talked about building pipelines, to such an extent that he convinced several premiers to bring back dead projects to the front burner.

Quebec’s premier François Legault is suddenly dreaming of reviving the GNL-Québec project, a plan to build a natural gas liquifying facility in Saguenay or Baie-Comeau, a venture that died in 2021, officially because the provincial government rejected it, but in all likelihood because the promoter was expecting too much public funding to make it fly.

Three weeks ago, Mark Carney’s openness to pipeline prompted Alberta premier Danielle Smith to suggest a largely embryonic pipeline project between her province and northwest British Columbia, so that the tar sands oil production could be increased and exported to Asia. No serious promoter has raised a hand to get on board so far.

During his October 7 visit to Washington to meet American president Donald Trump, Mr. Carney himself threw some pipeline bait at him when he proposed to consider a rejuvenation of the Keystone XL pipeline initiative.

Does Mr. Carney really want pipelines?

There is a marked difference between the Mark Carney who filled a short interim period as prime minister, between March 14 and April 28, basically the duration of the electoral campaign, and the Mark Carney who won that election.

Before the election, he placed more emphasis on environmental issues than he has since taking of-

fice.

Since expressing his intentions to promote major projects of national interest, a move to counter Donald Trump’s trade tariffs, environmental ambitions were basically swept under the rug. Hence the pipeline ventures.

We must not forget that Mark Carney leads a minority government. As a consequence, he has adopted an approach that could grant him more support in the country’s area where the Liberal Party is weak, namely Alberta and Saskatchewan, where oil and gas are major political draws.

With 169 seats at the House of Commons, the Liberal Party is only three seats away from a majority government, which probably explains Mark Carney’s bet that getting close to Western Canada’s love for hydrocarbons could eventually provide him with three additional Members of Parliament, or more.

It could also explode in his face, or at least backfire mildly. Some people who voted for him because in March and April, he was showing a solid financial and relatively sound environmental profile, are heartily disappointed by his sudden interest in oil and gas.

A close look at the projects Mark Carney has chosen, directly or indirectly, to put back on the front burner reveals that he has selected ventures that have slim chances of reaching fruition.

For example, Danielle Smith’s government’s Alberta-British Columbia pipeline initiative might qualify for Mark Carney’s Major Projects Office, which could give the greenlight to it. Premier Smith added a touch of pressure when she said that this project is a "test" for Canada.

However, the project was greeted very coldly by B.C. premier David Eby. He flatly criticized the proposal and called the whole thing "fictional", underscoring the fact that it would require billions of dollars coming from taxpayers.

The GNL-Québec venture will not resist a second glance assessment. There is no promoter, and François Legault is almost certain of losing next year’s election. The two parties that are likely to win that poll, the Parti Québécois and the Quebec’s Liberal Party, are rejecting it.

**Mark Carney will say:
"I tried"**

Behind closed doors on October 7, Mark Carney raised the Keystone XL oil pipeline issue. It was a smart move, because the pipeline has been long sup-

ported by Donald Trump. The Canadian government’s strategy consists of opening up the potential for movement on steel and aluminum tariffs in particular.

The project first attracted public attention in 2008, only to be rejected by Barack Obama’s administration. It came back to life during Donald Trump’s first term, between 2016 and 2020, and its construction even started. It would link northern Alberta to the United States Midwest. Joe Biden’s administration phased it out in January 2021, on his very first day of office.

In Canada, a stretch of 150 kilometres was built. Some installation also took place south of the border, but it still represents a small fraction of the 1,900-kilometre pipeline.

It looks like Donald Trump really wants to revive Keystone XL and give it a second life. In September, Trump rescinded the Biden executive order revoking the project’s permit.

However, South Bow, the company that TC Energy created to take care of its pipeline business, no longer shows interest in reviving it.

Billions of dollars remain to be invested in the initiative before crude oil passes in the pipes.

Over recent years, only heavily subsidized pipelines have been built and delivered.

The Trans Mountain pipeline immediately comes to mind. In 2018, the Canadian government of Justin Trudeau bought that Alberta-British Columbia pipeline for \$4.7 billion because the initial owner, Kinder Morgan, an American company, had decided to cancel a \$6.8 billion venture to triple its capacity.

The pipeline’s expansion was finalized in 2024 at a cost of... \$34 billion, essentially taxpayer’s money. Recouping that money, even taking into account the benefits of oil exports, is ruled out.

All this to say that Keystone XL, or a second Alberta-British Columbia pipeline project, or GNL-Québec, will likely need huge sums of public funds in order to get off the ground. All this for a source of energy that is declining, with private pipeline operators staying carefully away from expanding that means of transportation.

Mark Carney’s sudden interest in pipelines is increasingly looking like a strategy that will lead to the eventual conclusion that he will be perceived as someone who at least tried. He will then be able to move onto more realistic, more modern initiatives. At the same time, hardly anybody will blame him for not having tried.

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Family asks court to speed up proceedings

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – The families of two young men who died tragically in an accident on May 10, 2023, in Rivière-au-Renard have launched a petition to speed up the legal proceedings against the two defendants in the case.

Dylan Samuel Francoeur and Gabriel Noël lost their lives in the accident.

Marc-Jules Chouinard, 50, faces two counts of premeditated murder, along with criminal harassment, death threats, criminal negligence causing death, and carrying a weapon for a dangerous purpose. His son, Simon Dufort-Chouinard, 20, is charged with premeditated and non-premeditated murder.

More than two years later, the case has made little progress.

“It’s been dragging on for more than two and a half years, since May 10, 2023. The hearings have been postponed. We want a trial and we want this to be resolved,” says Jessica Samuel Francoeur, spokesperson for the two families and the



Photo: Jessica Samuel-Francoeur's Facebook page

Family calls for acceleration of legal proceedings.

sister of Dylan Samuel Francoeur.

“We have all the evidence. The investigators have done a wonderful job. We have all the evidence we need to get a conviction,” she believes.

“If it stopped being postponed, it would go faster. Crown prosecutors tell us that these are normal delays and not to worry. But at some point, we want this to be resolved. We’re the ones living with the stress and anxiety,” says Dylan’s sister.

The families fear that the defendants will ultimately get off

scot-free.

“For some time now, Simon Dufort Chouinard has wanted to plead guilty in order to get a reduced sentence. That’s not what we want. We want real justice,” says Ms. Samuel Francoeur.

“We need justice. We have a void that may never be filled. We want a long prison sentence, a sentence that matches their actions, not a deal,” she insists.

The petition is intended as a tool to put pressure on the justice system and accelerate the case.

No final appeal in the Karine Rioux case

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

OTTAWA – The Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear the Criminal and Penal Directorate’s request to review the sentence imposed on Karine Rioux, who caused the death of Patrick Donovan in December 2021.

As is customary, the Supreme Court did not provide reasons for its decision not to hear the case.

The woman had been charged with impaired driving causing the death of Mr. Donovan, 63, and driving with a blood alcohol level of over 80 milligrams per 100 milliliters of blood.

At first instance, the court sentenced her to two years less a day in prison in July 2024. The decision was accepted and heard by the Quebec Court of Appeal because the accused sought a suspended sentence instead.

The Court of Appeal judges concluded that Judge Denis Paradis had placed too much emphasis on prison time in this case. They noted that Ms. Rioux’s progress to-



The Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear the Criminal and Penal Directorate’s request to review the sentence imposed on Karine Rioux.

ward rehabilitation supported a community sentence, even though the prison sentence proposed jointly by the criminal prosecutor and the defence was not contrary to the public interest. The court considered the entire case file in granting the community sentence.

Following the decision, Ms. Rioux will serve her sentence with a curfew between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. and will perform 200 hours of community service.

“I am hurt that his life was not valued more than that in our justice system. It is a deeply flawed and broken

system. The amount of trauma that the system has added to an already traumatic situation is incomprehensible,” wrote Natacha Donovan, the victim’s daughter.

“I ask you to keep any anger and negative comments to yourselves. If you feel anger and disgust because of this decision, please use it to try to initiate the change that needs to happen. Write to your representatives, donate to organizations like MADD (Mothers against drunk driving), and raise awareness that drinking and driving is wrong,” she added.

Police report

Douglas Quirion found guilty of sexual assault

Douglas Quirion, a 63-year-old man from Gaspé, was found guilty of sexually assaulting a person under the age of 16. The verdict was rendered on September 26 at the Percé courthouse. He faced eight charges involving two alleged victims, who were minors at the time of the alleged offences. He was notably accused of sexual assault, sexual contact with a person under the age of 14, indecent assault and gross indecency. The identities of the victims are protected by a publication ban.

Judge Celestina Almeida, of the Quebec Court, ultimately found the accused guilty of sexual contact and sexual assault against one of the two people named in the case. She estimated that the second complainant’s testimony was not “reliable” enough to be retained. As a result, Douglas Quirion was acquitted of the six other counts, which were related to the second complainant and events that allegedly occurred between 1981 and 1986.

Although the court found the alleged victim’s testimony to be sincere, it did not consider it reliable enough in this case to prove Mr. Quirion’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Judge Almeida wrote in her decision that his (the second complainant) version, while credible, was not reliable. This does not mean that the events did not occur, but the court cannot base its finding of guilt on an unreliable version. The acts alleged against Mr. Quirion occurred more than 40 years ago, when the alleged victim was still a child.

The judge found that there were certain inconsistencies in his testimony, as is often the case when the alleged events occurred several decades ago.

Judge Almeida also gave no credibility to Douglas Quirion’s version of events. He pleaded not guilty to all charges. According to the judge, the accused contradicted himself at several points during his testimony and the cross-examination. Mr. Quirion also refused to answer certain questions in detail, often only responding in a few words. He will return to court on January 23 for sentencing.

Bruno-Pierre Godbout will remain in custody

Accused of sexual and armed assault, forcible confinement, assault, and criminal harassment against three alleged victims, councillor for the Newport ward of the Town of Chandler, Bruno-Pierre Godbout, will remain behind bars for the remainder of the proceedings.

Detained since April 25, Mr. Godbout’s attorney had filed a Myers motion, asking the court to reconsider his client’s release in light of new facts and after a minimum of three months of pretrial detention.

This Supreme Court decision stipulates that the judge must ensure that pretrial detention which counts at 1.5 days for each day served, does not exceed a possible sentence. Despite the guarantees and sureties offered by the accused’s relatives, Judge Janick Poirier sided with the Crown, which had mentioned the accused’s alcohol consumption last week at the motion hearing and raised doubts about the ability of his relatives to have a positive influence.

The judge indicated that the prosecution had met its burden of convincing the court that provisional detention was justified to protect the safety of the public, witnesses, and complainants, and to avoid undermining public confidence in the administration of justice.

Bruno-Pierre Godbout will return to court on October 23 at the Percé courthouse for the continuation of proceedings. He has no prior criminal record, but he has a pending case for fraud charges related to false expense claims in 2021, during his time as acting mayor of Chandler.

Never too late to adjust past news, even 41 years later

Charles Valpy Huntington, of Port Daniel West, died on August 19, 1984, at Maril wharf. Born on January 5, 1976, he was therefore only eight years old. The news of his passing was reported in the Gaspé SPEC, in the issue following August 19, so just a few days later. The first news brief pertaining to the incident didn’t mention the cause of his death.

People close to him later contacted the newspaper, to say that at one point, the SPEC reported that he had drowned.

The same people assure the SPEC that coroner Jean-Louis Lévesque’s report confirms that he died of a heart attack. We were unable to find other references to the case in our archives, although our search was limited to a certain number of issues. We trust that the latest information brought to the newspaper is accurate.

New cabinet: Catherine Blouin not disappointed

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER – The Bonaventure Member of the National Assembly (MNA) is not disappointed that she did not join Premier François Legault's cabinet on September 10.

"It's a decision that belongs solely to the premier. He makes his decisions based on the constraints he is aware of. There are all kinds of factors to consider. Basically, I didn't go into politics to be a minister, but to serve the region," said Catherine Blouin, who gave interviews on the afternoon of September 16 to comment on the cabinet reshuffle.

She pointed out that the region faces many challenges. As a result, the area will rely on a minister from another region to be represented in the cabinet.

Amélie Dionne, the MNA for Rivière-du-Loup-Témiscouata, joined the cabinet as Minister of Tourism and Min-



Photo: N. Sergerie

Bonaventure MNA Catherine Blouin.

ister responsible for the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine regions.

"The issues are similar. We used to help each other on certain issues, particularly wind power. She is already familiar with the issues in my riding. The collaboration is already

there. I think it will work out well," said Ms. Blouin.

The mayor of Gaspé Daniel Côte lamented the fact that the regional minister represents two regions, a situation that is unique in Quebec.

"We are continuing what was already there, and I haven't heard the community complain in the last three years because there was no minister for the Gaspé Peninsula. Amélie Dionne has my full confidence. What's more, she is the Minister of Tourism. That's an important driver for us. It's going to be very, very good," added Ms. Blouin.

With the Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ) polling low, Ms. Blouin remains vague in her evaluation of surveys.

"I'll leave you to analyze the polls. I'm focused on my work with determination. I'm not distracted by the polls," says the elected official, who has been repeating her position for several weeks now, leaving it up to voters to decide the issue.



Inside the MTQ service centre in Gaspé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

New garage needs repairs

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – The new Quebec Ministry of Transport (MTQ) service centre, built in 2022 in Gaspé's Augustines industrial park, is already in need of repairs.

A contract worth \$28,300 has been awarded to the engineering firm WSP to prepare plans and specifications and oversee the improvement work, in line with the ministry's quality standards.

The Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI) said the work aims to upgrade equipment used for heavy machinery, based on observations made during field operations and with the goal of improving overall efficiency.

The facility includes three garage doors on the side of the rolling stock management centre and three more for the ministry itself. It also features an unheated warehouse for the MTQ, along with a three-storey office section shared between the two entities. An area is also set aside for storing abrasives and other materials used for road maintenance.

According to the SQI, the construction project for the new MTQ service centre was completed under budget, with nearly \$3 million in savings on the initial \$22.9-million allocation.

Milk: new loophole causes little concern for producers

NELSON SERGERIE

CARLETON-SUR-MER – The loophole in supply management introduced in early October to allow American products to reach Canadian grocery store shelves is not worrying Quebec dairy farmers.

At least, that is what Normand Barriault, a dairy farmer from Carleton-sur-Mer and regional spokesperson for the organization, claims.

"The loophole had already been agreed upon. Americans had access to the secondary processing market, such as cheese markets that went on pizzas. What they are asking for is to go directly to store shelves to market the American brand," he notes.

For Quebec dairy producers, this issue does not change anything in terms of their production. However, it will become difficult for consumers to navigate grocery store shelves.

"It will be another decep-

tion. The origin on the label is excessively small. Consumers may be misled and buy American or European products. If that's their choice, that's fine, but if they want to buy Canadian or Quebec products, they're being shortchanged," comments Mr. Barriault.

For Americans, the Canadian market represents only a drop in the bucket.

"It's a tug-of-war between Americans and Canadians. It's the American president who is at war with everyone. It's US first!" says the dairy farmer.

The desire to more clearly identify Canadian products on labels, which was expressed during the pandemic, has not been successful.

"It's difficult for some processors who want to keep their brands private. They don't want to put labels on their products to maintain their own identity," says Mr. Barriault.

The farmer suggests political intervention to improve the labeling of Canadian



Photo: N. Sergerie

Dairy producers are not concerned about the latest attempt by the Americans to penetrate the Canadian market.

products versus imported ones.

During Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit to Washington on October 7, President Donald Trump insisted that any new trade agreement with Canada would include dairy products.

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Housing: Quebec still dragging its feet

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER — Since 2022, the Gaspésie region has invested \$2.7 million to stimulate housing construction in the Gaspésie, but the Quebec government is dragging its feet on allowing elected officials to renew this budget.

