



Word from the Chief

Kwaï fellow band members,

It is with gratitude that I undertake a new term in office representing and leading our community as your Chief. Each term brings new learning and each election gives me a chance to review my role as ambassador, advocate and speaker for our band. Although there are many issues to be addressed in our reconciliation process, we need to name and deal with them as they present themselves.

On a first and current order; talks and negotiations with the state to move forward in a long overdue file were a priority in this last year. The fight initiated by our women in 1967, to resolve their exclusions brought about by gender inequalities in the Indian act has finally seen some progress. By the time you read this newspaper yet another step will have been franchised. Our women will finally have acquired some equality in eyes of the state. What comes next is to create a working solution to ensure that our members have impartial access to services and resources allotted under the act. There is no doubt that until we know what financial adjustment the government has planned, we must tread lightly in the fiscal component of this process.

Another order of business will be for us to look at our membership code and revisit it's structure. Considering that this code was established to do just what this amendment to the act addresses it is important that we make amendments to ensure the survival of our People's culture and customs be addressed also. Please participate in this process by attending general assemblies to ensure your voice and thoughts be heard.

What we can do at this time is work on the social component of this fight. Welcoming into our circle the members who have suffered this exclusion is our first order of business and within our shared power. If you are a citizen of our band and you fall under the members who have been reinstated, I welcome you to take part in community activities initiated by our Family center, Health center, Language class, Grand Council, Environment services and Museum. Keep abreast of the activities that will help heal and fill the void brought about by the many years that separated our women's children from their rightful heritage. With this I would like to welcome you!

In peace and friendship,

Chief Rick O'Bomsawin

THE NDAKINNA OFFICE RECEIVES 2017 RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AWARD

The Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse announces the recipients of the Award dedicated to the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Geneviève Treyvaud, Yvon Poirier, Suzie O'Bomsawin, David Bernard and Hugo Mailhot-Couture.

The 2017 Rights and Freedoms Award have been presented to eight initiatives that have promoted the recognition and respect of Indigenous peoples rights throughout Québec, announced today the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse.

The Commission has chosen the theme of Indigenous rights to mark the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"We congratulate the eight recipients for their exceptional contribution to the recognition and advancement of Indigenous rights among their communities, their Nations and throughout Québec", has declared Camil Picard, Acting President of the Commission. "These recipients have been selected by an outstanding jury because of their great involvement. I want to take this opportunity to thank the jury for contributing to the success of the 2017 Rights and Freedoms Award".

The jury members are Viviane Michel, President of Quebec Native Women, Béatrice Vaugrante, Executive Director of Amnistie internationale Canada francophone, Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, and Alexandre Bacon, cofounder of Cercle KISIS.

The Award has been presented during a ceremony held on December 10 that was streamed live on the Commission's YouTube channel. The recipients are the following :

- The NdaKinna Office of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki documents traditional uses and occupation of the NdaKinna territory by the W8banakiak people (Abenakis) in order to ensure protection for their ancestral rights. The Office's consultations have help build constructive dialogue between promoters, organizations and government ministries in favour of Nation members and to be the voice of the

W8banakiak people throughout the territorial planning process.

- The Atikamekw Nehirowisiw Declaration of Sovereignty seeks to raise awareness of and ensure the recognition of Atikamekw Nehirowisiw ancestral rights within the general population of Québec and Canada. This declaration has helped to emphasize Atikamekw presence on the territory during traditional activities and has fostered a new respect from non-Indigenous users.

- The Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite de l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi provides Indigenous UQAC students a welcoming place that offers the guidance and educational support they need to foster their academic success, in keeping with their culture. The Nikanite Centre also educates the academic community and the general public about Indigenous realities and cultures.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 -

Word from Councilors



FLORENCE BENEDICT
Councilor

Kwaï,

Because the Île Ronde activity was cancelled due to low participation, we decided to organize a corn roast with about forty participants. People had the opportunity to participate in several activities such as a rabaska ride on the St-François River and a treasure hunt. They could also participate in Phillipe O'Bomsawin's fish smoking activity and take part in a fishing contest led by Christopher Coughlin. We ended the day with a pot-luck dinner and an Abenaki bingo hosted by June Palmer. A big thank you to all the organizers of this beautiful day: Caroline Cardin, Nathalie Cardin, Raymonde Nolett, Luc G.Nolett, Christopher Coughlin, David Plante and Mathieu Laforce.



Rabaska ride

On October 4th, a march was organized by Quebec Native Women (QNW) across Canada to support the murdered and missing women campaign. In Odanak, about 20 people, armed with their umbrellas, walked about one kilometre in a heavy downpour to the monument commemorating the Roger's Raid in 1759, erected on the church site. This commemoration is intended to celebrate not the losses that were incurred at that time, but our Nation's ongoing longevity.

On October 28th, at the Odanak Community Centre, the first ever Fall Pow Wow was organized by Mr. Jacques T. Watso and his wife, Ms. Carine Vallin. The purpose of this event was to raise funds for



Commemoration.

ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). The Fall Pow Wow organizers were proud to have donated nearly \$ 750 to the foundation. Nearly a hundred people marched throughout the day! For the occasion, an "Abenaki canteen" was available for those present. Bannock, smoked fish and sagamité were available at minimal cost. Thank you Eric G.Nolett, Johanne and the beautiful Charlotte for this great initiative. Dancers, drummers and singers performed and the event was a great success.



Fall Pow Wow

From November 11th to the 19th, I traveled to France to represent the Abenaki Nation, replacing Mathieu O'Bomsawin who unfortunately had other commitments. The purpose of this trip was to assist in the research and the unveiling of the first results of the "WAMPUM" belt analyzes performed using 3D techniques. This wampum is considered one of the many Chartres treasures and is treated as such by the Monuments Historiques de France with all the conventional security measures. This research was conducted jointly by the University of Rennes in France and Laval University in Quebec City. I travelled with my colleague and friend, Mr. Stéphane Picard, representative of the Huron-Wendat Nation, who was there for the same reasons. We were also joined by Ms. Geneviève Treyvaud, archaeologist at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki.

At the time of our ancestors, the wampum served mainly for political alliances. The wampum men-

tioned here was handed over by the Abenaki people to the French in 1699. The first analyzes showed that the beads are connected to one another using animal and plant tendons and that the dye used was actually made of cranberry extract. We also observed the meticulous and very precise work of our predecessors. I even briefly had the privilege of touching this wampum made by our ancestors and I was quite moved. The information gathered will allow us to compare past and current techniques and will eventually be used for educational purposes.

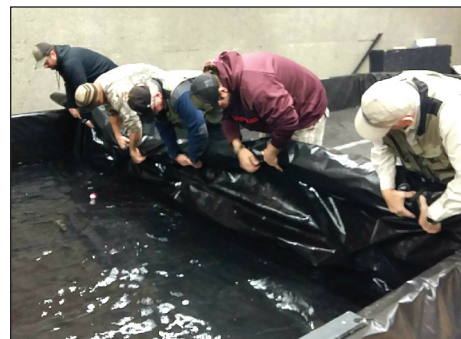


Wampum



With my colleague and friend, Mr. Stéphane Picard

A fishing activity organized by the Environment and Land Office was held at the community centre on December 9th. For the occasion, a huge pool filled with trout was set up on site. Both young and old were able to fish and keep their catch.



Fishing activity.

At the same time, a workshop was held on deboning skulls such as raccoon, beaver and coyote. The

faint-hearted abstained. Children, meanwhile, were introduced to boning and had a lot of fun. They were allowed to keep their skull and bring it home. Thanks to Christopher, Luc and Samuel for this wonderful day!



Workshop on deboning skulls.

I would like to acknowledge the award presented by the SPVM to Ms. Mylène Trudeau, police officer-investigator for the Abenaki Police Force, for her high-level and quality work in investigating allegations of a sexual nature against women in various Aboriginal communities in Abitibi aimed at Sécurité du Québec officers. Congratulations Mylène!



Award presented by the SPVM to Ms. Mylène Trudeau

I could not finish this article without noting my re-election as councillor for the next two years on the Abenakis of Odanak Council. I want to thank everyone who contributed! I am very proud to represent you for a second term. Hoping you had a happy holiday season. I wish you joy, happiness and health in 2018.

Let's talk again in the spring.

Best regards,

Florence Benedict.

Word from Councilors



CLAIRE O'BOMSAWIN
Councilor

Hello everyone,

Like every year, activities for the community elders resume in September, such as community luncheons (breakfasts and lunches) and the Meals-on-Wheels service. These activities are going well and are much appreciated by everyone.

In October and November, each candidate campaigned for

the elections. In this context, we travelled to Albany and Sudbury to meet the Abenaki people who reside there. We met some very nice people and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their warm welcome.

Thanks to the annual Christmas food drive on November 18th, we were able to raise \$2,440. An amount of \$447 was also added to the food drive total thanks to a bingo activity organized by Mr. Sylvain Robert. Thank you very much Mr. Robert! I would also like to thank Jenny Benoit M'Sadoques and Marc-Olivier O'Bomsawin who took care of the youth who were collecting donations on Marie-Victorin Street, as well as Councillor Alain O'Bomsawin for his help throughout this event. Special thanks to the youth who, like every year, par-

ticipate in the collection activities. Thanks to this initiative and to the contributions by the Abenakis of Odanak Council, 55 families received assistance during the holiday season. The gift cards and the food were distributed on December 15th in the various homes of the community with the help of Ms. Theresa Watso, whom I sincerely thank.

To end the year in style, as tradition dictates, we organized a Christmas party for the elders. Participants took part in several activities including a gift exchange. We thank you for your participation!

I would like to conclude by thanking you for your trust by voting for me again as councillor. It's a true honour!



55 families received assistance during the holiday season.

Word from Councilors



ALAIN O'BOMSAWIN
Councilor

Kwaï,

I would first like to sincerely thank my family, my friends and all those who supported me for my re-election on November 26th. I am very proud to be your representative once again.

