

Yoan Anglehart returns to court on manslaughter charge

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW CARLISLE – Yoan Anglehart, 33, of Paspébiac, was charged on the evening of July 1 with “manslaughter guilty” in the death of Austin Gallon, a 26-year-old man of New Carlisle, whose body was found along Church Street, also in New Carlisle, at 1:30 a.m., that same day.

Yoan Anglehart, a construction worker, returned to the New Carlisle courthouse on Monday, July 6, for his procedural bail hearing. His bail hearing was postponed until July 15, after SPEC’s deadline.

On July 1, the accused was represented by lawyer Ariane Cayer, acting as a friend of the court.

The victim's body bore several signs of violence when it was discovered by a passerby in the early morning hours. The location where Austin Gallon was found is located three kilometres north of the intersection of Church Street



Photo: Gilles Gagné

Police officers discuss clues found at the scene. The first police vehicle in the background is parked near where Austin Gallon's body was found.

and Highway 132. This area is relatively isolated, and the road is gravel at that point.

The scene remained secured by Sûreté du Québec officers throughout July 1 for investigative purposes. As of 3 p.m., local investigators were

still awaiting the arrival of forensic identification specialists from Quebec City.

The accused and the victim knew each other. Yoan Anglehart was arrested shortly after the body was discovered. Crown prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier is not disclosing the location or circumstances of the arrest at this time.

"The case is still under investigation, and anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the Sûreté du Québec at the New Carlisle detachment," states Ms. Frappier-Routhier.

She responds "it's too early to talk about it," to several questions raised by the case, including the possibility of a love triangle involving the victim, the accused, and a young woman associated with both men, as well as the role drugs may have played before or during the events of the night of June 30 and the early hours of July 1.

Still, according to Florence Frappier-Routhier, it is also

too early to determine what evidence led to Yoan Anglehart's swift arrest, the location of the arrest, or whether additional charges could be laid in the short or medium term.

An autopsy was performed on Austin Gallon's body. The Sûreté du Québec also stated on July 1 that investigators believe it is unlikely a third party was involved in the events leading to the young man's death.

A preliminary search has not yet uncovered any criminal records for Yoan Anglehart or Austin Gallon. The SPEC has learned that Yoan Anglehart had previous interactions with police in recent months, although the nature of those interactions remain unknown.

Austin Gallon was the father of a three year old child.

Police officers found several items near or relatively close to the crime scene, including a cell phone.

Sûreté du Québec communication officer Frédéric Deshaies pointed out on July 2 that the injuries that led to the

death of Austin Gallon “were caused by a blunt object,” but declined to provide further details.

A charge of “manslaughter guilty” is an aggravated version of manslaughter and it includes three elements, stresses criminal prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier. It suggests that the suspect knowingly committed an illegal act, such as assault with a weapon capable of causing death or bodily harm capable of causing death, and that he was insensitive to the consequences of his actions.

Judge Celestina Almeida imposed on July 6 a no-contact order on the accused, prohibiting him from contacting ten people as well as the victim's entire family.

Prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier, from the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions, explained on July 6 that the list of names was compiled for several reasons.

“These are people who were met during the investigation. We don’t want the accused to influence the position's testimonies tied to that investigation. That is basic. Some of these people are central witnesses in the facts that occurred. Some other people are more at the periphery. There are also family members and we don’t want the accused to talk to people who are mourning the loss of the victim,” she stressed.

News of the death of Austin Gallon quickly spread throughout New Carlisle and neighbouring communities on July 1. The case generated significant discussion on social media, particularly in communities stretching from Bonaventure-Est to Port-Daniel.

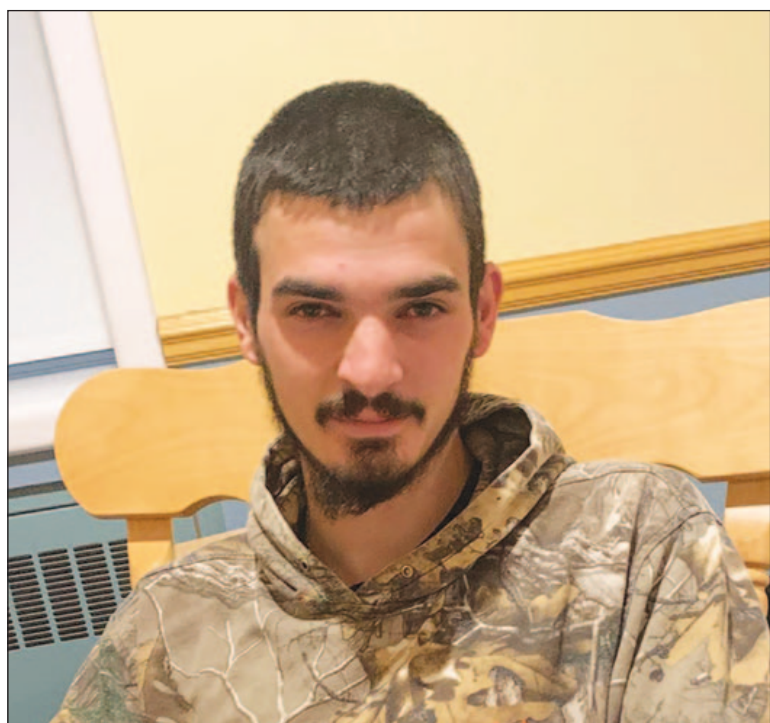


Photo: Facebook

The victim, Austin Gallon, 26, lived in New Carlisle.

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Found guilty of \$200,000 fraud: Diane Chrétien is released

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – Diane Chrétien, who was sentenced in January to 20 months in prison for a \$200,000 fraud, has been granted parole after serving one-sixth of her sentence.

The Quebec Parole Board issued its decision on June 15.

On January 8, the 63-year-old woman had been sentenced to 608 days in prison after being convicted on two counts involving fraud and theft over \$5,000.

The court also ordered her to pay \$75,000 in restitution to the victims.

The parole board noted that Ms. Chrétien, a first-time offender with no prior criminal record, accepted full responsibility for the offences. It estimated she embezzled about \$200,000 between January 1, 2016, and June 15, 2022.

Evidence presented in court showed she carried out numerous fraudulent transactions at the grocery store where she worked.

After scanning customers' purchases, she would immediately void the transactions and keep the cash they had paid.

The scheme was eventually uncovered thanks to the store's surveillance camera footage.

She also granted unauthorized discounts to customers, stole work time and removed merchandise from the store without paying for it.

Furthermore, between December 2, 2021, and June 15, 2022, she also defrauded several co-workers by taking money from a petty cash fund intended to purchase Christmas gifts for the following year.

She told investigators she used the money to cover personal expenses and help her son, who was experiencing financial difficulties.

Although she expressed remorse, parole authorities found she had not been fully transparent about a possible



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

The Alban Aspirault grocery store in Rivière-au-Renard was the victim of a major fraud scheme carried out by former employee Diane Chrétien.

gambling addiction.

The board also noted that she had stabilized her financial situation since her arrest in June 2022.

While incarcerated, Ms. Chrétien worked, participated in various programs and received no disciplinary reports.

The social worker who assessed her case recommended parole after one-sixth of the sentence had been served, along with participation in correctional programs and an assessment for compulsive gambling.

Upon her release, she must reside in a halfway house.

In its decision, the board stated it “views negatively the seriousness of the acts committed and the significant period over which they occurred. Driven by greed, you notably deprived your employer of a substantial sum of money to satisfy your personal needs and those of your son. By acting without regard for the consequences of your actions, you betrayed the trust that many people placed in you. Your poor judgment appears to be at the forefront of your personal difficulties as well as your ability to solve problems,” the document states.

Despite those concerns, the board concluded that Ms. Chrétien does not present an

unacceptable risk to society.

“Your current prison sentence is your first and appears to have had the intended deterrent effect on you. Furthermore, your acknowledgment of your illegal behaviour has led you to engage seriously in the recommended activities and programs. The board noted that your self-reflection has developed. It also noted that you did not attempt to downplay the negative effects of your offenses. The board considers that the empathy and remorse you expressed appeared sincere,” the decision states.

As conditions of her release, Ms. Chrétien must undergo an assessment for gambling addiction and comply with all conditions of her parole.

At sentencing, the court also imposed a three-year probation order. Ms. Chrétien had served as head cashier and inventory manager at the Alban Aspirault grocery store.

She must repay the victim \$15,000 by June 1, 2027, followed by five annual payments of \$12,000 due each June 1 through 2032.

According to the evidence presented at trial, she stole between \$600 and \$700 a week over a seven-year period, claiming the money was used

Police report

Baie-Comeau woman dies in scuba diving accident off Bonaventure Island

A 27-year-old woman from Baie-Comeau died on July 1 following a scuba diving accident that took place off the coast of Bonaventure islands, near Percé. She was part of an excursion organized by the company Plongée Percé. “The incident occurred around 3:30 p.m. during a dive trip near Bonaventure Island. The victim reportedly suffered a medical emergency while underwater,” explains Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Béatrice Dorsainville.

The instructor accompanying her immediately brought her to the surface. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was performed on board the boat until she was brought to the Percé wharf. Transported to the hospital in critical condition, she died a few days later. The Sûreté du Québec (SQ) and the Coroner's Office have launched an investigation to analyze the equipment and determine whether the tragedy stemmed from a medical issue or diving conditions. Plongée Percé suspended its operations for the week as a gesture of respect and expressed its profound sorrow over the loss. Officer Dorsainville states that no foul play is suspected, although the investigation is ongoing.

Motorcycle-car collision kills a couple in Saint-André-de-Restigouche

A man in his forties driving a motorcycle and a woman in her fifties riding as a passenger were both killed when their vehicle collided with a car on June 27 on highway 132 along a stretch located in Saint-André-de-Restigouche. Both victims were from Rimouski. “The accident occurred around 3:30 p.m. According to the initial findings of the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), the head-on collision occurred when a driver travelling towards Matapédia slowed down to turn left into a private driveway, without seeing the motorcycle approaching from the opposite direction,” points out Sûreté du Québec communication officer Béatrice Dorsainville. Their deaths were officially confirmed at the Rimouski hospital. An SQ collision reconstructionist was dispatched to the scene to thoroughly analyze the accident and determine all contributing factors. Highway 132 had to be partially closed, and traffic was reduced to alternating one-way flow for part of the day. No foul play is suspected. The investigation remains underway, adds officer Dorsainville.

Sûreté du Québec looking for clues in serious motorcycle accident

The Sûreté du Québec's Côte-de-Gaspé MRC investigation team is asking for the public's help in locating potential witnesses to a collision that occurred on Pointe-Navarre Boulevard in Gaspé on July 3. “On Friday, July 3, at approximately 6:30 p.m., a man in his fifties was found lying on the ground on Pointe-Navarre Boulevard, near his motorcycle; he had sustained serious injuries. He remains in critical condition in hospital. To clarify certain aspects of the investigation, investigators would like to speak with anyone who witnessed the incident or the moments leading up to it,” explains Sûreté du Québec communication officer Béatrice Dorsainville. The victim remains hospitalized in Gaspé. Anyone with information about this event is asked to contact the Sûreté du Québec's Criminal Information Centre at 1-800-659-4264.

Port Daniel: Cement truck overturns on Highway 132

A cement truck-trailer tandem overturned on July 6 around 5 p.m. on Highway 132 in Port-Daniel-Gascons. A pickup truck parked in a driveway was completely crushed by the trailer. Fortunately, no one was inside the pickup truck at the time of the accident. The truck driver managed to get out of the cab on his own before emergency services arrived. He sustained minor hand injuries, according to the Sûreté du Québec. The Ministry of the Environment was dispatched to the scene. Traffic alternated on Highway 132 until 11:30 p.m. the same day. “The cause of the accident could be distraction on the driver's part. The kind of distraction is not specified in the accident report,” says Sûreté du Québec officer Béatrice Dorsainville.



Photo: Facebook

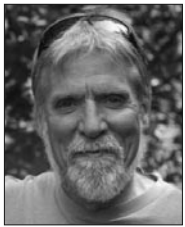
A violent storm hits the Gaspé region

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – Mother Nature celebrated Canada Day in her own way by putting on a light and sound show as a violent thunderstorm struck eastern Gaspé late in the evening on July 1.

Fortunately, neither Civil Protection nor the Sûreté du Québec reported any damage or injuries resulting from the storm.

According to Environment Canada, about 10 millimetres of rain fell, at times in torrential downpours, while wind gusts reached 60 kilometres per hour at the Gaspé Airport. Hail, in some cases as large as marbles, also fell during the storm. Strong winds bent trees, and broken branches and leaves littered the ground in downtown Gaspé early on July 2. Piles of rocks and dirt were also left behind in some areas. Environment Canada had issued a severe thunderstorm warning as the storm approached.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

The beauty and ugliness of sports

The last two weeks have provided the public with a wide range of examples demonstrating both the beauty and ugliness of elite sports. The uglier side was exacerbated by the intervention of a politician, American president Donald Trump, whose attempt to influence the management of soccer's World Cup ultimately blew up in the face of both himself and his country's team.