More than 400 units have been built, distributed evenly across the five MRCs, with \$15,000 in support per door.

The new rules of the Rural Regions Fund (FRR) are making the process more complex, and discussions have been ongoing for a year and a half.

"It works. We want to continue this initiative, but with the new parameters of the Rural Regions Fund, even if the funds are available, we



Mathieu Lapointe, president of the Gaspésie Prefects' Table.

Photo: N. Sergerie

are not in a position to allocate them to housing projects. Sectoral agreements are needed. We are in discussions

with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and we are not yet in a position to achieve this," notes Mathieu Lapointe, pres-

ident of the Table des préfets de la Gaspésie.

Under the new framework, at most 30% of the budget can be used for private projects.

"Out of \$5.7 million, we will be close to what we could do before, but it will limit any other intervention we could make with private companies," explains Mr. Lapointe.

The new criteria means that prefects can no longer support various organizations, such as the Stratégie vivre en Gaspésie (Living in Gaspésie Strategy), for example.

"We have to review all our procedures and programs, which makes things much more complicated. We haven't been able to use these funds for a year because we don't have all the parameters

and we can't get the money out in the field," laments Mr. Lapointe.

"The FRR worked very well. It was flexible. But for the past year, we've had a series of criteria that have made things more complicated. As a local government, what we're saying is that we want the flexibility to support relevant initiatives in the region. That's what we've been doing for the past five years, and we want to continue doing so," adds Mr. Lapointe.

However, during the recent cabinet reshuffle in early September, Premier François Legault spoke of "shock treatment" to reduce bureaucracy.

"If the goal is to simplify things, it was a simple and effective program, but the criteria have changed and it's becoming extremely complex," says Mr. Lapointe.

Slowdown in commercial real estate

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ—The commercial real estate market in Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine experienced a slowdown in the second quarter of 2025, according to data compiled for RE/MAX Québec.

In April, May, and June, the value of transactions reached \$4.16 million for five transactions, compared to six transactions worth \$6.63 million for the same period last year. This represents a 37% year-over-year decrease in the monetary volume of transactions.

Across Quebec, the commercial real estate market declined by 30% in volume and 34% in number of transactions in the second quarter.

This slowdown reflects a more cautious environment, influenced by economic uncertainty, rising interest rates, and tighter financing, all of which have slowed down many investment decisions. Uncertainty related to the trade conflict with the United States



Second quarter shows slowdown in the commercial real estate sector.

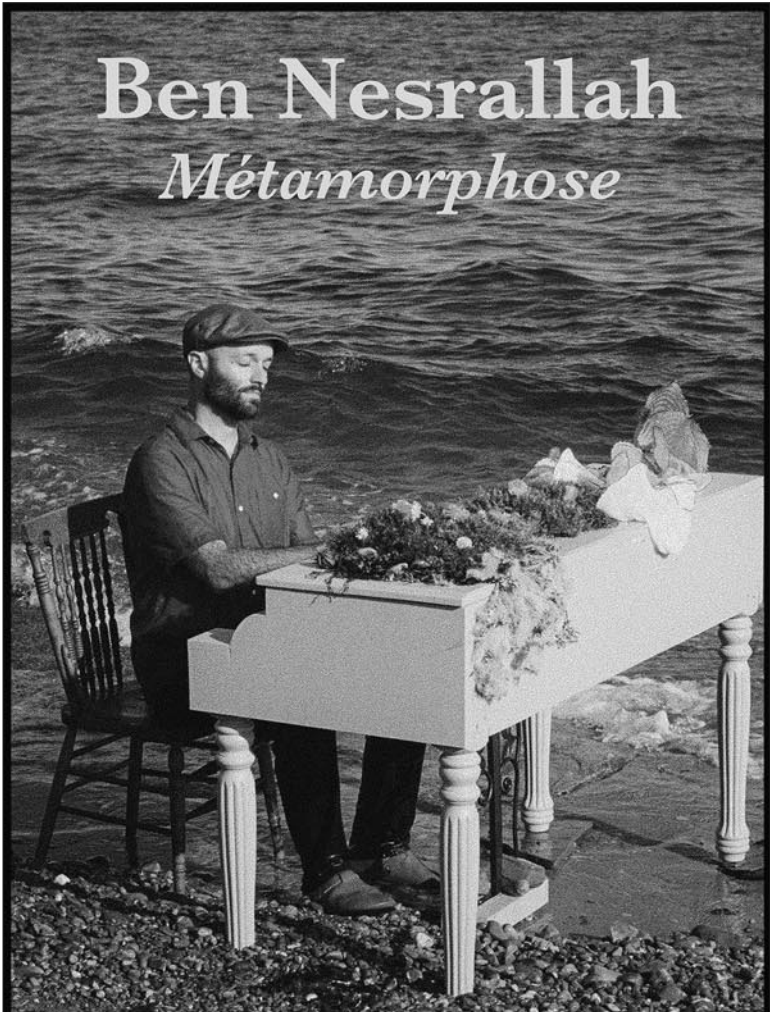
Photo: N. Sergerie

is also causing an impact.

"Undoubtedly. It's hard to make a direct connection. At the end of 2024, all analysts expected an interesting rebound in 2025. That was the case in the first quarter. It broke down in the second quarter. If we look at the potential reasons, it was undoubtedly the uncertainty that led entrepreneurs and investors to put projects on hold and wait for a clearer picture

before making strategic moves," says Christian-Pierre Côté, executive director at Côté Mercier, who authored the analysis presented by RE/MAX Québec.

According to the data, three commercial buildings with a total value of \$2.61 million changed hands, one industrial property was sold for \$850,000, and one piece of land sold for \$700,000 in the second quarter.



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Gaspé positions itself in Eastern North America

Nelson Sergerie

NEW YORK – The town of Gaspé took advantage of a meeting on September 24 in New York to position itself in the wind power and shipbuilding industries.

Daniel Côté, the mayor of Gaspé traveled to the American metropolis as a member of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, which unveiled its Action Plan for Economic Transformation: A Roadmap for Economic Growth and Sound Freshwater Management. The alliance includes cities from Minnesota to Gaspé.

"On our side, we are trying to position ourselves in the wind energy sector. The American markets are in turmoil with President Trump's rather harsh statements on wind energy. However, we are continuing to forge alliances with local players and states. In the naval sector, we have expertise in manufacturing hybrid ships in Gaspé. I am very pleased to talk about this to mayors who are making efforts to address climate change. We have sectors that contribute to the energy and economic transition. I am happy to bring them to the forefront," comments Daniel Côté before returning to Gaspé.

The alliance has presented a 10-year plan to turn the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region into the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor, creating 18 million jobs, attracting 500,000 sustainable businesses, and protecting the region's freshwater resources. The mayor hopes Gaspé can secure a share of this potential growth.

"In the shipbuilding industry alone, there is the potential for several hundred jobs to start with. In the wind energy industry, everything will depend on who takes power in the United States in the coming years. Our manufacturing sector is very dependent on American markets. There is a Quebec market coming, but we need the American market. It is thanks to this market that we have been able to keep our industry running for the past 10 years," notes Mr. Côté.

Some US states continue to support wind power even though the federal government has withdrawn its support. "It's difficult to come up with a specific plan for Gaspé within this large global plan because there are unknowns that are beyond our control. As a member of the alliance, we are able to lobby the US government and state governments. There are 350 municipalities in the alliance. Positioning ourselves can never be a bad thing," says the mayor.

Can Gaspé stand out alongside Toronto, Chicago, or Montreal? "Of course, the big cities are in the spotlight, but there are many smaller players. Duluth, Minnesota, for example, has a population of 80,000. Yes, it's a little bigger than us, but there are cities that are closer to the size of Rimouski. There are cities comparable to ours with which we can form alliances. That doesn't prevent us from talking to cities like Montreal, Chicago, or Cleveland. It gives us access to those mayors, and they can hear how Gaspé is diversifying its economy through economic and ecological transformation," suggests Mr. Côté.

In a context where the St. Lawrence River could become more difficult to navigate for large bulk carriers or mega container ships, Gaspé could become an alternative.

"Gaspé is the second largest natural deep-water port in the world and is underdeveloped. The level of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River will continue to decline in the coming decades. Ports like Gaspé could come out on top," says the mayor. Rail could become an important mode of transportation.

"If we are able to accommodate container ships in Gaspé, rail will be necessary. We won't be able to send the containers by truck. We will necessarily have to use the railroad if we are close to a port like Halifax. This is a very long-term thing," said the mayor.





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PUBLIC NOTICE OF POLL

MUNICIPALITY OF GASPÉ

By this public notice, Me Isabelle Vézina, returning officer, announces the following to electors entered on the municipal list of electors.

1. a poll will be held;
2. the candidates in this election for the positions mentioned below are:

Office: **COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 1**

- Christian Michel Boulay
- Mathieu Denis

Office: **COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 6**

- Michel Allain
- Walter-Olivier Rottmann-Aubé
- Ghislain Smith

3. You may exercise your voting right by presenting yourself to your assigned polling station on the dates, hours, and locations below:

Advance polling will be held from **12 p.m. to 8 p.m.** on **October 26, 2025** at the following locations:

Ward number 1:

sections 1 to 4: **École St-Paul**, 33, chemin de l'Église, St-Maurice de l'Échouerie (Anse-à-Valleau, Pointe-Jaune, Saint-Maurice de l'Échouerie and Petit-Cap)

Ward number 6:

sections 33 to 41: **Hôtel de ville**, 25, rue de l'Hôtel de ville, Gaspé (Sandy-Beach and Haldimand and York and Sunny Bank)

sections 42 to 44: **Salle Trachy**, 15A, rue Trachy, Gaspé (Douglastown);

Regular polling stations will be open for the poll on **November 2, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.** at the following locations :

Ward number 1:

sections 1 to 4: **École St-Paul**, 33, chemin de l'Église, St-Maurice de l'Échouerie (Anse-à-Valleau, Pointe-Jaune, Saint-Maurice de l'Échouerie and Petit-Cap);

Ward number 6:

sections 33 to 38: **Carrefour intermodal**, 8, rue de la Marina, Gaspé (Sandy-Beach and Haldimand);

sections 39 to 41: **Salle de York**, 702, boul. de York Ouest, Gaspé (York and Sunny Bank);

sections 42 to 44: **Salle Trachy**, 15A, rue Trachy, Gaspé (Douglastown);

4. The addition of the votes will take place on November 2, 2025, at 8:45 p.m. at the following location and you may attend it:

Town hall
25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville
Gaspé (Québec) G4X 2A5

5. You can contact the returning officer, the elections secretary and the assistant, where applicable at the following address, email and telephone number.

Me Isabelle Vézina, présidente d'élection

Adresse: 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Gaspé (Québec) G4X 2A5
Courriel: isabelle.vezina@ville.gaspe.qc.ca
Téléphone: 418 368-2104 poste 8504

Madame Francine Cassivi, secrétaire d'élection

Adresse: 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Gaspé (Québec) G4X 2A5
Courriel: greffe@ville.gaspe.qc.ca
Téléphone: 418 368-2104 poste 8505

Me Élodie Mercier, adjointe à la présidente d'élection

Adresse: 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Gaspé (Québec) G4X 2A5
Courriel: elodie.mercier@ville.gaspe.qc.ca
Téléphone: 418 368-2104 poste 8622

DONE at Gaspé, October 15, 2025.

Me Isabelle Vézina,
Returning officer

Towards an expansion of the Augustines industrial park

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – With available land running low, the Town of Gaspé is preparing plans to expand the Augustines industrial park.

The municipality recently took advantage of an opportunity to acquire a parcel of land located between the industrial park and the airport from a private owner looking to sell. The lot has been set aside for a potential future expansion.

The town's other two parks, Sandy Beach and Rivière-au-Renard, cannot be expanded because they are enclosed within their respective territories.

"It's not completely full. There are still some small plots of land left. But if a large company like LM Wind Power were to arrive tomorrow morning, we wouldn't have room to accommodate it. That's why we're planning for the future and seizing opportunities," notes Mayor Daniel Côté.

This opportunity led to the construction of the industrial road between the park and the Sandy Beach wharf.

"We're ready to go if there's a project that requires expansion. But we're not in the mode of putting \$5 or \$10



Photo: N. Sergerie

million into expansion without a real or embryonic project. There is interest from companies, but it's contingent on having transportation options such as rail or seaport. We're not in a position to say we're putting \$10 million into expansion without a real project, and we're not in a waiting mode," explains the mayor.

The town already has a preliminary plan for expansion.

"When a project comes along, we won't have to start from scratch. We already have preparations in place to proceed with the expansion if necessary," says the mayor.

Mr. Côté noted that the return of train service could play a major role in stimulat-

ing future industrial development.

"The train is not the only factor that could generate industrial development, but it is a major facilitator, according to discussions we have had with the latest developers in recent years who wanted to set up shop here. The big question is still: is it true that the train is coming back? And we say that the government has a plan for 2025-2026-2027. Each time, the deadlines are pushed back, and now we don't have any deadlines at all. We are losing credibility with industrial developers," says Mr. Côté.

As a result, Gaspé may be missing out on new economic opportunities.

GASPE WALK:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

know more than we did when we were in school. The school takes the time to explain and tell them the truth about what happened. It's wonderful to see that young people know their history," notes Jessica Jean-Morin, cultural officer for the Micmac Nation of Gespeg.

The community is becoming increasingly involved in the movement.

"More and more partners want to participate in our events. We greatly appreciate the wind of change towards our community," says Ms. Jean-Morin.

Mayor Côté present

Daniel Côté, the mayor of Gaspé and prefect of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, believes that his presence is important to highlight this march.

"The history surrounding residential schools is quite horrific. We have people here whose ancestors were victims. Recognizing this often-hidden history, just recognizing this history and working toward reconciliation with the community," notes Daniel Côté.

Reconciliation between Gaspé and Gespeg was already underway before the federal government created

the day.

"We are in partnership with the Gespeg First Nation. The fact that they (Gespeg members) don't live on a reserve helps us reconcile what we can do together. We were already in this mode and we want to continue to strengthen the partnership. It won't erase the mistakes of the past, but if it can help us work more harmoniously in the future, that will already be a step forward," adds the mayor.

In 2017, the two councils held a joint meeting to further this collaboration at the Nation's administrative centre in Saint-Majorique.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an opportunity to pay tribute to the children who never made it home, and to the survivors of residential schools, their families, and their communities.

Orange Shirt Day is a day of remembrance organized by Indigenous communities to raise awareness of the inter-generational impact of residential schools on individuals, families, and communities, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters."

The shirt is a symbol of the loss of culture, freedom, and self-esteem suffered by Indigenous children for several generations.

An estimated 6,000 children died while attending these residential schools.

A vision of the Gaspé Peninsula in 2050

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – No fewer than 749 people aged 7 to 95, participated in 84 workshops to define what they want for the Gaspé Peninsula at the turn of 2050.

Collectivités ZéN Gaspésie laid the groundwork for future discussions to achieve this vision by focusing on three main areas: an engaged and inclusive community; sustainable living environments adapted to climate change, and a more autonomous local economy.

"The mission of Collectivités Zéro émission net Gaspésie is really to increase social dialogue around the issues of socio-ecological transition and adaptation to climate change. We want to mobilize the population and organizations in the region to develop a common vision for taking action," summarized Arielle Paiement, project manager, during the presentation of the first phase in Gaspé on October 7.

"The main thing that came



Photo: N. Sergerie

out was food security: feeding people. There is a social justice aspect that comes with climate change. We don't want it to be only those who have the financial means to adapt. We want everyone to have access to good food. Mutual aid: can we pool our resources?" said Patricia Chartier, the collective's outreach officer.