As you know, churches are part of our heritage and we are grateful to have one in our community to host various significant events in our lives. It is therefore important to preserve it well. With this in mind, I am proud to announce that the church's attic will be insulated to help reduce heating costs. I also met Bishop Gazaille to discuss the administration of the Odanak mission. It was a very nice meeting. In addi-

tion, a fence was finally installed around the cemetery as planned.

On November 30th, I had the opportunity to participate in the launch of the book *Les Abénakis d'Odanak: un voyage archéologique* with Chief Rick O'Bomsawin and Councillor Florence Benedict. This book, which was launched at the Musée des Abénakis in Odanak, is truly a marvel to discover and learn more about our past and our culture. Congratulations to Geneviève Treyvaud and Michel Plourde, the authors of this book. For those who would like a copy, the book is currently on sale at the Musée des Abénakis.

Finally, following a special request from families in the community who wish to go sledding or practice other winter sports, note that hay bales and a fence will be installed at the bottom of the rectory's hill to prevent accidents. (Note that adult supervision and caution are required at all times)

In closing, I wish everyone all the best for 2018!



JACQUES T. WATSO
Councilor

Kwaï,

I would first like to thank each and every member of the Odanak community who have put their trust in me to represent them. To you, dear members, I assure you that I am committed to serving you all without distinction. I shall stand tall, upright and proud to represent you.

In recent years, I have initiated debates on various topics such as cultural identity in the context of intermixing or miscegenation in Odanak, the reform of the electoral code, the Council's omnipresence in our daily lives, the crumbling social fabric and the lack of unity among elected officials, adminis-

tration and the population. These are all topics showing some uneasiness and resignation on the part of community members.

I do not intend to be a saviour, but I would need everyone's contribution to open a constructive dialogue on the future of Odanak. With this in mind, beginning in January 2018, every last Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon, I will be holding meetings at the community hall to talk to you about ongoing issues and to form a talking circle to address the topics mentioned above. All members, on and off reserve, as well as all elected officials are invited to participate. A brunch will be served at each of these meetings.

I will conclude by reminding you not to forget to attend the Council's general assemblies. Your presence is important, so I invite you to plan your schedule accordingly.

There is much work ahead of us! Let us roll up our sleeves to act and move forward together.

Word from Management



DANIEL G. NOLETT
Executive Director
Abenakis of Odanak Council

Kwaï mziwi!

First, with regard to the Descheneaux case, the Government of Canada finally passed Bill S3. This law came into effect on December 22nd.

Also, as you perhaps noticed, the fall season was very busy in terms of construction projects in the community. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has provided several funding confirmations over recent weeks. Plans and specifications had been pending for more than two (2) years for some of the projects which had been the subject of funding applications. Herewith are further details on the projects in question:

On August 17th, INAC approved the funding application submitted by the Lands and Economic Development Program for the extension of the infrastructure along Route 132 near Kiuna College. INAC granted \$254,188 to the Band Council, which represents 39% of the total project costs. Total estimated cost for this project is \$ 651,765. The balance will be financed as follows:

- \$130,353: Investment by the Council from accumulated surplus (20 % of total cost);
- \$267,224: RBC loan (41% of total cost).

Following a call for tenders, Excavation L.J.L. Inc. was awarded the contract. Work to extend the infrastructure began in September.

Construction work on Phase II of the industrial motel also began last October. We are currently building 6,000 square feet of commercial space to be leased. The total construction costs for Phase II are estimated at \$800,000. Funding for this project will be as follows: 50 % of the required funding, or \$400,000, will be provided through the Secrétariat aux Affaires Autochtones (SAA) Aboriginal Initiatives Fund II. We will also receive a non-repayable contribution of \$120,000 from the Native Commercial Credit Corporation (SOCCA) as part of the Aboriginal Business Development Program (ABDP), which represents 15% of project costs. The balance will be financed as follows:

- \$80,000: Investment by the Council from accumulated surplus (10 % of total cost);
- \$200,000: SOCCA loan (25 % of total cost).

Following a call for tenders, Construction G. Therrien was awarded the contract. Construction G. Therrien hired a member of the community, Jacques T. Watso, for the construction of Phase II of the industrial motel. With Phase II of the construction project, which represents at least 25% of our economic development budget

envelope, (in fact, we will spend 53 % of our budget envelope since the overall envelope represents \$760,000), we will recover an amount of \$700,000 through the SAA's Community Infrastructure component. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that when the new administrative offices were built in 2014-2015, accumulated surpluses were required to finalize the financial package for this project. This amount of \$700,000 will therefore serve to replenish our liquidity. This is very timely with all the projects underway this fall.

