

Gesgapegiag inaugurates new state-of-the-art police station

GILLES GAGNÉ

GESGAPEGIAG – Police officers, civil servants, contractors, architects, construction workers and members of the community participated in the inauguration of Gesgapegiag's new police station on August 19.

Construction of the \$8.6 million building began in the fall of 2024. The staff, consisting of 15 police officers and three civil employees, gradually moved into the facility in December 2025.

The building is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and provides ample space for personnel.

"It's 10 times bigger than the former police station, and 20 times bigger than the first police station where I started 38 years ago," pointed out Marvin Condo, Gesgapegiag's chief of police, an hour



Photo: Gilles Gagné

The new Gesgapegiag police station is considerably more spacious than the previous facility and features state-of-the-art equipment.

after delivering the inauguration speech, which was followed by tours of the building.

The project was funded by

the federal and provincial governments, which respectively covered 55% and 45% of the cost.

During his speech, Marvin

Condo covered various points that often go unnoticed when police services are discussed.

"Today is much more than the opening of a new building.

It is the celebration of a shared vision, a successful partnership and a significant investment in the safety, security and well-being of our community," he said.

He thanked the federal and provincial governments for their contribution and support to the project. He also praised the Chief and Council for its leadership, vision, guidance and continued support, which have been "instrumental throughout this project."

Mr. Condo also recognized the contribution of other organizations, notably the Grand Council of Wabanaki, which supported the Gesgapegiag Police Department throughout all phases of the initiative.

"Our sincere thanks go to the project managers, architects, engineers, contractors,

Cont'd on Page 2

Gaspé-managed Vierge wins international awards

GILLES GAGNÉ

PERCÉ - All three of Vierge wine alternatives were recognized at the World Alcohol-Free Awards held in London, England, in March, one of the most rigorous competitions in the global non-alcoholic beverage industry

Vierge Sparkling Rosé won the Best of Show in the non-alcoholic wine category, earning the Century medal with a perfect score of 100. The Pearlescent White and the Classic Red were also "commended" at that competition.

Managed from the Gaspé Peninsula, Vierge was the only Canadian wine alternative brand to win awards in this category.

The same three Vierge products also won awards at the Proof Awards, held in Las Vegas in July. The Classic Red won the silver

medal for taste, with a score of 88%, and the gold medal for design. The Pearlescent White won the gold medal for taste and another gold for design. The Sparkling Rosé won the Best of Show Century medal with another score of 100 for taste, as well as a gold medal for design.

Meaningful awards

These awards are particularly meaningful because London's World Alcohol-Free Awards assessment process includes blind tasting, evaluation by multiple teams of independent judges and standards that rise every year. Only a small percentage of submitted products receive recognition, explains Vierge director general Dawn Murray.

"Having our three alternatives recognized reflects something that is deeply important to us: the consistency



Photo: Courtesy of Vierge

Dawn Murray is celebrating international recognition for all three Vierge wine alternatives.

of the quality of our products and always following our mission to offer sophisticated,

low-sugar wine alternatives," she says.

Ms. Murray is equally

pleased that Vierge products received a significant recognition in Las Vegas, where the proof tasting competition is judged by beverage buyers and industry decision-makers from across the United States.

"I'm incredibly proud to share that all three Vierge products were recognized in Las Vegas in July at the 2026 Summer Proof Awards! Being recognized at both the World Alcohol-Free Awards and the Proof Awards is incredibly meaningful to me. I feel proud, grateful, and honestly a little emotional," adds Ms. Murray.

The products were gradually launched during the second half of 2025 as part of a step-by-step approach to reaching the market.

"Vierge is such a personal journey for me. I'm

Cont'd on Page 2

POLICE STATION:

▶ *Cont'd from Cover*

construction workers, consultants, government officials, administrative teams, police representatives and all of our partners who worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life,” he also stressed.

Marvin Condo also highlighted the role of his colleagues. “Your professionalism, patience, and commitment throughout this project have been greatly appreciated. This building is ultimately for you, to provide you with the tools and environment you need to perform your duties effectively and safely.”

Remarking that the new facility gives the Gesgapegiag community members a chance to look toward the future, he added that “it will allow us to strengthen our operations, improve collaboration, support our personnel, and continue building trust with the people we serve.”

Mr. Condo also talked di-



Police Chief Marvin Condo cuts the traditional ribbon during the inauguration of Gesgapegiag's new police station, accompanied by dignitaries.

rectly to the members of the community. “I want to make one commitment today: we will continue to work every day to protect you, support you, and earn your confidence. This building belongs, in a very real sense, to the community. It is a symbol of our collective commitment to public safety.”

Kevin Debigaré, a veteran Gesgapegiag police officer, showed several guests around, including actor and film director Patrick Huard, who was behind the Bon Cop, Bad Cop television series, which featured Gesgapegiag's citizens. Two episodes were shot in the community in June 2025.

During the visit, Mr. Huard



Photos: Gilles Gagné

Actor and film director Patrick Huard makes a stop in one of the new police station's cells during a tour with Gesgapegiag police officer, Kevin Debigaré.

met other guests, who commented or asked questions about the series, notably about his presence at the police station. “We have a house in Cascapedia, close to Gesgapegiag,” answered the actor, who explained at length a few anecdotes linked to the 2025 shooting. He shares his life with Gaspesian musician,

singer and producer Anik Jean, the other half of the “we” he referred to.

Marvin Condo, who was supposed to retire a few years ago, pointed out that the former police station, located just across the street, is already slated for other uses. “It will be used by the rangers and the firefighters.”

Carleton-sur-Mer's arena deficit shared

NELSON SERGERIE

CARLETON-SUR-MER – Carleton-sur-Mer, Maria, and Nouvelle have agreed to share part of the Léopold-Leclerc Arena's operating deficit, which totals \$350,000.

Over the past year, an agreement had been reached with several municipalities, and elected officials had given themselves a year to review the terms.

“We've reached a signed agreement with Nouvelle and



Photo: Town of Carleton-sur-Mer

Maria. They are the two main users of the facility. This is a matter of tax equity,” says

mayor Mathieu Lapointe.

New Richmond and Es-cuminac chose not to sign the

will be the next step for the company. “The timing also feels especially meaningful because Vierge is entering a new chapter. I'm now shifting a big part of my focus toward hospitality, and that's where I see a tremendous opportunity for the brand. Over the upcoming year, my goal is to see Vierge on the menus of more restaurants and hotels, giving people a sophisticated alcohol-free option when they're dining out, travelling, celebrating, or simply choosing not to drink,” further explains Dawn Murray.

Changing trends in alcohol consumption give her confidence that the business is headed in the right direction.

“The alcohol-free category is evolving quickly, and I believe people increasingly expect the same quality and experience from an alcohol-free option that they would from a traditional wine. That's

exactly the space I want Vierge to occupy. These awards give me even more confidence as I take that next step. I'm incredibly excited about where Vierge is going. I really feel like we're just getting started,” she says.

“I'm deeply grateful to everyone who has supported this young Canadian, Indigenous-certified and woman-owned company. This recognition strengthens my determination to continue growing Vierge across Canada and eventually into the United States,” she concludes.

Vierge was also nominated for Montreal's 2026 SIAL Innovation Awards, a prestigious international competition recognizing the most innovative food and beverage products for their originality, market potential and contribution to emerging consumer trends.

agreement.

“For municipalities that did not join the agreement, there will be a non-resident fee of \$1,200 per youth, whether in minor hockey or figure skating. Municipalities can implement incentives or programs to compensate the parents of these young people,” the mayor explains.

Carleton-sur-Mer will cover \$175,000 of the deficit, and the remainder will be divided among the participating municipalities.

“This includes users from Carleton-sur-Mer. Ultimately, we aim to raise \$55,000 out of \$350,000. This amount

will be allocated based on where the users come from. Every year, we look at where the young people who use the arena come from. It's the same principle as with the New Richmond pool. Each year, we have the attendance statistics from the previous year, and we use those to determine the cost of the agreement.”

For the first year, the agreement was based on a shared deficit of \$337,000.

The share of the deficit was 50 percent.

Users contributed \$100 each time they used the facility.

NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF INVENTORY

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to article 795 of the Civil Code of Québec, that the inventory of the property of the succession of Suzanne Soucy Miller, in her lifetime residing at 1510 Route 132 est, St-Georges de Malbaie, Quebec, G0C 2X0, who died on 3 November 2025 has been closed.

The inventory may be consulted by any interested person by contacting through email at:ryaninwakefield@gmail.com or in writing: Ryan Miller, 309 ch de Wakefield Heights, Wakefield Quebec, J0X 3G0.

Given in Wakefield, this 20th day of August, 2026.

Ryan Miller
Liquidator of the Succession

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Commemorative plaque honours Michel Pouliot

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – A commemorative plaque honouring Michel Pouliot has been installed at the airport bearing his name, giving travellers an opportunity to learn more about the Gaspé aviation pioneer.

The plaque was unveiled on August 15 in the presence of dignitaries, elected officials and numerous members of Mr. Pouliot’s family.

It traces his career, beginning with his education and highlighting the founding of Air Gaspé, the construction of what would eventually become Michel-Pouliot Airport and his role in developing air service in the Gaspé Peninsula and throughout Quebec.

The plaque also highlights the many honours Mr. Pouliot received over the years.

“This plaque is a tribute to our father, but above all, it’s a recognition of who he was



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

Family members and dignitaries attended the unveiling of the commemorative plaque honouring Michel Pouliot on August 15 at the airport that bears his name in Gaspé.

and a way to preserve his memory for the public,” says Josée Pouliot, Michel Pouliot’s daughter and the family’s spokesperson.

She draws a connection to her grandfather, Dr. Camille-Eugène Pouliot, who is commemorated with a plaque at C.-E. Pouliot High School in

Gaspé.

“The town hadn’t put up this explanatory plaque. This closes a chapter for us,” she says.

“We’re letting the public and visitors know who Michel Pouliot was—and why the airport bears his name. The significance of this figure to

Quebec’s civil aviation is little known and underrecognized across the province. He’s a figure who deserves to be better known,” explains Gaspé mayor Daniel Côté.

For the mayor, the plaque provides an important form of recognition.

“We’re correcting this oversight with a plaque that briefly outlines his life story, which is much more extensive. At least now people have a summary of what a great man he was,” says Mr. Côté.

The airport has borne Michel Pouliot’s name since 2008 in honour of its founder, who built it between 1951 and 1953 on what was then a rural, forested area of Gaspé.

The town has owned the airport since January 1998.

Mr. Côté noted that finding a suitable location for the airport was no easy task because of the mountains sur-

rounding Gaspé.

According to the town, the airport, whose code is YGP, serves approximately 25,000 passengers and handles more than 3,000 aircraft movements each year.

In addition to scheduled passenger service provided by Pascan Aviation and PAL Airlines, the airport accommodates private aircraft and other specialized aviation operations.

In the spring, it serves as a base for aircraft involved in forest protection operations against insects and diseases.

The airport also plays an essential role in transporting patients requiring urgent medical care, accommodating the Quebec government’s air ambulance service for transfers to hospitals in major urban centres.

Michel Pouliot died on April 29, 2024, at the age of 93.

Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles welcomes 1,439 students for fall semester

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – The Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles welcomed 1,439 students on August 17 for the first day of the fall 2026 semester.

That is 87 more students than at the start of the fall 2025 semester and 160 more than the 1,279 students at the start of the fall 2024 semester.