Consumer society needs to be rethought. "Can you help us save energy? Renovate our homes? In their daily lives, people see that consumer society has a financial impact and

want to return to our core values. These are more traditional values, but people want to be more collective," says Ms. Chartier.

Access to natural resources such as fishing is another example. "We want to develop a plan and direct resources, but do so in a coherent manner and avoid duplication. There are questions that need to be asked. How should we position ourselves? The idea is to be able to help each other," continues Ms. Paiement.

Difficult choices will have

to be made, and the organization wants the discussion to take place upstream rather than in an emergency.

This first step has made it possible to define the objectives.

"We are setting up working committees for each of the three areas with stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds. Their mandate will be to chart the course that will lead us to the realization of this vision in 25 years. Identify the steps and put them in order to form the stages of transition. Then we will establish the priorities for action to achieve this, which will be the drivers of the project," suggests Ms. Paiement.

Success will be measured in this way in 2050.

"Will we have a more resilient community, one that is better adapted to climate change and more equitable? One of the measures will be to see if we have a community with less social inequality," says the project manager.

In the context of an increasingly individualistic society,

this collective aspect becomes a significant challenge.

"People are very open. In the workshops, people enjoyed discussing things. I get the impression that there is an appetite for democratic debate, but people don't feel they have any power. Individualism is a strong trend, but there is an appetite for something else. We need to educate people," explains Ms. Chartier.

Starting this fall, working committees bringing together local stakeholders from several sectors of activity will be set up to define these trajectories.

The CIRADD project has received approximately \$1 million in public funding, not including contributions from participants. CIRADD stands for Centre d'initiation à la recherche appliqué en développement durable, a research centre devoted to finding sustainable development solutions.

Collectivités ZéN Gaspésie was formed in 2022 and brings together 14 regional partners from diverse backgrounds.

September 2025 goes down in history for drought

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – September 2025 goes down in history for the lack of rain.

According to Environment Canada data, it was the fifth driest September in Gaspé since the federal agency began compiling data at Michel-Pouliot Airport.

Only 28 millimetres of rain fell, ranking September 2025 just behind 1995, when 28.6 millimetres were recorded. The monthly normal is 91 millimetres. The driest September on record was in 1996, with only 12.2 millimetres.

“Throughout Quebec and also in the Gaspé Peninsula, we had a very dry September,” notes Environment Canada meteorologist Julien Pellerin.

Impact on drinking water

The drought, ongoing since June, is beginning to have a tangible impact on drinking water supplies.

On September 25, the Town of Gaspé called on citizens served by the municipal water network to use water sparingly.

“Since the beginning of the summer, the critical thresholds of our three wells that supply downtown Gaspé have not been reached. That said, several residences throughout the area have seen their individual wells run dry,” the town said in



Photo: N. Sergerie

Water is becoming scarce for some.

an alert to citizens.

“Although the situation is not critical for drinking water in the downtown Gaspé and Rivière-au-Renard systems, water levels have nevertheless dropped compared to years with higher precipitation. In addition, with winter approaching and little precipitation forecast for the coming days and weeks, we are asking the population throughout the territory to limit their water consumption as much as possible to allow the aquifer to regenerate as much as possible before the winter season,” the town said.

Murdochville also reported on September 24 that drinking water supply wells are running low.

“It is very important and urgent that everyone make a significant effort to conserve water until there is significant

rainfall. Until then, the situation will not improve and may even worsen. Let's take steps to avoid the worst,” the municipality urges.

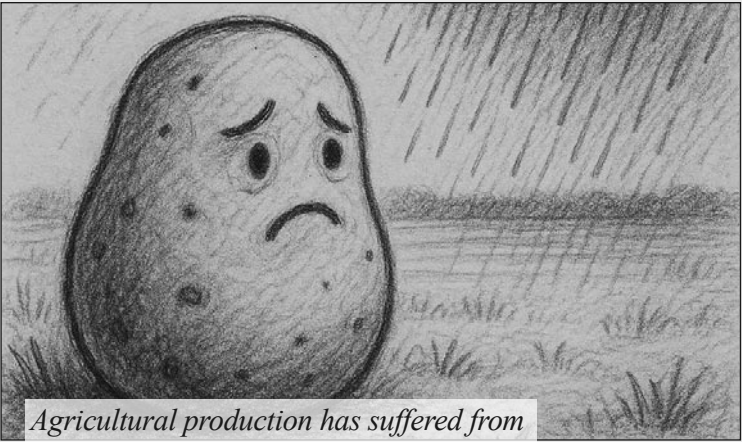
For its part, the Town of Percé has launched a survey on the condition of domestic wells in its territory to assess the drought situation in its area.

September’s drought reflects the summer weather pattern. From June 1 to August 31, Gaspé received only 148 millimetres of rain, compared with the normal 270 millimetres.

The five driest Septembers in Gaspé’s history (excluding 2025):

- 1 – 12.2 millimetres (1996)
- 2 – 15.6 millimetres (1992)
- 3 – 24.2 millimetres (1978)
- 4 – 24.6 millimetres (1968)
- 5 – 28.6 millimetres (1995)

Source: Environment Canada



Agricultural production has suffered from drought in the Baie-des-Chaleurs.

Photo: Patasol

Lack of water hurts crops

Nelson Sergerie

BONAVENTURE – Low rainfall in recent weeks is hurting crops in the Baie-des-Chaleurs.

In August, New Carlisle saw only 0.65 inches of rain, which is a tad less than 2 centimetres, while July brought barely 1.5 inches, or about 4 centimetres.

“Crops have suffered greatly. There will be no second cut of hay. Potatoes need water to grow. Without water, they don't grow. They will produce small potatoes. The markets don't want small potatoes,” says Sylvain Arbour, president of the Union des producteurs agricoles Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

“Most grains are not grading because they are smaller. This is the first year I've seen corn suffer so much from drought. I've never seen this before; the leaves are bending because they don't have water. This is the first time I've seen leaves turn yellow due to lack of water,” notes Mr. Arbour.

The water shortage also affects the water table, which cannot replenish itself.

“We have to be careful. Water sources are not inexhaustible. We can see that all the small streams are dry,” notes Mr. Arbour. At this time of year, even if it rained, it wouldn't make much of a difference.

“Look at the grass. The grass is turning yellow not because it's dying, but because it's going dormant to protect itself. It's the same thing in agriculture,” explains the president.

To recharge the water table, there would need to be significant rainfall this fall, followed by a substantial amount of snow. Unfortunately, by mid-September, New Carlisle had received only 13 millimeters of rain, about half an inch.

La Financière agricole will likely step in to support farmers and help compensate for the losses incurred during the 2025 season.

“We hope that this will trigger production for certain crops,” notes the president.

Summer records in autumn

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – Summer is hanging on, even though autumn is increasingly showing its colours.

Three records were broken in the region on October 7. According to Environment Canada data, Gaspé was the hottest spot in the region, with the thermometer reading 29 degrees at Michel-Pouliot Airport, beating the 24.6 degrees recorded in 2016. Carleton-sur-Mer saw 28.1 degrees, also breaking the 24.4-degree record set in 2016. New Carlisle saw the mercury rise to 26.1 degrees, eclipsing the 22.2 degrees recorded in 1976. The north coast only reached a high of 15 degrees.

The day before, on October 6, two records were broken. According to data from the federal agency, the mercury reached 28.9 degrees in Carleton-sur-Mer, eclipsing the 21.7 degrees recorded in 1972. The same was true in New Carlisle, where the thermometer showed 26.7 degrees, erasing the 23.9 degrees recorded in 2023.

However, Gaspé struggled to reach 20 degrees, mainly due to easterly winds that blew all day over Gaspé Bay. The record to beat was 26.9 degrees in 2023. The normal temperature is 12 degrees.

GESGAPEGIAG WALK: *Cont'd from cover*

the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation. When she was a little girl, she was forced to attend a residential school in Williams Lake, British Columbia. On the first day of school, she proudly wore an orange shirt her grandmother had given her. The residen-

tial school staff stripped her of her belongings, cut her hair, and took away her clothes, including her orange shirt

“I never wore it again. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! The color orange has always reminded me how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All

of us little children were crying and no one cared”, she wrote.

Now 58 years old, Phyllis Webstad Jack has become a published author and activist. Her story inspired the creation of Orange Shirt Day, a symbol of remembrance and commitment to reconciliation across Canada.



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Allen Cormier attempts a return to politics

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CAP-CHAT – After losing to Guy Bernatchez in the 2021 election for prefect of the Haute-Gaspésie MRC, Allen Cormier is attempting a comeback in active politics.

Prefect from 2009 to 2021, Mr. Cormier is now running for a seat on the Cap-Chat municipal council.

“I was approached on numerous occasions by Cap-Chat residents to run for municipal council. In the course of my career, both in weekly newspapers and in politics, I was leaning toward running for councillor in Cap-Chat,” explains Mr. Cormier, as Mr. Bernatchez retires from political life.

“In the last election four years ago, I had the misfortune of losing the position of prefect. I even thought about giving up on politics, but the love of the people has led me to try again in a less demanding role,” explains the candidate, who has admitted in the past



Allen Cormier still has a taste for politics.

Photo: Courtesy of Allen Cormier

that he had a hard time accepting his defeat in 2021.

Since his defeat, Mr. Cormier has been working at the Gabriel-Le Courtois school in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts as a special education teacher and substitute teacher, a position he will be able to keep even if he is elected on November 2.

This will be his sixth election campaign, having run four

times for the prefecture and once, in 2011, for Stephen Harper's Conservatives in the former riding of Haute-Gaspésie-La Métis-Matane-Matapédia.

On the political front, Mr. Cormier also served as press secretary for former Gaspé Member of National Assembly (MNA) André Beaudin in the 1980s and 1990s.

\$30 million project for highway 132 in Saint-Siméon

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

SAINT-SIMÉON – A major project to repair highway 132 in Saint-Siméon is planned for the early 2030s, with an estimated cost of between \$25 million and \$30 million.

The municipality must replace its water and sewer pipes, and the Quebec Ministry of Transport (MTQ) would use this opportunity to review its storm sewer system, similar to what has been under discussion in Carleton-sur-Mer for nearly a quarter of a century.

“It has to be redone. It's the most outdated part of the network. It's right on highway 132. The Ministry of Transport needs to review its entire storm sewer system. It needs to be oversized because it doesn't work well and causes a lot of problems. Highway 132 needs to be completely demolished and rebuilt,” explains Mayor Denis Gauthier.

Since the road is being rebuilt, improvements are planned as part of the project.

“We're going to rebuild it responsibly to see how we can



Photo: Allen Doug Shaw

A section of highway 132 in Saint-Siméon.

make it safer to get around Saint-Siméon with an urban promenade and different types of architecture,” explains the mayor, who does not believe the delays will be as long as they were in Carleton-sur-Mer.

“We hope not. We already have a timeline between 2030 and 2034. The work should take two years. We're in the process and following the steps. We're meeting the deadlines. It's going well,” says the elected official.

“It could be around \$25 million to \$30 million. If we factor in inflation between now and

2034, it could be different. We will cover our share of the water and sewer costs, and the ministry should, in principle, absorb the rest,” the mayor calculates.

The project is currently in phase one: the feasibility study.

“We've already had some discussions about who would be the project manager, which would be the MTQ. But it's too early to talk about that,” he comments.

The portion that will go to Saint-Siméon should be subsidized by 85% by the government of Quebec.



Few municipalities will hold elections on November 2.

Photo: Elections Québec

Overview of municipal elections in Rocher-Percé and Côte-de-Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – The mayors of the main towns in the Gaspé Peninsula were elected by acclamation following the end of the nomination period at 4:30 p.m. on October 3.

In Gaspé, Daniel Côté was re-elected for a fourth term without opposition. He is also the prefect of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC and president of the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Intermunicipal Transportation Board. A vote will be necessary in Cloridorme and Murdochville.

In Rocher-Percé, four of the five municipalities will require an election on November 2. The prefect of the Rocher-Percé MRC, Samuel Parisé, has been entrusted with a second term.

The mayor of Port-Daniel-Gascons, Henri Grenier, was re-elected unopposed. A vote will have to be held in the four other municipalities, including Chandler, where the outgoing mayor Gilles Daraïche will face the former head of aquatic activities Dominique Giroux.

Here is the overview by MRC for the mayor's office.

Rocher-Percé:

Elected by acclamation:

Port-Daniel-Gascons: Henri Grenier.

A vote will be necessary in:

Chandler: Incumbent mayor Gilles Daraïche will face Dominique Giroux.

Grande-Rivière: Incumbent mayor Gino Cyr will face incumbent councillor Carol Moreau.

Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé: Incumbent mayor Roberto Blondin will face Jacques Desbois and Alcide Hautcoeur.

Percé: Incumbent mayor Daniel Leboeuf will face Michel Després and Pierre Poirier.

Côte-de-Gaspé:

Elected by acclamation:

Gaspé: Incumbent mayor Daniel Côté.

Petite-Vallée: Incumbent mayor Monika Tait.

Grande-Vallée: Incumbent mayor Noël Richard.

A vote will be necessary in:

Cloridorme: Incumbent councilors Nandy Cloutier and Normand Poirier will face off.

Murdochville: Incumbent mayor Délicia Ritchie Roussy will face Stéphane Gamache.

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Municipal elections in the Baie-des-Chaleurs area: many mayors are elected by acclamation

HOLLY SMITH
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW CARLISLE – A large number of Baie-des-Chaleurs municipal elections were avoided on October 3, when the nomination period ended with only one candidate submitting papers in many municipalities. As a result, only six mayoral races will take place in the Bonaventure and Avignon MRCs, far fewer than in 2021.

In New Carlisle, Patrice Leclerc and Benoit Maltais will face off for the mayor’s seat. Incumbent David Thibault, now a new father, has decided to take a break from municipal politics.

Also in the Bonaventure MRC, three other contests will be worth following, in Caplan outgoing mayor Lise Castiloux will be challenged by Sylvain Brière and Renaud Boissonault; in Paspebiac Louis Breton, Jérémy Laplante and Sandra Langlois are vying for the position and in Hope, incumbent Hazen Whittom faces Nadia Chapados.

In Paspebiac, outgoing



Photo: Courtesy of Ashley Milligan

Ashley Milligan starts her second term as mayor of Cascapedia-St. Jules.

mayor Marc Loisel, who was elected for the first time in 2021, has decided to step away from municipal politics.

Wins by acclamation

In New Richmond, Éric Dubé, who was elected mayor in 2013 after three-and-a-half terms as a councillor between 1999 and 2011, was re-elected without opposition, he thus begins his fourth term as mayor.

No contests will take place

in Cascapedia-Saint-Jules, where Ashley Milligan begins her second term as mayor.

Linda MacWhirter in Hope Town, and Rolande Couture-Beebe in Shigawake were also re-elected by acclamation.

In Bonaventure, Pierre Gagnon, who filled the position for the end of the current term, was also returned to office, unopposed.

In Saint-Alphonse, Josiane Appleby remains in office. The status quo also applies to Denis

Gauthier in Saint-Siméon and Paquerette Poirier in Saint-Elzéar.

In the MRC of Avignon

In L’Ascension-de-Patapédia, Éric Guénette will face Nancy Arsenault, while in Pointe-à-la-Croix, incumbent Pascal Bujold is challenged by J. Alan Morrisson.

In Escuminac, former Bonaventure Member of the National Assembly Sylvain Roy becomes mayor by acclamation after serving a term as councillor. Incumbent Bruce Wafer decided to step away after many years as both councillor and mayor.

In Nouvelle, Richard Saint-Laurent returns to the mayor’s chair, unopposed. It is a comeback for him, as incumbent Rachèle Dugas chose not to seek re-election after one term.

Carleton-sur-Mer mayor Mathieu Lapointe was not challenged and begins his third term.