On October 12, 2017, the Band Council received confirmation from INAC that it would receive funding of \$606,307 in 2017-2018. This amount will cover the costs related to the construction of a "dome" type shelter to store abrasives and de-icing salts. The dome was built in the fall of 2016 at a cost of \$47,000, as well as a new garage for the public works department, and an enclosure to fence off the dome and garage area. The cost for building a new garage, which measures 40 feet X 80 feet (3,200 square feet), is estimated at approximately \$458,000. The balance of \$159,307 will be used for the fenced enclosure (estimated at approximately \$100,000) and for preparing the grounds around the garage building. Following a call for tenders, Construction Mathieu Laramée was awarded the contract.

On December 1st, we received official written confirmation from INAC for the funding of replacement works for the Sibosis Street stormwater outfall. This rainwater pipe, which needs to be replaced, is located on Waban-Aki

Street, specifically between addresses 43 and 47, and descends to the Saint-François River. The amount granted to be received in 2017-2018 is \$570,862. We have been waiting for this formal confirmation for quite some time now. INAC had confirmed the project's eligibility but we were unaware of when the funds would become available. As often happens with this Department at the end of a fiscal year, funds not used by other communities become available. The answer came late because INAC needed to know how much we were eligible for this year. Our patience was rewarded since INAC decided to fund the entire project in 2017-2018. However, as winter was fast approaching, we had already taken the lead by issuing a call for tenders for the planned work in the fall. As a result of this call for tenders, Excavation L.J.L. Inc. was awarded the contract. Work began at the end of November and ended in December.

Finally, we hereby announce the departure of Ms. Julie Gagnon as Economic Development Officer and responsible for housing. Ms. Gagnon left last September to take up a new professional challenge as Femmessor's Regional Director for the La Mauricie office.

ERRATUM:

In my previous article, I announced the retirement of Mr. Deny O'Bomsawin as Director of the Odanak Health Centre (OHC). It should have read "*I inform you that we have terminated Mr. Deny O'Bomsawin's employment*". We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

I wish you all a very nice winter! N'sidaldam mziwi, wli pbon!

2017 Rights and Freedoms Award

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -

- **The poetry of Natasha Kanapé Fontaine**, poet / performer, actress, visual artist and Indigenous and environmental rights activist. Kanapé Fontaine is an Innu from Pessamit, in Québec's Côte-Nord region. Her artistic and literary approach aims to bring people from different origins together through dialogue, discussion, sharing of values, and through the "tanning of hides", a metaphor for scratching below imperfect thoughts and consciences.
- **The Institut Tshakapesh's Sous le Shaputuan program** offers awareness activities are open both to youth in elementary, high schools, colleges,

universities, and to the general public throughout Québec. Over the past 10 years, the Institut Tshakapesh's Sous le Shaputuan program has introduced more than 100,000 young people of all ages to Innu culture.

- **The Montréal First Peoples Festival** is an annual ten-day event held on unceded Mohawk territory for the past 27 years. The stated purpose of this annual cultural event is to foster kinship among peoples and respect for differences in a spirit of friendship. It is a place where cultures can meet and reconciliation can occur.
- **Avataq Cultural Institute** is a non-profit charity organization incorporated in 1980 with an all-

Inuit Board of Directors living in Nunavik. Its mandate is to protect and promote Inuit language and culture so that Inuktitut and Inuit culture may be preserved for present and future generations. Avataq has continually returned to seek out and consult the wisdom and leadership of Inuit Elders, and to this day is guided by the concerns, hopes, and long-term vision expressed by Elders.

- **Sébastien Grammond**, judge to the Federal Court, and **Christiane Guay**, associate professor at the Université du Québec en Outaouais and a social worker, have been working, for nearly ten years, to expand knowledge regarding governance in Indigenous

communities in the field of youth protection, an area that remains poorly documented in francophone Indigenous communities. Their work has, among other things, contributed to recognize, for the first time in Québec, Indigenous legal traditions, including customary Aboriginal adoption.

Presented since 1988 on the occasion of International Human Rights Day marking the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights December 10, 1948, the Rights and Freedoms Award is each year to an organization or an individual as a public recognition for exceptional achievement or commitment to the defence of human rights and freedoms.

Odanak Cultural Commitee



UPDATE ON THE BENEFIT CONCERT OF THE VOLTIGEURS DE QUÉBEC

On Saturday, October 14, 2017, the walls of the church of Odanak vibrated strongly as the musicians of the military band Voltigeurs took place in the nave. Although it is a military band, the repertoire presented to the audience that night included successes by Elton John, Sting and even Leonard Cohen with a moving Hallelujah played as an encore. The spectators were conquered if we rely on the standing ovations that punctuated each piece.

Thanks to the generosity of those present and the contribution of the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Geoffrey Kelley), the Minister responsible for the Centre-du-Québec region (Mr. Laurent Lessard), the Member of Parliament for Bécancour-Nicolet-Saurel (Mr. Louis Plamondon), the Member of the National Assembly of Québec for La Peltrie (Mr. Éric Caire) and the Member of Parliament for Louis-Saint-Laurent (Mr. Gérard Deltell), the benefit concert raised \$1135. This money was donated to the Odanak Historical Society and will be dedicated to commemorating the 260th anniversary of the Rogers

Raid against our community in the fall of 2019.