In addition, 145 people are enrolled in the various Attestations of College Studies (AEC) programs offered through continuing education.

Several factors may explain the increase. “There are various reasons. The student retention rate in the Gaspé Peninsula is very, very good. We attract a large number of students from other regions of Quebec. We have a new program: Police Techniques. Last year was our first year with a single cohort. This year, we have two cohorts—about 50 students. Our mobility agreements with CEGEPs in major urban centres are working well. We have 55 students from other CEGEPs coming to take their fall semester,” says the college’s director of academic affairs, Serge Rochon.

The CEGEP has agreements with about ten CEGEPs in major urban centres.

“It’s a great, unique program. These students coming



Some of the teaching staff at the Cégep.

Photo: Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

from Montreal or Quebec City get to experience what life is like in a regional area, discover the beautiful region we have, and enjoy the outdoor activities we offer. It’s a great program, especially since we’re running out of spots in the major urban centres,” explains Mr. Rochon.

Tighter admission requirements for international students are having an impact on the CEGEP, with their numbers dropping to 75 from 110 last year.

“The measures are so restrictive that it’s difficult for students to obtain a study permit. We hope to slow the decline. These international students are important to us. They bring diversity to our classrooms. They come from a variety of backgrounds, and that helps us maintain our programs. It’s not an easy situation,” says Mr. Rachon.

Continuing education,

quality of our teaching, which helps us attract more students,” says Mr. Rochon.

With a total capacity of approximately 1,600 students, the Cégep is nearing its limit.

“We’re not far off. At some campuses, like Carleton-sur-Mer, we’re at full capacity. Elsewhere, there’s still some room, but our programs in the Humanities and Natural Sciences in Gaspé were nearly at full capacity this year. We still have some wiggle room for a few more years,” believes Mr. Rachon.

Demographic projections for the region remain relatively positive for the coming years, although significant growth is not anticipated.

“In the major urban cen-

tres, space is starting to run out. That could have a positive impact for us. But there are many assumptions to consider before we can be categorical,” says Mr. Rochon.

The idea of better distributing students throughout Quebec has been gaining traction for about 15 years as some CEGEPs in major urban centres are overflowing.

With tight public finances limiting opportunities to expand or construct new facilities, the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles could benefit from the situation.

“It’s quietly carving out its place and is increasingly becoming an obvious solution within the college network,” concludes Mr. Rochon.

Enrollment by campus in 2026 compared to 2025

Campus	2025-2026 academic year	2026-2027 academic year
Gaspé, french sector	665	742
Gaspé, english sector	83	98
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	151	171
ÉPAQ	102	90
Carleton-sur-Mer	351	338
Total	1,352	1,439

SOURCE: Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles

Note: These figures are compiled annually in mid-August. Enrolled students have until August 17 to confirm their enrollment, until September 19 to withdraw, and until November 4 to drop a course without failing it. The table therefore compares expected enrollment from one year to the next rather than final confirmed enrollments.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

Churchill Falls:
There is a missing partner

The August 17 announcement by the Quebec, Newfoundland-Labrador and Canadian governments of a potential \$70 billion investment that could almost triple the capacity of the Churchill Falls area’s electricity generation capacity was lacking in one aspect, the approval of First Nations.

Obviously, the goals at stake for the three above-mentioned governments were more important than the inclusion of the First Nations in an announcement that replaces the seemingly less advantageous 2024 memorandum of understanding.

For Quebec, Premier Christine Fréchette wanted to show that she could reach an agreement with Newfoundland-Labrador that would erase the negative effect of her colleague Premier Tony Wakeham’s refusal to accept the 2024 memorandum of understanding (MOU), because it was not providing enough for his province.

For Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Wakeham was eager to show that his criticism of the 2024 deal during the fall of 2025 electoral campaign was justified. He wanted to demonstrate that he could improve that agreement within months so that his province could derive greater benefits from its resources.

For Canada’s prime minister Mark Carney, it was urgent to come up with positive news amid stalling trade negotiations with the United States. He also wanted to prove that his government can do something else in the energy sector other than sign pipeline deals.

Impressive numbers

The three politicians put on a dizzying show, statistics-wise. The pan involves investing \$70 billion, including \$10 billion in federal financing to upgrade and expand the Churchill Falls generating station, develop the Gull Island hydroelectric project, build transmission lines and implement a 2,000 megawatt onshore wind energy project in Labrador, with the location eventually being determined by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro.

The agreement also calls for almost tripling the current generation capacity of the Churchill Falls facility from 5,428 to 14,000 megawatts (MW) of re-

newable power. Hydro-Québec’s current generating capacity hovers around 40,000 megawatts.

According to both levels of government, the projects will create 23,000 jobs. Presumably, most will be created during construction of the new Gull Island generating station, upgrades to the existing Churchill Falls facility, installation of new transmission lines and construction of wind farms. We are therefore mainly talking about temporary jobs, although well-paid ones.

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro says the deal will increase the value to the province from the \$36 billion estimated in the 2024 MOU to \$49 billion in net present value.

Newfoundland-Labrador also gains a guaranteed transmission access of 985 megawatts through Quebec. This issue has been a bone of contention for the Atlantic province, and it now means its utility can sell up to that amount of Churchill Falls electricity to Ontario or the United States, for example.

According to the details released on August 17, Newfoundland and Labrador will receive about 760 MW more power under the new agreement, 2,350 MW compared to 1,990 MW in 2024. If the wind project proceeds, that amount could rise to 2,750 MW. Hydro-Québec, meanwhile, will have access to as much as 6,915 MW, or up to 8,515 MW if the wind project is completed.

Newfoundland-Labrador taxpayers will benefit from a 15 per cent rebate on their first 2,000 kWh of electricity used each month, for an average annual saving of \$351.

Just as importantly, and a tremendous symbolic value, Newfoundland Labrador Hydro will receive 1.8 cents per kilowatt hour from Hydro-Québec in 2027, nine times more than the current 0.2 cents negotiated in 1969 for electricity generated by Churchill Falls. That price will increase by 14 per cent annually, reaching 11.5 cents in 2041.

Both provinces had a lot to lose

Failure to reach an agreement in 2024, now or a couple of years down the road, would heavily penalize the citizens of both provinces.

Newfoundlanders and Labradorians were, and remain, angry about the deal struck in 1969 between Hydro-Québec on one side, and the government of Newfoundland and Labrador, supported by a private company called BRINCO, for British Newfoundland Development Corporation, on the other.

Yes, Hydro-Québec paid only 0.2 cents per kilowatt/hour to Newfoundland and Labrador for the

electricity the Quebec utility received from Churchill Falls, a generating station commissioned between 1971 and 1974. That price was supposed to remain in effect until 2041 under the 1969 agreement.

However, Hydro-Québec assumed practically all the financial and technical risks during construction of the huge generating station, with BRINCO unable or unwilling to share that risk and the province lacking major funding capacity. The Churchill Falls complex would not have gotten off the ground without Hydro-Québec.

The August 17 deal will provide the Newfoundland and Labrador government with an average of about \$1 billion annually. This corresponds roughly to the province’s annual deficit, which is notably attributable to the failure to keep the Muskrat Falls generating project within budget, despite significant federal support.

At the other end of the spectrum, Quebec and its utility were looking toward the end of the 1969 agreement with concern because replacing 90 per cent of 5,428 MW of electricity, roughly Hydro-Québec’s share of Churchill Falls, would not have been easy, even if some Quebec rivers could still be harnessed.

It now takes at least 15 years to build a major hydroelectric generating station. Chances are there would have been a huge gap that would have been difficult to fill by 2041.

Meanwhile...

Meanwhile, two elements remain troubling about the August 17 agreement.

First Nations should have been part of the announcement. No agreement should have been announced before provisions for their inclusion had been established.

The proximity of the Quebec elections made the Coalition avenir Québec government wave aside that inclusion. Christine Fréchette is desperate to improve her government’s chances of re-election, and First Nations issues became secondary once again.

Moreover, very little emphasis was placed on the need to conserve energy despite the extraordinary amount of electricity generated by our utilities. The best way to offer affordable energy to residents will always include conserving the electricity already being produced.

Such a basic principle seems too complicated for modern-day politicians.



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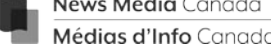
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A wave of harassing calls hits the Gaspé Peninsula

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – Since August 6, the Gaspé Peninsula has been hit by a surge of harassing calls from people claiming to offer services to improve the energy efficiency of residential properties.

The callers, who claim to be working for a company called “Groupe Habitation Québec,” which cannot be found online, may contact the same household 10 to 15 times a day to offer their services.

The catch is that as soon as the person receiving the call begins asking more specific questions, the line suddenly goes dead.

A small, unscientific survey conducted by CHNC on August 11 received no fewer than 750 reports from people who said they had received this type of call.

Some people reported receiving more than 50 calls in just a few days from different numbers, making the calls difficult to block. The frequency of the calls has led some residents to describe them as harassment, a criminal offence under the Criminal Code.

The numbers displayed have included 418, 450, 819 and 514 area codes.

One resident reported receiving 22 calls on August 10. Based on the responses received by CHNC, the average appears to be between 10 and 15 calls per day. “24 calls just today!” writes Mylene Mainville.

Cathy Breton, who runs a daycare centre, shared her experience. “The number of calls I’m getting has gotten TERRIBLE! Even the kids at my daycare know the drill now... Every time the phone rings: ‘Cathy... is it THAT lady AGAIN who wants to talk to the owner?’” she writes.

“About fifteen, yesterday and today. They left two messages out of the thirty or so calls. Apparently, it’s ‘Société Écoénergie,’ which wants to tell me that I’m eligible for their assistance and subsidy program,” explains Jean-François Pilon.

No complaints filed with the Sûreté du Québec

When asked about the calls, the Sûreté du Québec said it had not been informed of the extent of the situation.



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

The people making these calls use a wide variety of phone numbers to contact residents and offer them services.

“It’s important to report the incident to your local police department and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. It’s worth reporting,” says Sûreté du Québec spokesperson, Béatrice d’Orsainville.

“We need descriptions and some information to try to arrest these people,” she continues, acknowledging that this type of phone call is difficult to trace given the large number of phone numbers being used.

Anti-Fraud Centre partially aware

When contacted, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre had little information about what is happening in the Gaspé Peninsula.

“To date, we have not received any reports specifically mentioning this company name. However, we regularly receive reports of offers for home services,” the centre’s communications department writes in an email.

The organization notes that fraudsters often offer services such as duct cleaning or furnace and water heater repairs at very low prices.

“If the company performs the work, it is of poor quality, comes with invalid warranties, and the repairs may pose risks,” the centre continues.

“Furthermore, in most fraudulent calls, scammers use caller ID spoofing. In this case, the phone service itself is not used, but the information displayed on the screen is manipulated. This tactic allows scammers to increase the chances that their call will be answered and/or in-

still a false sense of trust in their impersonated identity by using a familiar number,” the centre notes.

The organization says that when such calls are reported, the information is shared with its partners involved in disruption programs.

Telus can’t do much

Telus acknowledges there are limits to what it can do to prevent such calls.

“This is an issue affecting the entire telecommunications industry,” the company writes in an email.

“Telus is committed to protecting its customers by collaborating with authorities and continuously investing in technologies that detect and block suspicious communications.”

The company says it has implemented various tools, such as the Call Control service, which requires unknown callers to confirm their identity before the call is connected.

