

SCFG brings Amiral tourist train back to New Richmond

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND – The Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG) and a subcontractor returned to New Richmond six cars belonging to the Amiral tourist train, which were stranded in Gaspé since 2014, first because of a landslide between Port Daniel and Gascons, and subsequent infrastructure issues.

The Amiral consisted of four passenger cars and two boxcars carrying generators supplying electricity to the train. The locomotive of that train was brought back to New Richmond in 2017 and put back in service a few months later.

“The contractor used two floats for the generators, one per car, and he uses one float long enough for each of the passenger cars, which means four trips between Gaspé and New Richmond,” explains Luc Lévesque, director general of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie.



Photo: Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie

Passenger cars and boxcars carrying generators for the Amiral tourist train were loaded on floats in Gaspé and transported back to New Richmond over several days starting from May 22.

Mr. Lévesque adds that the decision to bring the Amiral train to New Richmond was made in 2023 and it was supposed to take place in De-

ember, but was delayed for technical reasons.

“We wanted to bring the cars back to New Richmond essentially to prevent them

being vandalized,” he says.

The line between Port Daniel and Gaspé will not reopen before the end of 2026. The condition of the cars will

be assessed at one point by New Richmond’s Rail GD shop, but not over the short

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term, specifies Luc Lévesque.

“We have a lot to do to bring the freight train back to Port Daniel, and we are also keeping a close eye on the Transports Québec track upgrading work. We are active in that file as well. We are still interested in acquiring Budd cars (automotive passenger cars) and we plan to use them first because they are less costly to operate and more versatile,” says Mr. Lévesque.

Moving the passenger cars between Gaspé and New Richmond cost approximately \$100,000.

The Amiral train was mainly used to carry cruise ship passengers between Gaspé and Percé in 2013 and 2014.