Let's begin with an example of the beauty of sport. There is a tall athlete from Nanaimo, British Columbia, who started tossing a hammer, a track and field one, ten years ago, at age 14. At the time, his favourite sport was basketball. His name is Ethan Katzberg.

He took up the hammer throw because his sister was already competing in the event and he thought it looked interesting. By the end of high school, a coach named Dylan Armstrong, a former Canadian Olympian medalist in the shot put, spotted Katzberg

on a basketball court. What he saw was something he had been dreaming of for years, namely a tall, fast and well-coordinated kid.

Ethan Katzberg was already close to six feet, six inches-and-a-half tall before turning 20. His rotation speed was already staggering. Add his long, powerful arms and outstanding coordination, all attributes that maximize the principals of physics and the results was an exceptional prospect. He moved to Kamloops in order to be coached by Armstrong and the results after seven years are breathtaking.

In 2023, Ethan Katzberg won the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, at the age of 21. The following year, he won the Olympic gold medal in Paris. In 2025 he claimed another World Athletics Championships, with a throw of 84.70 metres, a new championship best, breaking the 18-year-old record. It was also the longest throw in any competition in 20 years. On July 3, he added another victory by winning gold at the Steve Prefontaine Classic in Oregon.

Two modest stars

The hammer throw is known as a discipline in which athletes peak in their late twenties or early thirties. What Ethan Katzberg has already accomplished at 24 is unheard of. Moreover, the tall man with long and fuzzy hair smiles, signs autographs for kids when-

ever he has a chance, and is genuinely kind during interviews.

The country can also count on another outstanding hammer thrower in Camryn Rogers. Her early childhood was marred by her parents' divorce, and she was raised by her mother. She began competing in sports at the age of 12 and found success relatively quickly.

She followed a more common route towards relative fame, having attended University of California, Berkeley. At 27, she is closer to the age when hammer throwers typically reach their peak, yet she won her first World Athletics Championships three years ago, at 24. Including the Olympic Games, which many consider the pinnacle of international competition, Camryn Rogers has won gold medals in the last three global championships. While her margin of domination is not quite as overwhelming as Ethan Katzberg's, she became the first Canadian woman in 92 years to win Olympic gold in track and field when she triumphed in Paris in 2024.

In the meantime

At the opposite end of the spectrum is the International Federation of Football (IFF better known as FIFA), world soccer's governing body, which has been plagued by scandals and controversial decisions for

Continued on page 7

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Société de conservation ZICO de la Baie-de-Gaspé (SCZBG) has obtained the toxic herbicide spray program for the railway ordered by the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG).

The spraying begins on June 15 and will continue until August 31, 2026, from Matapédia to Gaspé. Three herbicides are being used: Credit Xtreme (glyphosate), Esplanade (indaziflam) and Distinct (dicamba/diflufenzopyr).

We have always kept the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG) and the Advisory Committee informed about the toxicity of herbicides and about the alternatives available. The Advisory Committee was formed by the Québec Transport Ministry in 2022, since it took the concerns voiced by the SCZBG seriously and was attentive to what the people of the region had to say.

The SCZBG benefits from the support of the Nation Micmac de Gespeg, Mères au front Baie-des-Chaleurs and Pointe-de-la-Gaspésie, Environnement Vert Plus and Mr. Jacques Pichat, a concerned citizen.

Also, 25 Gaspesian municipal entities have passed municipal by-laws banning herbicide use in the transport corridors, including the railway corridor. Herbicide spraying in those places is thus illegal (but herbicides must not be used elsewhere either). The SCZBG and Environnement Vert Plus showed in 2020 that those by-laws are still in effect and enforceable.

It should be remembered that the Gaspésie railway crosses or runs along residential areas with drinking water wells, wetlands, many brooks, salmon rivers, the Baie des Chaleurs and Gaspé Bay, following streaming cliffs overhanging beaches and fishing harbours.

The SCZBG has been fighting for a long time for the elimination of toxic herbicides on the railway and for the use of alternatives. Since the formation of the advisory committee, we have sent them many letters, including information updates in relation to our paper, which we sent them too, as well as on creosote and its alternatives. The SCZBG was already writing to the SCFG, but got no replies.

We also sent both of them a Swiss Railways document which explains in detail preventive rehabilitation and construction without herbicides. We discussed this in our paper and in many of our letters, as well as the

fact that the Swiss Railways have recently announced that hot water is a good alternative to glyphosate, and that they are also using mechanical means on the tracks. In Sweden, they are also using hot water. And let's not forget the White Pass and Yukon Railway, which has been using only mechanical means since 2016.

There are even more alternatives, such as UV light, electrothermal weeding, ballast sifting and wet thermal infrared technology.

The contamination of our environment, our health and our children's future must stop. This is completely feasible, as we have shown.

And so our fight for the elimination of toxic herbicides and creosote, and for the use of alternatives continues, in order to protect our children, our health and our environment. Any railway that uses toxic products while alternatives are available is not safe and cannot be called green transportation!

*Margret Grenier - President
Société de conservation ZICO
de la Baie-de-Gaspé (SCZBG)*

I am currently delving into celebrated Canadian author Margaret Atwood's "Book of Lives: A Memoir of Sorts." What a treasure it is proving to be! Atwood, a feisty writer and voice of her/our generation, has always, thankfully, been unapologetic about addressing controversial issues and speaking her mind again and again in the face of opposing views.

This brings me to Wendy Dawson's enlightening guest commentary "En Anglais, s.v.p" which recently appeared in SPEC. Kudos to you, Wendy, for having the courage to speak up and tactfully denounce/draw our attention to the creation of a 1-year strategic plan for New Richmond without, providing "meaningful accommodation for its English-speaking residents. We applaud you for reminding us (not only New Richmond) that "Communities survive not only through economic development, but through memory, inclusion and mutual respect."

It is important to always be mindful and aware that "a town that forgets part of its own story risks weakening the very social fabric that allowed it to endure for more than two centuries."

As fellow Gaspesians, no matter where we live on

the Coast, what language, what cultural group(s) we belong to or what political party/ies we support, our communities are all the richer when we take actionable steps towards celebrating and preserving the unique roots or of ancestry. Together... Respectfully...

An online post "Paspébiac—Fishing Empires" written by Glenn reminds us of something we sometimes forget.

"Today, the society around Paspébiac is probably the most multi-ethnic one in Quebec outside of Montreal. It is still a fascinating mix of Mi'gmaqs, Basques, French, Jersians, Acadians, English, Scots, Irish and Loyalists."

Indeed, Glenn could be speaking of the entire Baie-des-Chaleurs tapestry.

Whenever we are met with thundering silence in acknowledging the presence of a historic English-speaking minority on the Gaspé Coast, like Wendy, let us speak up. A silent minority is quickly forgotten and eventually erased.

*M.J Connors
Bonaventure, Quebec*

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1-year paper \$50
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Published every second **Wednesday** by: Les Publications de la Côte Inc. (Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)
208-B Gérard D. Levesque
New Carlisle, Que.
G0C 1Z0

Local Journalism Initiative

Canada

Member of: QCNA

The Gaspé Spec

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PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO COMMENT ON RECONSTRUCTION OF A
MATRIX-BASED MULTISPECIES ARTIFICIAL REEF

Transport Canada’s Navigation Program (NPP) administers the
Canadian Navigable Waters Act.

In accordance with requirements of the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada hereby gives notice that an application has been submitted to the Minister of Transport for the following work.

Common Project Registry Number	Navigation Protection Program File Number	Project Description	Worksite location
13655	2026-316958	Fish Habitat or Environmental Compensation Project – Artificial Reef	48° 6' 21.42“ N, 66° 9' 34.34” W, 2.5 km west of Carleton Marina, in Baie-des-Chaleurs.

How to send comments:

Comments about the potential effect of these works must be received within 30 days of this posting. We invite you to submit comments online through the Common Project Search site at: <https://common-project-search.canada.ca>. To do so, enter the registry number indicated above in the search box, and follow the instructions. Alternatively, comments can be mailed or emailed to:

Navigation Protection Program — Transport Canada
1550 d’Estimauville Avenue
Quebec, QC
G1J 0C8
NPP File number: 2026-316958
PPNQUE-NPPQUE@tc.gc.ca

Note:

- Comments will only be considered if they are in writing (electronic or mail) and received by the deadline. Transport Canada’s Navigation Protection Program may communicate with you to obtain additional information on your comments.
- Transport Canada does not publish comments submitted through the Common Project Search site or mailed to the Navigation Protection Program. However, comments submitted online or by mail are considered public record. As such, they are subject to the *Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act* and are accessible through Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) requests. This means the information you provide should not contain confidential or sensitive information since it could be disclosed.

Posted at Carleton, (Quebec) on July 15, 2026.

AVIS PUBLIC

INVITATION À SOUMETTRE DES COMMENTAIRES SUR LA
MISE EN PLACE D’UN RÉCIF ARTIFICIEL MULTIESPÈCES SUR
MATRICE

Le Programme de protection de la navigation (PPN) de Transports
Canada administre la *Loi sur les eaux navigables canadiennes*.

Conformément aux dispositions de la *Loi sur les eaux navigables canadiennes*, Pêches et Océans Canada donne avis, par la présente, qu’une demande a été déposée auprès du ministre des Transports pour l’ouvrage suivant.

Numéro au registre de projet en commun	Numéro de dossier du Programme de protection de la navigation	Description du projet	Emplacement de l’ouvrage
13655	2026-316958	Installation de compensation de l’environnement ou de l’habitat du poisson – Récif artificiel	48° 6' 21.42" N, 66° 9' 34.34" O, à 2,5 km à l'ouest de la marina de Carleton, dans la Baie-des-Chaleurs.

Comment envoyer des commentaires :

Les commentaires sur la portée potentielle de ces ouvrages doivent être reçus dans les 30 jours suivant cette publication. Nous vous invitons à soumettre vos commentaires en ligne sur le site de Recherche de projet en commun, à l’adresse suivante : <https://recherche-projet-commun.canada.ca/>. Pour ce faire, entrez le numéro de référence indiqué ci-dessus dans le champ de recherche et suivez les instructions. Les commentaires peuvent également être envoyés par la poste ou par courriel à l’adresse suivante :

Programme de protection de la navigation – Transports Canada
1550, avenue d’Estimauville
Québec (QC)
G1J 0C8
Numéro de dossier du PPN : 2026-316958
PPNQUE-NPPQUE@tc.gc.ca

Remarques :

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- Transports Canada ne publie pas les commentaires soumis par l’intermédiaire du site de Recherche de projet en commun ou envoyés par la poste au Programme de protection de la navigation. Toutefois, les commentaires soumis en ligne ou par la poste sont considérés comme des documents publics. À ce titre, ils sont assujettis à la *Loi sur la protection des renseignements personnels* et à la *Loi sur l’accès à l’information* et sont accessibles au moyen de demandes d’accès à l’information et de protection des renseignements personnels (AIPRP). Cela signifie que les renseignements que vous fournissez ne doivent pas contenir de renseignements confidentiels ou sensibles puisqu’ils pourraient être divulgués.

Affiché à Carleton (Québec), le 15 juillet 2026.



Please be advised that the SPEC office
will be closed from July 23 to August 2, inclusively.

Shrimp catches off to a promising start

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – Shrimp catches are off to a relatively strong start this season for the small number of fishermen harvesting the resource.

However, the landing price has yet to be set, even though the fishing season is well underway.

“It’s better than in recent years. For the past two years, in the Sept-Îles area during the spring, catches were difficult—if not downright disastrous. For the few fishermen who went out, catch rates are relatively good and the catches are substantial,” notes Patrice Element, director of the Quebec Shrimp Fishermen’s Office.

This year’s quota has been set at 5,600 metric tonnes, up from 3,200 metric tonnes two



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

Shrimp boats docked at Rivière-au-Renard.

years ago.

At the current pace, fishermen are expected to harvest most, if not all, of the available quota.

“We can say with near cer-

tainty that—unless conditions are absolutely dreadful this fall—we can be confident that virtually the entire quota for Quebec fishermen will be caught,” continues Mr. Ele-

ment.

Of the roughly dozen shrimp fishermen participating this season, some began by fishing lobster and will switch to shrimp afterward, continuing until late September or early October.

Rising operating costs

Higher diesel prices and reduced quotas in recent years continue to weigh heavily on the industry’s profitability.

“It’s really hurting us. If we compare last year’s diesel price to this year’s, that’s an additional operating cost of nearly 15 cents per pound,” calculates Mr. Element.

No agreement has yet been reached with processors on the price to be paid to fishermen.

“We’ve filed for arbitration for both the spring and summer seasons. We have a meet-

ing with the Agricultural Markets Board very soon,” says the director.

Last year, fishermen received an average price of \$1.69 per pound.