In a rare situation in Maria, every position on council was filled by acclamation. Patricia Chartier, a former Québec Sol-

idaire candidate in Bonaventure, becomes mayor without opposition, after serving two terms as councillor, including during the 2021-2025 mandate.

In Matapédia, bilingual accountant Serge Normandeau takes over as mayor by acclamation, following the retirement of outgoing mayor Nicole Lagacé.

“Almost immediately after filling my candidacy documents and having been confirmed in the position, I received a call from prefect Mathieu Lapointe. He asked me what was my priority for the upcoming term and I replied: economic development! We have lost population here and we need to correct this”, explains Mr. Normandeau.

No contests will take place in Saint-François, where Rémi Lagacé is re-elected, in Saint-Alexis, where Cynthia Dufour regains her seat as mayor, and in Ristigouche Southeast, where David Ferguson remains mayor. Outgoing councillor Jean-Paul Landry becomes mayor of Saint-André unopposed.

Patrice Leclerc – Candidate for Mayor of New Carlisle

For me, acquiring the Maguire House (known as Betty Le Maistre’s house) is far more than a transaction. It is a return to my roots, as my grandparents were originally from the Gaspésie.

Since moving to New Carlisle in 2021, I have attended the majority of municipal council meetings. This has allowed me to follow matters closely, and I strongly believe that many projects already underway deserve to be supported and brought to completion. With respect for our bilingual community, I reaffirm that council meetings will be held in both English and French.

MY BACKGROUND

- Community involvement experience: president of the condominium syndicate and president of the parent’s committee at my daughter’s school.
- My experience in scientific research gave me the opportunity to work in England and France.
- Over 17 years with the Desjardins Movement, where I held key positions: frontline manager and senior advisor on major projects.
- My academic background in business management has prepared me to guide with vigilance and I am committed to sharing my expertise to serve our community.

These experiences have allowed me to develop attentive listening, a broad perspective, and the ability to analyze impacts, always working in the interest of the collective good.

PROJECT IDEAS FOR NEW CARLISLE

- Place citizen participation at the heart of decision-making: monthly meetings, public consultations, and co-creation of projects with citizens.
- Be attentive to our senior citizens to better address their needs.
- Support families: childcare project CPE, community gym for our children
- Take action for the environment: composting project — recover, transform, and give back to citizens; a green cycle for our land and gardens.
- Sustain ongoing projects: affordable housing, improving the quality of the water etc.
- Promote economic and recreational tourism development.



MY COMMITMENT

Together, with your support, let’s make New Carlisle a fair, equitable, and united town — one that is future-focused, where the decisions we make today open possibilities for tomorrow.

1986, a year of growing stability

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – Literally and figuratively, the year 1986 looks slightly quieter than the previous years. The economy is still slowly recovering, and the Liberal Party government in Quebec City has somewhat curtailed the frustrations of the Anglophone community.

Vol 12, No 1
January 7, 1986

- In the first issue of 1986, dated January 7, Sharon McCully runs a “1985 in review” special. The SPEC team chooses to illustrate the front page with René Lévesque, who quit politics after placing Quebec’s independence on the back burner, Jules Bourque, director of the Gaspé CEGEP, who waited for a Baie-des Chaleurs municipalities’ agreement before announcing that a campus will be established in Carleton, Jean Garon, proud of the “normalization of Eastern Quebec fisheries”, and Gerard D. Levesque, who began his 9th National Assembly term on December 2.

Vol 12, No 2
January 14, 1986

- In SPEC’s number 2, dated January 14, a spectacular photo shows the effect of a storm, as snow is piled up as high as the second-storey roof of a house owned by the Douglas family. Also on page 1, a “Railcar leaks cargo of sulphuric acid” near the Restigouche river, from CN’s freight yard in Campbellton. It causes worries about the river’s fish. “Insurance companies cancel ski hill policies” reports on a decision by all Quebec companies but one dealing with ski centres because they have to deal with too many claims. Inside, the police is investigating the possible murder of Serge Deraspe, of Saint-Godefroi, the Foundation Company of Canada is finally awarded the reconstruction contract of the Sandy Beach wharf for \$9.2 million, and the fishermen are upset with the conclusion of the Kirby report, which determines that fishermen must work 15 weeks per year in that trade to be billed “full-time”.



Dr. James N. Gillis was born in Port Daniel, Quebec on December 25, 1899 and received his medical doctor’s degree from McGill University.

Vol 12, No 3
January 21, 1986

- In SPEC’s issue 3, dated January 21, a picture shows a Cascapedia sleigh pulled by horses belonging to Wilson Cochrane. In Gaspé, a small fire causes the temporary closure of the C.E. Pouliot High School. Inside, “Guy Coulombe returns to top jail job”, “Restigouche Reserve to invest \$7.5 million in development” and “Two men arrested in St. Godefroi murder” are published. The two men are Yves and Eugene Anglehart.

Vol 12, No 4
January 28, 1986

- “Yves Anglehart charged with 1st degree murder” takes a big part of SPEC’s January 28 front page. The 24-year-old man’s brother Eugene, 20, is charged with being an accessory after the fact. “Mediator settles labour dispute” reports on the conclusion of Town of Gaspé employees’ year-long strike. In “Fishermen get reprieve from classification”, we learn that 1986 will be used to sort out full-time and part-time fishermen, instead of 1985.

Vol 12, No 5
February 4, 1986

- “Indians to take discrimination case to Human Rights Commission” presents on February 4 the situation experienced by Howard Martin and Pierrette Bernard, of the “Maria Reserve”, who were refused to

participate in a Hôtel de la Baie cribbage tournament because other teams didn’t want them to play. Mr. Martin files the complaint. “Two men arrested in Thompson killing” provides details about the arrests of Bridgeville’s Melvin Chicoine and Cody Vibert, for the death of Barachois hotel owner Percy Thompson, in October 1985.

Vol 12, No 6
February 11, 1986

- In SPEC’s February 11, issue 6, “Fish plant workers seek syndication” reports on the desire by a fair portion of the E. Gagnon et Fils crab processing plant to join the CSN union because of irregular schedules and low wages which, at \$5.25 per hour, is \$2 lower than that of Newport’s facility. The plant is then owned by New Brunswick’s Gagnon family. “Jobs threatened by merger” explains the worry triggered by Ottawa’s intention to integrate Job development to Employment and Immigration Offices. Also on page 1, we see former NHL player Jude Drouin, a Gaspesian who attended Murdochville’s 25th Bantam Tournament, is featured, with a follow-up report published the following week.

Vol 12, No 7
February 18, 1986

- In SPEC’s issue 7, dated February 18, “Shigawake Carnival entertains hundreds” shows a children’s skating race. “Delegations and full agenda at

school board meeting” reports on requests made to have French immersion and a secretarial course at New Carlisle High School. “Barachois and surrounding communities satisfied with present CLSC service” mentions that the residents prefer going to Gaspé instead of Chandler. Sharon McCully reports on Jude Drouin’s homecoming to Murdochville, where he played minor hockey before being recruited by the Montreal Canadiens.

Vol 12, No 8
February 25, 1986

- “Chicoine and Vibert accused of murder of Percy Thompson” makes the headline of SPEC’s February 25, issue 8. The two suspects are Melvin Chicoine, 25 and Cody Vibert, 19. At the Coroner’s Inquest, Melvin Chicoine says he wanted some money from the victim’s hotel. He didn’t want to shoot him. The other front-page article is titled “Over 70% NRHS students rated fluent or functional in French”. Inside, native Gaspesian, Peter Sutton, is named archbishop of Le Pas’ diocese, Manitoba.

Vol 12, No 9
March 4, 1986

- On March 4, number 9, “Roche Co. explains tourism report” reports on the tourism sector’s challenge of avoiding to promote the Gaspé Peninsula as a set of separate attractions, and adopting a pan-regional. Another headline reads, “Marin and campaign organizers charged under Elections Act,” reporting that Gaspé Member of Parliament Charles-Eugène Marin and his team exceeded the \$20,000 spending limit during the 1984 campaign. As a follow up on a case first heard in 1985, “3 charged in \$2 million fraud” presents the case of bank manager Gilles Bazinet, accountant Jacques Leblanc and Lacroix Lumber manager Yvan Lacroix. “Gas prices confusing to consumers” is the other main title.

Vol 12, No 10
March 11, 1986

- In SPEC’s issue 10, dated March 11, “PCB levels too

high in Hydro transformers” reports on Hydro-Québec’s old Eastern Quebec transformers, where 21 out of 100 contain too much PCB, a heavy pollutant, in their oil. “Fisheries and Oceans negotiating right of way for fishermen” in Grande-Vallée, “Gaspesians respond to fundraising effort” for a girl waiting for a transplant, “Cultural Affairs program outlines” and “MRC (the region’s five MRCs) looks at regional concern” are the other front-page titles.

Vol 12, No 11
March 18, 1986

- In the March 18 issue, Paspébiac’s “Chantier Maritime purchased by private interest” reports on its acquisition by Rivtow Industries, of Vancouver. The buyer has already secured contracts to build three fishing boats. Saint-Godefroi’s Yves Anglehart is formally charged with the January 11 premeditated murder of Serge Deraspe. Inside, the Belle Anse School celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Vol 12, No 12
March 25, 1986

- Issue 12, dated March 25, features “Hospital faces overcrowding and doctor shortage”, a report stating that a high presence of chronic care patients complicates the situation in Maria. “St. Patrick’s Day widely celebrated” in St. Jules-Grand Cascapedia and Irish Days in Douglastown are the other main titles. Inside, an article reports on the murder of Bonaventure-born priest, Wellie Arsenault, in Honduras.

Vol 12, No 13
April 1, 1986

- “Funeral of slain missionary held in Bonaventure” takes three-quarters of the April 1 SPEC, issue 13. Wellie Arsenault had spent 19 years in Honduras, where he helped build 250 homes for orphaned children. “CDEBC prepared to continue mandate” reports on

From Page 13

the Commission de développement économique of the Baie des Chaleurs' board decision to keep going.

Vol 12. No 14
April 8, 1986

- The SPEC's 14th issue, dated April 8, puts "Report sheds new light on wife battering" as the main title, quoting a recent Quebec document revealing that 256,000 women are chronically battered in the province, a conservative statistic. A front-page photo shows the crew of a crab boat preparing for the season. "Workers await decision on plant opening" reports on the 300 Gagnon processing plant labourers waiting for a decision about the foundation of a union. "Robin Jones Whitman to expand" specifies that the company is opening a store in Chandler, and moving its Gaspé facility.

Vol 12. No 15
April 15, 1986

- "Tax increase – school closings considered in budget" of the Regional School Board of Gaspesia and "Deputy Marin generally speaking" are the main titles of the 15th issue, dated April 15. Meanwhile, a photo shows tree clearings by Hydro-Québec, done "without regard for future growth, or present beauty". Inside, Melvin Chicoine is sentenced to a 20-year penitentiary term, after pleading guilty to a reduced charge of manslaughter, tied to the death of Barachois inn owner Percy Thompson. Cody Vibert is sentenced to nine years. An unsigned article also reports that CN would like to abandon the Chandler to Gaspé portion of the regional line, due to declining traffic.

Vol 12. No 16
April 22, 1986

- SPEC's issue 16, dated April 22, "Unisol trial held in Percé" recants the testimonies of Raymond Bourget, who sold goods recuperated in the ship that ran aground in December 1983 in Chandler. He tells the court that the police were informed about what he was doing on the ship. "English delegates hold out for linguistic

guarantees" is a report released following Quebec General Estates on Education. Inside, Purdel buys the Rivière-au-Renard Pêcheries Cartier plant for \$5 million.

Vol 12. No 17
April 29, 1986

- In the April 29 issue Number 17, "MicMacs file claim for Cascapedia Island" takes most of page 1. Horse Island is located just below the Cascapedia-St. Jules bridges. "Infant body found in ditch" reports on the Gascons area discovery of a one-week-old baby, partially decomposed. In "7 year-old killed in bus accident", we learn about the tragic death of Restigouche's George Vincent Issac. "MP & campaign workers enter pleas on Election Act charges" reveals that Charles-Eugène Marin's aid admits having spent above the limit in 1984, ignoring the offence's seriousness.

Vol 12. No 18
May 6, 1986

- In SPEC's issue 18, dated May 6, "New Carlisle seeking development plan", "Sandy Beach wharf under construction" and "6 plus program recommended for next year", regarding immersion at New Carlisle High School, make the headlines. A picture shows New Carlisle girls guides counting March of Dimes money, a fundraiser organized by the local Legion.

Vol 12. No 19
May 13, 1986

- In the May 13 SPEC, issue 19, "CASA presents brief to Rochon Commission" makes the headline. CASA is asking for better access to health services for English-speaking youth and seniors. "Quebecair announces daily return flight" between Gaspé and Quebec City, and "Construction workers still without contract" are the other main topics.

Vol 12. No 20
May 20, 1986

- In the 20th issue of SPEC, dated May 20, "Little to celebrate on red letter day", readers see that the Town of New Carlisle is hoping for funding from the government in order

to demolish the old convent, a dilapidated building. "Levesque brings good news to constituents" reports on announcements made by Gerard D. Levesque regarding roads and Paspébiac's shipyard. "Bonaventure principal wants to curb drop-out rate" is the other page 1 title.

Vol 12. No 21
May 27, 1986

- "Restigouche band council signs 3-year salmon agreement" stands high in the May 27 issue of SPEC. Chief Roderick Wysote says the reduced quota of 15,930 pounds shows the community's "efforts in conserving salmon stock". "Gas prices cool as gas war heats up" and "Local firefighters battle forest fire" in Maria, also make headlines.

Vol 12. No 22
June 2, 1986

- In SPEC's issue 22, dated June 2, "Two escape from New Carlisle detention center", "CN to spend \$1.2 million in Gaspé (Peninsula) area" and "Mentally handicapped to receive services under new assoc." are the front-page topics. The two inmates were quickly arrested. The new association was formed by CASA.

Vol 12. No 23
June 10, 1986

- "Journeaux lands Japanese contract for lobster" leads the June 10, issue 23 of SPEC. Port Daniel's Hughie Journeaux recently signed a 100,000 pound lobster deal, to maintain a high price, as New Brunswick catches are very abundant. "Regional dump unacceptable" is prefect Jean-Guy Poirier's reaction to a letter received from the Environment Department urging municipalities between Escuminac and Port Daniel to use the New Richmond facility. "MP invites minister to address Conservatives" reports on Darryl Gray's invite to Michel Côté.

Vol 12. No 24
June 17, 1986

- The June 17, Number 24 issue shows a picture of New Carlisle's indoor pool swimmers closing the season with Hawaiian grass skirts, as well



NRHS students jump rope for heart.
One hundred students from New Richmond High School and the English-Catholic section of L'école Élémentaire, skipped rope to raise funds for the Quebec Heart Foundation.

as "Cabestan organizes trip to B.C." for 28 handicapped clients. "Three men rescued at sea" reports on three Saint-Godefroi fishermen saved in New Brunswick. Inside, Sharon McCully runs a long article about Maria Reserve's born famous screen writer Reynold Gedeon. She also reports on Bruce Ritchie, a 12-year-old swimmer from New Richmond who was seriously injured in a 1984 all-terrain vehicle.

Vol 12. No 25
June 24, 1986

- Dated June 24, SPEC's issue 25 features "Commercial salmon fisherman defy ban", a report on Fleurant Point's Roland Roy's resumption of fishing, given that he has not been offered compensation from the provincial government. "Lobster fishermen lose everything in wind storm" reports on five boat owners who lost all their traps. "MP to reveal plans for Pabos airport" is the other page 1 title. Inside, a brief report on former NHL star Bobby Orr's boat, which overturned during a Cascapedia fishing trip.

