

N°93 - July 06, 2006



St-Barth WEEKLY

Local News
in English

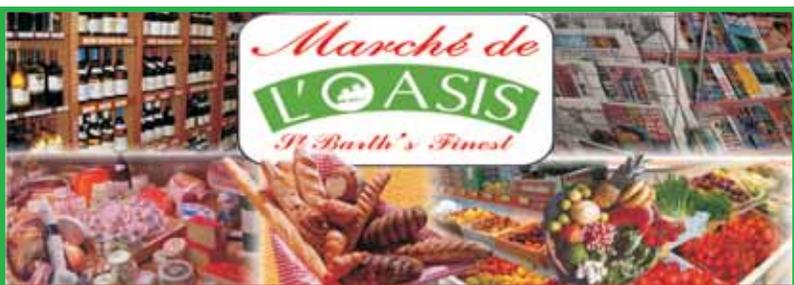
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Published by "Le Journal de Saint-Barth"
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FRANCE PROPOSES THE CREATION OF A MARINE MAMMAL SANCTUARY IN THE FRENCH WEST INDIES

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58th Meeting of International Whaling Commission in St Kitts:

FRANCE PROPOSES THE CREATION OF A MARINE MAMMAL SANCTUARY IN THE FRENCH WEST INDIES



WELCOME!

The Saint Barth Weekly is happy to be back for its third season. The Weekly is designed for you, to help you put your finger on the pulse of the local community. Featuring an English résumé of the top stories of our French newspaper "Le Journal de Saint Barth", as well as original articles in English, the Saint-Barth Weekly is the only completely English-language newspaper on the island. It comes out every Friday from November through the end of July. Our most exciting news is that each Friday, The Weekly is also available on line at Saint-Barth Online (www.st-barths.com), the wonderful web site that our friends Laurence and Peter O'Keefe created in 1996. Thanks to them, you can now download every edition of the Saint-Barth Weekly, so that no matter where you are in the world, you can stay in contact with the island.

Numerous people in Saint Barth signed the petition circulated by Evasion Tropicale, an association in Guadeloupe, calling for the creation of a marine mammal sanctuary in the Caribbean during the Whale Week organized earlier this spring by the island's Marine Park. The idea for such a sanctuary was proposed by the French delegation that attended the 58th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission held in Saint Kitts in mid-June. This information was made public this week, in a press release by the Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development.

According to the press release, "this project, which includes the waters of Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Martin, and Saint Barthélemy under French jurisdiction, intends to ensure the conservation of the habitats for the various species of cetaceans present in this zone, including several species of whales (humpback, sperm whales, finbacks...) and smaller mammals including a variety of

dolphins, as these areas are important for their resting, feeding, reproducing, and raising their young. The sanctuary would create the jurisdiction for the complete protection of all species of marine mammals in this zone by limiting, or even prohibiting, human activities that endanger the species, with all concerned playing a role: local governments, elected officials, sailors and fishermen, administrations, scientific researchers, and organizations for environmental protection. In the meantime, a marine park will be created. A first meeting in Guadeloupe, uniting all the various partners from Guadeloupe and Martinique, led to the establishment of a timeline and list of things to accomplish. The first phase includes a national directive in the French strategy for biodiversity, and the plans for the sanctuary should bring together all of the Caribbean countries interested by a common desire to protect the cetaceans....," noted the press release.



Photo : © Evasion Tropicale

Quality of Swimming Water in 2006

Saint Barth clearly "blue"

According to the annual report (created by the Direction of Health and Social Development) on the quality of the water at beaches used for swimming in Guadeloupe, the waters around Saint Barth are nice and clean. Made public in early June, this report is available for consultation at

<http://baignades.sante.gouv.fr>. In Saint Barth, water samples were tested every month since last October at 13 beaches (Shell Beach, Lorient, Anse Maréchal, Corossol, Saint Jean, Public, Grand Cul de Sac, Petit Cul de Sac, Anse des Cayes, Anse des Flamands, Anse des Salines, Marigot, Gouverneur), and once again the report indicates that they are all in the "blue" category, proof of good water quality. This was also the case in 2005.

Since 2001, the parameters for water analysis have been expanded to include microbiological organisms that can result from germs (fecal streptococcus for example) as well as physiochemical elements (pollution). Elsewhere in Guadeloupe, of 90 different locations tested, 13 resulted in "green," which means average water quality, and does not prohibit swimming. Two locations, one near the town of Vieux Habitants and Canoe-Kayak (Moule), tested "yellow," which means they are temporarily polluted. In Saint Martin, just like last year, the good news is that all the beaches came up "blue."



