



Word from the chief



Kwai fellow band members,

Another year has passed. In this last year as in any other, our nation's experience was full of challenges, some of which brought success and others that brought important lessons. Nevertheless, our community has continued to see growth through many efforts of working on initiatives that ensure sustainability of our land and resources. As always we are not only looking at needs of the current generation, we are also looking at the needs of the generations to come.

The most recent months of 2016 have seen an age-old challenge brought to light, which our nations' women have fought since Indian affairs set out to exclude them from our nations. I am reminded of women like Evelyn O'Bomsawin, Mary Two-Axe Early and many others in their unrelenting pursuit to ensure that the women of our nations who were, at many times excluded based solely on the fact that they were women, would be re-instated. Although in their lifetime these women saw minor victories, they set the ground for the fight to continue. We have, since Mrs. O'Bomsawin's passing, seen one generation of our women's children reclaim a status that was to insure to the men of our nation's families without disruption. In her spirit, we continue the fight to right these wrongs.

Hopefully, 2017 will see full equality brought to the families of our women who were discriminated against because of gender and of our men who lost their status because of their decision to fight for our country. These are but a few important challenges brought to the forefront by cases such as the Descheneaux case which re-addresses gender discrimination.

With this achievement will come another great challenge: that of creating an inclusive environment and rekindling our community spirit. Undoubtedly, culture erosion is of great concern for our Council and Community. It is therefore imperative that we as a community take a serious look at who we are as a people and ensure that generations to come can grow with cultural pride and investment. By working together we can bring restitution to our collective experience and cultivate a healthy community environment for our children to come.

Happy New Year !
In peace and friendship,
Chief Rick O'Bomsawin



Left to right: Xavier Vollant, Dr Stanley Vollant, Geoffrey Kelley, minister responsible for Native affairs, Richard O'Bomsawin, chief of Odanak and Eric Lamothe, Québec en Forme's executive director.

CHALLENGE STANLEY VOLLANT

Hundreds of hours of walking to promote an active lifestyle, cultural exchanges and build a better future

The first Stanley Vollant Challenge was held today to support the efforts of individuals and groups wishing to integrate physical activity into their way of life. This annual event, organized with the support and spirit of the Innu Meshkenu project, is a friendly competition between Aboriginal communities who must accumulate as many hours of walking as possible. The first edition of the challenge, co-organized by the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki, took place in the Abenaki community of Odanak, located on the South Shore of the St. Lawrence River between Montreal and Quebec City. In total, around one hundred walkers accumulated 159 hours of walking by taking one, two, three or four-hour walks.

WALKING TOGETHER

It is clear that many people do not succeed in adopting an active lifestyle, often because it is difficult to find time to integrate physical activity into everyday life. The purpose of the Stanley Vollant Challenge is to remind people of the importance of walking and inspire communities to introduce collective fitness plans. "When we take control of our health, all our future prospects improve, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually," explains Dr. Stanley Vollant. Walking is an inclusive activity accessible to all, regardless of age or status. By its nature, an event like this also promotes open-mindedness towards others and provides an opportunity for natives and non-natives to walk side by side and share."

The Stanley Vollant Challenge was made possible by a number of partners who are

committed to the health and well-being of First Nations: Health Canada, the Government of Quebec, Québec en Forme and the UQAC Nikanite First Nations Centre.

"Dr. Stanley Vollant's determination and commitment to action for the well-being of Quebec youth from all origins is simply endless. I am convinced that this challenge, a new initiative on his part, will convince other youth to believe in their dreams, an essential condition to ensure a better future for the next generation. Today, we collectively celebrate the conclusion of a year marked by challenges and achievements in terms of health, and through this gathering, we also become a source of inspiration for Quebec society as a whole," explained Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Geoffrey Kelley.