Vol 12. No 26
July 1, 1986

- SPEC's 26th issue, dated July 1, covers "A very special graduation for Escuminac", since it was the first high school graduation at Escuminac Intermediate, following the students' repatriation from Campbellton. Gaspé "Town councillor asks for the technical director's resignation", "Quebec's Archives Act opens treasure chest" and "C.E.

Pouliot says good-bye to staff member and good friend" Branda Barrett also makes page 1. Inside, Breuvages Gaspé inaugurates its "8th major expansion".

Vol 12. No 27
July 8, 1986

- "Stanley Cup in Gaspé", after the Canadiens won in 1986, "Doctors attempt to unravel mystery of Alzheimer's", featuring New Richmond native Denis Gauvreau, "Former Black Cape resident part of the winning team", namely Terry Epp, at the Baie des Chaleurs Car Rally, and "Two Gaspé men tackle the air service problem", featuring Gaston Langlais and Marc Bouchard, make page 1 of issue 27 of the SPEC, dated July 8.

Vol 12. No 28
July 13, 1986

- "Careless driving major cause of highway deaths", a province-wide report, and Gaspé riding "Local federal liberals reorganize" are the front-page titles for July 13, issue 28. Page 1 also shows Kenny Buttle's sawmill's aftermath, following a fire.

Vol 12. No 29
July 22, 1986

- "Law returns status to Native women", "Paspébiac youth responsible for multiple organ donation" and "Alliance Quebec to study Magdalen Islands case" are the July 22, issue 29 front-page titles. The Paspébiac

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youth was Bruno Duguay, killed in a Broadland accident. His father Elias said "I agree" when informed by doctors that his organs were suitable for transplant.

**Vol 12, No 30
July 29, 1986**

- "New Carlisle beach closed to swimmers" because of the water quality, "Wakeham-York Homecoming booms", "Quebec Telephone strike is over", "Ward Branch chosen Senate page", "Helicopter has forced landing" in Barachois, and "Amateur swimmers to compete in Paspébiac" are page 1 titles for issue 30, dated July 29.

**Vol 12, No 31
August 5, 1986**

- In SPEC's issue 31, released on August 5, "Sûreté du Québec cuts manpower" and "Darryl Gray looks at mid-term performance" makes page 1. The number of officers transferred elsewhere reaches 8 between Gaspé and New Richmond. Based on feedback received from constituents, Mr. Gray says he will try one more term. Inside, Montreal goaltender Patrick Roy shows up in Fauvel, where he plays golf annually.

**Vol 12, No 32
August 12, 1986**

- "Plitt, king of the 14 mile", about Argentinian swimmer Claudio Plitt winning his third Grande-Anse-Paspébiac race and "Prematurely filled fish quota causes unemployment among fishermen", reporting on Newfoundlanders and Nova Scotians taking the lion's share of the cod quota, leaving little to Gaspésians, make the front-page of the August 12, number 32 issue. In "Paul Willett – success again", Natalie Clark reports on the hockey player's selection for Team Canada under 18.

**Vol 12, No 33
August 19, 1986**

- In SPEC's issue 33, dated August 19, "Staffing major

item on board agenda" reports on a surplus of six teachers, two weeks from the school year. "International Fisheries conference held in Rimouski" and "Where is the war?", underlining the sudden 4 cent hike in Gaspé's stations, make page 1.

**Vol 12, No 34
August 26, 1986**

- SPEC's 34th issue, dated August 26, shows "Gerard D. Levesque, 30 years in politics", "Mayors meet at Fort Prevel to discuss regional concerns", "Quebec's municipal police need better education, more controls" and "Shigawake hosts 77th Fair" as front page titles.

**Vol 12, No 35
September 2, 1986**

- "Purdell to purchase Soviet cod", because the Gulf of St. Lawrence quota was all caught, "Gaspé fishermen outraged over conference report" calling inshore fishermen second class citizens, "A Gaspé legend dies", with the passing of "Minute", Cyrais Vézina, at age 92, and "a fixture on Gaspé's streets", make headlines of SPEC's issue 35, September 2.

**Vol 12, No 36
September 9, 1986**

- "Hong Kong veterans meet in New Richmond" and "Truckers want company to buy locally" lead SPEC's September 9, 36th issue. Up to 250 Hong Kong veterans gathered for their annual meet. The "company" expected to buy more local wood is the Gaspesia mill, suspected of buying wood outside the region to create a shortage and prevent the construction of a sawmill in Matane.

**Vol 12, No 37
September 16, 1986**

- In the September 16 issue, number 37, "Economist predicts brighter future for Gaspésians" reports on a study carried out by National Bank economist Michel Lefebvre, who expects tourism will blossom. "Anglophones, women remain under-represented in public service", Saint Georges and Barachois "Citizens object to CLSC move" from Gaspé to

Chandler, and "Road construction to begin in October between New Carlisle and Paspébiac" also appear on page 1.

**Vol 12, No 38
September 23, 1986**

- "MP's trial postponed on point of law", pertaining to Charles-Eugène Marin's staff that surpassed the election act funding limit in 1984, and "Herring has bad reputation", reporting on 1,172,529 pounds of fish wasted due to refrigeration systems' trial and error, lead SPEC's issue 38, dated September 23.

**Vol 12, No 39
September 30, 1986**

- Official Languages commissioner "D'Iberville Fortier guest speaker at CASA AGM" takes a major spot in issue 39, dated September 30. Mr. Fortier notably participated in discussions about the linguistic quality in the acquisition of services and improved second language opportunities for English speaking children. "Mediation extended in teacher talks", "Tourist boat season begins" (cruise ships), Chandler "Mill reopens to demonstrations" led by truckers and Gaspé's "Chantier maritime building sold" to Solmer Marine are the other front-page titles.

**Vol 12, No 40
October 7, 1986**

- In issue 40, dated October 7, "Victory scored in CLSC boundary dispute" reports on a decision to allow Saint Georges and Barachois residents to keep their health and social service in Gaspé instead of Chandler. "Teachers conference focuses on nuts and bolts of education", "Local groups protest cuts to handicapped", "Gaspé group wants Quebecair sale halted" and "Parents push for more teachers" are other page 1 topics. Inside, two photos show the fire that destroyed New Carlisle's old convent.

**Vol 12, No 41
October 14, 1986**

- "Joint drug & alcohol treatment center for Maria Reserve", a \$338,000 project, "New Carlisle bank branch



Halloween 1986

here to stay", "Dow found guilty of robbery" (Charles Dow, in a Port Daniel store), "CLSC Val Rosier study – surprising results" (good knowledge of health but not-so-good practice) and "School board requests additional resources" appear on the front-page of issue 41, dated October 14.

**Vol 12, No 42
October 21, 1986**

- In SPEC's issue 42, dated October 21, "Thousands of Gaspésians are without clear title to land" presents a follow up, with examples, of title-less owners now receiving a bill from the Energy and Resources Department. A picture and caption show René Lévesque, the former premier who has sold 130,000 copies of his memoirs before the official launch. He wrote profusely about his New Carlisle childhood. "Loyalist Village Corp. gets go-ahead

from consultants" gives an update about Duthie's Point project.

**Vol 12, No 43
October 28, 1986**

- In SPEC's issue 43, dated October 28, "Local teachers vote 98% to accept mediator's report" about a three-year working agreement, "Good weather for GSC soccer tournament", "A variation of gas prices" and "Gaspé Hospital conflict – still unresolved" make page 1.

**Vol 12, No 44
November 4, 1986**

- In the November 4 paper, issue 44, "Anglehart sentenced to life imprisonment for Deraspe murder", "Drilling team

Page 16

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From Page 15

search for gold in region”, “Dr. Marin seeks changes” and “24-hour walkout previewed for public sector” appear on page 1. In the murder case, Yves Anglehart won’t be allowed to ask for parole before 2003. His lawyer will appeal the verdict.

**Vol 12. No 45
November 11, 1986**

- In SPEC’s issue 45, dated November 11, “Quebec Telephone to spend \$11 million in Bay of Chaleur region”, “GTA to take a strike vote”, about the Gaspesia Teachers’ Association, “Linguistic guarantee bill to be tabled this session”, “Information meeting held on mining possibilities in Gaspésie” and “Sanatorium Ross stable and solvent” are the front-page titles.

**Vol 12. No 46
November 18, 1986**

- “Gaspesians remember those who died in war” and “Company launches third major effort to find gold” headline issue 46, dated November 18. The Remembrance Day coverage comes from Barachois, Gaspé and New Carlisle. The mining company was North East Exploration, working north of Saint-Jogues. “Group proposes solution for air service problems”, “Strike vote called off”, “School integration conference for the handicapped” and “CEGEP expands services to Bay of Chaleur” are the other page 1 titles.

**Vol 12. No 47
November 25, 1986**

- In SPEC’s 47th issue, dated November 25, shows “Assembly of First Nations meets in Restigouche”, under the leadership of Konrad Sioui, and “Port Daniel West location of Hollywood

movie”. Film director Paul Almond, whose roots are in Shigawake, is shooting his third movie in the area, “The fate of the hunter”.

**Vol 12. No 48
December 2, 1986**

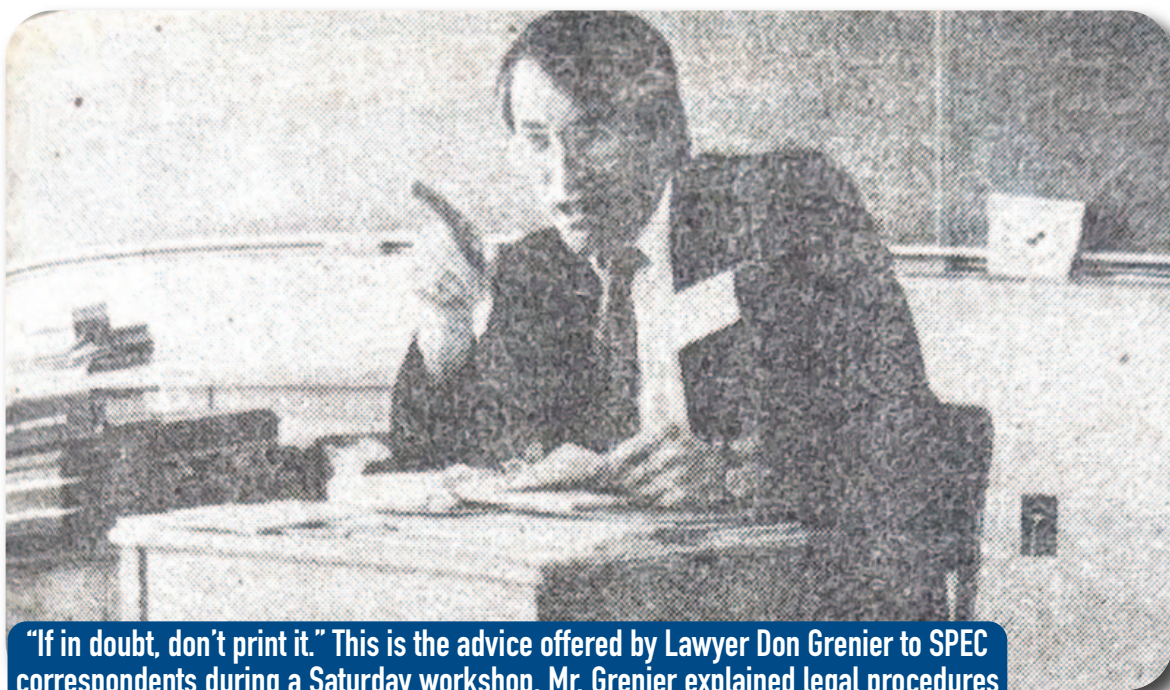
- In issue 48, dated December 2, readers see “\$2 million fraud trial opens” as the headline. Gilles Bazinet, Yvan Lacroix and Jacques Leblanc face defrauding the Royal Bank of \$2,061,880.59. “Prisoner attempts suicide after sentencing”, “Former Maria hospital doctor guilty of sexual offence” (Pierre Thériault is the doctor), “Transport minister Coté in Gaspé”, “St. Jules man aids in rescue” (Doug Caldwell is the man), “Lung Association launches Christmas Seal campaign” and “André Beaudin one year later” also make page 1.

**Vol 12. No 49
December 9, 1986**

- “Locally crafted ship launched in Bay”, about the first fishing boat built in Paspébiac in 18 years, “Local artist has showing”, about Yolande Gerard Bourget, “Parents ask to bypass school board”, about Matapedia parents opposed to their children’s relocation, and “Mount Bechervaise set for 86-87 season” headline the 49th issue, dated December 9, front-page titles.

**Vol 12. No 50
December 16, 1986**

- “Construction workers fight to keep their card”, as 100 people jammed Gerard D. Levesque’s office to protest a bill that would open the door to non-classified workers, and “Family business to change hands after 150 years”, telling the story of J.A. “Bud” Campbell selling the family’s store in Cascapedia, made the December 16, issue 50, front page. The SPEC has three sections totalling 68 pages for the final edition on 1986.



“If in doubt, don’t print it.” This is the advice offered by Lawyer Don Grenier to SPEC correspondents during a Saturday workshop. Mr. Grenier explained legal procedures and spoke on the legal responsibilities of the newspaper.

From 1986 to 2025: major trials take place faster

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – Murder trials are delicate matters. In 1986, at least two murder trials were held in Percé and New Carlisle, both conducted within a year of the tragedies, sometimes within nine months.

The amount of detail released before trial during preliminary proceedings was also striking. For example, coroner’s inquests were open to the public, which is rarely the case today.

Now, murder trials rarely take place less than two years after a crime, and sometimes not before three. Procedures have changed, but it is also reasonable to assume that shortages of judges and criminal prosecutors contribute to longer delays, not to mention the shortage of lawyers. Forensic testing and evidence analysis also likely add to the wait.



Belle Anse school opened its doors in 1946, and for forty years has been serving not only the education needs for the students of the area; but has also played an important role in supporting local community organizations.

Jim Routh, Head-Teacher at Belle Anse School, recounted some of the history of the school, and then proceeded to crown students Shane Element and Pheobe Pittman as the “40th Anniversary King and Queen.”

A subscription to The Gaspé Spec was \$20 per year.

Placing an obituary in the 1986 issue cost \$10.

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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.

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Cafeterias closed, evenings and weekends, in region’s hospitals and one long-term care facility

GILLES GAGNÉ

MARIA – The Eastern Quebec Union of Nurses, Auxiliary Nurses and Respiratory Therapists strongly condemns the decision of the Gaspésie Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) to close the cafeterias of its four hospitals and that of the Mgr Ross long-term care facility, effective since September 29.

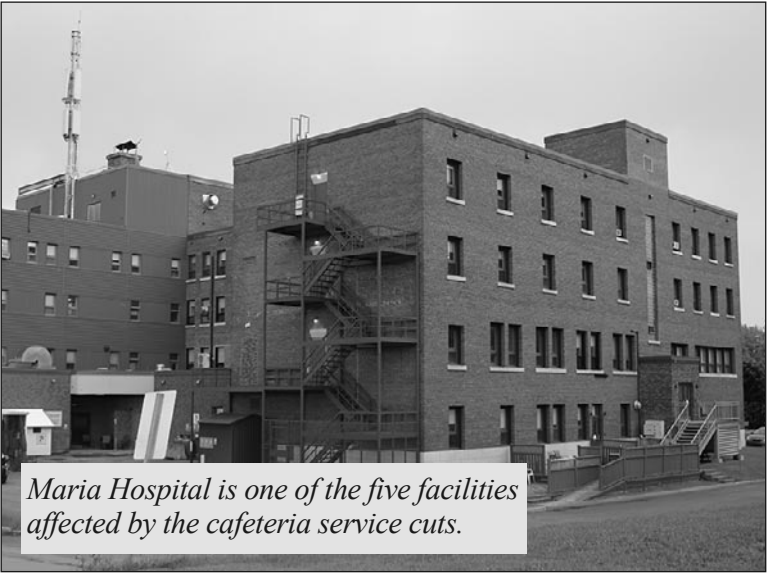
Pier-Luc Bujold, president of the nurse’s union, usually designated by its French acronym SIIEQ, deplores the short notice given to his members, to the staff of other professions represented in the hospitals of Maria, Chandler, Gaspé, and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, as well as at the Mgr Ross institution in Gaspé, the largest in the region.