Online tools are also available to protect customers’ privacy and promote the safe use of smartphones and the Internet.

“We recommend that customers activate Call Control and report any suspicious communications. Calls can be reported to Telus at 1-866-558-2273 or by dialing *611 from a Telus device. Suspicious text messages can be forwarded to 7726 by including the word ‘SPAM’ in the message. Customers can also report a fraud attempt to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501,” the company suggests.

Police report

Man drowns in Grand Pabos river

The emergency services were called at approximately 2:40 p.m. on August 19 to intervene in the Simoneau bridge area in Chandler because a man had apparently fallen in the Grand Pabos river. He was part of a group of people spending time near the bridge, with some of them swimming, explains Audrey-Anne Bilodeau, communication officer at the Sûreté du Québec. “Paramedics and firefighters were the main interveners in this emergency case. The bridge was closed during the rescue operation. Firefighters are equipped with a small craft that allows them to make the search. So, they conducted the operation. The man in his twenties was located in the water, following instructions provided by people who had seen him slip, the version retained so far. He was driven to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead,” explains officer Bilodeau. “The 28-year-old man had an address in the Chandler area, although he was probably originally from outside the region. The case is still under investigation even if foul play is not suspected. The investigation is conducted to understand what happened. We know that he was not wearing a life jacket,” she adds.

Sports fisherman dies due to medical reasons along the Cascapedia river

A senior who was fishing salmon in the Grand Cascapedia river died along its banks on the morning of August 19 following an apparent medical emergency. “Emergency services were called at 9:25 a.m. However, it was a medical emergency, and we therefore don’t release additional details in this case,” points out officer Audrey-Anne Bilodeau, of the Sûreté du Québec. The victim was a regular to the area for salmon fishing. He died in the sector C area, upriver. He was the second man to die along the banks of the river this year. The first victim died following a similar medical emergency in July.

Last man accused in 2025 Carleton break and enter to serve prison term

The last of the two adults involved in a 2025 break-in in Carleton, followed by a police chase to Lévis on August 8, pleaded guilty in July to five of the seven charges laid against him. Fabrice Mallette Jules, 18, of Laval, was sentenced to six months in prison. He had 107 days left to serve on the day of sentencing after receiving credit for time already served. He was also placed on probation for three years and ordered to perform 240 hours of community service.

Mallette Jules, along with Klaus Thierno Madjou-Bah, 19, and two minors, had entered a Carleton residence armed with a canister of pepper spray and a machete. Once inside, the occupants’ dog scared them off, but not before the intruders emptied the canister. They suffered from the effects of the pepper spray. After fleeing, they were pursued at various points at speeds exceeding 190 km/h. The individuals were finally arrested in Lévis after a short pursuit on foot. One of the minors had received several thousand dollars through an online contract to carry out this mission. Madjou-Bah was sentenced to two years less a day in prison, two years of probation, and ordered to provide a DNA sample.

The two other minors were referred to Youth Court.

Investigation on-going following July 18 drug bust in Listuguj

Two individuals were apprehended on August 1 following a search warrant executed by the Listuguj Police Department. A vehicle from outside the Mi’gmaq community was searched, and officers seized what appeared to be cocaine, 412 unidentified pills, 14 cell phones, and paraphernalia associated with organized crime. Police officials indicated the paraphernalia was linked to motorcycle gangs. The individuals could face charges. The investigation is ongoing.

Speeding, a factor in deadly accidents during construction holidays

During Quebec’s construction holiday, 18 people died in 15 road collisions, including six involving motorcyclists. While the number of fatalities was lower than last year, police are reminding motorists to remain cautious as heavy summer travel continues.

Preliminary investigations indicate that at least one human factor contributed to each fatal collision.

“The main contributing factors to fatal collisions remain excessive or inappropriate speed, distraction and impaired driving ability,” says Louise Bonneau, road safety officer with the Quebec Association of Police Chiefs.

Police are urging motorists to respect the Highway Safety Code, wear seat belts and avoid speeding, distracted driving and driving while impaired.

The Chief Electoral Officer assures that everything will be ready for the October election

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – Élections Québec assures that, despite the tight deadlines for preparing the election in the Gaspé and Bonaventure ridings, everything will be ready when voters are called to the polls.

In January, the proposed electoral map called for the merger of the two ridings to form Gaspé-Bonaventure, while the Haute-Gaspésie MRC would be added to the Matane-Matapédia-Métis riding.

In June, elected officials passed legislation maintaining the two Gaspé ridings as they are.

Preparations for a general election begin nearly a year before voters are called to the polls.

“We’ll be ready. We have 80 years of experience organizing elections. We have a solid foundation. That said, it’s certainly been a lot of work—including overtime—for the two election directors in the Gaspé region,” says



Photo: Élections Québec

Élections Québec assures that everything will be ready for voters in the Gaspé and Bonaventure ridings for the October 5 election.

Élections Québec spokesperson, Julie Saint-Arnaud Drolet.

Initially, voter information materials did not include the names of the electoral districts.

“Where it was more complicated was sometimes in contractual relationships. For example, we sign an agreement with a school to use its facilities. If we sign with the Gaspé-Bonaventure electoral

district and that district doesn’t exist, we have to revise all those agreements with the new names. From an administrative standpoint, several tasks of this nature had to be redone,” the spokesperson explains.

Initially, there was only one returning officer for Gaspé-Bonaventure.

Once the elected officials passed legislation, a returning officer was appointed for

Gaspé.

“We have two election directors in the Gaspé region. We’re fortunate in Bonaventure to have an experienced candidate who worked during the 2022 elections, and the election director for Gaspé has all the skills needed to effectively carry out her duties for the first time in the 2026 elections,” says Ms. Saint-Arnaud Drolet.

The election director’s job may seem simple, but it is complex.

It involves identifying polling locations, ensuring they are accessible, and organizing voting at long-term care facilities, seniors’ residences and schools.

“We don’t have to start from scratch. We have a database where we compile a list of potential polling locations—those used in previous elections. When electoral district boundaries change at the last minute, the returning officer can refer to the work that has been refined over the years. We don’t start from scratch. Still, we have to fa-

miliarize ourselves again with the territory and the boundaries, and review pre-established agreements to ensure that the names of the returning officers and electoral districts are correct.”

Prospective candidates have until September 17 to file their nomination forms. It is only at that point that the ballots are printed.

It is difficult to quantify the costs associated with the legislation passed in June.

“We haven’t done any calculations regarding overtime. There will be no direct additional costs in the Gaspé Peninsula,” she says.

However, maintaining the two ridings will entail costs, as two returning officers and the necessary staff must be added to conduct the October 5 election.

“We are confident that we will succeed in organizing efficient, fair elections, and we have been working very hard for several months to ensure that everything runs smoothly,” the spokesperson says confidently.

Gas profit margins twice as high in Gaspé

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – Drivers in the Gaspé Peninsula are once again paying significantly higher prices when filling up their tanks in the region.

With prices listed at \$1.84 per litre in Baie-des-Chaleurs and \$1.89 in Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, gas stations are posting profit margins nearly twice their usual levels, according to data from the Régie de l’énergie as of August 10.

Specifically, the margin was 24.8 cents per litre in Gaspé, compared with an average of 12.4 cents over the past year.

In Rocher-Percé, the margin was 23.2 cents, compared with an average of 10.5 cents, while in Baie-des-Chaleurs, it stood at 19.8 cents, compared with an average of 10.3 cents.

Based on last year’s average margins, the price posted in Baie-des-Chaleurs and Chandler should be approximately \$1.73 per litre and



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

Gas was selling for \$1.89 per litre in Gaspé on the afternoon of August 10.

\$1.75 in Gaspé.

The federal and provincial governments also benefit from the higher prices. The GST and QST portions associated with the increased markup generate approximately 3.7 cents per litre sold in tax revenue, compared with an average of 1.9 cents over the past year.

Meanwhile, gasoline was selling for \$1.79 per litre in

Rimouski and Rouyn-Noranda, \$1.82 in Baie-Comeau and \$1.76 in Quebec City.

Prices as low as \$1.62 per litre could be found in Varennes and \$1.68 in some areas of Quebec City.

In the latter case, the profit margin estimated by the regulatory agency was approximately five cents per litre, close to the average of 6.5 cents in the Beauport area.

Deteriorating job market in Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – Although 900 jobs were created in July in Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the region had 1,000 fewer people in employment compared with July 2025.

Approximately 40,700 people were working in the region last month, according to Statistics Canada.

Of that number, 34,000 were working full time, an increase of 1,700 compared with June, while 6,700 were working part time, a decrease of 800. The number of unemployed people stood at 2,300.

In July 2025, the region had 41,700 people employed, 1,000 more than this year, while 2,600 people were unemployed.

Month over month, the unemployment rate fell from 7 per cent in June to 5.3 per cent in July.

The rate is also lower than the 5.9 per cent recorded in July 2025. However, the decline does not necessarily reflect an improvement in the labour market. About 1,200 people have withdrawn from the labour force compared with last year, helping to explain why the unemployment rate is lower despite fewer people being employed.

The employment rate also declined year over year. It stood at 52.8 per cent in July 2025, compared with 51.7 per cent this July.





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Over 25,000 people attended the 22nd FMBM

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – Between 25,000 and 30,000 visitors attended the 22nd Festival Musique du Bout du Monde (FMBM), held in Gaspé from August 6 to 10, which should allow the organization to break even.

“We made several changes that paid off. Our festival pass, which offered nine shows for \$85, sold out. Our evening featuring Rose and Les Louanges was a sell-out,” notes director Novy Marin-Gagné.

This year, Manhu, Kizaba, and Dowdeline stood out in the “New Discoveries” section, while other acts generated strong enthusiasm among the audience.

“Personally, I consider the whole event a success,” the executive director states without hesitation.

Festivalgoers may have noticed people in red shirts asking questions throughout the event. They were representatives of the firm SEGMA, which was hired to conduct a

study of festival attendance.

“We hired a firm to conduct this study. They surveyed attendees to determine where they came from and the turnout. In a few weeks, we’ll have more detailed figures. It’s a requirement that doesn’t bother me at all. We want to know where we stand,” says Mr. Marin-Gagné, noting that the report is a requirement for the festival’s funders, who were working with a budget of nearly \$1.5 million this year.

Some criticism

On social media, some critics questioned the organizers’ programming choices, calling for a bit more popular culture on the festival stages.

The currently popular group Angine de Poitrine was a frequent topic of discussion.

“We take this criticism in stride. We had, after all, checked their availability. Here at Musique du Bout du Monde, our mission centres on world music—a fusion of musical



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

Rue de la Reine was bustling on August 9, the festival’s final day, as street performers entertained the crowds.

styles. When you look at the lineup, there are some more familiar acts, but we also push the boundaries a bit further. The people who were with us—Manhu, Kizaba, and Dowdeline—really loved it. We’ve received nothing but positive feedback. Within the

broader ecosystem of festivals in the Gaspé Peninsula, that’s what sets us apart,” says the director.

This year, more than 250 volunteers contributed to the festival’s success, while nearly 65 partners and suppliers were involved.

“We’re still reaching \$350,000 in a visibility exchange. In terms of balance, things are looking good so far.”

2027 and its Irish flavour

The 23rd festival, which will run from August 5 to 11, 2027, will feature an Irish theme throughout the Gaspé region.

The festival will partner with the Douglas Community Centre as part of the Canada–Ireland 180 celebrations, which will mark 180 years of history between Canada and Ireland.

