

THE NORTH

CONTAGION AUTHORITIES BATTLE OUTBREAK OF FELINE DISTEMPER IN MIRAMICHI ▶ N6

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Restigouche officials updated on centre project

Development Work continues on site of interpretation facility, which is part of \$10-million Esplanade Restigouche plan

TREVOR MCNALLY
CAMPBELLTON TRIBUNE

CAMPBELLTON — The site of the new interpretation centre on the Campbellton waterfront has been busy with trucks and other heavy equipment for months but for a few minutes on Monday, local politicians were on hand for a visit and update on the project.

Campbellton Mayor Bruce MacIntosh,

Listuguj Chief Allison Metallic and others were there and all spoke of the importance of having such a development in the region.

"We've been working hard on this file and will continue to do so until it's finally done," said MacIntosh.

"The federal government is well aware of our plans and has the application in their hands. I spoke to (ACO minister Keith) Ashfield when he was here this

summer and he too knows the importance of the waterfront plan."

The project will cost about \$1.7 million and makes up close to 20 per cent of the \$10-million waterfront development project called Esplanade Restigouche, which was unveiled two years ago by the Glenn Group of Nova Scotia.

"(The centre) is obviously one of the key components of the entire waterfront," said MacIntosh. "This will help draw visitors to

our area and tourism is one of the keys to the success of the entire North Shore."

Metallic agreed with MacIntosh on the importance to the entire region of developments such as the city's waterfront.

"We believe that working together will help communities grow on both sides of the river," said Metallic. "We might live on opposite sides of the Restigouche, but we all know how hard the region has been hit and projects like this will help both of

our people well into the future."

Local historian and active supporter of the city Allan McNeish was left with few words when discussing the project, something he had been working on for approximately 20 years.

"This makes my heart pound. Our area has a lot of history behind it, and I've been all over the world, and believe this

PLEASE SEE → PROJECT, N2

Senior puts some more zip in her life

Recreation

New Denmark woman among the first people to zip-line across the Grand Falls gorge

MARK RICKARD
THE VICTORIA STAR

GRAND FALLS — The (zip-line) glove is thrown down.

Eighty-seven-year-old Dorothy Hansen of New Denmark was one of the first people to glide across the Grand Falls Gorge on the new Zip Zag zip line last week, completing another item on her personal list of things to celebrate her life.

Dorothy was joined on her latest adventure by her daughter Pam Dolph of Long Island, New York. The quiet senior proved an apt pupil for the Zip Zag staff, climbing up on the stool and clasping her hands above the trolley attached to the cable stretching 201 metres over the gorge to the landing area on the eastern side of the St. John River. With a gentle push from Zip Zag staff member Evan Carpenter, she was off, gliding across the 70-metre deep gorge in about 30 seconds. But Hansen said the adventure will stay with her for a lifetime.

"I picked the zip line because I thought it would be fun and it was fun," Hansen said. "I wasn't frightened because I knew I was going to enjoy it and I wanted to see what I could see up there. It was the thrill of a lifetime."

Dolph didn't seem so eager as she stepped into the harness and got ready for her ride. But she admitted after her mom bravely took the zip-line plunge, she couldn't chicken out.

"She guilted me into it. I thought it was going to be scarier. Because of the trees there you can't really see the total depth until you get halfway across and then you look down. Then you go 'Oh My God,'" Dolph said.

Hansen adheres to the motto that you get out of life just what you put into it. In 2009, the senior climbed to the top of Mount Carleton with Pam. The zip-line challenge proved to Pam that her mother has a zest for life.

"I have so many followers of my mother



Pam Dolph shares a hug and a smile with her mother Dorothy Hansen after their zip-line adventure across the Grand Falls Gorge. Hansen, 87, was one of the first thrill-seekers to zip-line across the 70-metre gorge.

in New York; I have so many well-wishers who couldn't believe my mother was doing this. This is phenomenal that any 87-year-old will do this."

Next on Hansen's to-do list is climbing the 354 steps from the base to the crown of the Statue of Liberty in New York. The iconic statue, which was a gift to the United States from France in 1886, soars 22 storeys over the New York Harbor. An elevator takes visitors to the top of the pedestals, but more intrepid tourists must walk the staircase to the top.

Pam said her mother's that next challenge. Visitors can now rent jet-skis to

tour the harbor around the monument.

"I have never been on a jet-ski, but I have been on ordinary skis," Hansen said. As a youngster she used to go over the legendary New Denmark ski jump "for fun."

Several years ago, Dorothy led three generations of the Hansen family in a skiing holiday to the Rocky Mountains.

She hopes to visit the Statue of Liberty next spring, but in the meantime she recommends Zip-Zag to all thrill-seekers, regardless of their age.

"They all should try this. I know some people can't, but anyone that can, should

do it. It is thrill that you have to experience," the feisty senior said.

Danny Trites of Zip Zag said the company is receiving lots of interest from riders of all ages, but Hansen's zest for adventure should inspire everyone.

"Live life to the fullest, absolutely. She definitely does," Trites said. "We have lots of people wanting to ride Zip Zag. It's going to be an exciting year."

Zip Zag will host a celebrity zip-line event on Oct. 2 as part of its kick-off activities. The company is already booking group events and plans to continue to offer rides across the gorge this autumn.

School will preserve Tobique culture, chief says

Education

Sod-turning held for new Mah-Sos School at First Nation

ROBERT LAFRANCE
THE VICTORIA STAR

TOBIQUE FIRST NATION — Charles 'Diamond' Nicholas said a prayer in Maliseet before the sod turning ceremony for the new Mah-Sos School and held an eagle wing and a container with a smoking smudge to purify the area.

"We are praying for forgiveness from our Mother Earth that we're going to dig into her, so the kids will have their school here and continue with their teaching all their lives," he said. "Hopefully it brings a sense of pride."

"This is a ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of our new school," Chief Stewart Paul said to begin the ceremony. He said that Tobique First Nation had been promised a new school "for a long time."

"The new school clearly provides us with the infrastructure in two ways: it preserves our culture and provides a good foundation for the education of our children. We certainly want to thank the Mah-Sos School staff, Warren (Tremblay, Tobique First Nation director of education), the Department of Indian Affairs (represented by Ian Gray) and the band council has worked very hard.

"Here in Tobique, the people themselves are generating things for themselves and the community," Paul continued, and cited "the NB Power initiative" as an example.

"The same thing happened with this school here," the chief said. "These two ladies (Shannon Perley and Denise Nicholas) were part of a group of three people (with Lori Paul), parents who got frustrated with their kids coming home sick and being kept home because they were sick (because of the mould in the

PLEASE SEE → CULTURE, N2