



**COASTERS  
ASSOCIATION**  
UNITED FOR A BETTER FUTURE

# DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the December edition of our newsletter to the population of the Lower North Shore and beyond.

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*Don't miss our next newsletter coming March 2020*



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As the Holiday Season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year, and the struggles we have all faced in this unprecedented time. The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging to navigate and has been especially difficult on families this time of year as we usually gather and celebrate this joyous season together. The Coasters extends its ongoing support and assistance, and we wish you continued strength, health, and much happiness. We will get through this and become as resilient as ever. We value our relationships with the communities and our partners as well as those who have helped to shape the Coasters Association in a most significant way and look forward to working with you in the years to come. We extend our absolute best wishes for a Happy Holiday season and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

*From the Board of Directors and staff of the Coasters Association*

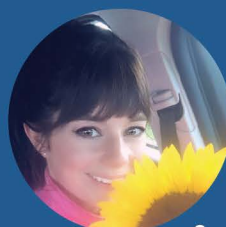
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## STAFF INTRODUCTIONS



### NATHAN MASON

Hello, my name is Nathan Mason and I've been working at the Coasters Association for almost two months as the Interim Director of Youth and Development. Before starting here, I obtained my bachelor's degree in Sociology from Carleton University. My focus at the Coasters is on developing programs that create employment opportunities for youth, as well as initiatives to encourage more youths to move to the region. I also support the Manager of Early Childhood Development in overseeing our early childcare programs, as well as managing our internships. What I really enjoy about my position is that it allows me to tackle the issues that the youth of the Lower North Shore face from a holistic approach.



### KAITLIN BILODEAU

My name is Kaitlin Bilodeau, I only recently began working with the Coasters in October of 2020 and relocated to St Paul's River in November. I am from Saint John N.B. but fell in love with the Lower North Shore after visiting over the years with my husband, who is originally from St. Paul's River. I have a Diploma in Criminal Justice and was employed with Women in Transition House, a shelter for domestic violence victims. I am the Manager of Senior Services within the Coasters Association and am currently working on the abuse and mental wellness for our senior population with the QADA. (Québec ami des aînées - Friends of Seniors Quebec)



### KAYLA KIPPEN

I am so thrilled to be back from maternity leave and getting back into the swing of things at the Coasters Association! This past spring, I took on a new role as the Manager of the Satellite Offices (Kegaska to St. Augustine). This position aims to unite the growing staff that we have along the Coast. I have been working on the operations and structuring of our Northern Research Center (NRC) division. I also work on the Networking Partnership Initiative (NPI), that is designed to improve the access to all health and social services for Quebec's English-speaking communities. We have had a busy fall with the Coastal Summit Series. The discussions with the communities have been empowering, and I am so proud to be a 'Coaster'. I look forward to advocating for change along side my peers, the communities, and organizations in the region.. for the region.

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From November 2nd to December 9th the Coasters Association held a series of summits via Zoom, across the territory. Starting off with the Coastal Summit: Engaging Vibrant Communities. This summit met with each Community/Municipality (9) individually along the coast to discuss challenges and opportunities in accessing and developing programs and services as well as the socio-economic development of our region.

The second summit was the Leadership Summit: Engaging and Harnessing Political Capacity. This was a two-day event with partners, Municipal councils and local committees across the territory. This provided the opportunity to share data, what has been accomplished, challenges being faced by municipalities in accessing and developing programs and services, and to discuss where we go from here as a region.

The final event was the Partnership Summit: Building the Lower North Shore Economy through a Social Innovation Model. This two-day event allowed our industry partners, University, CCTT's and government partners to discuss the rebuilding of the Lower North Shores economy. This was an opportunity to share accomplishments of the Coasters Association's Northern Research Center (NRC) division, challenges of business and non-profits in access and development and to discuss the next five (5) year priorities of the Coasters Association Inc- NRC. It was a great opportunity for partners to meet with the key industry stakeholders firsthand, as well as, understand how the region needs to move forward ... along with showcasing the reality and challenges of the isolated northern communities.

The summits were a resounding success, and the Coasters Association expresses its appreciation to all the community participants, municipal and local committee leaders as well as our government, university and industry partners. Special thanks to Christopher Skeete - Parliamentary Secretary, William Floch of the Anglophone Secretariat, Doug Griffiths from 13 Ways, Kim Hayes from Project Rural and the keynote speakers; Trent Fequet, CEO of Steel River Groups and Pierre Erwes of Bio Marine. Thanks to the panel facilitators and the panelists that aided in sharing the work over the last few years of the NRC, and a special thanks extended to Hugh Maynard who facilitated all the events. We look forward to continuing this positive momentum in 2021 with the creation of wellbeing plans for the Lower North Shore. The results of the summits will be compiled and a report will be produced in the New Year which will be available to the public.

*These events would not have been possible without the financial support of the Anglophone Secretariat.*

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The Coasters Association is excited to announce a five-year extension of the Nutrition North Canada Nutrition Education Initiative in the communities of La Tabatiere and Mutton Bay where it administers the program. We know this past year has been quite different from our normal operations however we greatly appreciate the continued collaboration from our partners in Gros Mecalina. We are grateful for the community members who have been completing our challenges, participating in our contests, and continuing to engage with us in any way. The next five years present a great opportunity to reassess the communities needs and find new ways to meet them. We can't wait to get back out there with you all for more great cooking classes, taste testing's and workshops when it is safe to do so in the new year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our two working groups who represent the needs of each community and have given their time to help plan and manage the program for the past five years. This program would not have succeeded without you, Thank you.

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The Coasters Association would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hailey Jones who has been offered a position with Groupe Gilbert Ltee. as technicienne de chantier. Hailey will be missed as part of our Coasters team, however, her education as an honour graduate in the Civil Engineering program at Algonquin College, along with the skills she has attained through her work with the Coasters Association will ensure her success in her new position. Once again, congratulations Hailey, from the board and staff of the Coasters Association, and we look forward to the fantastic things you will accomplish in the future.



**THIS CHRISTMAS**  
**SHOP LOCAL**

Support the businesses that support your children's hockey league, your school's fundraisers, your community...