Ireland’s Honorary Consul for Quebec, Bryan O’Gallagher, travelled to Gaspé on July 16 to promote the initiative.

The festival will thus take on a Gaelic theme, with a week dedicated to Irish influence on Gaspé culture in Douglstown.

This special program will complement the usual events in downtown Gaspé and at the various FMBM satellite venues.

New Carlisle prepares for its 150th anniversary

NELSON SERGERIE

NEW CARLISLE – New Carlisle is brainstorming ideas for the municipality’s 150th anniversary celebrations in 2027.

“We’re in the process of organizing this. Sandi Beebe is leading the activities and has been doing some research,” notes mayor Patrice Leclerc.

However, it is too early to discuss specific details of the program.

“It will be announced this fall. Starting in September, we’ll begin holding meetings to do some more serious planning. There are ideas on the table because, to apply for grants, you need ideas. We’re waiting for feedback on all of that. And then, we’ll put it all together. It’s like a patchwork quilt,” explains the mayor.

New Carlisle was formed following the separation from Cox Township in 1876–1877, a development that also led to the founding of Paspébiac, which will also mark its 150th anniversary. However, a disagreement in Paspébiac is currently hindering the formation of a festival committee.

New Carlisle has not ruled out holding some joint activities with its neighbour.

“We’re working on that. We’re looking to put together something that will last



New Carlisle’s fire hydrants are being repainted with fun characters, serving as a recognizable feature of the municipality.

Photo: Facebook

throughout the summer. We’re in discussions with Paspébiac. We’re in the process of organizing it.”

Historical signs on older buildings will also be updated as part of the preparations.

Repainted fire hydrants

As part of a tradition that has been in place for several decades, the municipality is continuing its work to update its fire hydrants.

Rather than the traditional red, New Carlisle’s fire hydrants are painted to resemble a variety of cartoon characters.

“Over time, this has become a hallmark of New Carlisle,” notes the mayor.

The original inspiration for the first hand-painted fire hy-

drants came from New Carlisle citizen Diane Sawyer who took a trip to Nova Scotia in the spring of 1994.

She saw three fire hydrants with clowns painted on them and brought the idea.

Chad Clark, 17 at the time, did a few test paintings and reactions from the community were extremely positive. It took him two-and-a-half summers to complete all 74 fire hydrants within the municipality.

“Maybe we could make some postcards featuring the fire hydrants to further enhance the town’s image,” suggests the mayor to mark the 150th anniversary.

Students are responsible for refurbishing the fire hydrants, keeping the cost to the municipality minimal.

Summer 2026 is very dry

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – The meteorological summer of 2026 is on track to be just as dry as the summer of 2025, despite appearances. Meteorological summer covers the period from June 1 to August 31.

As of August 10, only 153 millimetres of rain had been recorded at Gaspé’s Michel-Pouliot Airport, well below the seasonal normal of 270 millimetres, with about three weeks remaining in August.

This is slightly more than during the summer of 2025, when only 144 millimetres of rain fell.

The dry conditions are also being felt in Baie-des-Chaleurs. Carleton-sur-Mer has received 158 millimetres of rain so far this summer, while New Carlisle has received slightly more, with 185 millimetres.

Only Haute-Gaspésie has seen rainfall amounts above the seasonal normal, with the Cap-Chat weather station recording 295 millimetres since June 1.

Despite the dry conditions, Gaspé Peninsula forests have largely been spared from wildfires. Only 13 fires have been recorded since the start of the season, affecting a total of 3.2 hectares.

The average area burned over the past 10 years is 20.3 hectares.

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Four MNA medals awarded, including one to Forillon expropriates association

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – A descendant of people expropriated from Forillon himself, Gaspé Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Stéphane Sainte-Croix presented a medal on August 13 to the Association of People Expropriated from Forillon and Their Descendants in recognition of its efforts to keep alive the memory of those affected by the expropriations that led to the creation of Forillon National Park in 1970.

Three other recipients were honoured during a ceremony at Fort-Prével.

“This is a great way to raise our profile among the general public because the association has existed since 2009, and members have been working since the beginning to organize activities and secure funding to commemorate those who were expropriated and to preserve the history of the expropriation,” says board member Lynn-Ann Smith.

While the recognition is welcome, the medal and other honours — including apologies from the federal and Quebec governments and the Parks Canada Director General’s Award of Excellence in 2024 — will never erase the trauma experienced by residents at the time.

“It’s always moving. It strikes a chord. But it feels good to see our work appreciated. It encourages us to keep working on behalf of those who were expropriated. Especially the apologies from the federal and provincial governments — that really meant a lot. The park’s recognition of our collaboration — it shows that we are, after all, appreciated by the authorities,” adds vice-president Pierrette Perry.

An emotional moment

During the medal presentation, Mr. Sainte-Croix had to pause briefly as he became emotional.

He finished his speech with some difficulty, holding back tears as he paid tribute to those who continue the work of preserving the memory of the expropriated families.

“Given that we have the privilege of recognizing the commitment of citizens in our community, I believe, with all due respect, that the work and mission of the Association of People Expropriated from Forillon and Their Descendants



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

The four medal recipients, from left: Dr. Thierry Petry, Claudine Roy, Réginald Thibault, Stéphane Sainte-Croix, Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, Pierrette Perry, Vice President of the Association of Forillon Expropriation Victims and their Descendants, Lynn-Ann Smith, board member, and Louis-Philippe Sainte-Croix, board member.

deserve a medal from the representative. I wanted to highlight this commitment, this effort to preserve memory,” Mr. Sainte-Croix says.

“It’s a comfort, but it doesn’t erase anything. The idea is to remember the pain and the hurt and to honour the people who experienced life in Forillon... It’s truly a beautiful day.”

The artifacts

The fate of artifacts associated with Forillon is now an issue the association wants to resolve.

“It’s a major issue. It’s been going on for quite some time now. There was supposed to be a building constructed in collaboration with the Musée de la Gaspésie. Now, the museum has backed out, so we’re going to work on the issue to bring the artifacts back here rather than have them go to Gatineau,” says Ms. Perry.

In 2018, Parks Canada submitted a letter of intent to the Musée de la Gaspésie to transfer the artifacts, on the condition that the institution be able to preserve them under optimal conditions.

An agreement in principle had been reached, contingent on the construction of a new wing to house the collection.

However, in 2022, due to financial constraints and a strategic reorientation, the project, estimated at \$5 million, was put on hold.

Earlier this month, the Bloc Québécois demanded that the approximately 12,500 artifacts be returned to Gaspé.

Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet, who met with the group, even stated that the best solution was to return the artifacts to the Gaspé Peninsula, where a museum

space is available.

“Ottawa will have to invest in a museum to right a historical wrong,” he says.

Three other medals awarded

On August 13, Mr. Sainte-Croix also presented medals to three other recipients.

Réginald Thibault was recognized for more than four decades of volunteer work, particularly in sports and community organizations.

“As president and organizer, he has led 108 tournaments over the years and has

also been actively involved with C.D. Spectacles, the Saint-Majorique Sports Association, FADOQ Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, and various local initiatives. His consistency and ability to mobilize people and partners are hallmarks of his commitment,” says Mr. Sainte-Croix, referring to Mr. Thibault as “the fundraiser.”

Businesswoman Claudine Roy received a medal recognizing more than 50 years of contributions to the Gaspé Peninsula.

“From the creation of Bistro Brise-Bise to the Traversées de la Gaspésie, and now through

her involvement with Logement HAN, she has spearheaded projects over the decades in the fields of culture, tourism, and social development. Her career reflects a deep attachment to the Gaspé Peninsula and a constant desire to contribute to its development and influence,” said Mr. Sainte-Croix during the presentation.

Finally, Dr. Thierry Pétry was recognized for 40 years of medical practice and an unconventional career that included periods when he single-handedly covered the operating room at Gaspé Hospital as its sole anesthesiologist.

“As an anesthesiologist, a pioneer in pain management, and a humanitarian doctor, his career has taken him far beyond the region, particularly through numerous missions with Doctors Without Borders. For more than four decades, his expertise, his presence, and his deeply compassionate approach to care have benefited patients and families in the region,” Mr. Sainte-Croix said.

The Member of the National Assembly’s Medal is an honour bestowed by the National Assembly that allows MNAs to recognize the commitment, achievements or contributions of individuals and organizations in their ridings.

Cap-aux-Os church arts centre project

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – Work to convert the Cap-aux-Os church into an arts centre is moving forward. The project has fallen behind schedule, as the organization had hoped to complete the renovations by the end of the summer.

“Old buildings bring surprises, and this means the work won’t be finished until the end of September,” notes Daniel Bernier, president of the Cap-aux-Os Arts Centre Committee.

Structural defects discovered as the project progressed have led to cost overruns. The original plan called for the replacement of doors and windows, improved insulation, redesigned interior finishes and new staircases.

Accessible restrooms, a barrier-free entrance and modernized exterior staircases are also being incorporated to ensure the space is accessible to visitors with reduced mobility.

The installation of an artesian well and a septic tank, along with the replacement of the oil-fired heating system with a more environmentally friendly option, are also part of the project. “We were supposed to completely repave the lot this year. We put that on hold. Everything that’s been upgraded in the building will stay that way—that’s what matters most. As for the minor aesthetic touches, we can do those in a later phase,” explains Mr. Bernier.

Two pre-opening events are planned for October. The first, scheduled for October 9, will bring partners together to finalize the programming. A second event will give members of the community an opportunity to visit the centre and learn more about what is planned.

“We’ll invite people from the region who want to see the Arts Centre. We’ll explain what’s going to happen. We want to share our plans and get their ideas, to see what they’d like to see during the first year of programming,” says Mr. Bernier.

One option being considered is the creation of a day camp next summer, following challenges faced by some parents in finding spaces during the summer of 2026. “La Petite École de Forillon, located next to the Arts Centre, provides the playground. It’s an environment that could make it possible to offer day camps. This year, there’s a shortage. It’s a labour issue, but we’ll work on bringing in young people to work at the Arts Centre,” says Mr. Bernier.

The Arts Centre will be a creative hub dedicated to artists that will become Gaspé’s first Maison de la Culture.

In 2022, the total cost of the project was estimated at \$4.1 million. The federal government contributed \$1.6 million, the provincial government provided \$2 million, the Town of Gaspé contributed \$155,000 and the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC contributed \$50,000 toward the project.

Shigawake 2026 may have drawn record crowds

GILLES GAGNÉ

SHIGAWAKE – In terms of attendance, the 2026 Shigawake Agricultural Fair and Music Festival might have been the most successful edition since the music festival was added to the fair in 2009, according to event spokesperson Dave Felker.

Some statistics, notably the financial figures, remained to be accurately calculated as the SPEC was approaching its August 20 deadline, but the strong turnout on Thursday and Friday, August 13 and 14, speaks for itself, points out Dave Felker.

“It was one of the best, if not the best. On Thursday, the two young bands displayed incredible talent. On Friday, we received a lot of rain and it complicated holding outside events, but The Winston Band and Quimorucu probably attracted 3,000 people or so in and around the big tent. Saturday was also huge, as we probably registered record numbers in the Trough and outside, and



New Brunswick’s Robert Mallet won both categories of the team pulling competition.

the big tent was also quite busy,” he adds.

Sunday was a little quieter in terms of attendance under the big top, but the music in the Trough, the double horse haul and the gymkhana were very well attended.

