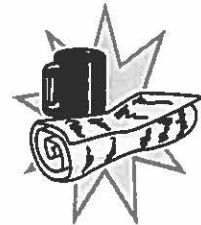


COASTERS NEWS UPDATE

JUNE 2000

It is hard to believe that five months has passed by so quickly since we have touch base. The weeks have flown by! Given our total commitment to the support and development of Coastal Publications (six editions annually), it would be inappropriate for the Coasters Association to try to compete with these publications. Therefore, the finances set aside to support the Coasters communication budget, to produce monthly reports & bi-annual newsletters, will be turned over to Coastal Publications. These publications, we believe, will be very important to the entire coast, and each edition will address the news update of the Coasters Association.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?



Over the course of the past five months ☒☒☒☒☒

- A Canadian Business Directory (consisting of over a million people) and a Quebec Directory was purchased for the office from the Commercial Information Bank of Canada, both on CD rom and hard copy. Also, as part of the package, the company produces a free internet page (consisting of logos, business hours, etc.) and a link to other sites.
- The Coasters participated in a questionnaire on health and services with the Provincial Health and Social Services Advisory Committee, to increase programs for the Lower North Shore.
- The community table of Human Resources Development (of which Coasters Association is a member) commissioned Marthe Hurtz to carry out a third party evaluation of the first years activities.
- A report on health and social services was produced. The provincial needs assessment report has been completed, this document is an excellent tool for the Province, it will assist with the submission of projects, etc. Through the wide distribution of such reports on and off the coast, we will be assured that they will be used effectively.
- A pamphlet was produced, entitled "Health Matters", outlining all services. A pamphlet was also created to summarize the activities of the Coasters Association. Both pamphlets contain useful data and were circulated across the coast, and will

be given to all members.

- The Coasters Association supported the initiative undertaken by Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) and a package of information on health and social services will be available and of benefit to the population. Articles will be placed in each newspaper. Should you wish to call the office to obtain a copy of any material pertaining to health, please feel free to use the toll free line.
- Status of Women has sent us all the information on programs and services available to women. The Coasters has an inventory of books and reports on all issues, please make use of these services.
- Participated in a project with Quebec Association of Adult Learning (QAAL), entitled "Face to Face". This project will enable QAAL to offer services, not only to the Montreal area, but to the outlying areas as well.



MEETINGS ON WINGS

The Coasters Association in an effort to ensure the inclusion of coastal needs in all aspects of government have attended the following meetings:

- Four meetings of the Quebec Community Group Network (QCGN), since January 2000, which took place in Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, and Gaspé. The Quebec Community Group Network (QCGN) consisting of 18 groups across the Province are endeavoring to work together on those initiatives that will benefit the entire Province. They also meet with representatives from Canadian Heritage to discuss federal programs and to lobby for funding to serve every community better.
- Human Resources Development meetings have been held at various places across the Province over the past year, and met for their annual general meeting in Huntington this year.
- The Executive Director had a meeting with Mr. Russ Williams, MNA for Nelligan in Montreal in February, regarding an important health matter. Mr. Williams has been assisting the Coasters Association on health issues since his visit to the Coasters 1995 AGM in Harrington, he is only a phone call away and this is very much appreciated.
- The Local Development Center of the Lower North Shore formed a Transport Coalition, the President of the Coasters Association, Tony Roberts, is a member of that table. The Coalition consists of representation by all the key organizations of the coast. Given the importance of the construction of Route 138 connecting the entire coast, the Coalition meets on an average of once a month, either by phone or in person. Lobbying efforts with various government ministries are carried out on an on-going basis. This group of volunteers are to be commended.

- An ad-hoc tourism committee was formed, consisting of representatives from Coasters Association (Tony Roberts, Cornella Maurice), Tourism Development Corporation (Anthony Dumas) and Local Development Center (Daniel Fequet, Alberte Marcoux, Rejean Dumas), to administer the tourism project approved by Canadian Heritage. This committee, with the Tourism Development Officer - Marsha Buckle, meets once a month to outline the activities.
- Coasters representatives held meetings with Regionnair, regarding the concerns of its members.
- The new Commissioner of Official Languages, Dyane Adams held consultations with the groups across the Province, Janie Cox, Board member, was suppose to attend the meeting in March in Quebec City, due to bad weather, she was unable to attend. However, Ms. Adams will visit the coast as soon as her schedule permits.
- The Coasters Association and Local Development Center participated in a trade show in Montreal from April 7th to 9th. Packages were prepared and more than 2000 were distributed. A pamphlet and a panel, show-casing the Lower North Shore was produced and available for display at the trade show. Marsha Buckle, Alberte Marcoux and Rejean Dumas worked very hard to ensure its success.
- The Coasters Association, once again, were honored with a tourism award. This time the award was presented by Canadian Rural Partnership. The award came in the form of two large back panels, that was mounted at our booth at the trade show in Magog on April 27th to 29th. Thanks to this award all expenses were provided so that Marsha Buckle and Melanie McCrea could attend. Many visitors stopped by the booth and we were pleased with its success.
- A meeting was held with Société d'Aide Développement des Collectivités de la Côte Nord, regarding the programs and services available to the coast. It was also suggested to them to publish their information in the Coastar.
- An ad-hoc environmental committee was formed, consisting of representatives from Regionnair, Coasters Association, Local Development Center, Centre de Santé de la Basse Côte Nord. The objective of this initiative was to create a greater awareness regarding our environment and to initiate activities which will have a positive impact towards the development of tourism in our area, and will create a healthier environment.
- The Community Economic Development and Employability Committee that was formed in September, 1999, has been very active, a number of meetings have been held. Even though this whole initiative is in its early stages much has been accomplished.
- A meeting took place between a representative of the Member of Parliament, Human Resources Development, Youth Coalition and Coasters Association to