“What we’re seeing with shrimp—given the global decline in quotas and catches, along with strong demand in China for whole shrimp—is that demand far exceeds supply. This has allowed our colleagues in Newfoundland, who received a price equivalent to what we got last year, to secure a 15-cent increase in the spring and a 4-cent increase per pound this summer. We’re aiming to achieve the same as our colleagues in Newfoundland,” suggests Mr. Element.

If successful, the average price paid to Quebec shrimp fishermen would increase to approximately \$1.88 per pound for the 2026 season.

Phase 3 of the Newport wharf upgrade will begin in late summer

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CHANDLER – The upgrade of the Newport fishing wharf will continue in late summer as phase 3 of the reconstruction project gets underway.

The first two phases of the project began in 2023. Newport is part of the town of Chandler.

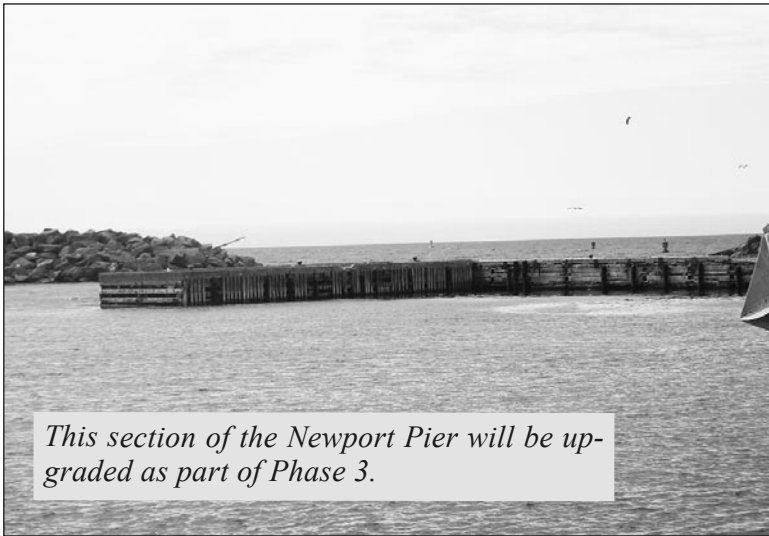
“Who would have thought that phase 3 would ever happen?” says Luc Legresley, president of the Newport Port Authority. “Fortunately, it’s happening. Bids will be issued shortly, and work is expected to begin in August or September, depending on the administrative process.”

The next phase will rebuild a section of the main wharf from the fish plant to the end of the harbour entrance.

“This is a major phase. The wooden section that’s currently closed will be completely rebuilt. The wide section with concrete walls will be renovated. On the seaward side, there will be riprap,” says Mr. Legresley, who hopes the work will last for the next 40 years.

“What’s great about the new management at Small Craft Harbour—and this is important—is that when they come to do renovation work, they don’t cut corners. They do things right and make the right decisions,” says the president.

Phase 4 is scheduled for ei-



This section of the Newport Pier will be upgraded as part of Phase 3.

Photo: N. Sergerie

ther next year or 2028. Small Craft Harbours is a division of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada department.

“They don’t really have a choice, because phase 4 will bring water and electricity to phase 3. Phase 3 is a major project and should normally be completed in 2027 or 2028,” he says.

Phase 3 will also protect the work completed during the first two phases.

Part of the lobster wharf, including five berths, cannot currently be used because currents in the area remain problematic until phase 3 is completed.

“I trust the people making the decisions. We’ve discussed the issue. I was told that phase 3 should be able to resolve it. If it doesn’t resolve it entirely, there will need to be another phase to assess the turbulence and address this issue,” the ad-

ministrative manager was told.

The first two phases, carried out simultaneously beginning in 2023, focused on the area between the lobster fishermen’s wharf and the berths used by semi-offshore boats, including crab boats.

The work included construction of a new pier approximately 278 feet long, along with dredging over a 100-foot section.

The original plan was to complete the entire project within four years.

“I’ll take a guess, but it’s going to easily exceed \$20 million,” says Mr. Legresley.

According to the Newport Port Authority, annual boat movements has increased from about 3,000 to more than 7,000 over the past decade.

When the project is completed, the port of Newport will have an additional 400 feet of docking space.

Gas still selling at a premium in Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – While drivers in the Québec City and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu areas were able to fill up for less than \$1.50 per litre during the last weekend of June, motorists in Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts were still paying \$1.83 per litre — a difference of 33 cents.

Residents of Gaspé riding and visiting tourists were also paying about 10 cents more per litre than drivers in southern Gaspésie.

According to data from the Régie de l’énergie as of June 29, the estimated retailer profit margin in Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts was 17.8 cents per litre. The average margin over the past year was 12.4 cents.

At \$1.83 per litre, Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts had the highest gas prices in the province, surpassed only by Northern Quebec, where transportation costs are higher because of its remoteness, and the Magdalen Islands, where prices are affected by the islands’ isolation.

Less than 40 kilometres away, in Cap-d’Espoir and Chandler, gasoline was selling for \$1.77 per litre. The estimated retailer margin there was 11.7 cents, compared with an average of 10.8 cents over the past year.

Further west toward Baie-des-Chaleurs, a litre of gasoline was selling for an average of \$1.73, representing a retailer margin of 8.4 cents. The average margin over the previous year was 10.5 cents.

Elsewhere, gasoline averaged \$1.75 per litre in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, \$1.78 on the North Shore and \$1.79 in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, all regions located far from the province’s major urban centres.





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COMMENTARY:

Cont'd from Page 4

more than two decades.

The last decision to nullify a red card issued against American star Folarin Balogun stands out as one of the worst verdicts in the history of that sport, considering that the cancellation came after a call from Donald Trump to IFF president Gianni Infantino. The latter is the man who handed out the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize and a commemorative medal to Donald Trump on December 5, 2025, despite the American president's dismal record as a peacemaker.

Donald Trump candidly admitted using his influence to convince Gianni Infantino of cancelling Balogun's red card, a well-deserved consequence of his ankle shattering tackle on a Bosnia player

in the defensive zone. Yes, the pace of play is fast, but so are athletes' reactions. Whether Balogun's play was intentional or not, it had to be punished.

A red card draws an automatic suspension for the next game. Through nullifying that suspension, the FIFA was allowing Balogun to play against Belgium in the ensuing round.

That little country responded with a stellar performance, beating the United States 4-1 in front of a home crowd. Upon scoring their fourth goal, the Belgian players celebrated with a little strut that looked like Donald Trump's YMCA strut of October 2020.

A long tradition of suspect behaviour

FIFA's brass' behaviour

has been suspect for decades. One of the most striking examples of what sounds like a severe assessment manifested in 2010, was when Qatar was trying to get the 2022 World Cup. That bid was successful for the Persian Gulf country, but devastating for human rights and for attempting to keep such bid evaluations clean.

Qatar was to receive \$400 million for the 2022 World Cup television rights. A kickback of \$100 million was promised to FIFA representatives ahead of the candidates vote in order to convince them of giving their nod to Qatar. It worked.

What followed was a disaster, not commercially but, from a human rights perspective, a profound failure.

Propelled by oil field money, Qatar had promised to build seven brand new sta-

diums for the World Cup. They were mostly built by African workers who were treated like slaves, in many cases after the confiscation of their passports. The number of African labourers who died during the construction of the stadiums is still under investigation, as are the maneuvers deployed to win the bid, by three countries, Switzerland, France and the United States.

The vote was organized by the former president of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, who served a prison sentence in another fraud affair in 2025, former soccer star player and president of the European Football Federation, and Qatar prince Tamim ben Hamad Al Thani, now that country's emir, the head of the state. Platini was asked to convince other European countries to support Qatar's

bid.

Many reports now prove that as a result of the World Cup deal, France sold 24 Rafales air fighters to the Persian Gulf country.

Through such deals with France, and some others with Great Britain, Qatar bought some sort of legitimacy, a lame form, but a brand that is accepted by a fair slate of world leaders. Other sports, like tennis, golf and car racing among others, are used as a way to reach that legitimacy.

By the way, Saudi Arabia, the country where the highest number of executions are performed, and where Canadian prime minister Mark Carney made a business trip at the beginning of July, refusing to tackle the human rights issue, is scheduled to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup.

First Gulf of Saint Lawrence great white shark of the year spotted on July 3

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - A great white shark measuring just over three metres in length was recently spotted in the waters off the Magdalen Islands, where it is continuing its summer migration through the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Named Bella, this young female is being tracked by the American organization OCEARCH, which conducts a large-scale research program on the movements of great white sharks using satellite tags. The most recent data indicates that the shark was still off the archipelago on July 6 at 10:51 a.m.

Bella was captured, tagged, and released back into the water on July 18, 2025, in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. At the time of tagging, she measured 3.1 metres (10 feet 2 inches) and weighed nearly 330 kilograms (729 pounds), making her a juvenile female.

Since then, her journey has been impressive, according to OCEARCH. After frequenting the waters off Cape Cod, it crossed the Gulf of Maine, skirted the coast of Nova Scotia, was detected near Prince Edward Island, before head-



Photo: OCEARCH

Bella when tagged on July 18, 2025.

ing up to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and making a stopover around the Magdalen Islands.

In recent years, sightings of great white sharks have increased in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Experts attribute this increased presence to several factors, including the warming of North Atlantic waters and an abundant food supply. The Magdalen Islands are considered prime habitat for these predators because

they support a large seal colony, the sharks' primary prey.

While the presence of a great white shark may pique curiosity, biologists point out that this species is naturally found in the waters of eastern Canada. Encounters with humans remain extremely rare, and satellite tracking allows the public to better understand the sharks' movements while contributing to their conservation.

Lobster prices reaches new high

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The price paid to lobster fishermen reached a record high in the Gaspé Peninsula in June and early July.

After a fairly good start during the first five weeks of the season, with prices of \$8.38, \$8.38, \$8.48, \$8.14 and \$7.96 between May 3 and June 7, the price increased to \$8.50 over the sixth week, then climbed to a record \$9.51 during the seventh week, from June 15 to 21. It declined slightly to \$9 during the two-week period from June 22 to July 5. A price of \$9 or more for three consecutive weeks has never been seen by Gaspé Peninsula lobster buyers and processors.

They prefer not to comment on the situation for now, except to say that the \$9.51 peak was caused by strong demand coming from the United States, where grocery retailers were building inventories ahead of the July 4 Independence Day celebrations, marking the country's 250th anniversary.

Moreover, since the first week of July, Gaspé Peninsula buyers have no longer been paying the same price as buyers in the Magdalen Islands, where a price war is brewing between processing plants. Demand has also remained strong in Quebec since mid-June.

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New 100-space CPE opens in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – A daycare project announced by the Quebec government in 2021 has become a reality with the opening of the Les Vire-vents facility at the CPE Voyage de mon enfance in Gaspé.

The new 100-space centre was built at a cost of \$6.1 million, including \$5.8 million from the Quebec government.

It is the first prefabricated CPE built by Carleton-based Entreprises Mont-Carleton in the Gaspé Peninsula and only the third of its kind in Quebec.

“A wonderful project led by the ‘Voyage de mon enfance’ daycare centre. It’s a great innovation we’ve introduced to help teams and project managers speed up the timeline. Part of the work is being handled by the teams themselves,” notes Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Bonaventure and Minister of Family, Catherine Blouin,

Another prefabricated CPE is under construction in Bonaventure, while conventional daycare projects are underway in Saint-Alphonse,



MNA for Gaspé Stéphane Sainte-Croix, MNA for Bonaventure and Minister of Family Catherine Blouin, Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté, CPE Voyage de mon enfance Executive Director Gilles Chapados, staff members and children officially open the new Les Vire-vents facility during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Photo: Nelson Sergerie

Cascapédia-Saint-Jules and Pointe-à-la-Croix. A new facility in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts is also expected to open soon.

The latest figures show about 350 children remain on waiting lists across the Gaspé Peninsula.

“But we have several facilities under construction. We just opened a 100-space facility. We have another 100-space facility near Bonaventure. We have projects for 30 spaces and 13 spaces. Several are under construction and are scheduled to

open by January 2027,” the minister notes.

The region’s economic growth, fuelled by wind energy and shipbuilding projects, continues to attract workers and young families.

Ms. Blouin adds the government is working to respond quickly to the growing demand for childcare spaces.

Using prefabricated construction significantly simplified the process, according to CPE executive director Gilles Chapados.

“In traditional construction,

there’s a competitive bidding process for architects and contractors. Then, with the architects, you have to align the plans with the budget. With a prefabricated building, all of that is handled in collaboration with the daycare centre, but it’s the contractor and the architect who finalize the financial and architectural plans. That’s one huge worry less for the executive director,” explains Mr. Chapados.

Mr. Chapados expects future versions of the prefabricated model to be even more efficient.

“The idea behind prefabricated structures is to build a catalog of 10 or 12 projects from which we can choose based on location and need, using tried-and-tested models,” says Ms. Blouin.