Other people will suffer from these service cuts, Mr. Bujold also notes. "It affects the members we represent, but it also affects members of other healthcare professions, as well as visitors, people who come in for consultations on weekends, people who wait in emergency rooms and, after several hours, are hungry. Illness isn't just about 8 to 4 working hours during the week," says Mr. Bujold.

"There's another significant impact, which will affect staff who have to work mandatory overtime. People will have to leave in the morning, with two lunches, just in case? Vending machines don't cry for help when they're empty, nor do they cry for help when the money is stuck in them. Fortunately, inpatient services are not affected," says Mr. Bujold.

He was informed of the decision by the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) on September 19. He would have liked to discuss alternative arrangements to reduce the impact of the closures on hospital staff and visitors.

"An alternative method could have been to reserve the meal in advance, as is done in most CHSLDs (long-term care facilities) in the region. The meal is left at an agreed-upon location, and the employee picks it up there. Patients reserve their meals in advance! Why not employees? I would have liked to discuss this with the employer, at least to demystify what was supposed to be announced. I was met with a complete re-



Maria Hospital is one of the five facilities affected by the cafeteria service cuts.

Photo: G. Gagné

buff," explains Pier-Luc Bujold.

He knows that some establishments have already had to deal with occasional cafeteria service interruptions in the evenings and on weekends.

"There have been a few small, random closures due to staff shortages, for one or two evenings, or a weekend. This has occurred in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts for a few years, but it was sporadic elsewhere. But now, it will be every weekend, and every evening," explains Mr. Bujold.

He hasn't made a complete count of the number of people affected by these closures, but overall, it's a lot of people, he insists.

"We affect more than a hundred people simultaneously in the evenings in the five establishments. It's quieter in the evenings, but during the day, Saturday and Sunday, it affects more people. In total, when you factor in staff turnover, everyone is affected," analyzes Pier-Luc Bujold.

From staffing shortages to budget cuts

He was not impressed by the reason given by CISSS administrators for the reduction in cafeteria hours.

"By constantly asking questions about staffing shortages, we were clearly told that it was budget cuts (...) We were given a false reason at the beginning," he adds, recalling that the health care cuts by the Coalition Avenir Québec government follow questionable economic development choices.

He also noted that in recent months, some hospitals experiencing cafeteria staff shortages had not made any recruitment efforts for a long time.

Pier-Luc Bujold was not

informed of the CISSS's savings target.

"Not at all! On the other side (the administrators), they'll say, basically, we'll save this amount, but we'll have to buy machines, pay for maintenance, and we'll need employees to fill them," he emphasizes.

In a health system where regions are opposed to each other in terms of recruiting personnel, Pier-Luc Bujold fears that the Gaspé Peninsula, which has been success-

ful in terms of attractiveness in several areas, will experience problems doing the same in the health sector.

"A cafeteria open in the evenings and on weekends is a service available everywhere in Quebec, and it's becoming non-existent here. We shouldn't minimize the benefits of this type when recruiting staff," he stated, adding that he hasn't heard of similar measures elsewhere.

Employees at Maria Hospital are currently circulating a petition to convince the administrators of the CISSS de la Gaspésie to reverse their decision.

Written response from the CISSS

The CISSS de la Gaspésie is not currently granting interviews regarding the reduction in cafeteria services at its five main facilities.

"We acknowledge the publication of the SIIEQ and the petition currently circulating regarding the modification of

the opening hours of the cafeteria service counter in our hospitals and at the CHSLD de Gaspé," the written response reads.

"This decision was carefully considered and is necessary given our focus on strengthening our sound management of financial, human, and material resources. There was very low volume in the cafeteria on evenings and weekends. It should be noted that the cafeterias in Haute-Gaspésie and Baie-des-Chaleurs were already closed every evening. We are therefore reorganizing services, maintaining the hours stipulated in the employee work schedule and without affecting the meal services offered to residents or hospitalized users," it also states.

"Staff members will have access to the same type of meals, from vending machines, at the agreed price. We will ensure that there are sufficient meals and beverages available to meet the need," the CISSS concludes.

4% decrease in hours at CISSS

Nelson Sergerie - Local Journalism Initiative

GASPÉ – The number of hours worked at CISSS de la Gaspésie has decreased by 4% since the start of the 2025-2026 fiscal year on April 1.

This measure is part of Santé Québec’s efforts to reduce network costs. Across Quebec, hours worked have dropped by 5.9 million, according to data released by The Canadian Press.

“Since 2019-2020, there has been an unprecedented increase in funding for hours worked, which was approximately 25%. This is a small step backward after a dizzying rise,” explains Jean-Pierre Collette, Director of Financial Resources.

The comprehensive approach developed by the Ministry of Health in recent years has been adapted to the reality of the CISSS de la Gaspésie, with the goal of optimizing services.

“Despite the 4% reduction, we have more or less 500 more full-time equivalents (workers). We remain at the high end level as before the pandemic,” notes Mr. Collette.

Administrative sectors have been more significantly affected.

“This is in line with the guidelines received from Santé Québec. Since last year, there has been a moratorium on hiring at the administrative level. We have seen an 8% reduction in hours worked. In other sectors prioritized at the provincial level, such as youth, mental health, and hospital services, there has been virtually no reduction in hours worked,” explains the director.

One example of adaptation is the repatriation of local service points for vaccinations and blood tests, which have been brought back into CISSS facilities, particularly in Côte-de-Gaspé and Rocher-Percé.

“This has saved on rental costs while maintaining the same level of access for the population,” says Mr. Collette.

Hour-reduction measures remain in place: some are permanent, while others are temporary.

For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Quebec government, through Santé Québec, is allocating the CISSS de la Gaspésie \$530 million out of a total budget of \$565 million. This represents a closed and complete envelope. The \$35 million difference comes from users’ fees or budgetary envelopes stemming from other sources than Santé Québec.

“We have fewer surprises during the year in terms of our revenues, unlike in the past,” adds the finance director.

“We are in the green in terms of financial indicators at Santé Québec compared to our results so far,” says Mr. Collette.

One factor still affecting the CISSS’s finances is the reliance on independent labour, which remains necessary to maintain services.

“We still have a challenge. However, we do have some good news in that we have been able to reduce costs by 20%. This still represents an additional cost of \$10 million, but we are moving in the right direction,” he comments.

In previous years, this bill has reached \$30 million.

According to the CISSS, the impact on users is very minimal despite the budgetary efforts requested by the Quebec government.

Percé: a new beach replenishment in 2027

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PERCÉ – Bathymetric studies are serving as a springboard for a modeling study aimed at replenishing the beach at Anse du Sud in Percé around 2027.

The first replenishment was carried out in 2017, with further work in 2022. Another replenishment was necessary in 2023 as an emergency measure following severe weather.

"The study examined the marine and geological movements of the beach, and they will use all these studies to try to determine whether the replenishment model needs to be revised. Will it be 15 feet wide or 30 feet? Five feet or eight feet high? We hope it won't be too high to hide the Rocher Percé. But on the other hand, we have to protect the infrastructure," comments Mayor Daniel Leboeuf.

In the meantime, the mayor is keeping his fingers crossed that no major storm damages the current replenishment. "They are open to doing occasional work," he adds, referring to Civil Security.

Storm damage and infrastructure

Since 2017, storms have washed away a brand-new beach access platform, which has been hollowed out from underneath, leaving it suspended in midair. It eventually broke. During the 2023 work, the replenishment sig-



Photo: N. Sergerie

The last emergency beach replenishment in 2023.

nificantly raised the stone wall used to protect the coastline. Some of the new infrastructure on the promenade built at the time was practically buried by the adjustments to the replenishment.

"The goal of the modeling exercise is to replenish the beach so that it will last 15 years. They saw that the latest data might no longer be valid because the replenishment evaporated faster than expected," notes the mayor.

It is difficult to link these changes directly to climate change. "But ordinary people notice that the weather is warmer. There have been a lot of tropical storms. It's not going to get any better," says Mr. Leboeuf.

In Sainte-Flavie, a large rock wall has been installed to protect the riverbank. "The studies will tell us, but they suggest it will be higher than what we have now," the mayor adds. He hopes for a compromise to avoid hiding

the rock formation.

Drought concerns

With half the normal rainfall since June, citizens who rely on wells for drinking water are either running out or having to restrict their consumption. "A few days ago, a woman called us to say that

she had had water all summer, but now, oops, there's none left," says Mr. Leboeuf.

The town has launched a survey to get an accurate picture of the situation. "Next year, we will be visited by scientists from the University of Quebec in Rimouski to learn more about groundwater. We will plan for the future and think about emergency solutions for next summer," suggests the mayor.

Without digging new wells, sporadic support could be offered. Some municipalities deliver water to citizens who need it. "We don't have tanker trucks to transport drinking water," he says, referring to fire department tanker trucks that are not designed to transport drinking water. "All over Quebec, it's a race for water. Percé is no different," the mayor continues.

If rain remains scarce in October and winter snowfall is low, predictable problems

could arise next summer. "We have to be prepared for any eventuality. We have to think about the worst," says the mayor.

An agreement with blue-collar workers

The council authorized the signing of the new collective agreement reached with the CSN blue-collar union. The mayor does not want to comment on the details until the agreement is officially signed by both parties.

"The negotiations went smoothly. We are very happy. It is comparable to similar towns. What will help with retention and recruitment is that the employee pension plan has been converted to a defined benefit plan. This was requested by the employees and does not cost the town any more. It will help us with recruitment," believes the mayor.

Gaspé has Quebec's highest gas prices outside Northern Quebec

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – The Gaspé region had the highest gas prices in Quebec, according to a survey conducted by SPEC on October 6.

Only the Northern Quebec region recorded higher prices, which can be explained by its distance from supply markets. Even the Magdalen Islands, where gasoline is transported by ship over much greater distances, had lower prices than Gaspé.

On October 6, a litre of regular gasoline sold for \$1.644 in Gaspé, compared to \$1.636 in the archipelago, according to data from the Régie de l'énergie.

Gas stations in Gaspé were taking a margin of about 20 cents per litre, compared to an average of 13 cents over the past year, according to the Régie. Based on this calculation, the price in Gaspé should be around \$1.59.

One hundred kilometres west toward Chaleur Bay, retailers in the Chandler area were earning an average margin of 19 cents, compared to 11.2 cents last year. A litre there should sell for \$1.56 instead of \$1.644.

Further west, in the Avignon and Bonaventure MRCs, gasoline was selling for \$1.58, when it should be around \$1.54. In Rimouski, it was possible to fill up for as little as \$1.49 per litre.



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Page 19, October 15, 2025 - Spec

Ownership of Kruse House in Gaspé settled

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

NEW RICHMOND – After nearly five years of legal proceedings, the Société du chemin de fer (SCFG) de la Gaspésie has finally become the owner of Kruse House, a heritage building near the Gaspé intermodal station.

“We got a ruling. It's important to remember that this is a long-term lease signed in 1919 or 1921. It's a 99-year lease. We had to reach an agreement with the owner. That didn't work out. No more communication, no more response. As a result, the building was abandoned,” explains president of the SCFG, Éric Dubé.

The building suffered from a lack of maintenance and has been squatted in over the past few years. Last winter, the illegal occupants left the water running, causing pipes to freeze and resulting in further damage.

“The pipes froze, that led to other damage. We will have to have the building assessed for the next steps because we know it is a heritage building. The company will not be operating it,” says Mr. Dubé.

The president is leaving the assessment of the building's condition to experts. If it is salvageable, the costs could be significant.

“We will discuss it with the Town (of Gaspé). It will take a developer to operate it. We won't turn it into a hotel. Our business is freight trans-



Photos: N. Sergerie

The Kruse House in its current state.

portation. It's about operating a railroad. As elected officials, our goal is not to get involved in this. To find out what can be done, we'll have to seek expert advice,” said Mr. Dubé.

Historic significance and condition

“It's a historic house that is very important to the history of Gaspé. It's the house that housed the workers who built the railroad. Then it became a hotel,” recalls Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté.

However, its condition is a cause for concern. “There has been massive water damage inside. Walls have been knocked down. There has been water infiltration through the roof. It may be salvageable. The railroad

company's analysis will determine that. It's part of my request to have a health report. If it is salvageable, it will take a project,” notes the mayor, who indicates that it would not be up to the railroad company to carry out the development.

“I'm not a construction architect, but it may be that it is contaminated with fungus and cannot be salvaged. If it cannot be salvaged, it would be a significant loss to Gaspé's heritage,” the elected official continued.

If recoverable, a developer would be needed to restore and operate the site. The Town had previously been asked to purchase the house from the descendants of the Kruse family.

“They were asking for over \$400,000, even though

there was water infiltration everywhere and it had been left abandoned, especially since the land belonged to the railroad company. The house was under a 100-year leasehold that had expired when the owner tried to take it over. Legally, it was too risky,” says the mayor.

Now that the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie owns the building, moving forward with a potential project will be easier, if restoration is feasible.

“At least that's something, but the first step is to find out the condition of the house,” continues Mr. Côté, who indicates that the population will have to be consulted, regardless of the conclusion of the studies.

“We will proceed with great sensitivity and citizen

involvement going forward. That is my intention, and that is what I have communicated to the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie,” the mayor promises.

Heritage value

The house is part of the built heritage of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, though it has no official recognition from the Ministry of Culture. Its heritage value is based on its history, age, architectural style, and state of authenticity.

The building is believed to have been built in 1922 for Alfred C. Kruse and Rachel Jane Butlin. The house is representative of a type of residence derived from American vernacular architecture, namely the cubic house, recognizable by its pavilion or hipped roof and particularly popular in Quebec between the late 19th century and the 1940s.

At the time of its recognition by the MRC in 2020, the page dedicated to the building noted its excellent state of authenticity, reflected in the clapboard siding, door and window frames, corner boards, wooden windows and doors, and preservation of the original composition and volume. The interior still retains several original features. The property also includes an old barn at the rear.

Sadly, the squatters who occupied the house disregarded its history, evident in the state of disrepair visible from the street.

Plans to renovate the René Lévesque House

Nelson Sergerie

NEW CARLISLE – The process to restore the childhood home of former Quebec Premier René Lévesque is moving forward.

The Ministry of Culture is currently soliciting proposals from architecture and engineering professionals to develop a functional and technical program that will lay the groundwork for the project, eventually leading to the completion of plans and specifications. These documents will provide a clearer picture of the work required and the associated costs.

The goal remains to restore the heritage building to its appearance between 1925 and 1939, which mainly corresponds to the period during which the Lévesque family lived there.

The ministry indicates that steps are still being taken to agree on the terms of an occupancy agreement to be presented to the partners. However, this has not been discussed at this time.

Since the beginning of the process to restore the René Lévesque House, the Quebec government has invested \$151,000 to protect it temporarily while studies and analyses are completed in order to proceed with its restoration.

Last fall, stabilization work was undertaken to prevent further deterioration, particularly water infiltration, and to reinforce certain structural elements. The south wall had to be rebuilt because several structural components were affected by rot. The work also included removing the east porch, which was too deteriorated to preserve, and installing temporary white vinyl siding on the south and west facades.

The health report prepared following the Quebec government's acquisition of the building in 2021 estimated the cost of the restoration at approximately \$800,000.

The house was built in 1905.