discuss the student summer projects, and how these projects would be of benefit to the students and the organizations of the coast.

- Meetings took place with Human Resources Development regarding the youth internship program. This was the second project to assist the entrepreneurs and young people on the coast. This project was funded by both Human Resources Development and Canadian Heritage.
- Meetings were held with the executive members of the Youth Coalition, to attempt to develop initiatives for the youth.
- Quebec Labrador Foundation held a conference on Waste Management in La Tabatiere. Carolyn Vatcher, Board member, attended on our behalf, we look forward to positive results.
- Concordia University hosted a conference from June 12th to 16th . The Institute's summer program has become an anticipated annual gathering where community animators come to learn new skills, and present community development and organizing issues facing our communities. Vicky Driscoll, our REDO, attended the conference and the results of the information received and skills learnt, are very good for the organization.
- A conference was held by Quebec Anglo Heritage Network in Lennoxville from June 23rd to 25th. The objective was to develop a network through individuals and groups across Quebec who share an active interest in the preservation and promotion of diverse Anglo-heritage. This conference was attended by Marsha Buckle, Amy Evans and Marjorie Fequet who represented the population of the Lower North Shore.

Congratulations

➤ **WELCOME ABOARD**

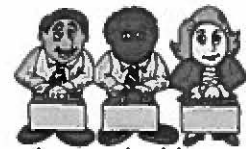
Our organization has been and is blessed with awesome volunteers:

- Norman Letemplier has joined the Coasters board of directors, as the representative for Blanc Sablon. He carries with him a great deal of information, experience and knowledge, which will certainly be an asset to our organization. Welcome to the team, Norman!
- Kelley Maurice from St. Augustine, fresh out of school and landed himself a great job with Commission Scolaire du Littoral, in the Adult Education department in Blanc Sablon. Kelley has proven himself to be an excellent team player and volunteer for the Coasters Association and Youth Coalition. Congratulations, Kelley!
- A great friend of the Coasters Association, Bernard Bonenfant, joined the team of Quebec Labrador Aviation. He will be an asset to their airline and we wish him all

the best.

- Helen Meredith, who helped to initiate the Coasters Association has now become an employee of Canadian Heritage. Way to go, Helen!
- Nancy Buffitt, Coasters Board member and a representative on the Human Resources Development (HRD) community table, was elected as a member of the Administrative/Treasury Board of the HRD community table. Coasters was proud to have a representative on this committee and we know that Nancy will do a good job there as she does for us. Good Luck, Nancy!
- Debra Hook, a long time friend of the Coasters Association, was hired as the Executive Director of the QCGN. Debra, traveled to the coast and helped the Coasters in many ways. Debra, we wish you luck and we know that the QCGN will be a success with you as their backbone. Good Work!
- Cornella Maurice, Executive Director, was elected as a member of the Management Working Group on the QCGN. Among her many tasks, we are sure that she will find time to do a great job on this committee. Hang in there!
- Lloyd Jones, Board member of Coasters, has just spread his wings. He has started a travel agency on the coast and has joined with Regionnair to help it fly. Congratulations my man - you've done it !

NOW FOR THE WORKERS



The backbone of any organization are the employees, they provide much needed human resources.

- Marsha Buckle, from Middle Bay, was hired as the Tourism Development Officer, on a project funded by Canadian Heritage from February to September.
- Rosita Drudge was hired by the Youth Coalition on January 31st to July 14th, through a Local Development Center project to assist the youth dossier. The Youth Coalition office is set-up in the Coasters building and the Coasters provides many services to them on a volunteer basis.
- Yvon Tremblay was hired as a Database Technician through the Young Canada Works program from April 5th to May 26th (8 weeks), to set-up a database of off-coast and on-coast resource people, to assist the Coasters with their activities and to aid the other organizations (ie: Coastal Publications, CEDEC, Youth Coalition, Tourism Development Corporation, etc.) within the office. His project was extended for five weeks, until June 30th, in order to complete all the task required. The results, we are sure, will be very rewarding.