“The music in the Trough probably finished at 4 a.m. following Friday night and at 3 a.m. after Saturday night. There

is a limit to what you can expect from people on Sunday,” remarks Dave Felker.

The double horse haul, featuring light and heavy classes, was dominated by New Brunswick’s Robert Mallet and his two teams. He won both categories, with pulls of 8,500 and 8,000 pounds, respectively. Port Daniel’s Leo-Paul Benwell placed second in the heavy



Photos: Gilles Gagné

Guitarist Josh Toal helped his daughter Ivy during the youth karaoke, which capped the music festival portion of this year’s event.

category, while New Brunswick’s Théophile Mercier finished second in the light class.

As for next year, Dave Felker wouldn’t be surprised to see the return of young bands to kick off the first night, as well as the return of Sunday afternoon Karaoke with a full band, Ron’s Fantasy, under the big top.

“We tried something different on Sunday. It is a different beast because people are tired. We wanted to finish with a bang. I would have sung in the Karaoke, but I had no voice left,” he chuckles.

For more photos from this year’s Shigawake Agricultural Fair and Music Festival, see our special photo spread on pages 10 and 11.

Quebec’s measures fail to curb high gas prices

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – Gaspé Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Stéphane Sainte-Croix acknowledges that measures introduced by the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) government to create a more competitive gasoline market have had no impact in his riding.

During the outgoing legislative term, the government commissioned a study from an expert who recommended, among other measures, abolishing the price floor in an effort to stimulate competition.

Another measure aimed to increase transparency by requiring oil companies to post real-time pump prices online in real time.

“Despite all the steps taken over the past four years, and despite our government’s firm commitment to shedding light on this issue and exploring alternatives to ensure fair prices across the province, we are seeing the limits of our efforts. This is concerning,” says Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

On August 10, profit margins on gasoline were approximately 25 cents per litre in the Gaspé Peninsula, compared with an average of about 12 cents over the previ-



Photo:Nelson Sergerie

Gaspé MNA Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

ous year.

Despite a reduction in international tensions between Iran and the United States, which contributed to a drop in the prices of a barrel of oil, motorists in the Gaspé Peninsula have never seen any relief.

On August 17, gasoline was still selling for \$1.899 per litre in Chandler, Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, with the profit margin about six cents higher than the average for the previous year, according to data from the Régie de l’énergie.

In Baie-des-Chaleurs,

gasoline was retailing for between \$1.82 and \$1.84 per litre, depending on the area, with margins more in line with the previous year’s average, according to the agency’s data.

“Clearly, we’ll need to think about what comes next. We can see how unfair this situation is, particularly for the Gaspé Peninsula’s northern tip. This is very concerning,” Mr. Sainte-Croix continues.

The MNA says nothing is off the table, including the possibility of imposing a price cap.

“This will have to be part of future discussions, given that this situation recurs year after year, particularly during the summer months when there is a significant influx of visitors to the Gaspé region. We’ll need to explore other avenues, including this one.”

New Brunswick has regulated gasoline prices since July 2006. The province’s maximum-price system, administered by the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board, is intended to regulate the market and protect consumers from sudden increases at the pumps.

On August 17, the maximum price was set at \$1.813 per litre.



Photo: Gilles Gagné

After 35 years at the helm of the Douglastown gas station, Jean-Guy Thibeault is looking for a buyer so he can have more time to enjoy activities such as fishing and hunting.

Douglastown gas station owner ready to sell after 35 years

Gilles Gagné

DOUGLASTOWN – On May 30, 1991, a young Jean-Guy Thibeault, then 21, opened the Douglastown gas station with the goal of making a living from the business he had built from scratch.

Thirty-five years later, Mr. Thibeault says the time has come to start thinking about the next chapter of his life.

“After 35 years, I also want to do something else with my life. I want more time off. I want to buy some time and do what I like, like sports fishing and hunting. I want some leisure time in the evenings,” he explains.

His decision to sell does not stem from a lack of business. In fact, Mr. Thibeault says the gas station has gained customers since the closure of the Barachois gas station.

“With the closure of the Barachois gas station, there is additional clientele coming here. Following the closure of the Barachois gas station, we operate the only gas station between Cape Cove (west of Percé’s centre) and Gaspé. They (Transports Québec) installed new road signs and Cape Cove is 68 kilometres away,” points out Mr. Thibeault.

The Douglastown gas station is located approximately 17 kilometres from downtown Gaspé.

Mr. Thibeault put the business up for sale about a year ago and hopes to find a buyer within the next two or three years. The asking price will be discussed with serious prospective buyers.

BOOTS, BEATS & FAIRGROUND TREATS



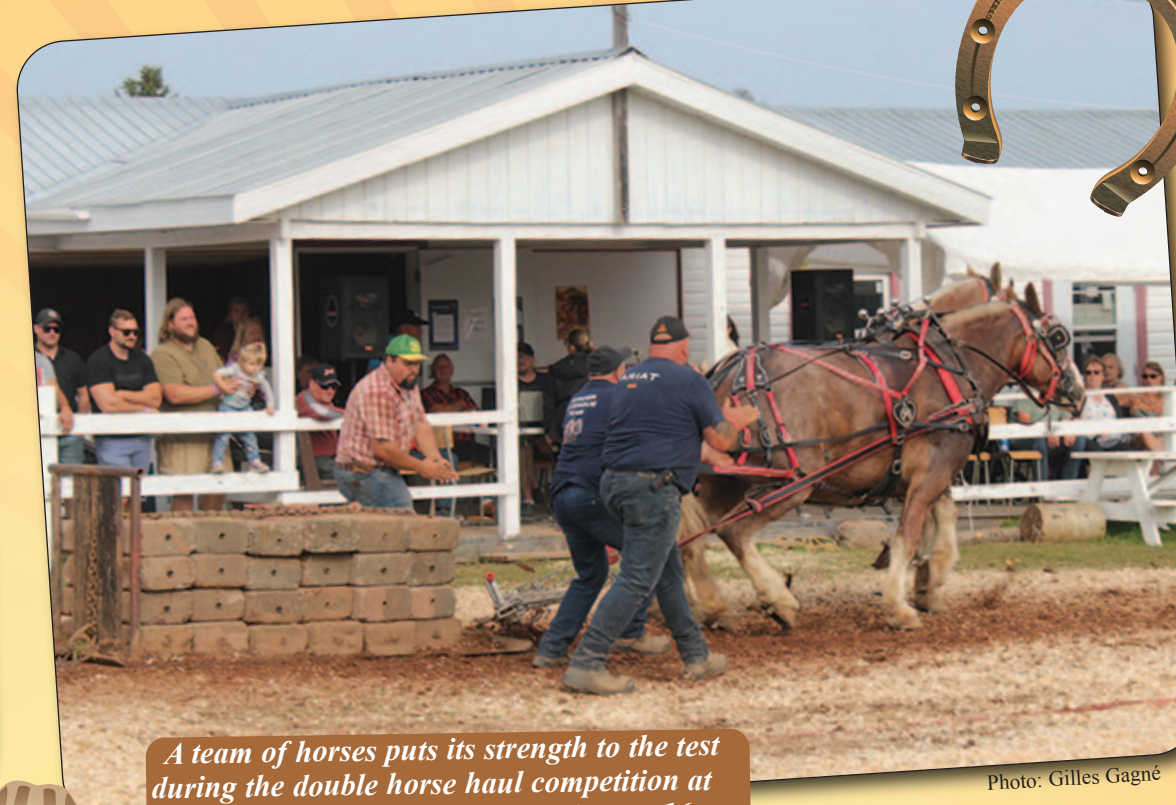
The lawn tractor races drew a crowd as competitors kicked up the dust and raced around the track. This year's winners were Dean Dea in the Small Single and Big Single categories, and Brandon Benwell in the V-Twin category.

Photo: Holly Smith



Reese Condo takes part in the Tots and Wheels competition, one of the many family-friendly activities.

Photo: Emily Hocquard



A team of horses puts its strength to the test during the double horse haul competition at the Shigawake Fair on Sunday, August 16.

Photo: Gilles Gagné



Bobby Wylie, president of the Shigawake Fair and Music Festival, with his mare, Jesse.

Photo: Holly Smith



The Barr Brothers perform under the tent during the Shigawake Music Festival on Saturday, August 15.

Photo: Gilles Gagné



A colourful selection of locally grown vegetables was submitted for judging.

Photo: Emily Martin



Melina Dolbec in action during the gymkhana competition at the Shigawake Fair on August 16.

Photo: Emily Martin



A packed grandstand had a front-row view of the action as spectators cheered on the teams during Sunday's double horse haul.

Photo: Gilles Gagné



Eggs were flying — and hopefully not cracking — during the 13-and-over division of the Fair's annual egg toss.

Photo: Emily Martin



Costumes, music and plenty of fun took centre stage during karaoke under the tent.

Photo: Gilles Gagné



Members of the Shigawake Fair and Music Festival board of directors had plenty to smile about following another successful fair, with strong crowds turning out throughout the weekend.

Courtesy of: Emily Martin

Chantier Naval Forillon completes barges and tugboat contract

GILLES GAGNÉ

SANDY BEACH (GASPÉ) – Sandy Beach-based shipyard Chantier Naval Forillon recently completed a contract to build two barges and a tugboat for Valhalla, a subsidiary of Centurion Fondation, based in Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier, near Quebec City.

The two barges measure 27 metres, or 89 feet, in length and have a beam of 10 metres, or 33 feet. Each consists of detachable caissons and a central section that can be filled with dredging silt. The caissons provide buoyancy when the central section is towed offshore to dispose of the silt.

“The caissons were built by four shops, including



Photo: Gilles Gagné

On August 5, the two barges were nearly complete at the Sandy Beach wharf.

Valkyrie, another subsidiary of Centurion, Soucy Industriel, in Rivière-du-Loup, Fabrication Delta in New

Richmond and us. The barges were assembled here, in Gaspé, but their modular aspect makes it possible to re-

duce their size if they have to be transported on the road. A key system makes the caissons detachable,” explains

Jean-David Samuel, president and chief executive officer of Chantier Naval Forillon.

The barges and the new tugboat, the Hollyann, which was also built at Sandy Beach, were loaded over the third week of August on a cargo liner operated by Nunavut Eastern Arctic Shipping, a company specialized in supplying Canada’s northern region.

“Centurion Fondation is specialized in pile-driving. They have a contract up north, in Arctic Bay, and the units we built will be stationed there for the next three years,” adds Jean-David Samuel.

The Hollyann measures 12 metres, or 40 feet, in length and is powered by two engines with a combined output of 660 horsepower.

A familiar ship with a long history

GILLES GAGNÉ

SANDY BEACH (GASPÉ) – People who visit the port of Sandy Beach or catch a glimpse of the wharf from other parts Gaspé regularly see the relatively small self-unloading bulk carrier, Jean Joseph.

Owned by Groupe Riverin Maritime, a Saguenay-based company, the Jean Joseph carries construction aggregates from Sandy Beach to the Magdalen Islands. Quarries are few and relatively small in the archipelago, where the landscape must be protected, limiting the local supply of aggregates.

The Jean Joseph is named after Groupe Riverin founder Jean Joseph Riverin, who started in the construction field in 1923. Given the company’s activities in many regions of Quebec and the frequent need to transport raw materials, the firm regularly relied on barges and, at times, ships.