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SCHOOL BOARD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 392 of the Education Act, public notice is hereby given that the Council of Commissioners of Eastern Shores School Board intends to modify the following By-Laws:

By-Law-8: To Set the Date, Time and Location of the Meetings of the Executive Committee and the Council of Commissioners.

The revised by law will be presented for adoption at the November 4, 2025, meeting of the Council of Commissioners to be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Offices of the Board, 40 Mountsorrel Street, New Carlisle, Quebec.

Given at New Carlisle, Quebec this 30th day of September 2025.

Denis Gauthier
Secretary General

HOLLY.SMITH@GLOBETROTTER.NET

New Richmond Rotary Club donates \$21,000 to 26 organizations with Lucky Calendar sales

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – The New Richmond Rotary Club recently donated a total of \$21,000 to 26 organizations in the Baie des Chaleurs region, primarily supporting youths, seniors and people living with disabilities. The funds came from sales of the Rotary Club’s Lucky Calendar, one of its main annual initiatives.

Adding other causes, the Rotary Club in fact handed out \$32,000, taking the supplemental \$9,000 from other fund-raising activities conducted over the year. The club also organized a steak dinner over the year.

“We handed five bursaries of \$1,000 each to students of the area. We also donated \$1,000 to the Volunteer Action Centre for the acquisition of a commercial dishwasher, \$3,000 to the Fondation Étin-celle Jeunesse, which supports students who don’t have enough money to have an equal chance at succeeding,



Photos: G. Gagné

The New Richmond Rotary Club recently donated a total of \$21,000 to 26 organizations in the Baie des Chaleurs region.

like in sports. We also handed out \$1,000 to the Passerelle for the development of its communication tools,” explains Rotary Club president Louis Forest.

There are 750 Rotary Clubs in Canada, regrouping a total of 30,000 members.

Here is the list of organiza-

tions that have received fund-ing from the 2025 calendar sales.

New Richmond Rotary Club Salmon Dinner for Seniors: \$2,320; New Richmond Rotary Club, Secondary 5 Graduating Scholarships: \$2,200; New Richmond Ro-tary Club, Community Assis-

tance: \$1,480; New Richmond Rotary Club, Youth Assis-tance: \$1,000; Baie des Chaleurs Health Foundation (CHBC): \$1,000; Organisme gaspésien des personnes at-teintes du cancer (OGPAC): \$1,000; Maison de la famille MRC-Bonaventure, for Sin-gle-Parent Families: \$1,000;

Maison Maguire: Respite for Families: \$1,000; Alzheimer Society Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine: \$1,000; Knights of Columbus Christmas Baskets: \$1,000; Linda Lemore Brown Foundation (Cancer): \$500; Leblanc Lobo Turcotte Fund: \$500; Association des person-nes handicapées Action Chaleurs: \$500; Volunteer Ac-tion Centre (Le P’tit Bonheur): \$500; Maison des jeunes, New Richmond Youth Centre \$500; Cascapédia-St-Jules Eagles: \$500; Club de natation de New Richmond (Swimming Club): \$500; Association des TCC & ACV(TBI & Stroke): \$500; Cascapédia 50 Plus Club: \$500; Ressources d'aide aux personnes handicapées de la Gaspésie: \$500; Alpine Ski Club: \$500; Maison Oasis: \$500; La Passerelle (mental health): \$500; L.I.F.E. Club: \$500; New Richmond Soccer Club \$500; Navy League of Canada \$500.

The 2026 calendar will fea-ture Gaspé Peninsula fishing harbours.

New Richmond’s new sport facility, now open

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND — The Town of New Richmond officially inaugurated its pump track project at Taylor's Point Park on September 27. Lo-cated in the heart of an iconic site, this new facility enhances the already diverse offerings of this park, which is popular with residents and visitors alike. Spanning 1,200 m² and 150 linear metres long, this track, designed by Flow Parc, offers a diversified layout suit-able for both beginners and more experienced athletes, of-fering everyone an experience tailored to their level.

Durable and requiring little maintenance, the mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé, says that the high-quality fa-cility reflects the Town's com-mitment to providing the public with innovative, inclu-sive, and accessible sports ac-tivities for all generations.

"We are seeing a real surge in interest in this type of facil-ity across Quebec, and we are proud that New Richmond is now part of this movement. This facility will become an essential gathering place for



Photo: Courtesy of the Town of Richmond

A pumptrack, New Richmond’s new sport facility, is now open.

our youth and families, while enriching our town’s recre-ational offerings."

Mayor Dubé told the SPEC that upon inauguration day, a father told him some-thing he thought he would never hear. "He said that he prefers seeing the use of as-phalt at the pump track than in his street!"

This project was finan-

cially supported by the Educa-tion Department’s Financial Assistance Program for Recreational, Sports, and Out-door Infrastructure, which contributed \$178,479 and from the Bonaventure MRC, providing \$30,000. The total investment nears \$300,000, with the Town paying the bal-ance. The new facility’s access is free and open to all.

Cell phone service finally available in Saint-Alphonse

Nelson Sergerie

SAINT-ALPHONSE – After more than a quarter of a century of requests, Saint-Alphonse residents finally have access to cell phone service as of early October.

Mayor Josianne Appleby is delighted to see the long-awaited service arrive in her municipality.

“Finally! As in all parishes, it's a matter of safety for our cit-izens for emergency calls and everything,” explains the elected official.

“The businesses that are currently in Saint-Alphonse were asking for cell phone service. All the employees were using cell phones. It's a necessity. It's 2025,” she says.

A long-standing request

“I've been sitting on the council since 1997, and we were al-ready talking about it then. It's not just today that we've wanted cell service,” says Ms. Appleby, noting that all previous councils have raised this issue.

“It's been an ongoing effort to develop cell service in our parish,” says the mayor.

Premier François Legault visited Saint-Elzéar on June 28, 2024, to announce the deployment of cellular service in the Bonaventure back country, including Saint-Elzéar and Saint-Al-phonse, with financial support from the Quebec government to Telus.

In the days that followed, the telecommunications giant an-nounced a \$6 million investment of its own funds, combined with government assistance, for the deployment and upgrade of its cellular networks in the Gaspé Peninsula.

With a contribution of \$7.25 million from the Quebec gov-ernment and \$6 million from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), Telus announced the addition of a dozen new 5G wireless sites in the Gaspé Peninsula in Gaspé, Percé, Saint-Alphonse, and Saint-Elzéar.

Hope and Listuguj were also mentioned by the premier at that time. The Quebec government has committed to bringing all towers into service by the end of 2026. The one in Saint-Elzéar went into service in September.

Fewer provincial civil servants in the East, according to the SFPQ

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – Eastern Quebec has lost 149 provincial civil service jobs in the past year, according to figures presented by the Quebec Public Service Union (SFPQ).

The union claims that this represents a total reduction of 6.9% for the Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, and Côte-Nord regions.

“We don't understand the need to reduce the number of staff dedicated to serving citizens. Perhaps the government is hoping to improve its poll numbers by making these cuts,” notes regional president Nicolas Gauthier.

Tangible effects

"What we're seeing when



Photo: N. Sergerie

Provincial employees protesting in 2023.

we talk to our members is that the population's needs are being felt. Delays are constantly increasing because we are trying to reduce spending and we are always targeting

civil servants. But we should be aiming higher in the organization,” suggests the union president.

When Premier François Legault speaks about reducing

the number of civil servants, the union fears what will happen next.

“We fear significant impacts on the services offered to citizens. Our members are very anxious about this. Delays at the Ministry of Employment and Social Security have increased considerably. From what we are hearing, particularly at the Gallant Commission, we do not see the beneficial effects of these cuts,” notes the union representative.

The provincial government promised to send 5,000 jobs to the regions, but the regionalization plan has not produced anything concrete in Eastern Quebec.

"Yes, there were home ports assigned in the regions, but with teleworking, people were not necessarily present in the regions. There was no job creation per se. And with the cuts,

the regions of Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, and Côte-Nord were more impacted," says Mr. Gauthier.

Subcontracting and expertise concerns

According to the union, the use of subcontracting is no longer justified.

"We are not a private business. We are public and we have to provide services. Citizens pay taxes and expect services. Subcontracting contracts are constantly increasing. In IT, we used to have experts. Gradually, these positions were phased out. People are retiring and not being replaced, which means we are losing expertise and becoming dependent on the private sector," said the union spokesperson for the region.

A site for treating caribou in captivity

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – The Quebec government has issued a call for tenders for the construction of a restraint system for its caribou enclosures in Gaspésie Park.

A recommendation has been made to award the contract by mutual agreement to a highly specialized firm that has developed unique expertise in North America.

A restraint system consists of corridors and panels that allow caribou to be safely moved from one sub-enclosure to another and into a restraint cage.

"The restraint cage is a tool used to immobilize animals and provide veterinary care (e.g., fitting transmitter collars, trimming hooves, taking blood samples, various tests) in complete safety, without the use of general anesthesia. The animal moves from the sub-enclosure through the corridors and is directed to the restraint cage. Once the care is complete, the animal returns to the corridor and exits back into the sub-enclosure," explains the Ministry of Wildlife in an email.

On the Quebec government's electronic tendering system, the 12-month contract is valued between \$33,400 and \$99,999.

The ministry has suggested awarding it to CEO Fauna Re-



Photo: Ministry of Wildlife

A caribou in captivity in an enclosure.

search Inc.

According to the ministry, the firm has cutting-edge expertise in the field of wildlife restraint and works with captive care institutions around the world. It is also the only company in North America to design restraint systems for this type of wildlife and holds a patent.

“It is the only supplier that designs corridors, stalls, and gates for the entire restraint system that are effective and safe for staff and animals, offering an all-inclusive package that includes a site visit, detailed estimates, delivery and on-site installation, and consulting services,” the electronic system states.

“It has carried out similar

projects, notably for the caribou in the Jasper enclosure in Alberta, and has a deep understanding of the needs and issues related to caribou conservation and rehabilitation projects in Canada,” continues the ministry's note in support of the firm that would be selected.

The animals are doing well

Meanwhile, the 24 caribou in the enclosure are in good condition, and the six calves are growing normally.

An aerial survey is planned for this fall to assess the free-roaming herd. A contract worth \$23,700 has been awarded to Héli Express to carry out the survey.

Operation Red Nose in 2025 in the Gaspé Peninsula

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – Once again in 2025, only the Gaspé town area will be served by Operation Red Nose.

The youth centres in Gaspé and Rivière-au-Renard have been tasked with organizing the 34th edition. However, the provincial organization tried to convince other groups to join the movement this year.

“The reason for this is that behind the operations are non-profit organizations that will deploy the campaign in the field. It turns out that it's more difficult to find an organization that has the energy and resources to do so,” notes Operation Red Nose director Marilyn Vigneault.

Every year, an invitation is sent out in the spring to “orphaned regions” to see if any organizations would be interested in organizing an operation.

“That doesn't mean we won't do it again in the future,” she says.

Organizations often have limited time and money to devote to setting up an operation.

“Finding volunteers has always been a challenge. Often, it's related to the organization's human and financial resources. Deploying an internal resource is often not feasible for them. It's often complex to organize an Operation Red Nose,” says Ms. Vigneault.

The mission will not be expanded to seek other promising organizations. Youth and amateur sports remain the primary beneficiaries.

Lions Clubs have been the driving force in Gaspé for more than 30 years, though the funds raised were donated to youth programs. Last year, the youth centres in Gaspé and Rivière-au-Renard raised \$4,900 with 254 rides, thanks to the contribution of 176 volunteers.

In 33 years, nearly \$179,900 has been raised. Previous operations in other towns included Bonaventure in 2012 with 428 rides, Chandler in 2015 with 396 rides, and Paspébiac in 2017, although ride numbers were not compiled there.

Operation Red Nose 2025 will be officially launched on November 4 in Quebec City.



Photo: Courtesy of Operation Nez rouge

York River Seniors Citizen’s Club celebrates 50 years

DEBBIE SAMS

YORK - September 28 brought together members of our community to celebrate 50 years of the York River Senior Citizens Club, founded July 1, 1975. Mr. Armand Frenette presided over the club’s first meeting at the Wakeham Odd Fellows Hall to discuss the possibility of organizing a Golden Age Club as a way to make life more enjoyable for older citizens and to provide a place where they could meet with dignity.

The club quickly became a beehive of activity with afternoons of quilting, knitting, wood-carving, card parties, pot-luck suppers and special dinners. The membership quickly increased and in 1977, a lease was signed with the School Board of Gaspé and the gatherings were attended at the Wakeham Adult Ed Centre. In September 1979, the club voted to be affiliated with La Fédération de l’Âge d’Or du Québec (FADOQ).

Over the years, member-



Photo: Debbie Sams

Ron Mundle has been president of the York River Seniors Club since 2018.

ships began to decline. In 1996, there were 60 members; by 2010, only 14 remained. Concerned that the club might lose its charter, Vera Patterson approached Ron Mundle for help. Ron, along with Andy Patterson,

quickly rallied support, and 30 people attended a meeting to decide the club’s future. With renewed enthusiasm, it was agreed that the York River Senior Citizens’ Club would continue. Tony C. Patterson was elected president

and served for eight years, followed by interim president Bonnie Annett. Since 2018, Ron Mundle has held the position.

The club was not only revived, it has thrived. Today, it boasts 380 members and is considered one of the most active clubs in Québec. The club offers a variety of activities for all ages whether you are an Affinity member (under 50) or over 80, there is something for everyone whether it is an afternoon of games at the York Hall where most of the activities are held, or Baseball Poche, Cornhole, Kurling, Pickleball, Card parties, exercise, Darts, or Line Dancing, and let’s not forget the special event dinners and dancing with live music where we have about 100 in attendance.

Workshops on various topics, such as computer skills and online safety, are also offered. At present, members are preparing for the Annual Harvest Supper at York Hall, where more than 200 meals, including take-outs, will be served. All of


this is made possible by the club’s dedicated volunteer, a well-oiled machine working together to enhance the quality of life for members and the wider community. Staying active promotes physical, mental, and emotional well-being, a philosophy the club proudly upholds.

Each year, the York River Senior Citizens’ Club also gives back by donating to local charities, including the Gaspé Hospital Foundation, the Gaspé Cancer Foundation, and the Alzheimer Society.

So, on September 28, 2025, marking 50 years in existence, the York River Senior Citizens’ Club had every reason to celebrate. Members and friends gathered for an evening of fellowship wine, and cheese, to honour the vision of the founding members who dreamed of a place where seniors could connect and enjoy life together. Their goal has indeed been accomplished, and as the torch is passed, that spirit of community and camaraderie continues to shine brightly.

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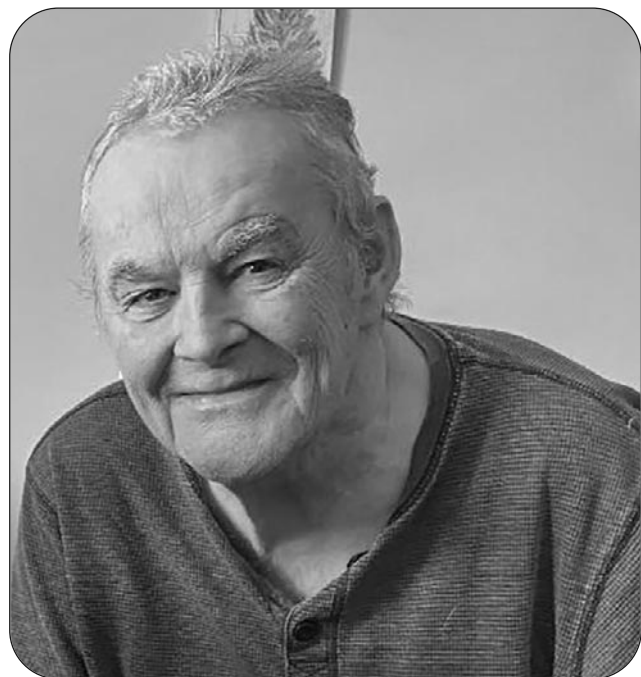
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Announcements



Obituary



OBRIEN: Charles "Bing"

1951 – 2025

Charles O'Brien of Riverview passed away on Sunday, October 5, 2025. Respecting his wishes, cremation will take place at Cobb's Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 330 Whitepine Rd., Riverview (506-869-2007).