A big thank you to the Voltigeurs Music and the people who came to live this memorable evening!

100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE

In the midst of the commemorative ceremonies of the 100th anniversary of the battle of Passchendaele in Belgium, Mr. Luc O'Bomsawin was chosen by the Assembly of First Nations to represent them at the different battlefields of the Ypres and Passchendaele area. During those ceremonies the act of remembrance was read in abenaki for the first time on the battlefields of the First World War.

ONE OF OURS IS HONoured BY THE SENATE

As part of the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Senate, Mr. Luc O'Bomsawin was honoured for his dedication towards the Veteran's community and for his unreserved implication to the W8banaki confederation.

"On behalf of the Senate of Canada, the Senate Sesquicentennial Medal is hereby conferred upon you in commemoration of the one



hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Senate of Canada and in recognition of your valuable service to the nation." Nominated by The Honorable Senator Dennis Dawson, Quebec-Lauzon.



PROFESSIONNAL RESSOURCES REGISTER

In order to create a registry of the professional and artistic qualifications of our members, I am again asking for your collaboration in order to gather the contact information of our artists, craftspersons, professionals, veterans and first responders. This would allow us to target the resources of our members according to the needs of our community and to commemorate our veterans and first responders.

CONCERT FOR A 90th ANNIVERSARY

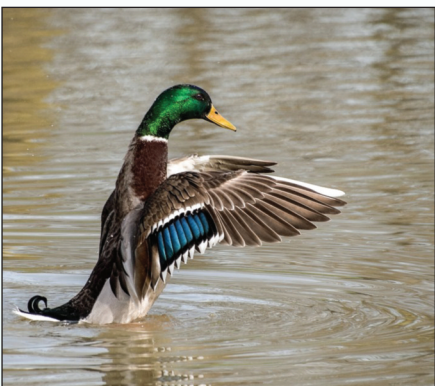
On Sunday, October 8th, 2017, many parents and friends of Mrs Thérèse O'Bomsawin Gaudet, still director of Odanak's parish choir, attended the concert of sacred songs which was dedicated to her on the very day of her 90th birthday. The event, held in the historic church of Odanak with the support of the RCM Nicolet-Yamaska, recalled the time when great music, in which Abenakis excelled, had a large place during religious services. At the end of the concert, the anthem Weg8damoda was sung by the honoree, and sung in unison. On the program were Bach, Büsser, Fauré, Franck, Giordani, Gounod, Haendel, Mozart, Rosewig and Schubert, performed by organist Marc Senneville, soprano Élise Boucher-DeGonzague and tenor Guy O'Bomsawin. This concert was most appreciated by all. What a performance by our artists!

Luc O'Bomsawin, , President of Odanak Cultural Committee
lucobom@videotron.ca, 1012, Awassos, Odanak, J0G 1H0

Odanak Environment and Land Office

WILDLIFE CAPSULE

Moulting of Anatidae species : Trees are not the only species to change colour in the fall !



Feathers do not only play a vital role in bird flight; they are also used for protection against the elements, camouflage, flotation and reproduction. Although

feathers are remarkably durable, they eventually deteriorate over time. Unlike most birds, which replace their flight feathers continuously throughout the year, thus allowing them to maintain their flight capacity, Anatidae species (ducks, snow geese, Canada geese) opt for another strategy: they lose all their feathers at the same time! Anatidae species, part of the group commonly known as "waterfowl", therefore lose their ability to fly over a period of around 20 to 40 days. This first moult, which leads to what is known as an "eclipse" plumage,

is generally observed shortly after the spring nesting period and their colours become very dull (for both males and females) in several species. This adaptation helps with camouflage during a period when these birds become very vulnerable to predation. The second moulting, which is partial, occurs later in the fall. At this moment, flight feathers do not fall. Only body feathers are replaced over a longer period of time, giving way to the magnificent "nuptial" plumage. The males from the majority of species thus display flamboyant

colours that become useful during their courtship prior to breeding. The particularity of their moult is that the Anatidae species must use high quality environments. These habitats, such as wetlands, must contain sufficient food resources because of increased energy demands and adequate vegetation to allow certain species to hide during their flightless period. Protecting and sometimes managing certain habitats become essential to maintaining abundant resources, to the joy of many hunters, ornithologists and photographers !



Odanak Environment and Land Office

SECOND MARSH

Wildlife Habitat Development Project in order to Restore the Free Movement of Fish

Last September, we carried out a wildlife habitat development project at the Odanak's second marsh in order to restore the free movement of fish between the Tardif channel and the marsh. A new and larger culvert was installed 95 cm deeper than the previous one. During low water level periods, the height of the previous culvert created a small impassable cascade and limited the movement of fish to the marsh. In order to maintain a slight slope (of 1%), the old stream was extended by about 50 m by creating a meander (a "C" shaped bend). Throughout the stream, a succession of small basins and restrictions were created using stones, thereby further limiting the water's flow velocity. These new conditions provide an ideal environment for migrating fish in the spring. Even though this project





Kenny Panadis, Christopher Coughlin, Luc G. Nolett, Sophie Proudfoot, Steve Williams and Samuel Dufour-Pelletier.

was designed to help restore continuous access to the marsh for yellow perch, several other species (bullhead, pike, various minnows

and small fish) will likely use the new stream; as was the case for the first marsh in 2014.