“It’s all about communication. We have better oversight when everyone works together. It’s like construction site management. Think of the scenario where an electrician arrives early and we have to

change the wiring. On large-scale projects, it’s these kinds of issues that we can improve through communication,” adds Mr. Chapados.

The Gaspé project experienced several changes and delays during the five years between its announcement and completion.

“That’s right. It’s like having a child. When they’re eight or ten years old, you don’t remember when they were a month old—when they wouldn’t sleep and you were exhausted. I see the result now, and I’m proud of it. There were challenges. I’m more satisfied with the result than with the process,” says the director.

Since June 29, 37 children have been attending the new facility after relocating from temporary rented premises in downtown Gaspé.

Filling the remaining 63 spaces will depend on recruiting additional educators, something Mr. Chapados acknowledges will be difficult.

“Yes, it’s a challenge. Yes, it’s hard work. We need to raise the profile of the profession. I feel like it’s part of the job, but we have to deal with it,” says Mr. Chapados.

Gaspé MNA Stéphane Sainte-Croix says the quality of the new facility could help attract educators to both the profession and the region.

The CPE Voyage de mon enfance is currently seeking about 15 educators for its four facilities in Gaspé and Murdochville.

The remaining childcare spaces will be filled gradually over the next two years as additional educators are hired.

Quebec government engineers protest in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – Quebec government engineers, on an indefinite general strike since July 6, staged a demonstration in Gaspé on July 8 during the inauguration of the new Les Vire-vents facility at the CPE Voyage de mon enfance.

Wearing their work vests, about a dozen engineers gathered outside the event in an effort to deliver a letter to Families Minister and Bonaventure Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Catherine Blouin.

“What we’re asking for—and where the sticking point lies—is the equivalent of what was offered to a large portion of the civil service, the groups the government has designated as priorities. We’re wondering why government engineers aren’t considered a priority,” says union spokesperson Stéphane Poirier.

Mr. Poirier said other public-sector employees received salary increases totalling 17.4% over five years. “What they’re offering us is much less. The collective bargaining agreement has been expired for three and a half years. We’ve



About a dozen Quebec government engineers demonstrated outside the opening of a new daycare centre in Gaspé on July 8 as part of their indefinite general strike.

Photo: Nelson Sergerie

been without a contract for years. It’s outrageous,” he says.

The engineers’ collective agreement expired in March 2023. Mr. Poirier notes that negotiations during the previous round of bargaining were also lengthy.

The strike could eventually affect road construction projects across Quebec.

For now, however, relatively few projects in the Gaspé Peninsula have been disrupted.

“Priority projects are overseen by private firms. But if the strike continues, there will still be some work. However, work reserved for engineers could cause long-term problems for contractors, if only in

terms of getting paid,” says Mr. Poirier.

Ms. Blouin met briefly with the demonstrators. “I wanted to hand-deliver a letter to you that outlines the situation a bit. As you know, government engineers have been on strike since July 6. We would appreciate it if you could share this with your colleagues. Discussions aren’t going smoothly,” Mr. Poirier explained to the minister.

“I’ll share this with my colleague on the Treasury Board,” was all Ms. Blouin promised.

The engineers also met briefly with Gaspé MNA Stéphane Sainte-Croix, who was also attending the daycare centre’s inauguration.

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The Intercolonial Railway turns 150 in 2026

GILLES GAGNÉ

MATAPEDIA – Slightly over 150 years ago, the Intercolonial Railway was inaugurated in Mont-Joli, specifically on July 1, 1876. At the time, Mont-Joli was called Sainte-Flavie Station, and this inauguration completed a project initiated in 1868 to connect Rivière-du-Loup to Truro, Nova Scotia.

In 1868, Lévis and Rivière-du-Loup were already connected by rail, having been in operation since 1860. Halifax and Truro had also been linked by rail since the 1850s. However, the considerable distance between Truro and Rivière-du-Loup remained to be covered.

The context of the time

The railway captivated political circles in the 1830s, a time when needs were numerous, whether economic, social, or military. From that era onward, surveying campaigns were conducted throughout the country's regions to determine potential routes for this mode of transportation of the future.

"It was the equivalent of having high-speed Wi-Fi today. It was the key to development. Those who didn't have the railway in the 19th century were often left behind. Building a railway and achieving development were not easy at the time, but it was easier to develop with the railway. It was the technology of the present and the future," explains Alexander



Reford, a historian living in Saint-Octave-de-Métis, near Mont-Joli. "We've seen struggles in Western Canada, and also in the East, though to a lesser extent, to ensure the railway passes through certain locations. Winnipeg exists because



Photos: Gilles Gagné

Engineer Sandford Fleming chose to dig a tunnel to carry the small Tartigou River, near Saint-Noël, a decision that avoided the construction of two bridges.

the railway runs through it. The same is true for Calgary and Edmonton. Here, we can take the example of Sainte-Flavie and Mont-Joli. Sainte-Flavie Station, the site of the former Sainte-Flavie train station, became Mont-Joli and grew larger than Sainte-Flavie. The town shifts to follow the railway," adds Mr. Reford, who is also a railway enthusiast.

A strategic route

The attempted invasions by the United States during the War of 1812 were still fresh in the minds of the leaders of the British colonies that, from 1840 onward, comprised what was called the Province of Canada.

For these strategic reasons, and even though construction of the Intercolonial Railway had not yet been officially approved, Major Thomas Robinson, an engineer, recommended in 1849 the route passing along the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, through the Matapedia Valley, northern New Brunswick, and Moncton, eventually connecting to the existing line between Truro and Halifax. Major Robinson prefers this route to two other scenarios that pass closer to the United States, starting from Rivière-du-Loup.

After an unsuccessful attempt at a meeting of the British colonies in Quebec City in 1862, the decision to build a continuous railway linking the unserved sections between Truro and Rivière-du-Loup was made at the Charlottetown Conference in Prince Edward Island in 1864. This conference sealed the fate of the Canadian federation, granting Canada the status of a country, with Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia as its initial provinces.

In 1864, the American Civil

War was still raging, and the United States had consequently armed itself very seriously. It was in this context that the Canadian government prepared the work that began in 1868.

"This amplified the desire to keep the railway away from the American border. Yes, there were peace agreements between the two countries, but there were doubts that the United States was a solid and lasting ally. Canada had no defenses when the British army ceased to defend it in 1871. One can easily draw parallels with today," notes Alexander Reford, referring to the dubious "solid and lasting ally" that the United States represents in 2026.

The work begun in 1868 was completed in 1874 between Rivière-du-Loup and Sainte-Flavie, in 1872 between Truro and Moncton, and in 1875 between Moncton and Campbellton, New Brunswick. The Campbellton-Mont-Joli section was finished in 1876 and officially opened on July 1, 150 years ago.

This Campbellton-Mont-Joli section was the most complex to build. It includes a fairly short tunnel at Morrissey Rock, before the railway enters the Gaspé Peninsula at Matapédia, following the long inter-provincial bridge spanning the Restigouche River.

"There are some steep gradients and a few rivers to cross. There are also valleys and cuts to get through some obstacles," explains Alexander Reford, whose home in Saint-Octave-de-Métis overlooks one of the major gradients along the route.

The Intercolonial Railway was a government-owned railway. Its construction was a requirement enshrined in the Canadian Constitution and had to begin no later than six months after July 1, 1867.

"It's truly the most impor-

tant infrastructure project undertaken in Canada in the 19th century. This is also the first major cost overrun in Canadian history, a country that lacked stable revenues because taxes didn't exist. It was a considerable investment," notes Mr. Reford.

This railway officially cost \$36 million, which would translate to \$1.49 billion in 2026. "There are cost equivalencies that don't reflect reality. This is one of them," Mr. Reford asserts.

The cost overruns were partly attributable to construction detours, especially in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, to appease communities lobbying for the railway.

"The project engineer was Sandford Fleming. He insisted that the bridges be made of iron and stone. He was heavily criticized for this more expensive choice. These are masonry structures that have lasted to this day and will continue to do so for a long time. Wooden railway bridges sometimes burned down in the 19th century. Sandford Fleming wrote a book in 1876, almost 800 pages long, I believe, explaining why it was important to build better. It was a statement. Maintenance was reduced," explains Alexander Reford.

Opening up several regions

The usefulness of the railway linking Halifax to Lévis and Montreal, however, has never been questioned. In 1867, navigation on the St.

Lawrence River and its estuary was impossible due to ice. Roads were barely passable, and the railway was the only way to efficiently transport people and goods between the Maritime Provinces and central Canada.

From the Intercolonial Railway, numerous branch lines were built. In Quebec, these included the section between Matapédia and Gaspé, completed in 1911; between Mont-Joli and Matane, finished in 1910; and between Rivière-du-Loup and Edmundston, New Brunswick, a line completed in 1889, now dismantled.

Several passenger trains were established between Halifax, Lévis, and Montreal, sometimes covering only parts of the route. The Maritime Express (1898-1964), Scotian (1941-1979), and Ocean Limited (1904-present) have been the mainstays of the network. The Ocean train is the longest-running train of its kind in Canada. It now operates only three times a week following budget cuts at VIA Rail in 2012.

Freight traffic was very heavy on the Intercolonial Railway between the partial opening of its network in 1872 and the present day. However, this traffic declined significantly in 1976-1977 when CN built a 48-kilometre branch line between Pelletier and Saint-André-de-Kamouraska to concentrate its main freight services along the Saint-André-Edmundston-Moncton corridor between Halifax and Central Canada.

Some interesting facts about the Intercolonial Railway

Gilles Gagné

In 1875-1876, Sandford Fleming decided to dig a tunnel through the rock near Saint-Noël, in the Matapédia Valley sector, to carry the Tartigou River, thus avoiding the construction of two bridges.

Originally, the Intercolonial Railway was to have a track gauge of five feet six inches, or 1680 millimetres, but the Canadian government changed its mind in 1875 to a gauge of four feet eight and a half inches (1346 mm), which was becoming the North American standard.

The Intercolonial Railway played a major role in both World Wars, transporting goods and soldiers mobilized for the war effort.

The Lévis-Rivière-du-Loup Railway was built by the Grand Trunk Railway. Inaugurated in 1860, it was acquired by the Intercolonial Railway in 1879.

The Intercolonial Railway was integrated into Canadian National (CN) in 1918, during the merger of various companies across the country.

Between 1998 and 2008, the Moncton-Rivière-du-Loup line was owned by the Société des chemins de fer du Québec (Quebec Railways Corporation) before returning to CN.

The Matamajaw Museum in Causapsca, in the Matapédia Valley, is presenting the exhibition "Intercolonial Railway: 150th Anniversary of a Technical Marvel and a Human Dream" until August 22.

Building the Matapedia-Gaspé railway

GILLES GAGNÉ

MATAPEDIA – When the Government of the Dominion of Canada decided on July 8, 1867, that the Intercolonial Railway would pass through the Northern New Brunswick and Matapedia Valley route, the news was received with excitement by the leaders of several regions, those of the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence first and foremost.

At the time, there were only two ways to accelerate development, securing sound maritime and railroad transportation, to have access to other markets as well as being able to efficiently get products fabricated elsewhere. That is not counting allowing people to travel for different purposes.

A company, the Baie des Chaleurs Railway Company, was formed in 1871 by then Member of Parliament and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Bonaventure, Théodore Robitaille, who was the riding's dual representative, which was permitted at the time. Robitaille regrouped a certain number of regional shareholders.

However, six years later, construction had still not begun, despite his efforts to suggest otherwise, and the provincial subsidy was withdrawn.

A second attempt was launched in 1882 by a group that again included Robitaille and several original shareholders. The federal government agrees to pay for the first 20 miles of the Matapedia-Gaspé line as a branch line of the Intercolonial Railway. Construction finally began in 1888, as its finances seemed settled to build until reaching the Cascapedia river, 60 miles from Matapedia. Work came to a halt in 1889 at Maria when employees went unpaid.

Additional government subsidies temporarily resolved the financial problems, but in 1890 the Baie des Chaleurs Railway declared bankruptcy despite having received grants totalling \$1.25 million over the previous 15 years, a considerable sum at the time.

The company was quickly reorganized with Montreal shareholders, and construction resumed in 1891 under the name Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway, which was also active elsewhere in Canada.

Train service between Matapedia and Caplan began in



Photo: Julian Bernard

On July 31, 1949, train number 71 passes in Douglastown, on route to Gaspé. At the time, the Gaspé Peninsula was served by two daily passenger trains. The picture was taken by Julian Bernard, a well-known Ontarian railfan who liked regional railways and who came to the region many times. He died a few years ago, well into his nineties.

1894. New Carlisle was reached in 1898, although a locomotive had already been sent there in 1895 to satisfy the conditions of a government grant by demonstrating that rail service had reached the community.

That grant did not prevent the company from declaring bankruptcy for a second time in November 1895.