By the mid-2010s, however, the dwindling number of barges, tugboats and ships capable of docking at small ports prompted Groupe Riverin to create a maritime division in order to become more autonomous. After unsuccessfully searching in Canada to find a suitable ship to fill its needs, Groupe Riverin administrators began looking in Europe, where they found a small bulk carrier called Hav Sund. At the time, it was owned by a Danish



Photo: Gilles Gagné

The Jean Joseph was undergoing a clean up before loading aggregates again on August 5 at the Sandy Beach port.

company based in the Faroe Islands, off the coast of Europe.

The Jean Joseph was launched in 1991 in the Netherlands under the name Bothniaborg and was owned by a firm named Royal Wagenborg Shipping, which is still active today with an impressive 170 ships. The name was changed to Westerborg in 2004 while still being owned by a parent company of Wagenborg.

In 2006 the ship sailed under the name Maple, before being sold to a Norwegian shipowner in 2008, which was renamed to Myras. The ship was bought by the Faroe Islands firm in 2013.

The Jean Joseph currently travels regularly between the Magdalen Islands and Gaspé.

In recent years, the 82-metre ship, equivalent to 270 feet, regularly loaded woodchips in Grande-Vallée on the

northern Gaspé Peninsula, for transport to the port of Belle-dune or La Malbaie, in Charlevoix.

“We are not using the ship this year,” says Sylvain Deschênes, president of Groupe GDS, the owner of the Grande-Vallée sawmill. Groupe GDS runs a wood pellet production plant in Lac-au-Saumon, in the Matapedia Valley. The plant uses a significant amount of the firm’s woodchips. The pellets are then exported to Europe.

Groupe Riverin still uses the ship, according to its needs, and puts it up for charter at other times. The Jean Joseph is also frequently used to load sand in Forestville, on the North Shore, for the production of concrete at or near various construction sites. Its loading capacity reaches 3,000 metric tonnes. Its unloading crane gives the ship considerable autonomy.

More space coming to the Sandy Beach wharf

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Port Authority of the Lower St. Lawrence and the Gaspé Peninsula plans to expand its storage space to meet future needs at the Port of Sandy Beach in Gaspé.

The authority has issued a call for tenders to demolish a building on the site.

The work includes providing all materials, labour, tools, equipment, temporary installations, protective measures and transportation required to complete the demolition.

The tender documents do not specify the estimated value of the contract.

Once the contract is awarded, the selected contractor will have until December 4 to complete the work.

Cell service issues in the Gaspé Peninsula

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – More and more people are experiencing difficulty making cellular calls on their smartphones on the Gaspé Peninsula.

The problem appears to have become more pronounced since the start of the tourist season. Telus is aware of the issues.

“It is possible that some wireless customers may experience a temporary degradation in service during periods of heavy summer traffic due to increased network congestion,” the Canadian telecommunications explains in an email.

The company says it continuously monitors its network and is working to improve capacity and performance. “Work is scheduled to begin today (August 11) to add capacity to the Douglastown site.

New wireless sites will also be deployed in the Gaspé region as part of the Quebec government’s cellular coverage program,” Telus states.

New sites are under construction in Gaspé, Val-d’Espoir, Hope and Pointe-à-la-Croix. The Hope site is scheduled to go into service this month, followed by Val-d’Espoir in September, Gaspé in October and Pointe-à-la-Croix in November.

In addition, Telus has secured \$7.8 million for the construction of cell towers under the latest phase of the program, which began in 2022.

A decree published in the Official Gazette states that \$5.9 million will be disbursed this year and nearly \$2 million next year. The towers are located in the Gaspé Peninsula, the North Shore and in the Mauricie region.

In total, Quebec announced 17 new towers across the province in July as part of this third and final phase of the \$280 million program launched in 2022.

SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

Meubles Assels expands again

GILLES GAGNÉ

PORT DANIEL – For the second time since the beginning of 2024, Meubles Assels in Port Daniel, one of the few furniture stores in the Rocher-Percé MRC, is expanding.

Following an expansion completed two years ago that added 6,000 square feet to the business, additional storage space is now needed, explains manager Pierre-Alexandre Assels.

“In July 2024, the expansion allowed us to more than double our store surface. We previously had between 4,000 and 5,000 square feet of store capacity. We added 3,000 square feet on the main floor and 3,000 on the second floor. We sold more due to a better inventory. In order to keep up with the inventory in store, we now also have to increase our



Photo: Gilles Gagné

Construction of a second storage building began in June at Meubles Assels in Port Daniel.

warehouse capacity with new construction,” points out Mr. Assels.

Meubles Assels was founded in 1948 by Pierre-Alexandre’s great-grandfather,

John George Assels. His son Robert later took over the business, followed by Pierre-Alexandre’s father, Marc Assels.

The store has therefore been

operated by the same family for 78 years and is now in its fourth generations. Pierre-Alexandre Assels, 36, has managed the business for the past 10 years.

“Thanks to the 2024 expan-

sion, we increased our sales by 40%. Before that, we couldn’t show everything we had. We didn’t have the space to do it. People would come and leave without buying because they could not see what they wanted. There is a mix of factors (explaining the sales increase). The closure of Rail (Chandler’s furniture store) also explains the situation. There are not as many stores as before,” adds Pierre-Alexandre Assels.

Meubles Assels currently employs six people. Construction of the new warehouse began in June and is expected to be completed by the end of September. The building is being constructed by Port Daniel-based Construction RPD, owned by Rémi Blais.

The amount of the investment has not been disclosed by the store’s management.

Pilot project gives students hands-on experience

NELSON SERGERIE

SAINT-ELZÉAR – A first-of-its-kind initiative is underway in Saint-Elzéar, where the municipality has entrusted students in the Eastern Shores School Board’s Construction Equipment Operation program with repairs to Chemin des Saumoneaux.

The unique partnership follows two years of discussions between the municipality and the school board.

The agreement was signed on August 13, with work beginning on August 17. “The goal is to give the students hands-on practice on the roads in Saint-Elzéar. When they’re at the gravel pit, the students



Students in the Construction Equipment Operation program will gain hands-on experience.

Photo: Trevor Renouf

are preparing to take tests to obtain their heavy equipment operator’s licences. Since they only have the gravel pit, we agreed that they would repair the dirt roads,” explains Saint-Elzéar Mayor Pâquerette Poirier.

For their first experience

working on public roads, the students will re-excavate ditches and replace culverts.

Since part of the road is also located within Bonaventure’s territory, the two municipalities are collaborating on the project.

“They’ll put what they’ve learned into practice, and the

instructors will evaluate them. The municipalities will provide gravel trucks, and the students will be able to work at their own pace,” continues mayor Poirier, noting that the arrangement could result in significant savings.

She estimates the savings at several tens of thousands of dollars. The school board will provide the heavy equipment and fuel, with the exception of the dump trucks, while the municipalities will cover the cost of gravel and culverts.

“Road maintenance employees will take turns to ensure everything goes smoothly,” says Ms. Poirier.

No special government authorization was required to

carry out the project. The only additional approval needed was from insurers to allow the practical training to take place on municipal roads.

“It’s a win-win for everyone. We’ll proceed at the students’ pace. There are plenty of roads in Saint-Elzéar,” says the mayor, adding that if the pilot project proves successful, other municipal roads could eventually be used for student training.

“If all goes well, we’re ready to let them use as many roads as they want for their students to practice!” she says, adding that Saint-Elzéar has enough roads to provide training opportunities for years to come.



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Norman Parent and friends animate happy hour

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON – If it’s Monday, Norman Parent and friends are singing during happy hour at the Carleton Marina, often continuing well beyond happy hour and sometimes until darkness falls.

Since the beginning of July, the seasoned singer and guitar player has taken to the stage on Mondays with a variety of performers. Some simply climb the stage’s steps to join him for a song or two. Norman regularly encourages those in attendance who might be hesitant to join him, and many take him up on the invitation.

On August 10, Saint-Omer’s Jonny Arsenault joined the former master paleontology technician, adding his own touch to the evening. In the photo, Norman Parent, left, is accompanied by Matapedia Valley’s Noémie Sheila Rioux,



Photo: Gilles Gagné

Norman Parent, left, is joined by Matapedia Valley’s Noémie Sheila Rioux and Saint-Omer’s Jonny Arsenault during the Monday happy hour at the Carleton Marina on August 10.

now a regular, and Jonny Arsenault.

The repertoire is vast, ranging from Leonard Cohen to the Moody Blues to Cat Stevens, Tom Waits, the Doobie Brothers, U2, along with several Québécois songs and much more.

When his schedule allows, singer Kevin Parent serves as

sound technician during his uncle’s happy hours. He also occasionally joins in from his desk for a song or two.

On August 10, Normand Desjardins performed during the first part of the evening, singing mainly Leonard Cohen songs. The relaxed Monday evening gatherings will continue until August 31.

Quebec’s takeover of Forillon Park remains up in the air

NELSON SERGERIE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ – The provincial government is staying the course and still hopes to bring the management of Forillon Park back under its control.

In 1970, the Quebec government entered into an agreement with the federal government regarding the creation of Forillon Park, transferring the administration and control of a 244-square-kilometre area on the Forillon Peninsula to establish a federal park.

According to Article 10, the agreement has a term of 99 years and will expire on June 8, 2069.

Article 11 of the agreement contains a termination clause allowing the Quebec government to terminate the agreement after 60 years, which would be in 2030.

To invoke this clause, the Government of Quebec must provide the federal government with five years’ written notice prior to June 8, 2025, a prerequisite if it subsequently wishes to take steps toward terminating the agreement in 2030.

“This matter has been successfully resolved. We are awaiting an opportunity to continue the dialogue as agreed upon in the agreement,” says Stéphane Sainte-Croix, Member of the National Assembly



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

(MNA) for Gaspé.

However, the matter has been put on hold due to the upcoming election period. “Should we be re-elected and before the end of the legislative session, I have spoken with Jean Boulet, who is in charge of Intergovernmental Relations, and obviously, this issue remains active, relevant, and important to our government. We will move forward when the time is right,” continues the MNA.

The termination clause stipulates that the provincial government must, at the federal government’s discretion, either reimburse the federal government for “all capital expenditures incurred by the latter in connection with the park during the preceding 60 years” or compensate the federal government “in a manner acceptable to the latter.”

The amounts could be substantial. Over the past decade,

the federal government has invested approximately \$100 million in Forillon, not counting the funds spent since the park’s creation.

To this end, in May 2025, the provincial government submitted a request for an estimate of the expenses that they would have to reimburse or compensate if it wished to take over responsibility for Forillon Park.

But the federal government quickly shut the door on the provincial government’s request.

“I don’t quite understand the reaction. We’re going to take the time to do things in the proper order, to reopen the file, and to continue discussing with stakeholders to ensure we have a clear understanding of our actions as we move forward with Forillon Park’s role in our community,” says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

This past spring, Mr. Sainte-Croix assured that the conservation mission would be maintained should the provincial government take over the territory.

Sépaq would be the ideal organization to manage the park if an agreement were reached between the two levels of government.

Mr. Sainte-Croix noted that if the federal government did not respond, the provincial government might have to evaluate its options, including taking the matter to court.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



A little encouragement goes a long way

The start of a new school year can be exciting and a little bit scary, for children and parents alike! There are new teachers, new subjects and new routines. Now is the perfect time to offer encouragement without making after-school time a Spanish Inquisition. For heaven’s sake, never ask “what did you learn today?” You will be discouraged at the lack of learning that has taken place, according to your child.