- Jose Driscoll was hired back on another phase of the Youth Internship program, funded by Human Resources Canada and Canadian Heritage . Her project started on May 8th and will be finish on November 17th. A comprehensive report and a manual for the youth will be produced as a result of this project.
- Dawn Thomas started to work on the Extra project, funded by the Local Development Center, from May 8th to November 18th. This project is very helpful to the Coasters Association in human and financial resources.
- Shannon Keats was hired in May as the Consultant to the REDO, funded by Human Resources Development Canada. This is a much needed position, due to the isolation and our geographic area.
- Five students were hired this summer for six weeks to help Coastal Publications and the Youth Coalition to assist with the ground work of their organization. These projects were accepted by Human Resources Canada.
- Malcolm Fequet from the St. Paul's School worked at the Coasters office on an apprenticeship (stage) program from May to June (2 months), giving him the opportunity to receive training in many aspects of office procedure.



COASTERS LENDING A HAND

It does us proud to be able to promote such initiatives:

- We were pleased to provide assistance to Monica Anderson, from Harrington School, who took a trip of a lifetime. Monica traveled to St. Hyacinthe, Quebec and engaged in activities with children her own age, a trip she may never have had without the assistance of our community.
- We have been given the opportunity to provide support for the many successful projects undertaken by Quebec Labrador Foundation.
- The employment insurance has received another hit. Human Resources Development are proposing modifications to the regions employment insurance policy. The Coasters Association and the whole community will be watching this process carefully.
- The Coasters, again this year, participated in the Scholarship award. An award was given to a secondary five student in each school along the coast, for their involvement in school and community life.
- The Coasters Association provided support to individuals regarding language problems in seeking employment. We requested assistance, because they have not been given the chance to learn another language. They should be recognized

rather for the skills they possess and for their energy and enthusiasm that they could bring to the job.

- Support was given to us by the media. We were fortunate enough to receive a visit by Nathalie Walters, CBC radio from Gaspé to the Lower North Shore, and Guy Côte from Radio Canada in Sept-Îles, Guy's parents are originally from Tête à la Baleine.



Hard work and dedicated friends are the pillars of success.

- Received \$ 6,000 from Canadian Heritage to assist with the set-up of our office. This gave the Coasters an opportunity to purchase equipment and furniture necessary to accommodate the staff. Although we were short of what we needed, we were able to collect the funds required to complete the set-up. We appreciate this help from Canadian Heritage!
- The Centre de Santé de la Basse Côte Nord donated desks, chairs, cabinets, wall dividers, computers and typewriters to the Coasters office. They have been there since the beginning helping in any way they could.
- Home Hardware floored us with a donation of much needed floor tiles. Thanks so much!
- Received \$6,000 from Industry Canada to upgrade the internet site at CJAS-radio in St. Augustine, with equipment, program updates, etc. This site is a success and we appreciate all the help that Industry Canada has given us.
- If we had to pay the translation fees, the Coasters Association would never be able to afford the cost. Our sincere thanks goes to Rejean Dumas, Elaine Morency and Daniel Fequet.



WORK GOES ON

There is much work to be done in the year 2000/2001, and we are pleased to be given the opportunity to share it with all of you.

- The Board meeting and the AGM will be held in October. The QCGN will participate this year. It should be a very rewarding event
- The Founding meeting of the Tourism Development Corporation will be held in September. We hope to have tourism representatives present that will help to

develop the coast.

- A project to do a needs assessment for the seniors and disabled population was granted by Canadian Heritage. This project will have its own rewards.
- Through another tourism project provided by Canadian Heritage, a bank of pictures showcasing the Lower North Shore (four seasons) will be taken by a professional photographer.
- A membership campaign has started on and off the coast. We have targeted all of the residents of the coast, and we are receiving a great response.
- A treasure chest fund raising campaign will start in August. The funds raised this year will be to help the disabled population.
- Three directories will be produced, entitled "Coastal Directory, Enterprises of the Lower North Shore and a Resource Directory", to assist the organization and all of the groups on the Lower North Shore. These directories will be widely distributed, and also for sale.. Thanks to Canadian Heritage and Young Canada Works for making this possible.
- The Coasters Association will be helping Coastal Publications to publish six newspapers this year. We cannot forget the Local Development Center, without them, much that we do would be impossible.
- The regional needs assessment will be completed and circulated to as many people as possible.
- A book of poems for our long-time friend and dedicated volunteer, Dave Chislett, will be produced and distributed in the coming year.

A FINAL WORD



The Coasters will be involved in many activities this year. Every second month, you can look for our news in the **COASTAR**. We need your support, so we could keep you informed. Without **YOU**, our funding, our resources and the work of our volunteers would be meaningless. We need each and every person from the coast, no matter where you live.

To the **STAFF**, the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, the various **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**, the countless **VOLUNTEERS** and our **MEMBERSHIP**, I wish to say a personal thank you!

Enjoy your summer holidays **EVERYONE!**

Cornella Maurice
Executive Director