In January 1897, the Intercolonial Railway assumed operation of the Matapedia-Caplan line while the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway attempted to survive through court proceedings.

In July 1900, ownership of the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway was transferred to receivers in England, bringing new investment to the project.

The line reached Paspébiac in 1902. At the time, only one passenger train operated each week in each direction.

However, the new management still lacked the financial resources to complete the railway to Gaspé. Another intervention by the federal government was required to finance the Paspebiac-Gaspé

section, primarily to construct the 26 steel bridges needed to complete the route.

Two companies are now involved in the Gaspé Peninsula between Matapedia and Gaspé, the Quebec and Oriental Railway between Matapedia and Paspébiac, and the Quebec, Atlantic and Occidental, charged to build the line between Paspébiac and Gaspé.

The railway reached Port Daniel in 1907 and Gaspé in 1911. The construction of the Port Daniel tunnel required some time and for a couple of years, the village was the railway terminal.

Even after the line reached Gaspé, residents of the southern Gaspé Peninsula continued to receive only one passenger train each week in each direction. That level of service remained unchanged for several more years.

The Matapédia-Gaspé line was acquired by then public transporter Canadian National Railways in 1929, after years of advocacy by the population and the Gaspé diocese bishop François-Xavier Ross.

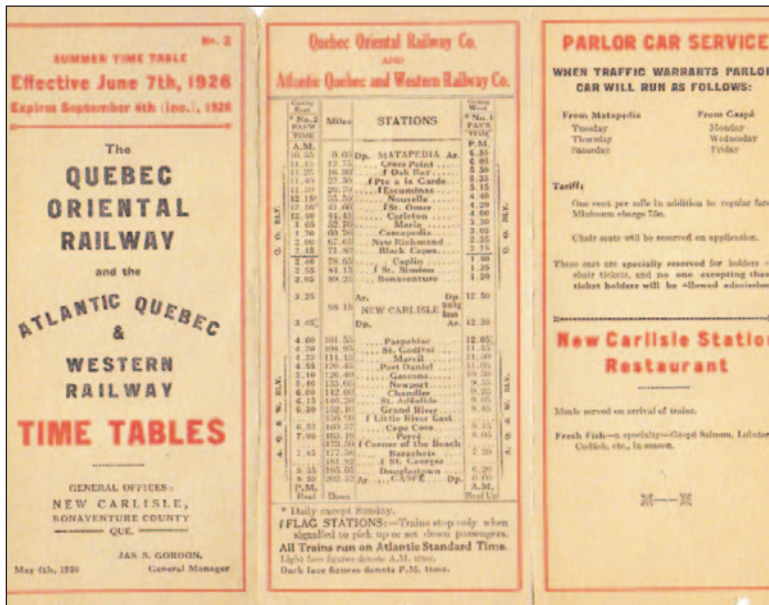


Photo: Archives of the Musée de la Gaspésie

The schedule of 1926 suggests that the passenger train was running three times weekly in both directions.



Photo: Gilles Gagné

Alan and Nina Freed of Massachusetts will travel through the region aboard their yellow 1957 Pontiac, specially adapted for use on railway tracks.

Another mobilization to push for the prompt return of the passenger train take 2

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – After their June 21 visit was cancelled because of mechanical problems, railway enthusiasts Alan and Nina Freed will return to the Gaspé Peninsula on Sunday, July 26, as part of a renewed campaign to promote the return of passenger rail service.

Travelling from Massachusetts in a yellow 1957 Pontiac modified to run on railway tracks, the couple will begin their journey at the Matapedia station before stopping in Carleton-sur-Mer, New Richmond, Bonaventure, New Carlisle and Port-Daniel.

Their approximate arrival times are 9 a.m. in Matapedia, 11 a.m. in Carleton-sur-Mer, 12:30 p.m. in New Richmond, 2 p.m. in Bonaventure, 2:30 p.m. in New Carlisle and 4 p.m. in Port-Daniel.

A public gathering will follow at The Green in New Carlisle at approximately 5 p.m. to highlight the importance of passenger rail service to the region's social, economic and tourism development.

Organizers also plan to provide an update on VIA Rail's preparations for the gradual return of passenger service to the Gaspé Peninsula.

The event is organized by the Coalition of Gaspésians for the Return of the Passenger Train, together with the Gaspé Peninsula Rail Transport Exchange and Mobilization Table. It will also highlight the rehabilitation of the railway to Port-Daniel–Gascons and the need to complete the remaining work to Gaspé as soon as possible.



Canada Day in Percé (Barachois)

JANICE HARVEY

BARACHOIS - For the fourth year in a row, the Town of Percé has hosted a Canada Day celebration in the village of Barachois on July 1. A key to the success of the day (besides the fabulous weather) was the organization by Audrey Piquette, cultural agent for the Town of Percé, and the collaboration of the area's vibrant community groups and volunteers, each contributing to the event in its own special way.

The day started at 10 a.m. with the traditional Canada Day parade organized by the Barachois Legion and led by a Percé fire truck. The parade route travelled first to Bridgeville before turning around and continuing to Belle Anse, then returning to the Legion. Decorated vehicles, with flags flying and horns honking, celebrated the magnificent day and the pride of living here in Canada. Back at the Legion, the celebration continued with free hot dogs and a Canada Day cake.

Starting at 9:30 a.m. across the street from the Legion, a group of volunteers from the Barachois Recreation Centre



Photo: Janice Harvey

The Canada Day celebration in Barachois attracted a large crowd on July 1, with residents and visitors enjoying an afternoon of live entertainment, food and family activities.

and also from the Barachois and Area Development Committee, together with Audrey from the Town of Percé, were busy setting up tents, a stage, sound system, barbecues, tables, chairs, decorations and more. Two large bouncy castles arrived and were inflated, attracting children and passersby well before the event was ready to start at 12:30 p.m. Volunteers from the Malbay Festival set up their folding chairs for the au-

dience. A tourist from Vancouver travelling in a camper van stopped to see what was happening and ended up helping decorate the site for a couple of hours.

At 12:30 p.m., Alex Bailey and Tyler Leary kicked off the afternoon with classic songs ranging from rockabilly to Simon and Garfunkel, featuring impressive harmonies and mandolin solos. They alternated every hour with Nash

Stanley, who performed country favourites, providing a total of 6 hours of continuous live music. A beer tent, organized and staffed by volunteers from the Barachois Rec Centre, helped quench thirst under the hot summer sun.

Meanwhile, at 12:15 p.m., a problem arose under the food tent when neither barbecue would start. Anxious members of the Mountain View Golden Age Club wondered what alter-

natives might be available until Dean Girard crawled beneath the grills to repair the propane hose connections. Much to the relief of the cooks, the problem was quickly resolved, and the hamburgers and hot dogs were only a few minutes late.

In addition to the popular bouncy castles, children enjoyed free popcorn and cotton candy distributed by Melissa Savidant and face painting provided by Hannah Patterson, both representing Vision Gaspé Percé Now. Visitors also had the opportunity to participate in a serigraphy activity offered by Ateliers à travers of Percé.

The celebration drew an excellent turnout of local residents, family members home for the summer, people from Gaspé, visitors from farther afield and even a family from Cloridorme who learned about the event through the Facebook page: Percé que ça bouge.

The event was well attended and widely enjoyed. Its success reflected the efforts of the many volunteers and community groups that participated, along with the organizational, technical and financial support provided by Audrey Piquette and the Town of Percé.

New Carlisle Canada Day parade draws festive crowd

Holly Smith

NEW CARLISLE – Patriotic spirit was on full display in New Carlisle as residents lined the streets for the annual Canada Day parade on July 1, kicking off a full day of festivities organized by the Town of New Carlisle. The parade began at 11 a.m. after participants gathered at the New Carlisle High School and featured decorated floats, community organizations, local businesses and families proudly waving Canadian flags.

Among the colourful entries were floats decorated in red and white, with children and volunteers handing out smiles and waving to spectators along the parade route. Following the parade, festivities continued on the Green with the raising of the Canadian flag, the singing of O Canada, a Canada Day market, family activities, live entertainment and food vendors. The celebration concluded with an evening of live music and fireworks, giving residents and visitors plenty of opportunities to celebrate Canada's birthday together.



Young participants aboard Becky's Baked Goods' float celebrate Canada Day by waving flags during the annual parade in New Carlisle on July 1.



Carol Flowers Smollett of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 64 hands out Canadian flags to spectators during the Canada Day parade in New Carlisle on July 1.



The Family Ties float adds plenty of red-and-white spirit to the Canada Day parade in New Carlisle on July 1.

Photos: S.D Captures

Relocation of Murdochville is under consideration

JEAN-PHILIPPE THIBAULT

MURDOCHVILLE – After gauging public opinion a few weeks ago by presenting Murdochville residents with a scenario in which some 30 homes could be relocated to restart the copper mine, Osisko Metals has recently gone much further by suggesting the idea of closing the municipality and relocating all of its infrastructure.

“What was presented were very general scenarios since we haven’t yet begun our preliminary economic, pre-feasibility, and feasibility studies, which are essential,” explains Véronique Morency, director of community relations at Osisko Metals. “But we broke the ice with our focus groups to start thinking about it.”

The cost of a closure/relocation would obviously be enormous. No financial assessment has yet been carried out—or at least not presented publicly—by the company. It is therefore too early to speculate on potential compensation.

“This is a question that has been raised with us, and we will evaluate it along the way in relation to compensation, depending on the scenario that will be seriously considered in the coming years,” explains Ms. Morency.



Photo: La Boîte flexible - Jonathan Desjarlais

The closure of the municipality is one of the scenarios proposed by Osisko Metals, but not the only one. The ore deposit is larger as drillings are carried out.

Cohabitation or relocation?

One thing is certain: Murdochville’s copper potential appears enormous, according to the data collected so far.

“We’re talking about a mining operation that would produce 10 times more ore on a daily basis than the former Gaspé Mines,” explained Robert Wares, CEO of Osisko Metals, in April.

With such a volume, Murdochville would practically be-

come a major global player.

“World-class, we’re talking about a copper mine that can produce 200,000 tonnes per year. The operation we are considering is for more than 150,000 tonnes. It’s very significant. It would be the largest mine in Canada,” added the man who previously worked as a geologist at the former Murdochville mine.

So, would coexistence between residents, businesses, services, and a mining operation be possible? “Our drilling studies were conducted under

Mount Copper and near Mount Needle,” notes Véronique Morency. “We didn’t drill on the town side, but with the potential scale of the project and the resources we’ve found so far, we certainly need to consider the issue of coexistence. Is it possible to operate a mine of this size next to a town? These are the questions we’re asking ourselves.”

According to her, discussions are just beginning and will continue in the coming months.

“People are asking us for

predictability with some rather specific questions to which we didn’t have the answers, but they understand that this is the beginning of a discussion that should last at least a year and a half. We’re not done reaching out to them yet,” she concludes.

Mayor Stéphane Gamache was unavailable when the SPEC tried to reach him because he was travelling. Speaking to Radio-Canada, he noted that he was somewhat surprised by this possibility, but that it was understandable under the circumstances.

“We suspected it would come up at some point, but we didn’t think it would reach the public so quickly. It’s still a big shock for the residents. It’s a major undertaking, a relocation. We can understand that it stirs up emotions and concerns,” he pointed out to the public broadcaster.

So far, the drillings carried out since the beginning of 2022 have indicated that up to 2 billion tons of mineralized rocks could be located on the former mines’ locations. The grade is low though, at around 0.33% in copper. Silver and molybdenum are also present in that ore on a quantity making the overall extraction process more advantageous.

It started with the possible relocation of 30 homes

JEAN-PHILIPPE THIBAULT

MURDOCHVILLE - On May 28, Osisko Metals had presented the residents of Murdochville with a copper mining scenario in which approximately 30 homes in the northwest of the municipality could be relocated.

Some homes on Curé-Alard and Gabriel-Bernard avenues are located near the potential open-pit mine, which is rich in low-grade copper ore, whose estimated value continues to grow with each new exploratory drilling.

In May, it was too early to know if this relocation option would actually be considered.

"We have to be cautious. This is a preliminary plan, based on the resource assessment to date," noted mayor Stéphane Gamache, who was interviewed just minutes after returning from Malartic, where he had been on an observation and information-gathering mission planned for several months. The town in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region is literally home to a gold mine, operated by Agnico-Eagle. At



Murdochville had 643 inhabitants according to the last census.

the time, to restart gold mining operations there, between 2008 and 2010, approximately 200 homes were relocated.

“We won’t be moving any houses in the coming years, or even at all if the pit is smaller or constructed differently,” explained the mayor in May.

“Most (residents) see it as a positive thing, but some are concerned, and that’s normal. It’s perfectly human, and we need to receive and listen to these comments. All concerns

are legitimate.”

The residents of Murdochville will be consulted in the coming months or year.

“We want to get the pulse of the community directly, not just through Osisko,” assures Stéphane Gamache.