"The Stanley Vollant Challenge is a project that goes without saying part of the healthy lifestyle movement, while promoting health and respect, values that connect us deeply," mentioned Éric Lamothe, Executive Director of Québec en Forme. Supporting young people in adopting healthy behaviour by implementing all the necessary conditions has been at the heart of this movement for more than 10 years and we hope to continue in this promising approach for our youth." Mr. Lamothe took part in today's Challenge, while Québec en Forme presented their resume "Pour un Québec en Forme".

**FOLLOWING ON PAGE 3
FOLLOWED FROM PAGE 1**

Word from councilors



FLORENCE BENEDICT,
Councilor

Kwai,

Already a year as Councillor! Time flies and so much remains to be done.

I would like to thank all those who encouraged me with their kind words in my moments of doubt over the last year, which helped me improve and continue to represent you.

Here are some of the events which have attracted attention in recent weeks:

- The relocation of the Post Office at 58 Waban-Aki street, effective November 15, which will undoubtedly improve access for our elders and people with reduced mobility. We are still waiting for the push button to open the door automatically.



- Ms Marcelle O'Bomsawin, in charge of the Odnak community library, in collaboration with the Department of Education, organized a trip to the Montreal Book Fair on November 19th for all members of the community wishing to attend. This activity was a great success with almost thirty participants. At the Fair, we had the opportunity to meet some well-known artists and celebrities. Some of us even took some pictures with their favorite authors. It was a wonderful day!

- The official opening of the Odnak community library was held on November 30 (AWIKHIGANIGAMIKOK), which means "THE BOOK HOUSE" in Abenaki. Nearly sixty people attended the event. Guests included Chief Rick O'Bomsawin, Councillors Alain

and Claire O'Bomsawin, Alain Laroche from INAC, the mayors of Pierreville and Saint-François-du-Lac, as well as our priest/missionary Mr. Pierre Houle who blessed our new library. The library was relocated to 102-B Sibosis street (formerly the Band Council offices) as of September 14.



- The 43rd Annual Gathering of Members of Quebec Native Women (QNW) was held from December 2 to 5, 2016 at the Sheraton Hotel in Laval. It goes without saying that it was a meeting filled with emotion on account of the recent events in Val-d'Or. Several topics were discussed, such as the Descheneaux case, the charges that were not taken against Val-d'Or police officers and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls that will soon be opened. During the same weekend, elections were held to elect the President. Ms. Viviane Michel was re-elected for a third term. We would like to congratulate Ms. Michel, a woman of heart who is very committed to her members.

- On December 9, Councillor Mr. Alain O'Bomsawin and I went to the inauguration of the Recyclo-Environnement plant, located in the Sorel-Tracy industrial park. Recyclo-Environnement is a processing and shredding plant for electrical and electronic parts as well as other materials.

This company is committed to ensuring that materials are recycled and reused according to state-of-the-art methods throughout Quebec. Recyclo-Environnement also offers an integrated material management service (IT asset management, furniture, appliances, etc). It is interesting to note that their collection and processing services are entirely free for a wide variety of products.

The Recyclo-Centre is a socioprofessional integration company that allows people who are far from the labor market to acquire specific skills and knowledge. Nearly ten members of the Odnak community have benefited from this program and are now, for the most part, hired on a permanent basis. This company also participates in the integration and valorization of individuals in order to contribute positively to the society. For more information, I invite you to contact them: 450-556-0791.



Mr. Benny Watso, production director, Ms. Marie-Andrée Sirois, director of the Recyclo-Centre and Recyclo- Environnement, and Ms. Jacynthe Sirois, former director of the Recyclo-Centre.

There is always a bit of nostalgia around the Holiday season.

We naturally think of the people who have left us recently or who have been gone for some time, people who are alone for the Holidays and families in need. The Holiday season is a time of forgiveness, sharing and reconciliation. Don't hesitate to make a call to your relatives or to visit them.

Hoping you all had a very happy Holiday season. I wish you all a wonderful New Year filled with joy, health and prosperity.

Looking forward to talking to you soon.