With the development project, the banks were stabilized by sowing a mixture of wetland seeds, installing biodegradable mats made of coconut fibres, and planting different shrubs in the stream's outer curves (willow, alder and dogwood). Experimental fyke fisheries will be conducted over the next two spring seasons to validate the development project's effectiveness. This long-term monitoring campaign will allow us to collect data on the use of both marshes as yellow perch breeding sites (and other species). Several organizations have teamed up to help with the recovery of this species in Lake St-Pierre. The results obtained can help guide these organizations through their decision-making process and also allow them to draw comparisons with other development projects.

REMINDER : WOOD CUTTING



WOOD CUTTING

Free firewood available in Odanak for those who wish to cut it themselves.

You must however obtain prior authorization from the Abenakis of Odanak Council to wood cutting on the community's public lands.

Where to obtain:

- Information on wood cutting (techniques)
- Information on places available for cutting
- Information on wood cutting authorization

Michel Durand
Odanak Environment and Land Office
62 rue Waban-Aki
450-568-6363
Monday to Thursday, 8 am to 4 pm
Or by appointment at other times

IMPORTANT:

WHETHER FOR YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS OR FOR SALE PURPOSES, IT IS **PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES TO TRANSPORT TIMBER ON THE RESERVE (INCLUDING ON PRIVATE LAND) OUTSIDE THE RESERVE** UNDER THREAT OF CONFISCATION, FINE AND REVOCATION OF THE WOOD CUTTING AUTHORIZATION (Section 93 of the Indian Act).

ON REQUEST, **YOU MUST PRESENT YOUR WOOD CUTTING AUTHORIZATION TO A POLICE OFFICER** OR EMPLOYEE OF THE ABENAKIS OF ODANAK COUNCIL.

AUTORISATION DE COUPE DE BOIS SUR LES TERRAINS DU CONSEIL DES ABENAKIS D'ODANAK (CAO)
TIMBER HARVESTING AUTHORIZATION ON THE ABENAKI COUNCIL OF ODANAK'S (ACO) LANDS

Date de l'émission / Date of issue _____

Nom du représentant du CAO / ACO representative's name _____

Information sur le demandeur / Applicant's Information

Nom / Last name _____

Prénom / First name _____

Adresse / Address _____

Numéro de téléphone / Phone number _____

Autorisation de coupe / Timber Harvesting Authorization

Nombre de corde de bois autorisé / Number of cords of wood allowed _____

Emplacement / Location _____

Date de fin de l'autorisation / End date of authorization _____

Délimitation du secteur de coupe sur le terrain avec le demandeur / Delimitation of the harvesting area on the land with the applicant ☐

Signature du demandeur / Applicant's signature _____ date _____

Signature du représentant du CAO / ACO representative's signature _____ date _____

Cette autorisation peut être révoquée à tout moment par un représentant du Conseil des Abénakis d'Odanak / This authorization can be revoked anytime by a representative of the Abenaki Council of Odanak.

A BRAND NEW GREENHOUSE



The Environment and Land Office team built a greenhouse over the summer so that community garden users could benefit from

an extra location to grow their vegetables. The greenhouse has four long shelves and a central work surface, which will allow users to start their tomato plants (and other vegetables) simultaneously as soon as spring arrives. This construction was made possible thanks to the financial support of Gaz Métro and the contribution by several community members. If you would like more information on the greenhouse and its use, please contact the Environment and Land Office, and we will make sure to redirect you to the proper person if needed.



The Odanak Environment and Land Office team 2017-2018 :
Michel Durand, Luc G. Nolett, Samuel Dufour-Pelletier, Christopher Coughlin and Steve Williams

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if you have any information that may be of interest to us; including the presence of chimney swifts and bats near your property.

Odanak Environment and Land Office
62 Waban Aki Street, Odanak, Québec, Canada, J0G 1H0
Tel: 450-568-6363
e-mail: environnement@caodanak.com
Website: <https://caodanak.com/> - Facebook



Communities

FORUM : *REJOIN THE CIRCLE & CELEBRATE EARTH DAY*



Kwaï kwaï !

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to the Forum : *Rejoin the Circle & Celebrate Earth Day* !

For the purpose of getting together to renew, learn and value our identity, several workshops will be given on the following four themes :

- Traditional knowledge
- Language
- Arts
- Territory

What does it mean to be Abenaki in 2018 ?

As soon as we get together, something unique occurs. Let's take a moment to celebrate our identity, our history and our culture, especially considering there are few Abenaki people on the planet. This is something we all have in common !