LA CAPRICIEUSE SUPPORTS THE SNSM

The officers aboard the French naval vessel, La Capricieuse, collected funds among themselves in order to make a donation to the Saint Barth SNSM station. Last Monday evening, the youngest officer



aboard presented a check for 600 euros to the youngest member of the SNSM crew, 19 year-old Frantz Gréaux, during a ceremony organized on the dock near where the rescue boat, the Contre Amiral Noël, was anchored. Saint Barth has been the “godmother” of La Capricieuse, a P400 patrol boat, since August 24, 1988. La Capricieuse arrived at the dock last Sunday morning from Fort-de-France in Martinique, where it underwent maintenance. A cocktail reception was held Sunday evening on

the rear deck of the vessel. On Monday morning, the lieutenant of the ship, Philippe Vitel, welcomed the mayor aboard for an official visit, while the public was able to discover the public spaces and patrol equipment during

two organized visits while the ship was in the Port of Gustavia. While the public was invited aboard on Monday afternoon from 2:00-5:00pm, the hours were changed to the morning on Tuesday as not to conflict with the World Cup soccer match between France and Spain. Approximately 120 people visited the boat over the two days. The Capricieuse left Saint Barth on Wednesday in the direction of French Guyana, its homeport since 1990.

New series of envelopes includes the Port of Gustavia

Following the success of a series of illustrated envelopes, “The Colors of Guadeloupe,” the postal service in Guadeloupe has announced a new series of pre-stamped envelopes based on the theme “land and sea.” Each of the five envelopes (with an enclosed card for correspondence) has the “sugarcane stamp” that was issued in March 2005, and each envelope has a different photograph, including the Port of Gustavia. Cyril Exbrayat took this photo as well as those of Fort Saint Louis in Saint Martin and that of La Désirade, which are seen on other envelopes. The series of five pre-stamped envelopes costs 5.45 euros, and they are for sale in the island’s three post offices.

Ecole Sainte Marie of Colombier Celebrates Its 80th Anniversary

From Wednesday, June 14 through Saturday, June 17, the Ecole Sainte Marie of Colombier celebrated its 80th anniversary. Commemoration activities, which included an exhibit tracing the history of the school and a mini theatre festival, concluded with a mass at the school. The Ecole Sainte Marie of Colombier was the first school on the island. It was created by Father Irénée de Bruyn, a Dutch priest, who was also responsible for the construction of the hospital in Gustavia that bears his name, along with residents who gave what money they could as well as hours of work to build the school. It

opened its door in 1926, after five years of construction. In March 1926, 35 students started classes under the eye of principal Henriette Malespine, who was the director of the school until 1948. After that, the school was run by nuns from the Order of Saint Paul of Chartres until 1979, at which time Christian Gréaux was named director of the school. When she retired in 2001, she was replaced Marie-Christine Ceccaldi, who left in 2004 for the School of Baby Jesus in Angoulême. The current director is Lucienne Gréaux, a former elementary school student at Ecole Sainte Marie.

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ASBAS Takes Cultural Trip To Sweden



group also visited the old part of the city and the Royal Palace, where they watched the ceremony marking the changing of the guard. Their schedule also included an excursion to Skansen, the world's first major open-air museum, a boat trip around the islands of Stockholm, and a visit to the Wasa Museum, which houses the old warship, Wasa. This royal vessel with 64 cannons sank in the Stockholm harbor on its maiden voyage, August 10, 1628, due to a violent gust of wind. The ship sank to a depth of 35 meters and was not brought to the surface until 1956. Partially rebuilt and renovated, it is now on display in the Wasa Museum in Stockholm. The ASBAS group also visited the grave of Ollly Nyman, who passed away just a few months before their trip.

Twenty years after the first voyage of this kind, a dozen members and friends of ASBAS (Saint Barth Friends of Sweden Association) paid a visit to Sweden. Leaving Saint Barth on June 1, their itinerary took them to Stockholm, then to Piteå, the small city in Northeastern Sweden that has been Saint Barth's twin city since 1979. For Daniel Blanchard, president of ASBAS, the goal of the voyage was to deepen the bonds of friendship between Saint Barth and Sweden, and at the same time to better understand and safeguard the historic heritage of the island from its Swedish era, and with this in mind, develop cultural exchange programs between the two entities.



Eva Wasllsten of Sweden and Uranie Questel of Saint Barth wearing traditional dresses from their native lands.

Welcomed in Piteå by Thomas Wasllsten, president of the Friends of Saint Barth in Piteå club, and his wife, the group celebrated the National Day of Sweden on June 6, and visited the old town and its museum. They also stopped by a school for woodworking and visited one of the world's largest paper factories. After an adventure on the rapids and cascades of Piteå's largest river, and a visit to a professional tanner, the group headed back to Saint Barth.

In Stockholm, the group attended the general assembly of Skallskapet, the Friends of Saint Barth

in Sweden Association, created in the early 1960s, and whose current president is Roger Richter. The

In addition to its cultural aspects, this trip was the perfect occasion to reinforce the ties and contacts between Saint Barth and Piteå, as well as finalize plans for a group from Piteå that will visit Saint Barth on August 15, or Piteå Day. This group includes a 16 year-old boy who won an essay contest whose theme was Saint Barthélemy.



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St Barth WEEKLY

Published by "Le Journal de Saint-Barth"

Ph. : 05.90.27.65.19 Fax : 05.90.27.91.60

ISSN-1766-9278 - email: stbarthweekly@wanadoo.fr

Director & layout : Avigaël Haddad

Chief Editor: Pierrette Guiraute,

Translation and English texts: Ellen Lampert Greaux,

Photographe : Rosemond Greaux - Advertising sales : Chloé Amour

Impression : Daily Herald

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