



# The First Informer

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## Road Improvement For Walk N Roll Invented By Gerald Lapierre

### Grosse Ile

*By: C Boudreault*

Last week, Julie Boulet, delegated Transport Minister for Quebec, in collaboration with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and responsible for Regional Development, Nathalie Normandeau, were proud to announce an investment of 40.2 Million dollars for roadworks in the Gaspesia – Magdalen Islands Region.

The investments of \$40.2 Million for the region were distributed in the following proportion, paving: \$13.9 Million, Structural Care: \$4.1 Million and Road Improvement: \$22.2 Million.

Magdalen Island roadwork that is budgeted for 2006-2007 is reconstruction of the road in the sector of Amherst Island, \$500,000.00 Asphalt on route 199 Etang-Du-Nord and Cap-Aux-Meules \$600,000.00, and also some asphalt and works to the shoulders of the roads in the Municipality of Grosse-Ile to the tune of \$535,000.00.

Nathalie Normandeau, declared being very satisfied with the road investments for the region this year. "Those investments clearly demonstrate how the Government attaches

*By: C Boudreault*



*In Photo: Gerald Lapierre*



Gerald Lapierre is very proud to announce his new invention, an orthopedic product, that improved the quality of his life and as

well as others with injuries below the knee. Whether it is an amputation of a foot, an ankle operation or a fracture, one can simply use the stool for a foot rest. The Walk "N" Roll walker limits one from using crutches and a cane during their convalescence.

Gerald explained, "It was in April 2004, the days following my heel fractures (four in one heel), and when I was going through a very hard time trying to take a  
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## Walk N Roll Continued

shower, and impossible to be mobile without crutches. One morning while in the shower, the idea came to me, a stool for the knee would be practical, a handle to move it around would be better and then the idea was itched in my mind, invent a product. The Walk "N" Roll walker was created with aluminum pipes, and a sponge knee-pad. The first model, needed improvement, but the walker supported the knee, all that I needed". Since 2004, Gerald improved his Walk "N" Roll walker approximately twelve times. Each time the walker was loaned to people

who had injuries or operations, Yvonne Leblanc who could not use crutches writes, "Just a simple word to let you know how grateful I am for your generosity in letting me use your walker. I had a fractured heel that was immobilized in plaster, and, because of shoulder problems, I could not use crutches or a standard walker. Consequently, I had no other choice but using wheelchair and I was discouraged.

But, after meeting you and trying your walker, I felt much more free since I could move around everywhere and go down the stairs.

This walker allowed me to recover faster, emotionally and physi-

cally as well. So, I hope other persons, who are dealing with the same problem as mine, will have a chance to take advantage of this walker".

Gerald was supposed to have been in a cast for at least three months, but after one month the cast was removed, because his bones were well knitted together. His doctor suggested that he continue to be immobilized for a few weeks, but he was able to continue his daily routine, with the help of his Walk "N" Roll walker.

Lapierre has received a Canadian Patent. He also holds an American Patent, plus an International Protection Act in approximately 180 countries.

Last summer, Gerald contacted Can Rice, a Chinese company to produce 1,400 chairs. Along with Can Rice architect and engineer they finalized the product. In the meantime Leonard Aucoin joined him as an associate.

The Walk "N" Roll walkers are available in Islands drug stores for rent or purchase. As of next month, the product will be launched on the National Market. And in the near future, the inventor will try to break through the American and European Market.

The Health Establishments on the islands have greeted new invention with enthusiasm. Your invention of "A Walker" seems to

have the qualities and flexibility needed to offer a real support and an appreciable technical support for the user it may concern. I congratulate you for this invention", says Germain Chevarie D.G. of the Magdalen Islands Hospital ideal and Social Services Center. Lorne Arsenault M.D. Surgeon stated, "The orthopedic equipment that Mr. Lapierre made and used for himself was useful in his rehabilitation of a fractured heel bone, more particularly because it reduced the period for the use of a plaster cast, while assisting him for his moving around and also reducing the period of physiotherapy treatments.

## Raynald Blais Questions the New Ministers

The MP representing Gaspesia and the Magdalen Islands, Raynald Blais, affirms that the new Stephen Harper's Cabinet will have to answer rapidly to the urgent needs of Gaspesia and the Magdalen Islands region.

"The oath of a new Cabinet is always an important moment in a political life. For a region economically fragile like ours, there are high expect-

tations. This is why, I will personally question the new Ministers appointed in matters of Transport, Employability, Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, Agriculture, Human Resources, Industry, Heritage and Public Security, to only name a few, to heighten their awareness about our needs and urgent requests, and then, invite them to come in the region to

meet all concerned intervening parties", states Raynald Blais.

The Deputy of Gaspesia - Magdalen Islands has already sent a letter to five new Ministers for the most important matters in the region right now: the future of the railway and the air flight services, the toxic waste incinerator at the Bennet Firm in Belledune, the program of Summer Career Initiative, Unemployment

Insurance, the Regional Development and the fishing sector in general.

"There are many matters in our region that deserve an urgent attention. The Conservative Party aroused very high expectations in Québec and in our riding. I will make sure, with the cooperation of my colleagues from the Bloc Québécois, that Stephen Harper ful-

fills his promise and progresses in the matter that concern our region", affirms Raynald Blais.

The Bloquist Member of Parliament recalls that, between now and the re-opening of Parliament, which will be next April 3rd, he will work together with the intervening parties in the community for the advancement of different matters in our region.

## What to do at the First Sign of a Cold or Flu

Most of us, by a landslide, would prefer to prevent a cold or flu than suffer through it. The key to prevention say the experts, is to strengthen our immune system through balanced meals, enough sleep, and with a natural booster like Cold-fX. Used and endorsed by countless professional and amateur athletes across the country, 10 years of clinical studies suggest Cold-fX enhances the natural viral-fighting mechanism of our immune cells with no known side effects or interaction with the flu shot. In one FDA regulated trial it was shown to reduce the risk of colds and flu up to 89 percent. If you feel a cold or flu coming on, you can increase the dosage to help fight the virus before it takes hold.

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