Online condolences can be expressed at www.cobbsfuneralhome.ca



In Memory

RENOUF: Charlene

November 19, 1978 - October 12, 2008

BENWELL: Rebekah

October 4, 2001- October 12, 2008

*Many a day their names are spoken,
And many an hour they are in our thoughts.
A link in our family chain is broken,
They are gone from our home,
But not from our hearts.
In our home they are fondly remembered,
Sweet memories cling to their names.
Those who loved them in life sincerely.
Still love them in death just the same,
Nothing can ever take away.
The love a heart holds dear,
Fond memories linger every day,
Remembrance keeps them near.*

Always loved and will never be forgotten, Aunt Brenda, Uncle Donald, Steven, Gregory and their families.

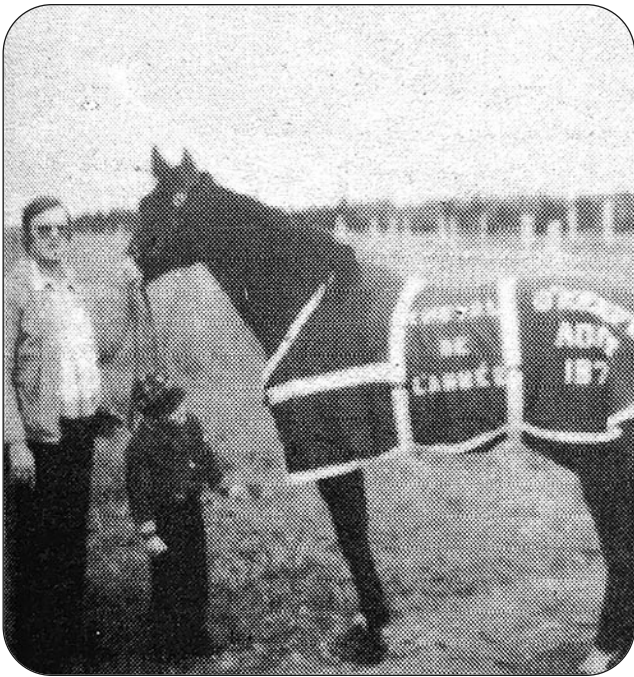
October 22 for the October 29 issue
November 5 for the November 12 issue
November 19 for the November 26 issue
December 3 for the December 10 issue
December 10 for December 24 issue

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.*



SULLIVAN: William (Bill)

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law and uncle, who passed away on October 16, 2022, at the age of 73. Bill, Dad, Pop, Uncle Bill

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

Marcelle (wife), George (son), grandchildren: Justin and Andy; Lynn (daughter), grandchildren: Ella, Jack, Colin and Grayson.

The Sullivan family.



Celebration of life



MCRAE: William Emerson

ROSS: Muriel Patricia

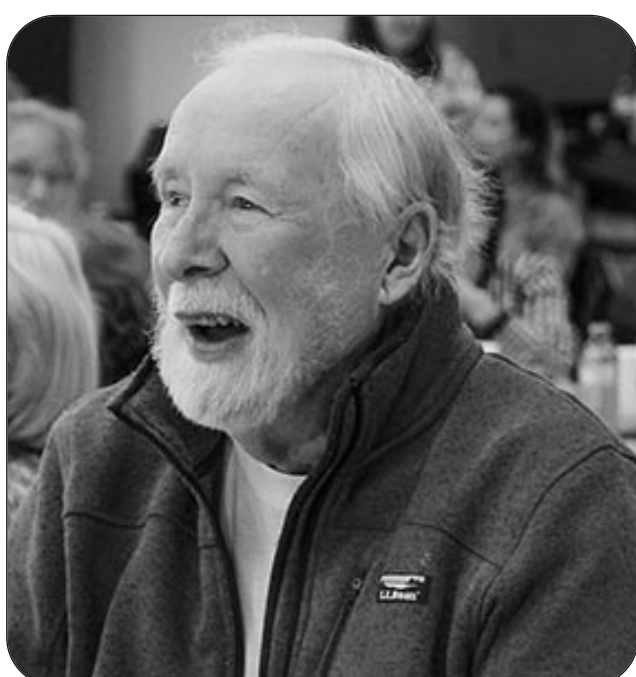
A celebration of life will be held at St James Anglican Church in Hope Town on October 18, at 11 a.m., to honour our parents, William Emerson McRae and Muriel Patricia Ross. After 67 years of matrimony our parents are reunited for eternity.

Reception to be held at the Shigawake Community Centre after the ceremony All are welcome.

The McRae family.



Remembering Fred Kirch



KIRCH: Fred

CASA is deeply saddened to share the passing of Fred Kirch, who served as President of the Board of Directors from November 17, 2021, until his passing in 2025.

Fred's journey with CASA began at the New Carlisle Seniors' Wellness Centre, where he first joined as a participant. His curiosity and commitment to the community led him to become more involved, officially joining the Board of Directors on December 17, 2019. Two years later, he was elected President.

Fred was known for his thoughtful insights, calm demeanor, and genuine respect for others. His rich life experience and passion for learning enriched every conversation and decision made around the board table.

As President, Fred guided CASA through a period of growth and transformation. He championed collaboration and ensured that the organization's core values remained central to its mission. He was especially proud of the senior wellness centres and the sense of belonging they fostered among seniors in our communities.

Fred will be remembered for his open-mindedness, steady leadership, and unwavering dedication to the well-being of the English-speaking community on the Coast.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Marie-Josée, and to all who had the privilege of working alongside him. Fred's legacy will continue to inspire and shape CASA's work for years to come.

The CASA Team



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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!

BARACHOIS:
Mountain View Golden Age
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 \$15 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.

SHIGAWAKE:
Agricultural Society
October 18: The Shigawake Agricultural Society will be hosting a Ladies Night at the Shigawake

Fairgrounds. Doors open at 7 p.m. Dress code: Disco Cowgirl! Music by Aaron Check and Nash Stanley with comedy by Amy Day. Tickets are on presale for \$10 by sending an e-transfer to 438-881-9295. Cost of tickets at the door will be \$15.

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 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.

UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN

Sunday, October 19
10 a.m. Service
Sunday, October 26
2 p.m. Service

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

NEW RICHMOND:
United Church
October 25: The St. Andrew's United Church in New Richmond will be holding a Turkey Supper from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The cost is \$18 for adults and \$10 for children. Take out is available and we will provide delivery for shut ins. To order take out or delivery, please contact us at mompies@hotmail.com or leave a message at the church office at 418-392-4274.

UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND

Sunday, October 19
10 a.m. Service
Sunday, October 26
10 a.m. Service

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.

ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF CANADA

Sunday, October 19
New Carlisle
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Port Daniel
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, October 26
New Carlisle
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Hope Town
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Shigawake
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH
OF GASPÉ

Sunday, October 19
Sandy Beach
9 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday, October 26
St. Matthew's, Peninsula
9 a.m. Holy Communion

HOROSCOPES - October 12 to October 18
ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20 - You are seeing things more clearly this week, Aries. Conversations that felt stuck a little while ago are now moving along more smoothly. A bold decision comes up midweek.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21 - Taurus, you are craving stability, both financially and emotionally. Use midweek to reevaluate your spending or a relationship that may be ready to be taken to the next level.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21 - Gemini, you are in your element this week. Communication flows easily, especially by Thursday. A short trip or spontaneous plan could spark something bigger than expected.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22 - Cancer, a quieter energy surrounds you right now. You are being called to pause and reflect. It's a good time to tend to your

emotional needs and reflect on what's ahead.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23 - The spotlight is on you right now and you are glowing, Leo. You may attract attention and admiration without even putting in extra effort. Use this week to push forward on personal goals.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22 - This week is all about you, Virgo. Focus on personal goals and self-improvement. Set strong goals for the year ahead.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23 - Libra, this is a great week to get things done. You're focused, detail-oriented and motivated. Use every burst of energy to sort through the clutter in your life.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22 - Scorpio, your social life is buzzing right now, but don't lose sight of bigger goals. A fresh connection or idea could lead to a long-term opportunity if you stay focused.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21 - You may feel pushed to take a risk or explore new ideas this week, Sagittarius. Trust your curiosity to take you where you need to be to find satisfaction.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20 - Capricorn, even if no one sees you doing all of the hard work, you know how much effort you have been putting in. The effort will pay off soon enough when results are there for all to see.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18 - This week asks you to look at how you are showing up and helping others, Aquarius. An old friend or partner resurfaces and a current connection could deepen.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20 - Your mind-body connection is strong this week, Pisces. If you have been ignoring rest or intuition, now is the time to focus on your priorities again.

HOROSCOPES - October 19 to October 25
ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20 - Timing is everything, Aries. Even though you are anxious to start something big, this might not be the right moment for it. You'll benefit from stepping back to reassess.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21 - You are craving comfort, but growth is just outside of your range, Taurus. This week, a financial focus pays off. Don't ignore your gut when it comes to a financial matter.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21 - You may be charming and magnetic right now, Gemini, but are you paying attention to what other people are saying? It's time to listen more than you're speaking.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22 - Emotions are running strong right now, Cancer. It is alright to be passionate. Your intuition will be heightened, but do your best to take a measured approach in the days ahead.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23 - Leo, it's important to remember that, while the spotlight loves you, not every stage is meant for a solo. Share the attention midweek and others will love you even more for it.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22 - Virgo, perfection can wait right now, even if you are craving ultimate order. Embrace progress even if it doesn't come in a polished form. Say yes to a new opportunity.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23 - Libra, you are balancing a dozen things. This seems like a pattern for you, but avoid overextending yourself. Speak up and advocate for your needs.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22 - You are focused and quiet working behind the scenes this week, Scorpio. Some people need to be flashy with fanfare, but that's not you right now. Relish in the quiet success.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21 - You might be

fired up with fresh ideas, Sagittarius. Just be sure your vision is rooted in reality. Write it down and stay open to feedback. It's best to avoid spontaneity right now.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20 - Capricorn, you're bound to tire out if you don't pace yourself. Delegate things when you can, especially by the end of the week. A surprise compliment at work brings joy.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18 - Aquarius, let your curiosity lead you somewhere new. Someone different from your usual crowd could offer unique insight that you hadn't considered previously.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20 - Pisces, creative energy is high right now, especially around Wednesday. You're close to a creative breakthrough, but you might need a practical play to get there.

HUNTING SEASON HAS ARRIVED

HOLLY SMITH

PORT DANIEL - Hunting is a long-standing tradition on the Gaspé Coast, connecting families and communities while promoting sustainable wildlife management. For many residents, hunting is a skill passed down from parents and grandparents, with young hunters learning tracking, safety, and ethical practices from an early age. These trips are often more about spending time together and learning from one another than simply harvesting game.

Hunters must follow provincial regulations to protect wildlife and maintain safety. The Quebec Ministry of Forests, Wildlife, and Parks sets specific hunting seasons for different species, including moose, deer, and small game. Each species has defined quotas, hunting zones, and approved methods, ensuring that animal populations remain healthy.

Hunters are required to have valid licenses and follow tagging and reporting rules, which help wildlife managers monitor populations. Safety regulations require hunters to wear fluorescent clothing, observe firearm rules, and remain in approved areas. Non-residents must obtain special permits and follow the same laws.

By respecting hunting regulations, residents help maintain the balance between recreation and conservation. Hunting on the Gaspé Coast continues to be a meaningful activity, combining family traditions, outdoor experience, and responsibility. The practice not only preserves a cultural heritage but also contributes to the long-term health of wildlife in the region, ensuring that hunting remains a sustainable activity for future generations.

2025 Hunting Calendar

DEER
Rifle: November 8 to 16

MOOSE
Rifle: October 18 to 26
Black Powder: October 28 to 31

SMALL GAME

RABBIT: September 20, 2025 to March 31, 2026

COYOTE: October 18 to March 31, 2026

GROUSE: September 20, 2025 to January 15, 2026

ENTRY FORM ON
PAGE 27

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WISHING YOU A SAFE
HUNTING SEASON!

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Wishing all hunters a safe and bountiful hunting season!



Classic Deer Stew

Servings: 6–8
Prep Time: 20 minutes
Cook Time: 2–3 hours

Ingredients:

2 lbs deer meat, cubed
2 tbsp vegetable oil
1 large onion, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
4 carrots, sliced
3 potatoes, cubed
2 celery stalks, chopped
2 cups beef or vegetable broth
1 cup red wine (optional)
2 tbsp tomato paste
1 tsp dried thyme
1 tsp dried rosemary
2 bay leaves
Salt and pepper, to taste
2 tbsp flour (optional, for thickening)

Instructions:

Brown the meat: In a large pot or Dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add deer meat in batches, browning on all sides. Remove meat and set aside.

Sauté vegetables: In the same pot, add onions and garlic. Cook until soft and fragrant.

Add liquids and seasonings: Stir in tomato paste, then add broth, wine (if using), thyme, rosemary, bay leaves, salt, and pepper. Return the meat to the pot.

Simmer: Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low. Cover and let simmer for 1.5–2 hours, until meat is tender.

Add vegetables: Add carrots, potatoes, and celery. Simmer for another 30–45 minutes until vegetables are cooked.

Optional thickening: If you want a thicker stew, mix 2 tbsp flour with a little water to make a slurry, then stir into the stew. Cook for 5–10 more minutes.

Serve: Remove bay leaves and serve hot.



ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Town: _____

Phone number: _____

DEADLINE: November 3, 2025

Enter to win some great hunting items from our sponsors.

Entries can be dropped off at

The Gaspé Spec office

(208B Gérard D. Levesque),

texted to 418-752-5400, or emailed to:

holly.smith@globetrotter.net

(Please note photocopies are not permitted)

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Breast Cancer Awareness Month



HOLLY SMITH

PORT DANIEL - Every October, Canadians take part in Breast Cancer Awareness Month to raise awareness, encourage early detection, and support people affected by the disease. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Canadian women.

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, in 2024 it is estimated that 30,500 women in Canada will be diagnosed with breast cancer, which is about one in four new cancer cases in women. Sadly, about 5,500 women are expected to die from breast cancer this

year. On average, 84 women are diagnosed and 15 die from breast cancer every day. Breast Cancer Awareness Month started in the United States in 1985 and soon spread to other countries, including Canada. Canadian groups like the Canadian Cancer Society have used this month to teach women about screening, mammograms, and other ways to catch breast cancer early when treatment is most effective. The pink ribbon, introduced in 1991, is now a widely recognized symbol of hope and support. Across Canada, communities, schools, and workplaces

show the ribbon and host events like walks, runs, and information sessions. These events are especially important in rural areas, where access to mammograms and specialized care can be harder to find. Mobile screening units and provincial programs help women get the care they need. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is more than wearing pink. It reminds Canadians to get regular screenings, make healthy choices, support fundraising for research, and advocate for equal access to care. Each October, the pink ribbon represents hope, community support, and the on-

going fight against breast cancer. If you or someone you know is affected by breast cancer, you can reach out to the following organizations on the Gaspé Coast: OGPAC (Organisme

gaspésien des personnes atteintes d'un cancer) at 1-888-924-5050 Gaspé Cancer Foundation at 418-368-1566. Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation (LLB) at 418-752-5995.



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Shannon Major

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OGPAC
Organisme gaspésien des personnes atteintes de cancer



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OGPAC, your Gaspesian organization for people affected by cancer, wishes to highlight **Breast Cancer Awareness Month.**

1 888 924-5050 | **ogpac.ca**