In an interview with Radio-Canada, Osisko Metals chief executive officer Robert Wares indicated that the scenario presented on May 28 was intended to better understand public opinion regarding this vast cop-



Photos: Jean-Philippe Thibault

Robert Wares is Osisko Metals’ chief executive officer.

per revival project, whose investments are now estimated at \$3 billion.

“Relocating residences is really not for tomorrow; it could be in 10 or 15 years. If people don’t want to move, we certainly can’t force them. So, we’ll simply have to consider expanding the pit,” indicated Mr. Wares.

According to the latest information provided by Osisko Metals, if the project were ever given the green light—which is

still not the case—copper mining would restart around 2032.

“What’s clear is that the deposit is large. Very large. And close to the town,” concludes Stéphane Gamache. “We’ll have to have discussions with the residents and the mining company in the coming months to determine our next steps. Yes, it could lead to relocations, and a buffer zone will also need to be defined. It will depend on the scenarios and the final project.”

Two-week delay for the first hay cut

NELSON SERGERIE

CARLETON-SUR-MER – A wet spring and cooler-than-normal temperatures have delayed the first hay cut in the Gaspé Peninsula by about two weeks.

That's the assessment of Carleton-sur-Mer dairy farmer Normand Barriault.

“We’ve started, but it’s hit or miss. The rain is good for the forage, but the problem is getting it in. A thunderstorm right in the middle of the day brings our work to a halt. Normally, we should have a third or half of the fields cut by this time of year. We’re almost two weeks behind,” the farmer noted during an interview on June 29.

“Yes, it’s hot and humid. But the nights are pretty



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

Hay harvesting is running about two weeks behind schedule in the Gaspé Peninsula.

cool, which slows down plant growth,” the farmer continued.

As for yields, the pastures

now in their fifth year of harvest are producing slightly less, but the “young pastures” are yielding hay “in

such abundance we don’t know what to do with it,” says Mr. Barriault.

“In my opinion, it’ll be a record year, but we’ll get there later,” he says.

Ideally, farmers would like five consecutive days of warm, windy weather to allow the hay to dry properly.

“Water is running off the tires. It looks like I’ve polished them with Armor All (a product that makes car tires shine). We need heat; the nights are cool, which leads to heavy dew. We’re saturated with water,” explains the dairy farmer.

Despite the abundance of moisture, a prolonged summer drought would still disrupt the production cycle.

Last year, very little rain-

fall in July and August created major challenges for crops, particularly in the Baie-des-Chaleurs area, which experienced a significant rainfall deficit.

There was no second hay cut.

Potatoes remained small, as did grain crops, which no longer met grading standards because the kernels were undersized.

Even corn, which normally thrives in hot weather, suffered from the drought.

In 2025, La Financière agricole paid a total of \$597,000 to 68 insured agricultural businesses in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region.

Of that amount, \$252,000 was paid to 61 businesses through hay crop insurance.

Gaspé strawberries hit the market

NELSON SERGERIE

SAINT-SIMÉON – After being available for a month in the Montreal area and two weeks in the Quebec City region, Gaspé strawberries reached the market on June 29.

The first harvest from Ferme Bourdages Tradition in Saint-Siméon sold out quickly at the farm stand on its first day.

“We’re talking about a delay of a few days, but it’s not a disaster. The fruit developed with a more normal growth spurt. There wasn’t too much excessive heat. We had a chilly spring. The flowers were pollinated. The fruit is here, and it’s of excellent



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

Gaspé strawberries are expected to reach grocery stores between Pointe-à-la-Croix and Gaspé very soon.

quality,” says co-owner Pierre Bourdages.

“We quickly ran out of

strawberries on the first day. We expect to have an abundance by early July, and I’m

hopeful we’ll be able to quickly expand our sales to the local market,” predicts the producer.

The goal is to make strawberries available in grocery stores throughout the region, from Pointe-à-la-Croix to Gaspé.

Judging by the strawberry fields, the season appears to be shaping up as a normal one in terms of production volume.

“It won’t be a record year, but we’ll be able to supply the local market. There may be fewer strawberries heading to Montreal. We had an average crop in 2025, and that’s affecting our 2026 production. We’re hoping the weather cooperates, because

sunshine brings out the sugar in the strawberries,” the farmer explains.

This year, 38 foreign workers will help harvest the crop.

“That should be enough. We’re asking local residents who’d like to come pick strawberries to let us know. We also need help on that front.”

If the trend seen with the first strawberries from the Montreal and Quebec City regions continues, Gaspé strawberries should be plump, juicy and perfectly sweet.

Only Mother Nature decides the recipe, and consumers will be the ultimate judges of the flavour.

Smoke from northern Quebec forest fires drifts over Gaspé as June ends near seasonal norms

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – Smoke from forest fires burning mainly in northern Quebec drifted over the Gaspé Peninsula on June 30 as strong northwesterly winds carried a plume into the region overnight.

The smoke created a dry haze that gave the rising sun a reddish hue. According to firesmoke.ca, the smoke plume settled over the peninsula around 7 a.m. before spreading across the region. It cleared by the evening, leaving blue skies and good conditions for Canada Day

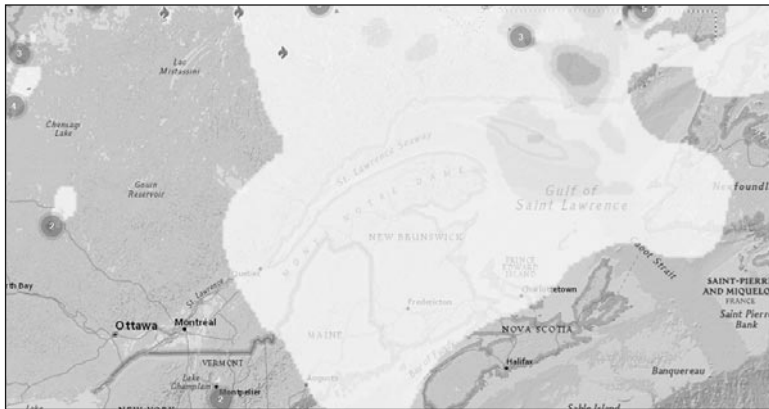


Photo: firesmoke.ca

Smoke from forest fires burning in northern Quebec drifted over the Gaspé Peninsula on June 30, creating hazy conditions before clearing in time for Canada Day.

celebrations on July 1.

Despite the smoke, the Gaspé Peninsula has so far

been spared from local forest fires. The Société de protection des forêts contre le feu

(SOPFEU) reported no fires during June, reflecting the relatively favourable weather conditions experienced across the region.

Since the start of the fire season, eight fires have burned a total of 2.4 hectares on the peninsula. That is one fewer fire than the 10-year average, while the total area burned remains well below the seasonal average of 17.8 hectares.

June weather conditions were also close to seasonal norms across the region.

The average temperature at Gaspé's Michel-Pouliot Air-

port was 12.9°C, compared with the normal of 13.2°C.

Precipitation was also near normal. Gaspé received 90.7 millimetres of rain during the month, slightly above the normal of 79 millimetres.

The figures contrast sharply with June 2025, when only 36 millimetres of rain fell, marking the beginning of a prolonged dry period.

Only one temperature record was set during the month. On June 9, the temperature reached 28.7 C in New Carlisle, breaking the previous record of 28.0 C, set in 1984.

Towards a palliative care home in Gaspé

JEAN-PHILIPPE THIBAUT

GASPÉ – What began as an idea shared over a glass of rosé has quickly become a concrete community project.

It's worth noting that Sophie Bourdages and Karine Gaul—friends and entrepreneurs, are not known for dragging their feet when they have a project in mind. From a simple wish, almost a pious hope, a whole team gradually rallied around them to, first, form a proper board of directors and, on June 17, present the results of the work begun since the initial discussions in 2023.

The result is a palliative care home with six rooms, the implementation cost of which is estimated at approximately \$5 million.

"The government doesn't build palliative care homes," explains Karine Gaul, chair of the board of directors, right off the bat. It requires citizen initiatives, and there are no funds from them until we are open and operational. We also need to have a year's worth of working capital in the bank before opening, hence the \$5 million figure."

The Gaspé Peninsula has been without a palliative care

home since the closure of Le Radeau de Pabos-Mills in 2014. Although another project is underway in the Baie-des-Chaleurs region, the Gaspé Peninsula and the North Shore are the only regions that still do not have such a facility. The Gaspé Peninsula also has the oldest population in the province, with 30.4% of its residents over 65.

Location still to be determined

For the moment, no location has yet been chosen for the Côte-de-Gaspé palliative care home. One thing is certain: the facility should be located near the centre of Gaspé to ensure better access to healthcare professionals. The town administration is currently considering allocating a plot of land for the project.

"We are in discussions regarding the potential transfer of a piece of land [...] so that the home doesn't have to purchase a property to be established. This would be a partnership contribution that the Town would be willing to make, provided we can find a suitable location. We support



Photo: Jean-Philippe Thibault

About 100 people attended the public presentation of the project.

the project. It's a unanimous decision of our municipal council," notes mayor Daniel Côté.

By comparison, the Baie-des-Chaleurs Palliative Care Residence has budgeted \$150,000 for land acquisition.

Once the home is built and operational, its operating budget will be partially covered by Santé Québec. Currently, the government provides nearly \$115,000 per palliative care bed, which is about half of the total costs.

Permanent resources can

then be added, such as a general manager, nursing staff, and social workers. The physicians involved will be paid by the RAMQ (Quebec Health Insurance Plan).

The plans for the palliative care home are still undefined. The page is still blank. Garden, music room, family reception area, light therapy, therapeutic bath, music therapy, massages, animal-assisted therapy: everything is yet to be designed.

"There's really nothing that can't be done. We want it

to be like home," explains Karine Gaul, whose father spent the final eight days of his life in a palliative care home.

"What struck me was that the caregiver who greeted us put her hand on my father and said that from now on, it would be nothing but gentleness. And that's exactly what happened in the last days of his life. From that moment on, I thought everyone should have access to that. That's when the idea really took off!" points out Ms. Gaul.

Just days after the public presentation, over \$26,000 had already been raised thanks to 160 donations. The board of directors hopes the palliative care home will be up and running in just five years.

"We're very ambitious. It's a bit crazy, but that's what we're aiming for," says a confident Karine Gaul. The next step is to launch a major fundraising campaign.

"It's a first step," adds treasurer Sophie Bourdages.

"We're aiming for the impossible, but we're taking it one bite at a time. We're going to need the whole community. We want your support."

Nergica welcomes Quebec's new energy plan

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – Nergica is welcoming the provincial government's new Integrated Energy Resources Management Plan, unveiled on June 30, saying it provides Quebec with a long-term roadmap for meeting its future energy needs.

"This is the first time Quebec has adopted a plan of this kind. Other jurisdictions around the world have done so, but this is a first for us," says Nergica Director Frédéric Côté.

While energy needs have changed significantly in recent years, having a vision for the next 25 years is viewed favourably.

"It's a necessity when it comes to energy. We're talking about infrastructure and major investments; we need to plan for the long term. The plan covers all forms of energy and energy efficiency and sets out the pathways we want to follow to decarbonize our economy, while keeping both economic development and energy re-



Photo: N. Sergerie

Frédéric Côté, director of Nergica.

silience in mind. So it's essential to plan for the long term," explains Mr. Côté.

The plan highlights several priorities, including research and innovation, addressing labour shortages, improving energy efficiency and developing new sources of energy.

"We're treating energy efficiency as a priority. We need to view energy efficiency as a primary source of supply. We're pleased to see

that. It's one of the messages promoted by Nergica. Yes, we need to produce more, but we must ensure we're efficient so we can free up energy for new functions in society. We can't just keep adding, adding, adding. We have to make sure every electron is used to its fullest potential," continues Mr. Côté.

He says achieving that goal will require action on several fronts.

"This is a societal effort. We'll have to bring all the elements together to succeed. We must do this in a way that maximizes local energy. It's an energy transition that's more efficient, more self-sufficient, and more resilient—and less dependent on geopolitical uncertainties, as we're seeing right now," he says, referring—without naming it—to the sharp rise in hydrocarbon prices following the war in Iran.

Quebec is moving forward with solar energy, which will complement the province's energy mix.

"There's a place for solar power, and it's relatively inexpensive. Our future really

lies in a mix of solutions. We'll have a lot of wind power in the coming years. We'll have updated hydroelectric projects and perhaps new ones with Newfoundland and Labrador. There are several solutions, but solar power will be part of the plan," says the director of Nergica.

With everything in the pipeline for the coming years, Nergica will strive to maintain—and even expand—its presence in research and development, something it has been doing for 25 years.

"I think we're well-positioned to continue supporting Quebec in its energy transition," says Mr. Côté.

The plan follows extensive public consultations held over the past several years, including one in Gaspé in May 2025.

New facility nearly ready

Nergica's new building on the Gaspé campus of the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles is expected to be ready

for occupancy within days.