Simply be interested in your child. Don’t ask any questions that will give you one-word answers. Try, “tell me about” as an opener. For example, “tell me about your new teacher” or “tell me about lunch.” Not exactly inspiring, however the goal is to get your child talking. You can also try asking what made them laugh, what was interesting, who they sat with, or what the best part of their day was.

When it comes to schoolwork it is also very important to praise effort. A child who works hard on a difficult assignment deserves encouragement, whether successful or not.

I recall, during my 35 years as a teacher, helping a young girl learn to do long division. We tried everything, and she just could not master it. She was very discouraged so I taught her to say, “I might not be able to do long division, but I’m still a good person.” She came to visit me a few years later, and the first thing she said was “I am still a good person!” We both laughed.

Parents can help by being familiar with what their child is working on. Be interested. There are other ways to connect with your child and their schooling. Remind them to finish their homework. Encourage them to read for fifteen minutes each evening. After all, reading is the key to mastering most traditional learning that takes place in school.

A little organization at home can make school life easier for younger children. A regular bedtime should be a goal, and a calm morning routine with a nutritious breakfast can help your child start the day strongly. Making sure they have all their school supplies is important too. Send young children to school dressed appropriately for the day.

Never compare your child to their siblings or other children. Every child is different. One may be able to master long division. Another can write a story that moves readers to tears. One may be the kid who always has their hand up to answer questions. The child who is quiet may be the observer who takes things in and can figure it all out by listening intently.

It is very important to remind your child (and yourself) that it is not how smart you are but HOW you are smart. There is room in the world for people of many and various abilities. In traditional school settings the focus is on linguistic-verbal skills and logical-mathematics development, but there are other ways of thinking about intelligence, including visual-spatial, bodily-kinesthetic and musical abilities. (If you want to read more about multiple intelligence theory google Howard Gardner’s theories.)

On top of that, common sense is extremely valuable as children navigate life, both in school and beyond.

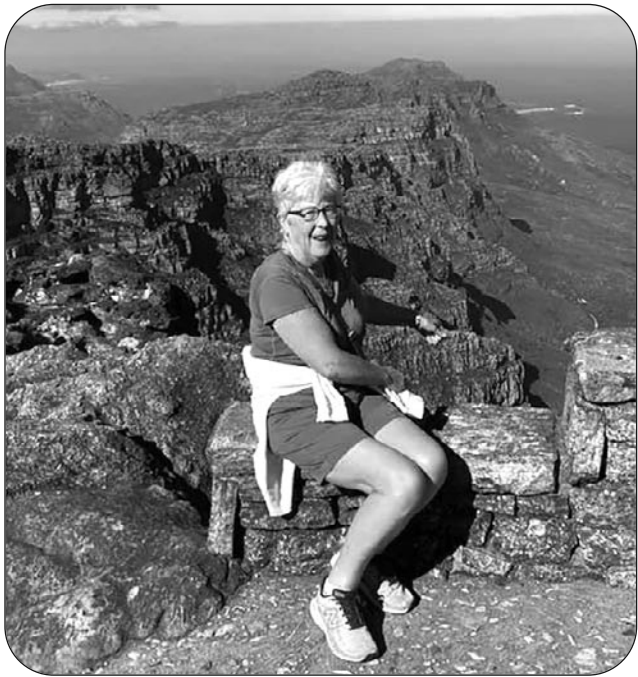
Your child may not be perfect at school. That’s okay, and they should know that. As a parent, a little encouragement can go a long way.



Announcements



Obituaries



DUGDALE: Ruth

December 27, 1950, - August 17, 2026.

Ruth Dugdale, a woman of remarkable accomplishments, immeasurable love and steady faith, passed away peacefully at the hospice in Little Current, Manitoulin Island, Ontario, surrounded by her family on Monday, August 17, 2026, at the age of 75.

Born and raised in Lanark, Ontario, in the old family house on the hill, Ruth was the daughter of the late Arthur Dugdale and Jean Avery. She grew up with a lifelong love of books, church, and enduring friendships. A bright and curious student, she graduated from Macdonald College, in Montreal, with her teaching degree.

Ruth followed her passion for education to the Gaspé Coast, where she began her teaching career and met her husband, Billy Court. They married in 1973 and built a beautiful life together, raising two sons, Arden and Aaron and making cherished homes in New Carlisle, Hope Town and Paspébiac. Ruth was warmly welcomed into Billy's family, particularly by his mother, Mona Court, who became a close and loving part of her life.

As her boys grew, Ruth's love of travel blossomed. She shared many adventures with a close-knit circle that included her mother, Jean; her sister, Anne; her aunt-in-law, Bessie Court; and her dear friend Ruth Starnes. In retirement, Ruth continued to travel the world, thoughtfully organizing trips and creating memories with the people she loved.

Ruth was a pillar of the local school community, shaping young minds at New Carlisle High School, Shigawake-Port Daniel School and beyond. Former students fondly remember her as the teacher who made them feel truly seen, bringing a calm presence and beloved stories to her classrooms.

At home, we appreciated as sons (but only when we matured) how miraculously Mom could get up every morning, make us lunch, go to teach for the day (and teach well), make a delicious hot meal every night, wash all the dishes, do marking and lesson planning and then simply be present and loving. She made it look effortless.

Ruth lived her life by three simple virtues: faith, hope, and love. Her faith was beautifully expressed through her love of music. She loved

playing the organ and piano for her church on Sundays, but also at home and especially at Christmas time. She was an avid reader, a passionate fan of C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and a devoted Jeopardy viewer who rarely missed an episode. She also adored playing cards—especially cribbage, 500, and Canasta—sharing countless laughs around the card table with dear friends like Charlie and Gertie, and Allan and Colette.

Ruth shared a particularly close bond with her sister, Anne. They were best friends who travelled the world together, taking many cruises and sharing adventures, including trips to China and Germany, where they attended the Passion Play in Oberammergau. Both loved to learn and laugh, and Ruth especially enjoyed the good-natured banter she shared with her brother-in-law, Gordon MacWhirter. Their friendship was a cherished part of Ruth's life.

Ruth also found companionship and love again later in life, sharing eight wonderful years of marriage with her husband, Jim Wilkin. Together, they travelled extensively, spending winters in Florida and Ecuador, enjoying many cruises and making lasting friendships along the way. In 2025, Ruth and Jim embarked on a three-month world cruise, visiting places many of us only dream of seeing. Ruth also formed wonderful relationships with Jim's five siblings and their wives, who quickly became special friends and an important part of her life. Even during her courageous battle with ALS, Ruth maintained her profound dignity, her tender sense of humour, and her trademark way of expressing love through a gentle squeeze of the hand.

In her later years, Ruth found immense happiness when she was blessed with four granddaughters. Having raised two sons, she embraced being "Grandma" with special, joyful pride. Her granddaughters were always the very first topic of conversation whenever she met people, as she was just so proud of them. Ruth visited the girls often, constantly organizing fun activities, special outings, and travel adventures for them. She was extremely supportive and loving, and the girls always felt that Grandma was the absolute best listener in the world.

Ruth was predeceased by her brother, David Dugdale and sister, Anne MacWhirter (Dugdale).

Ruth leaves behind a rich legacy. Her memory will forever be carried in the hearts of her beloved husband, Jim Wilkin; her loving children, Arden (Haley) and Aaron (Nicole); her adoring granddaughters, Macy, Hannah, Emma, and Tessa; and brother, Bob (Gayle), along with many extended family members, former students and lifelong friends.

The family received condolences starting at 10 a.m. on Friday, August 21, at Little Current United Church (5 W. Robinson Street, Little Current, Ontario). A funeral service celebrating her life followed at 11 a.m. A luncheon was held immediately after the service.

A graveside service will be held at Playfair Cemetery near Lanark on Sunday, October 4. Guests are invited to meet at Timber Run Golf Course (154 Caldwell St., Lanark, Ontario) at 12:30 p.m., from where they will proceed to the cemetery for the service at 1 p.m.

Following the graveside service, guests are invited to return to Timber Run Golf Course for lunch at 2 p.m. The gathering will also include the planting of a lilac bush, with some of her ashes, next door at her family home, "The House on the Hill."

The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the nurses, doctors, and hospice staff in Little Current, the medical teams in Sudbury, and the Ottawa ALS staff for their exceptional compassion. Special thanks to her personal physicians for their dedicated care.

In lieu of flowers, Ruth requested that donations be made in her memory to the ALS Society of Canada (180 Bloor Street West, Suite 500, Toronto, ON, M5S 2V6,) or to a charity of your choice. Professional services have been entrusted to Island Funeral Home in Little Current.

A bursary in Ruth and her sister Anne's names will be established next year for a BCRS student who has faced and overcome significant challenges and obstacles and is pursuing post-secondary studies.



HAYES: Sylvia Gloria (née Stobee)

It is with deep sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Sylvia Gloria Hayes (née Stobee) on August 16, 2026, at the age of 88, at Friendly Manor Nursing Home in Deseronto.

Born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, on October 17, 1937, Sylvia was predeceased by her beloved husband of 46 years, James Jules Hayes; her parents, Adolf Stobee and Terese (née Kettner) Stobee; and sister, Edith Landgraff.

Sylvia trained as a registered nurse at Regina College and Yorkton General Hospital, later working at both Calgary and Winnipeg General Hospitals. She also studied at Briercrest Bible College before settling with her husband in Napanee, Ontario, in 1966 to raise their family. She continued her nursing career at the Lennox and Addington County General Hospital.

Sylvia served as both a pianist and organist at the Kingston Seventh-Day Adventist church where she attended and regularly volunteered in their soup kitchen. She also gave her time as a tutor and mentor to students in the Napanee community. She cherished her family, found joy in music, and loved tending her garden and creating crafts to share.

She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her children: Barbara (Shane) Lakins, William (Carol-Anne) Hayes, and Beverly (Jacob) Affleck; and by her nieces Karen, Susan, and Lorna.

Announcements

The family thanks the staff at Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KGH site) and Providence Care Hospital – Parkside for their care of Sylvia. Special thanks to the staff at Friendly Manor, who looked after her with such compassion in her final months.

Sylvia will be laid to rest beside her husband at the Bay View Cemetery in Hope, Quebec, at a private family graveside service.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Lennox and Addington County General Hospital Foundation, The Gideons International in Canada (ShareWord Global), or a charity of your choice, in the care of Hannah Funeral Home, in Napanee. 613-354-3341



KEAN: Jane Elizabeth (née Campbell)

It is with heavy hearts and cherished memories that we announce the passing of Jane Elizabeth Kean (née Campbell) in Newmarket, Ontario, on August 1, at the age of 90.

Jane will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 66 years, John; her son Jonathan (Elizabeth); and daughters Jocelyn (Joey) and Jennipher (Jamie).

Born in New Richmond, Quebec, on November 27, 1935, Jane was the second youngest of Harry and Catherine Campbell. She was predeceased by her parents; siblings Rae, John, Ken, Nancy, Mary and Thane; and nephews, Michael and Rick.

Jane graduated from MacDonald College

(McGill University) in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science and worked as a dietitian at Elgin General Hospital. She met John by chance at a Timothy Eaton Dance, and they married on July 27, 1960. Together, they lived in London, England, Toronto, Vancouver, Kleinburg, Woodbridge, and Aurora, sharing 66 devoted years.

Through John's work with the CSA and ISO, they travelled the world and formed lasting friendships. Jane was a passionate community volunteer, serving as a Girl Guide leader, founding member of the Canadian Federation of University Women Vaughan, Vaughan Library board member, McMichael Art Gallery docent, and an active member of Christ Church, Woodbridge.