Our ancestors experienced many hardships, but we in 2018 are still here. Some of us are on the territory, others reside outside the territory, but above all, we are dispersed. For most of us, we almost never have the opportunity to gather and *rejoin the circle*. We rarely have the opportunity to interact with those who ask the same questions as us.

What does it mean to be Abenaki ? What traditions do we identify with ? What is our relationship and our vision of the

territory ? Can we be an Abenaki and live in an urban setting ? What traditions do we hold dear and wish to preserve at all cost ? Are there attributes or characteristics that have been forgotten over time and should be revived ? What does it mean for us to be part of a community ? Do we have a duty to remember ?

Whether you have clear answers or not to these questions, this forum is for you !

On the occasion of Earth Day, April 22nd, we will be discussing the territory in particular. In addition, we will invite the communities of Odanak and Wôlinak to participate with us in an outdoor activity to proudly celebrate this very important day.

For Whom ? Accessible primarily to young Abenakis, but open to all members of the communities of Odanak and Wôlinak.

When ? April 21 and 22, 2018.

Where ? At the Odanak community centre (58 Waban-Aki Street, Odanak, Quebec)

- *Event in French and English*
- *Accommodations available at the Kiuna Institution residences in Odanak. Please inform us if you are interested when you reply.*
- *On-site meals*

If you wish to be part of the e-mail mailing list, or you need further information, or to register for the Forum, e-mail us at the following address :

forumreformonslecercle@gmail.com

Organizing committee :

Hélène O'Bomsawin
Nicole O'Bomsawin
Suzie O'Bomsawin
Mandi Thompson
Annie O'Bomsawin-Bégin

2018 edition of the W Fashion Show

A quick Hello from the FNCFS. It's already time to add the 2018 edition of the W Fashion Show to your calendar. The event will take place on May 5th at the Centre des arts populaires de Nicolet. This year, several young participants have

decided on an Aboriginal theme by choosing to create their own regalia. Note that the workshops for youth between the ages of 2 and 8 will commence at the end of the winter or in the spring. Please don't miss this event. See you soon !

Short Column on the Abenaki Language

In this column, I will discuss certain common phrases and expressions.

Brief reminder : In the Abenaki language, it is important to know that all the letters in a word must be pronounced. For example, the "s" at the end of SIBOSIS should be pronounced. We therefore say "sibosisse" rather than "sibosi". Moreover, the following letters are not part of our alphabet: F, Q, R, U, V, X, Y. The "G" is always hard as in "glove". The "J" for its part is pronounced "dz". The "ch" is pronounced "ts" as in "channa" (tsanna). The "H" is always aspirated. We do not have an "F" sound. For example, woman is pronounced "phanem" in Abenaki. We say "P" hanem. Moreover, we do not

have the "sh" or "ch" sound as in shirt or charade.

The "i" is pronounced "ay". For example, nebi (water) is pronounced "NEBAY". The "ô" or the "8" is a nasal sound between the "an" and the "on", such as the French words "sans" and "son". The "w", when placed before a consonant, is pronounced as an "o". It is also pronounced as a soft "o" at the end of a word. The "o" is pronounced as is, such as in the word "photo", rather than an "a" as in the word "bought". When the "o" is followed by the letter "n", the "o" is pronounced as a double "o" such as in the word "mood". For example, "tassakwabon", or chair, is pronounced "tassakwaboone".

In this column, I will discuss the seasons and changing seasons :

Winter *Pbon*
Last winter *Pbona*
Next winter *Pboga*

Spring *Sigwan*
Last spring *Sigwana*
Next spring *Sigwaga*

Summer *Niben*
Last summer *Nibena*
Next summer *Nibega*

Fall *Tagw8gw*
Last fall *Tagw8gwa*
Next fall *Tagw8gwiga*



Marco Bacon, UQAC, Dr. Stanley Vollant, Charlotte Gauthier Nolett, Hélène David, Minister responsible for Higher Education and Geoffrey Kelley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Congratulations to Charlotte Gauthier Nolett

Congratulations to Charlotte Gauthier Nolett, guest of honour at the third edition of the Convention on Perseverance and Academic Achievement for First Peoples.

MUSÉE DES Abénakis

THE ABENAKI PEOPLE OF ODANAK, AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNEY

On November 30th, we launched the publication *Les Abénakis d'Odanak, un voyage archéologique*, written by archaeologists Geneviève Treyvaud and Michel Plourde for the project Fort Odanak: the Past Revisited. Over 60 people from Odanak and the scientific community attended. Thank you for your support!

This publication is a journey through time carried out by the archaeologists and their Abenaki apprentices and presents the results of their research which began in 2010 on the banks of the Saint-François River. The primary purpose was to locate the remains of a fortified mission, unique in Canada, built at the end of the 17th century, where the community of Odanak is currently located: the Saint-François-de-Sales mission. This fieldwork yielded much unpublished information on the history and lifestyles of the Abenaki people.

The publication is now available at the Museum's gift shop, in French and English. Reminder: when you become a member of the Museum, you obtain a 15% discount on your purchases at the gift shop!