"Finishing touches often take the longest. We're in the thick of it. The building should be handed over in the coming days. We expect to open our doors in the fall. Stay tuned," says Mr. Côté.

A few weeks ago, the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles confirmed the project remained within its \$11.9-million budget.

The new facility is an expansion of the existing polytechnic wing.

It will be one of the first energy-positive buildings in Quebec, generating more electricity annually than it consumes through the use of solar panels and energy-efficient design and construction materials.

The project is expected to strengthen Nergica's role in Quebec's energy transition.

The building will include research laboratories, workshops, collaborative workspaces and new offices.

The Québec government has contributed \$10.7 million toward the project, while Nergica has invested \$1.2 million.

Douglastown residents criticize beach redevelopment

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – About a dozen residents from Gaspé's Douglastown neighbourhood voiced strong criticism of the municipality's approach to beach improvements during the July 6 council meeting.

Partially rotted wooden beams were installed using heavy machinery to define designated walking paths and block access to parallel trails.

The municipality says the work is intended to prevent further deterioration of the beach caused by years of foot traffic. Residents, however, said they were dissatisfied with the approach.

Danny Gaul reminded elected officials that Matte Street and its extension to the railroad bridge had been used for about a hundred years by people fishing, working on the bridge or going to the beach.

Several homes once stood in the area before they were gradually abandoned, and



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

About a dozen Douglastown residents attended the July 6 Gaspé council meeting to voice their dissatisfaction with the municipality's approach to improvements at Douglastown Beach.

Matte Street disappeared following the storm and high tides of 2016.

"It started during COVID-19, when visitors were camping on the beach, but that phase has passed. I'm asking the Town: were they the ones who put those rotten logs there to block the access path?" asks

Mr. Gaul.

He also asks the Town to clean up the beach, as they do in Haldimand.

"Now, when you look at the beach, there's work to be done. Please make our beach as beautiful as the one in Haldimand," he continues.

"That old rotten wood you

picked up in the industrial park, you should have taken it to the dump, not to Douglas-town. A two-by-six with three or four coats of paint would have done a better job. If that wood isn't picked up, I've got a tractor and I'll push it out of there," says Jean-Marc Thibault.

"Ever since I was a little girl, the beach has been there, natural, undeveloped. That's what I like best—it's what many of us in Douglastown prefer," comments Donna Briand.

Mayor Daniel Côté noted that public consultations had been held in 2021 and 2022.

"There were public consultations in Douglastown. One of the conclusions was to make minor improvements, including marking the trails. We understand that the way it was carried out wasn't what we had envisioned. We're going to go back and talk to the residents to see exactly how we can mark the trails," replies Mr. Côté.

The municipality also pur-

chased street furniture and a portable washroom for the site.

"Some people want to see improvements. Others want us to protect it. We'll consult with the public again at the end of the summer. There's also history—all the people who have lived on this beach. We've commissioned a historian to interpret the history of this beach. We missed a step in the consultation process. We need to get back on track," notes the mayor.

Following the meeting, Mr. Côté clarified that the municipality is not planning to remove the wood. "I didn't tell anyone that we were going to remove the wood. We're just going to rearrange it differently so it looks less like a barricade—less like a pile of rotting wood," says the mayor.

The mayor adds that environmental regulations have changed significantly over the years, meaning activities once common on beaches, such as driving tractors on them, are no longer permitted.

Percé posts nearly \$1 million surplus

NELSON SERGERIE

PERCÉ – The Town of Percé recorded a surplus of \$998,987 in 2025 on an operating budget of \$8.9 million.

The audited financial statements were presented during the July 7 council meeting.

"We don't want to overtax residents just to generate surpluses and pad our nest egg. When we draw up a budget, we forecast our needs to provide the necessary services. The budget must balance. Surprises can arise over the course of the year," says

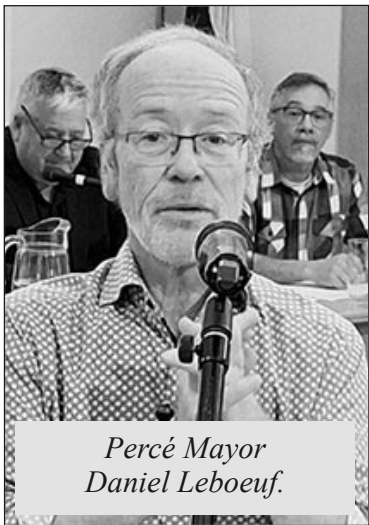


Photo: Nelson Sergerie

mayor Daniel Leboeuf, responding to residents who argued the municipality was

collecting too much in taxes.

A significant portion of the surplus resulted from a re-assessment of the Villa Frederick-James property following its restoration.

"We suspected that Villa Frederick-James would be re-assessed upward. It was valued at about \$160,000 before its restoration. Now, it's worth \$9.7 million. We had no way of knowing. The adjustment was applied retroactively to 2024 and 2025," explains the mayor.

The municipality also received about \$100,000 in

unanticipated interest income from grant funds that had not yet been spent, while some budgeted expenditures did not materialize.

"There are job positions we haven't been able to fill: the clerk position and the director of Public Works position are still vacant. We'll keep them in the budget," he says.

The municipality's accumulated unappropriated surplus now stands at \$2.9 million.

Part of that amount will be transferred to the working

capital fund.

"Another portion of the unappropriated surplus will be allocated to a designated fund. There will be approximately \$300,000 from Emerald River Park revenues that will be dedicated to the maintenance of tourism infrastructure and Emerald River Park. We'll have a reserve," the mayor estimates.

As of December 31, 2025, the municipality's gross debt stood at \$13.2 million. After accounting for government grants, its net debt totalled \$9.8 million.



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Competition Bureau probe could open door to second grocery store

NELSON SERGERIE

PASPÉBIAC – Municipal officials in Paspébiac say a recent Competition Bureau investigation into Empire Company Limited's use of property controls could improve the chances of attracting a second grocery store to the community.

Empire is the parent company of Sobeys, Farm Boy, Safeway, IGA, Foodland, and FreshCo, among other grocery banners.

Mayor Jérémy Laplante says he has been working since first being elected to attract another grocery retailer to increase competition in the municipality.

“We’re looking for vacant lots to host a new grocery store. Our efforts are focused primarily on that. But the fact remains that there is a non-compete clause targeting the former Robin store, which works to the detriment of residents. It’s excellent news that the Competition Bureau is taking on this type of clause across Canada,” says the mayor

The bureau is investigating Empire's use of property con-

trols to determine whether they reduce competition in the grocery retail sector.

According to the federal agency, limited competition can result in higher prices, reduced product quality and fewer choices for consumers.

The Federal Court has granted the bureau orders requiring Empire to produce documents, written information and oral testimony relevant to the investigation.

The bureau says the orders will provide additional information about the extent of Empire's property control practices, how the company negotiates them and their potential impact on competition across Canada.

The investigation remains ongoing, and the bureau has not reached any conclusions regarding possible wrongdoing.

“This would add another option to the study. The site is subject to a clause. If that clause were lifted, it would be one more site that could be considered. That would be a positive development. The more options on the table, the greater the chances that a project will come to fruition,” the mayor believes.

The mayor says a private developer is continuing efforts to acquire property for a new grocery store.

“It’s still very much alive. I can’t comment on the details, but it’s a good sign that there’s still interest in the project,” says the mayor, who expects a decision to be made by the end of the year.

The Competition Bureau's 2023 market study concluded that property controls can discourage new grocery retailers from entering local markets, limiting competition and reducing the benefits to consumers, including lower prices, greater choice and increased innovation.

In 2024, the bureau obtained court orders to investigate similar property controls used by the parent companies of Sobeys and Loblaw in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

In January 2025, Empire agreed to remove a property control that the bureau said restricted grocery competition in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta.

The bureau also continues to monitor Loblaw's public commitment to eliminate similar property controls across Canada.

Paspebiac IGA to continue accepting returnable cans and bottles

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC – Residents living between Caplan and Gascons who are worried about the disposal of their empty plastic bottles and metal cans will be able to use two machines that are on the verge of being put back in place at the IGA in Paspébiac.

The supermarket has been accepting empties in large plastic bags for a long time. This way of doing things will come to an end on July 19, however two machines are expected to be installed and operational before then. The planned end of the bag collection system has raised concerns among residents in the area.

Beer bottles will continue to be handled separately by depanneurs, grocery stores and supermarkets under existing agreements with brewers.

Nancy Arbour, co-owner of the Paspébiac’s IGA, declined to comment on the situation for now. She just mentions that Consignation, the organization responsible for managing Quebec’s deposit-return system, is reviewing the situation for the area between Saint-Siméon and Port Daniel.

Consignation has already installed return booths outside some grocery stores and supermarkets of the Baie des Chaleurs area in Nouvelle, Carleton and Maria. In New Richmond, a commercial space located inside the Carrefour Baie des Chaleurs mall is also serving the local population. It is permitted to think that the Cascapedia-Saint Jules, Gesgapegiag and Caplan residents are also using the New Richmond facility.

However, no such depot has been installed between Saint-Siméon and Port-Daniel. Residents from Gascons to Pabos Mills generally use the Consignation depots in downtown Chandler or Newport.

Under Quebec's deposit-return regulations, grocery stores and supermarkets with more than 10,000 square feet of retail space must accept eligible returnable plastic bottles and metal cans identified under the provincial deposit system. Smaller grocery stores and convenience stores are not subject to the same requirement.

The media responder for Consignation did not return SPEC’s call on time for the newspaper deadline. It remains unclear why the Paspébiac area has not received a dedicated Consignation depot, while most other communities along the Baie-des Chaleurs have been able to count on one since 2025.

Consignation is the official organization in charge of the deposit system in Quebec. It is also the brand of the AQRCB (Quebec Association for the Recovery of Beverage Containers). This non-profit organization manages the collection system for returnable bottles and cans. It allows consumers to recover the deposit paid at the time of purchase for cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles, and multi-layered cartons.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Photo: Lyndsay Benwell

The Soundtrack of Our Lives

No matter where we come from, we all have a soundtrack to our lives. It is more than the music we hear on the radio. Depending on your age, it may include fiddle music at a kitchen party. I am blessed to have this as part of my life going way back. My cousins were part of a musical family and their descendants are still making music today! Many enjoyable evenings were spent in my aunt and uncle’s home! Our soundtrack also includes the band playing at the Legion on a Friday night, performances on the Green in New Carlisle or at the Cultural Centre in Paspébiac. Music enriches our lives in ways both big and small.

Local musicians are a deeply meaningful part of our “soundtrack” and they deserve our support. Many Gaspesians travel to larger centres to hear famous performers, but some of the best musical experiences can be found much closer to home. If you have never attended the Bluegrass Festival in New Richmond, you have missed out on an event that combines world-class talent with a distinctly local flavour.

The Shigawake Music Festival is another outstanding example of homegrown talent and community spirit. Much of the music is performed by local artists.

Many musicians spend countless hours practicing after work, hauling equipment in and out of venues, learning new songs and performing simply because they love making music.

Supporting local musicians and live music creates an opportunity that brings people together. Friends get together and maybe even dance! I am lucky to have a memory of my uncle calling square sets and dancers whirling around the floor, faces flushed with the sheer joy of music and dancing. We children sat and watched and those memories are still vibrant and strong in us today.

Music also has a remarkable way of connecting cultures. The Gaspé is tri-cultural. Indigenous musicians are a large part of our musical community. We have all attended an evening of French music. This is where we can come together to create our own unique soundtrack.

Whenever you have the chance, attend a live performance. Drop a few dollars into the tip jar if there is one. Share upcoming concerts with friends and on social media. If a local musician has recorded an album, consider buying it instead of simply streaming it.

Communities are remembered not only for their history, buildings or politics but for their celebrations and their music. Local musicians help create the memories we carry with us throughout our lives.

They help create the soundtrack of our lives. Let's support the music.

**Please be advised
that the SPEC office
will be closed from July 23
to August 2, inclusively.**

Announcements



Obituaries



LE FLOCH: Clara Jane (née Scott)

June 29, 1925 - June 23, 2026

On June 23, 2026, a few days shy of her 101 birthday, Clara passed peacefully from her earthly home to her final heavenly destination.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 54 years, Harold “Georgie” (2006) and was a devoted mother to Judy (Peter) Macaulay; and Debbie (Derrick) Eason. Dearest grandmother to Chris (Julie); Shawn (Stacey); Amber; and Courtney (Jon), and a loving great-grandmother to Oliver, Georgia, Gabriel, Crosby, Abigail and Violet.

Clara was the third of 10 children born to her parents Elmyr and Florence Scott (née Shearer) in New Carlisle, Quebec. She could very quickly name the whole clan and stayed in contact with them. Despite the distance apart from one another, there was much love between them. She was predeceased by Connie (Don); Eveline (Kenny); Ruth (Richard); Vivian (Ron); Sidney (Leila); and Jim (Michelle). The remaining siblings, Ed (Marie); Leila (Bob); and Kassie (Doug), along with many nieces and nephews, mourn her passing and live to carry on the Scotts’ great love legacy.

