



Jacques Côté: Tourist train has “great potential”

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: - The “Amiral” tourist train made some money this year with cruise ship passengers, and lost some with its local trips. Despite a slight deficit in 2014, the interim president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Jacques Côté, believes in the future of the tourist train.

“I think it has fantastic potential. It worked very well with most cruise ships. They even had to refuse people a couple of times. It might sound strange but it worked particularly well with the smaller cruise ships. The train tickets were sold in advance on these ships. The results were not as good with the larger cruise ships. For some reason, train tickets are not sold on board in these cases.

Once the passengers debark at the marina, they see the train and they want to take it. But we can’t improvise,” explains Mr. Côté.

“We have to reach an agreement, organize some kind of packages. The larger cruise ships should sell our train tickets on board. We also have to explore the bus tour business. There are numerous buses that regularly come to the Gaspé. It would be a great idea to offer this service to the passengers between Gaspé and Percé, or vice versa,” he adds.

“Overall, the second year for The Amiral was good. It takes more than two years to make it a profitable venture. We are nearing that point. The train is very profitable when we have 150 or more passengers on board,” he said.



The “Amiral” arriving in New Richmond.