Michelle Bélanger, initiator of the project, Mathieu O'Bomsawin, Director of the Musée des Abénakis, Geneviève Treyvaud, author, Nathalie Lampron, contributing editor and Michel Plourde, author.

BUILDING RENOVATIONS COMPLETED

Nearly a year ago, work began at the Museum to improve certain aspects. This project, which ended at the end of last November, included several items: repairing the building's foundation, repainting the exterior, solidifying the balcony and terrace, as well as renovating the interior floors.

Due to the extensive work on the building's floors, the Musée des Abénakis had to close temporarily in February and November, during slower periods. Fortunately, this did not seem to have had any major impact as attendance is currently up for the current fiscal year, which ends on March 31st. In addition, we made sure that visitors to the Museum during these closures received compensatory passes.

You are invited to come discover the improvements to the building!

MICROCOSME EXHIBIT

The Musée des Abénakis is proud to present, until March 15th, 2018, the Microcosme exhibit, which, after having been presented at the Regional Museum of Rimouski, the Kamouraska Art Centre, the Maison Amérindienne de Mont Saint-Hilaire, the Musée Amérindien de Mashteuiatsh and the Huron-Wendat Museum in Wendake, will finally be presented in Odanak.

Microcosme is composed of seven artists, all members of the Métiers d'Art/Bas St-Laurent corporation, and were paired with seven Aboriginal artists from different First Nations in Quebec, including Ms. Sylvie Bernard from Wôlinak. These artists were invited to create a project in two stages. First, everyone was asked to create a miniature piece, then pass it on to their partner, and subsequently integrate it into each artist's final work.

It is a creative experience that requires everyone to create outside his or her comfort zone, focusing on research, innovation and the exploration of new techniques or materials.

Reminder: as a member of the Odanak and Wôlinak bands, your admission to the Museum is free; one more reason to discover this original and innovative exhibit!

2018 FUNDRAISING COCKTAIL; 7th EDITION !

As part of its 2017 fundraising campaign, the Musée des Abénakis will present its annual fundraising cocktail on March 23rd. You are invited to this unique and colourful evening, where culinary, artistic and Aboriginal discoveries have been synonymous with success since 2012! As in previous editions, the money raised during the event will contribute to the educational and cultural missions of the Musée des Abénakis.

If you would like to contribute by donating a work for our famous silent auction, or if you would like to book your ticket, contact us now at 450 568-2600.

Please show your support for the Musée des Abénakis by attending this unique regional event!

Finally, the entire Museum team joins me in wishing you a very happy New Year. May it be filled with happiness, harmony and serenity, and may your most cherished projects be realized!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Vicky Desfossés-Bégin,
Communications and Mediation
Officer
Musée des Abénakis

Technical Services of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki



MARIO DIAMOND
Technical Services Director

Kwaï nid8bak, s8gm8,
podawazwinnoak,

kagwilit8gwad (*What's new*)? A lot, and things are buzzing in our communities. Many projects are in progress or about to be completed. The Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki has worked hard with the executive directors, chiefs, elected officials and stakeholders to develop, fund and realize all these projects. Here are a few:

In Odanak, the infrastructure has been extended to the community's eastern limits on Route 132. The construction of a new incubator is progressing well and new businesses will be able to start up soon. Also in the same area, a new garage for the public works department will be constructed. This facility will house its various machinery and facilitate maintenance.

The extension of Mgezo Street will allow the construction of new dwellings, and the extension of the water supply and sewer systems on Marie-Victorin Street will promote economic development with the arrival of new businesses. In addition, these expansions will link the water system and improve the quality of drinking water. Other infrastructure work will soon commence on Wabanaki Street. The current outlet is nearing the end of its useful life and will be replaced. A long 5-foot in diameter concrete pipe will be installed to drain the community's rainwater to the Saint-François River.

In addition to these important dossiers, the Grand Conseil has participated in many lower-cost projects, but equally important for the members, such as the minor works program, the RRAP, the assessment of the vulnerability of infrastructure, etc.

In conjunction with the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP 150), the Band Council has also contributed to the renovation of the Musée des Abénakis and the Community Hall. In addition, the construction of the semi-detached house on Managuan Street is now complete.

Soon, in collaboration with Aquadata and the public works department, we will evaluate the network in order to plan and budget for repairs, improvements or construction of different portions of the network which have become out-dated or obsolete.

As you can see, things are happening in your community. The

wheel is spinning and gaining momentum, for the benefit of all.

In addition to the respective projects in the communities of Wôlinak and Odanak, the GCNWA Technical Services Department is also working with the communities of Listuguj, Kanesatake, Kahnawake and La Romaine, and participating in other projects for INAC, the MRC, the City of Bécancour and the Port of Trois-Rivières. We are also involved in several small projects in other Aboriginal communities. It is important to mention that the Grand Conseil is always committed to employing Aboriginals in its various community projects.

All in all, many projects have been completed in our communities and many are still to come.

Please contact me for more information,

Wliwni. Adio.
Wig8damoda!