Immediately after high school, Clara and several of her sisters were chosen to teach school in the surrounding area. She loved this opportunity, where she mentored and guided many students in Shigawake and Perce. After leaving “down home,” she moved to Montreal, where she worked at Sunlife and married her Paspebiac man in 1952. They lived in a few apartments in St. Laurent near Canadair where George worked, and they started raising their two girls before buying their first home in Chomedey in 1964. There, Clara was able to return to her love of teaching as a substitute teacher.

In her younger years, she enjoyed crafting, knitting and crocheting, painting, and creating poetry. She was very active in Northlea United Church and was an enthusiastic member of the choir and other groups.

We are thankful for all the love of her family, friends and neighbours, who have been so caring and supportive to her over the years. She thoroughly enjoyed a small gathering with some of these special people for her 100th birthday last year.

We are also grateful for the care that she has received after moving to Ottawa in 2019 and most recently, at Carleton Lodge since 2022. She appreciated her quiet little room at the end of the hall, the staff who provided the needed care and spent time interacting with her. She was best known for her expressions of gratitude to all.

Our family was so blessed by our dearest mum, and we are very grateful for her unconditional love. She will be deeply missed.

Cremation has taken place, and a memorial service will be planned for a later date to honour her long and full life. Internment will then follow in New Carlisle.



ROSS: Karen Ann

1946 - 2026

On June 30, 2026, Karen, known by many as Kay, passed away suddenly in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

She was the beloved wife of the late David Ross; sister of the late Marilyn Riddell; loving mother of Joelle (Mark) John (Heidi); grandmother of Jordan (Michelle) and Ember; sister-in-law of Jim, Karen and Sylvie; aunt to Jenny (Mike); and aunt to many beloved nieces and nephews.

She dedicated almost 25 years to teaching in New Brunswick and on the Gaspé Coast in Quebec, in the communities of Hope Town, Shigawake and New Carlisle. Many will remember her fondly as Madame Ross. She taught both of her children French in Kindergarten and Grade 1 and got to participate in both her children’s first day of school.

Karen was passionate about Kidney Cancer Canada and volunteered right up until the day she passed away at the age of 80. She had been a director of Kidney Cancer Canada for three provinces: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. On May 18, 2018, Kidney Cancer Canada honoured Karen with the Dale Miron Volunteer of the Year Award, which meant the world to her.

Karen had a beautiful soul and always showed up for her family. She will be deeply missed by all.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to Kidney Cancer Canada in her memory. We hope to have a Celebration of Life in Hope Town next summer.



Celebration of life



HENDERSON: Sandra Journeaux

Please join family, friends and former students in celebrating Sandra’s life and legacy.

The celebration will be held on Friday, July 24, 2026, at 2 p.m. in the longhouse room at the Kanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse, Yukon. Everyone is welcome.



MCCLUNG: Eula Theresa (née Chicoyne)

On June 27, 2025, Eula Theresa McClung, (née Chicoyne), daughter of Clem and Stella Chicoyne passed away at the age of 99 years.

A funeral mass will take place at St Peter’s Church in Barachois, on August 4, 2026, at 11 a.m. Following the service, the family invites you to a lunch at the Legion, located across from the church.



PETTIT: Mona (née Grosin)

Gaspé Coast friends are invited to join us as we remember and celebrate the life of an exceptionally kind, generous, talented, and truly unique mother, grandmother (Nanny), wife, friend, teacher, and free spirit, who passed away last summer.

Join us for an informal gathering on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 11 a.m., at Black Cape Cemetery.

Feel free to bring a lawn chair if you would prefer not to stand.

**The New Carlisle
Funeral Association**
extends sympathy to the families of
**John Kaye Walker and
Leila Ward Renouf.**



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1946 - 2002
HUSBAND OF
CAROL A. TEED
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GASPÉ:
Gaspé County W.I
September 12: Gaspé-County W.I. Fair. Do you want to enter the W.I. Craft Fair competition? It's time to register with the Gaspé W.I. Here's what you need to know: the fair will be held at the York Hall, the registration fee is \$15, you can enter as many craft, cooking, and/or garden items as you wish. You can register with Bonita Annett at 418-368-3453 or gaspe22@gmail.com, and she will give you a copy of the Fair List for 2026. The last day to register is July 31. Everyone is welcome!

BARACHOIS:
BADC
July 24: The Barachois Public Market will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. under the tent at the Malbay Festival (at the Barachois Rec Centre) 1062 Route 132 East, Barachois. Bakers, Crafters, Artisans (maybe some produce). To reserve a table (\$10) contact Janet Harvey at (418) 355-4899.

BARACHOIS:
Mountain View Golden Age
July 17: Money bingo at the Mountain View Golden Age, 857 Route 132 East, beginning at 7 p.m.

SHIGAWAKE:
Shigawake Music Festival and Agricultural Fair
July 18: Lawn tractor races beginning at 1 p.m. Registration is \$20. Admission is \$5. Canteen and bar service available
July 23: Magic Bill Peterson and John Gedeon Jr. beginning at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m., \$10 entrance fee. Canteen and bar service available.
July 30: Jesse and the Jones band beginning at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m., \$10 entrance fee. Canteen and bar service available.

UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN
Sunday, July 19
2 p.m. Service
Sunday, July 26
10 a.m. Service

August 1: Loud and Plowed Barn Dance beginning at 4 p.m. - 11 p.m., \$20 entry fee. Vendors, BBQ and bar service available.
August 6: Brian Haché beginning at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m., \$10 entrance fee. Canteen and bar service available.

HOPE TOWN:
Hope Town Sports club
August 22: A gift bingo will begin at 7 p.m., held at the Community centre.

NEW CARLISLE:
St. Andrew's Anglican Church
August 1: A gift bingo will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion. Doors open at 6 p.m., bingo begins at 7 p.m. One series for \$10 or three series for \$20.

UNITED CHURCH NEW RICHMOND
Sunday, July 19
10 a.m. Service
Sunday, July 26
10 a.m. Service

NEW CARLISLE:
Three generation concert
July 26: Three generation concert beginning at 2 p.m. at St. Andrews Anglican Church. Free admission, great music played by: Linda Nielsen, grandma, Bethany Fehr Paetkau, daughter and Solomon Paetkau, grandson.

NEW CARLISLE:
Bible Chapel Meetings
Sundays: Breaking of Bread for believers - 9:30 a.m., Gospel meeting and

PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, July 19
St. Andrews - York
9 a.m. Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist
Sunday, July 26
Camp Fort Haldimand
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
St. Matthews - Peninsula,
7 p.m. Evening Prayer

Sunday School - 2 p.m.
Thursdays: Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 7 p.m. Everyone welcome! For more information 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:
Book Room
The book room will be open on August 5. For any other dates please contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896 for an appointment.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
Sunday, July 19
New Carlisle
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Port Daniel
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sunday, July 26
New Carlisle
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Hope Town
3 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Shigawake
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

HOROSCOPES - July 13 to July 19
ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, now is the perfect time to socialize with others. Romance is in the air and you are going to go out of your way to treat someone special in the days to come.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, some people express their affection for others by buying them gifts. You have the ability to know just what a person needs at a given time and provide that to them.
GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, a pleasant week awaits you, and one this inspires your compassionate and tender side to come to the forefront. You may feel unselfish and spiritual, and relationships will be easy.
CANCER – June 22/July 22
Your idealism is aroused this week, Cancer. This is a time for you to become more involved with others,

and you might find it rewarding to work with a charity.
LEO – July 23/Aug 23
A friendship may turn romantic, Leo. You'll have to tread carefully depending on how you want to see things go. Listen to your emotions carefully in the days to come.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
This week you are compelled to use your influence to help someone directly or indirectly, Virgo. Figure out what you can do to affect change.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Expect to meet people under unique circumstances, Libra. You may engage with someone who needs your help or can teach you something new.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, enjoy spending time with friends and other groups because this is a feel-good time for you. If you feel affectionate toward someone, those

feelings will become more passionate.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
People notice you more than usual, Sagittarius. This is an excellent time to enjoy the company of others, including, friends, your partner or spouse.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Look for ways to help a coworker who could use some help right now, Capricorn. You have the power to give them what they need right now, more so than others.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
This is a time for social outings and special dates, Aquarius. Figure out how to feel sensitive to the needs and feelings of loved ones as only you can do best.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
True generosity is giving what is needed, Pisces. Assist a relative as best as you can, even if that is simply serving as a sounding board.

HOROSCOPES - July 20 to July 26
ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
How you respond to a situation matters more than how quickly you react, Aries. Interactions with others will feel more charged than expected, but will be effective.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, slow down so you can see what actually matters right now. You may feel slightly off if you move too quickly; give yourself time to respond to those seeking your help.
GEMINI – May 22/June 21
You may want to say yes to something quickly, Gemini, without giving it ample time for consideration. Do not jump into things without careful reflection. It's hard to backtrack.
CANCER – June 22/July 22
What you prioritize this week will shape how stable you feel, Cancer. Focus on those things that matter

to you the most and give them your full attention.
LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Leo, when your messages are clear and direct, others will understand you more easily and this will keep discussions moving forward. Clarity comes from simplicity.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
This week you may feel a pull between staying comfortable and going deeper into something that has been on your mind, Virgo. When you stay grounded, your decisions will be easier.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Tell others what you need without conforming to what you think they want you to be, Libra. You may feel pulled between your needs and theirs. Stay clear about what works for you.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Set clear boundaries around your time this week, Scorpio. Your work will be consistent and con-

trolled. This is how to find success.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, plans will move better this week when you keep them simple and flexible. Progress will build when you have a clear and manageable plan.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
It is important to be direct with others about your limits, Capricorn. Identifying what you are willing to do and what you are not can help you and others to achieve your collective goals.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
A shift in your perspective this week helps everything make more sense to you, Aquarius. You may feel tension, but take a moment to think before responding to others.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
You may be pulled to either avoid a topic or resolve it quickly, Pisces. Progress builds when you stay present and define what's actually beneficial.

Breakfast and Rally in Shigawake

EMILY HOCQUARD

The Shigawake Fair Grounds welcomed community members on July 4 for a successful breakfast and four-wheeler rally that brought together residents and visitors for a day of good food, friendly competition, and outdoor fun!

The morning began with a hearty breakfast served by dedicated directors and volunteers, giving participants and supporters the opportunity to gather, catch up with friends, and fuel up before the day's activities. The event created a warm community atmosphere and highlighted the spirit of the Bonaventure Agricultural Society, which makes local gatherings so special.

Following breakfast, approximately 40 riders took part in the four-wheeler rally, enjoying scenic routes and the chance to share their passion for off-road riding. The rain held off for most of the ride, despite a downpour leaving riders soaked for a part of the drive back. The committee remained on site for their return to refuel bellies, making for an exciting event filled with adventure!

The rally winners for July 4 were Frank Beebe, BJ Almond and Nicholas Renouf!



Riders gathering after a delicious breakfast before taking off for the day!



Robert Wylie, President of the Bonaventure Agricultural Society and wife Vivian Dow ready to take on the trail.



Participants in file, leaving the fairgrounds for the rally.

Photos: Emily Hocquard

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LET’S COLLABORATE On Strengthening Quebec’s Economic Prosperity Together

Quebec’s English-speaking community is not sitting on the sidelines of the economy. It has talent, bilingual capacity, and entrepreneurial energy. Now add its regional networks, institutions, and ideas that strengthen Quebec’s prosperity.

At CEDEC, we’re working with the broader Francophone community to increase participation within the Official Language Minority Community of Quebec (OLMCQ).

On June 15, 2026, we launched an invitation for collaboration with stakeholders and partners from across Quebec, called The Road to Prosperity: The 2026-2028 OLMCQ Collaborative Economic Development Roadmap.

This Roadmap will help CEDEC and its public, private, and civil society partners develop capitalize on 10 promising economic development opportunities:

- Workforce Development and Labour Market Participation
- Smart_Tourism
- Graduate Entrepreneurship and Startup Development
- Smart_Culture
- Encore Seniors Cooperative
- Smart_Care
- Smart_Farming
- Green_Build
- Agri_Value Recovery & Biotransformation
- Next-generation Transportation & Electric Aviation

HOW THESE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE TIED TOGETHER

These opportunities are connected to the forces reshaping Quebec’s economy: AI and digital technology, demographic change, and sustainable development.

WHY COLLABORATION IS BECOMING AN ECONOMIC ASSET

No single organization working alone can fully capitalize on these opportunities. Collaboration is now a required strategic economic capability.

HOW SUCCESS WILL BE MEASURED

Success is measured by the economic gains the proposed Ventures will create for individuals, businesses, social enterprises and their communities.

INTERESTED?

Read the Roadmap. Get involved.
cedec.ca/prospere-q

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Our mission is to promote awareness and access to local products and producers and encourage community spirit!



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