Jane will be remembered for her dry sense of humour, organizational skills, gourmet cooking and baking, Christmas cookies and cranberry claret jelly, and her love of euchre and crosswords. She delighted in hosting family and friends, carefully recording birthdays, recipes, gatherings, and memories. Above all, Jane's greatest joy was her family and the life she built with John.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Ward Funeral Home Woodbridge Chapel (www.wardfuneralhomes.com)



In Memory

ASSELS:

In loving memory of my family members who have passed away.

Ena Laurine Assels - Happy Birthday Mom - August 6, 1921. Everyday memories for Dad Frank Assels, January 9, 1999; my brother Earl Assels, who passed away on July 25, 2020; and my loving husband, Harris Vezina, who passed away on January 31, 2026.

Loved always by Laurine Assels and family.

The New Carlisle
Funeral Association
extends sympathy to the family of
Harvey Flowers.



MAJOR: Cindy (Ross)

In loving memory of my wonderful mother who passed away on August 25, 2004, at the age of 46. It's hard to believe 22 years are gone.

Of all the special gifts in life,

However great or small.

To have you as my mom,

Was the greatest gift of all.

They say times a healer,

But I am not so sure.

For every time I think of you,

I miss you even more.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,

Love leaves a memory no one can steal.

God has you in his arms,

I have you in my heart.

May the winds of heaven blow softly,

And whisper in your ear.

I love and miss you mom,

And wish that you were here.

Always loved and never forgotten, your daughter Roxanne.

Announcement Deadlines

September 2 for the September 9 issue
September 16 for the September 23 issue
September 30 for the October 7 issue
October 14 for the October 21 issue

COAST ROUND-UP

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

GASPÉ:

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Meetings
Sundays: Breaking of Bread for believers - 9:30 a.m., Gospel meeting and Sunday School - 2 p.m.
Thursdays: Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 7 p.m. Everyone welcome!

**UNITED CHURCH
HOPE TOWN**
Sunday, August 30
2 p.m. Service
Sunday, September 6
10 a.m. Service

For more information
418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES
Book Room**
September: The book room will be open every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

**UNITED CHURCH
NEW RICHMOND**
Sunday, August 30
10 a.m. Service
Sunday, September 6
10 a.m. Service

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Thursday, August 27
St. Peters - Little Gaspé
7 p.m. Evening Prayer

Sunday, August 30
St. Pauls - Gaspé
9 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday, September 6
St. Andrews - York
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, August 30
New Carlisle
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Hope Town
3 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Shigawake
11 a.m. Holy Baptism

Sunday, September 6
New Carlisle
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Hope Town
3 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Port Daniel
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Faubourg du Ruisseau is taking shape

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ – The massive \$7 million construction project to create a new neighbourhood near downtown Gaspé is becoming increasingly visible.

If all goes according to plan, the first buildings in the Faubourg du Ruisseau eco-neighbourhood could begin taking shape this fall.

Work on the site resumed after the snow melted. The streets are now visible, concrete curbs are in place and preparations for paving are complete.

The intersection with York East Boulevard has also been completed.

“In the coming weeks, we expect to complete the finishing touches, the paving and the electrical work to connect the underground utility network to all the lots,” says Sophie Bourdages, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Gestion Bourgade and its subsidiary, Gestion Ruisseau Dean.

The construction schedule remains generally on track.

“Up until June, we were right on schedule. There was a minor issue with the concrete that delayed the work by a month and a half, but nothing catastrophic given the scale of the project.”

A professional firm has purchased a lot, while the Town of Gaspé has acquired several lots for a land reserve.



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

A little over a year ago, Gestion Bourgade reached an agreement with the Town to split infrastructure costs equally. The Town also agreed to acquire \$2 million worth of land to create a reserve for future housing projects.

“We’re in discussions with various developers. Since these aren’t single-family homes, it requires due diligence and financial structuring. We’re very confident. We don’t have anything official to announce yet, but we’re very confident that more construction will follow, especially since the streets will allow people to move around the area and enjoy the magnificent view,” says Ms. Bourdages.

The developer plans to remain flexible with the size and configuration of the lots to ac-

commodate builders interested in constructing housing.

For now, about a dozen parcels are being considered.

“We have full discretion, subject to the Town’s approval of the subdivision, to redivide these parcels according to the developers’ needs,” continues Ms. Bourdages.

Construction can begin once the streets are transferred to the municipality, which is expected to happen by the end of September.

“As soon as the streets are municipalized, building permits can be issued, and we expect construction to begin on at least one building this fall.”

The Quebec Ministry of Transport has no plans to install a traffic light at the entrance to the new neighbourhood near the Couche-Tard gas station.

However, a traffic light is being considered at the corner of Frémont Street and Montée de Sandy Beach once development in that area gets underway.

The \$7 million budget for the first phase of development is expected to be respected.

A second phase is also being considered, as Gestion Bourgade acquired a large area of land.

“For now, we’re focusing on selling the lots in Phase I. We have to admit that the utility lines installed were designed to accommodate a second phase. But first, we have to sell the lots in the first phase!” explains Ms. Bourdages.

Plans call for the eventual construction of 320 housing units, representing a total in-

vestment of \$65 million.

“That’s still the potential capacity,” concludes Ms. Bourdages.

Street names announced in July

In July, Gaspé town council officially approved the names of the streets and park in the new neighbourhood.

Rue de l’Essor will connect the new neighbourhood to York East Boulevard. The name highlights the area’s contribution to Gaspé’s development.

Rue de la Peuplade, which will lead toward the mountain and later phases of the project, refers to the idea of collaboration and diversity within a group.

The linear park along Dean Creek will be named after Maud Maloney Watt.

Born on the Gaspé Coast in 1894 and deceased in 1987, she was Quebec’s first female game warden and a pioneer in the protection of natural environments.

Together with her husband, she advocated for the creation of protected areas to safeguard beavers, a campaign that led the Quebec government to adopt a conservation plan in 1930.

Nicknamed the “Angel of Hudson Bay,” she remained largely unknown. To date, no place in Quebec has been named in her honour.

Paspébiac mayor considers resignation

GILLES GAGNÉ

PASPEBIAC – The mayor of Paspebiac, Jérémy Laplante, wrote on his Facebook page that he will likely resign in the short term if a majority of councillors remain in office, citing what he describes as hostility and contempt they have shown towards him.

That August 20 statement follows very intense exchanges between Mr. Laplante and the councillors since the end of July. During that period, the mayor suspended director of culture and heritage Dominick Briand without pay over an alleged conflict of interests, a unilateral decision that greatly irritated the councillors.

On August 10, the six councillors unanimously adopted a resolution of no confidence in Jérémy Laplante, calling for his resignation. They also overturned the two-week suspension of Dominick Briand.

Nine days later, the mayor gave notice of motion and tabled a draft bylaw to replace



Photo: Facebook

the code of ethics and professional conduct for municipal employees adopted in 2022.

The four-year-old bylaw already prohibits employees from using their positions to further their personal interests or those of another person. According to Jérémy Laplante, however, its provisions are incomplete and need clarification.

Also on August 19, the mayor stressed that it was important to reaffirm that conflicts of interest involving municipal employees are prohibited by the Town of Paspébiac.

On the evening of August 20, as the SPEC was reaching its deadline, mayor Laplante first admitted that the previous day’s meeting “on the whole, proceeded harmoniously and allowed us to make progress on several issues that are important to me.”

However, he immediately added that “despite this, after three years in municipal politics, and after careful consideration, I am announcing this evening that I no longer wish to continue my involvement with either the current elected officials or the current director general” due to what he describes as hostility and contempt shown publicly and privately.

Further explanations and the possible short-term outcome quickly follow in his social media statement.

“The atmosphere has become too oppressive, as evidenced by the resignation letters that have remained in my drawer over the past few months, and goodwill alone will not, in my opinion, be enough to steer the ship back on course in the medium and long term. It is in this context that, unless a majority of the municipal council members resign soon, allowing for a fresh start through elections, I will relinquish my duties as mayor in the coming weeks. A by-election is inevitable in Paspebiac; we only need to know which seats will be up for grabs,” he writes.

He describes the current scenario as “relinquishing my position rather than resigning.”

He adds that advancing his political agenda in a minority position, although possible, “has become an incredibly burdensome task.”

Tense context

Following the tumultuous

August 10 meeting, the mayor wrote on social media that he was going to consult a lawyer to determine whether statements made by some councillors were defamatory and warranted a lawsuit. However, he ruled out any legal action before the August 19 meeting.

The mayor suspended Dominick Briand after finding that, over several years, the director of culture had awarded various contracts totalling \$18,000 to people he knew. Those contracts were linked to shows presented at the Cultural Centre. One of the contracts awarded by Mr. Briand, worth \$400, went to his wife, a musician.

On Jérémy Laplante’s social media page, citizen Nathalie Ahier remarked that Dominick Briand was, among other reasons, hired precisely because of his knowledge of regional musicians and bands. In this context, she adds, it is practically impossible for a person in such a position to rely solely on musicians they do not know.

New Richmond Bluegrass Festival returns September 2 to 6

HOLLY SMITH

NEW RICHMOND – Bluegrass and country music will fill Duthie Point Festival Park from September 2 to 6 as the New Richmond Bluegrass Festival returns for its 24th edition.

Known as Quebec’s first and only bluegrass music festival, the annual event brings together musicians and bluegrass enthusiasts for five days of concerts, late-night jam sessions, camping and campfires.

Among the featured performers this year is Dave Adkins & Mountain Soul, from Kentucky. Adkins is an established bluegrass singer and songwriter known for his powerful vocals and energetic performances.

The lineup also includes Ray Legere & Acoustic Horizon, Pamela Rooney, The Mike Pollard Band, The Asheville Mountain Boys, The Bluegrass Diamonds, Richard Bourque & Friends, Tammy Adams, Nash Stanley, Blue Meadow, Jesse & The Jones’ and Hallarsen.

In addition to the main performances, the festival



Photo: Gilles Gagné

Pamela Rooney is among the artists featured in this year’s New Richmond Bluegrass Festival lineup.



Photo: Emily Hocquard

Nash Stanley will bring country music to the stage as part of the festival’s 2026 program.

will feature its “Country After Hours” series, offering country music later in the evening. Late-night jam sessions will also give musicians an opportunity to gather for more informal performances after the scheduled shows.

Camping has long been part of the festival experience at Duthie Point. Rough camping with no services is

free with the purchase of an all-inclusive or three-day pass and will be available beginning August 29, several days before the festival officially gets underway.

The New Richmond Bluegrass Festival was founded in 2003 and has since welcomed musicians from Canada and the United States. Over the years, its stages have featured several well-known names in

bluegrass, including Dan Tyminski, Rhonda Vincent & The Rage, Special Consensus, Dailey & Vincent, Junior Sisk and the Lonesome River Band.

The event has also gained recognition outside the region. In 2016, the New Richmond Bluegrass Festival was among five finalists for Event of the Year at the International Bluegrass Music

Awards in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The combination of established performers, regional musicians and informal gatherings has helped the festival develop a loyal following while maintaining its focus on bluegrass music.

Information on the daily schedule, tickets and camping is available on the festival’s website.



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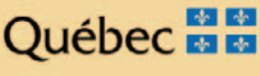
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Page 19, August 26, 2026 - Spec

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