RÉJEAN OBOMSAWIN,
Councilor

Kway Mziwi Wôbanakiak,
DEAR FELLOW ABENAKI PEOPLE,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a prosperous 2017 with your family and loved ones.

EDUCATION

I am pleased to announce that Abenaki language courses will resume in 2017.

LAND

The progress of this file is proceeding normally. In fact, as these lines are being written, a second meeting is scheduled for December 2016 to draft a Land Code to better manage and administer our land. This process will continue for two years for a final production which will be the subject of a public presentation.

SOMETHING NEW ON OUR COMMUNITY RADIO!

I am delighted to host a radio show on CKBN 90.5 beginning in January 2017, every Monday from 8 to 9 pm. This show will be devoted to a series of subjects dealing with history, culture and language, through songs, music, tales and legends, interviews, etc.

I invite all of you to tune in on 90.5 FM beginning in January. For suggestions, please email me at: obomsawinr@gmail.com. For those living outside Quebec, remember that you can also tune in via the CKBN.ca website.

KCHI NIWASKW (THE CREATOR) PROTECTS YOU!

Réjean OBomsawin

Land//Education/Social Services Councillor at the Abenakis of Odnak Council,

Representative at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki

Word from councilors



CLAIRE O'BOMSAWIN,
Councilor

Hello to you all, members of the Abenaki community,

Here is a brief overview of the various files I have taken part in over the last few months.

Meals-on-Wheels to resume in January

The Meals-on-Wheels service began at the end of last August. It was a great success since around 38 elders took advantage of this food service. Please note that Meals-on-Wheels has been on holidays since December 18 for the Holiday Season and will resume on January 18 with a small change. Customers will now have to pay \$ 2 per meal.

A Charter of Rights for elders; a first for First Nations

Elders will soon have a charter of rights combining several recommendations such as the

right to age with respect and dignity. Note that when this charter is completed and approved, I will ensure that it is published in the Pilaksw. I am proud of this project as we will be the first Aboriginal community to have such a charter. I would also like to thank the members of the Council who eagerly support my requests concerning elders. Otherwise, elders would not benefit from all these services. This valuable support is therefore greatly appreciated.

Odanak Christmas Drive (guignolée): a real success!

The Odanak Christmas Drive, which took place on November 19, allowed us to raise a total of \$ 2,430. Thanks to these generous donations, we will be able to offer our usual gifts, i.e. gift cards, turkeys and hams, to nearly 50 families in the community. I would like to thank all the volunteers for their participation and also the members of the FNCFS team for their support. Without you, the success of this event would not have been possible.

I hope you had a great Holiday season with your family! I wish you all a happy new year filled with love and health.

We will talk again in the spring.



ALAIN OBOMSAWIN,
Councilor

Hello to all Abenaki members,

I hope 2016 ended well for all of you. I would like to take this opportunity to make a small recap of the various files in which I am involved.

Catholic Church

Minor repairs were carried out and support was provided for the establishment's administrative component. In addition, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by the many volunteers in preparing and presenting the Christmas concert. All proceeds will be paid directly to the Church.

Anglican Church

The exterior electrical connection was repaired and a request for financial support has been made to the Diocese of Montreal in order to carry out major repairs to the building.

Cultural policy

As agreed with the Executive Director of the Abenakis of Wôlinak Council, Mr. Dave Bernard, following the change of Chief, discussions concerning the cultural policy file will resume. In addition, the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) team will join this file as partner.

Presbytery

Concerning the presbytery, the Report on the Condition of the Building required by the Conseil du Patrimoine du Québec will be ready within a few months. We will then be able to re-apply for financial assistance. I would like to remind you that it was mandatory that the Report on the Condition of the Building be forwarded to the Conseil du Patrimoine du Québec so they may make an informed decision concerning our application.

Restaurant Le Calumet

Good news regarding the rental of the Restaurant Le Calumet. Indeed, the restaurant was leased to a member of the community and his spouse. I will inform you of the next developments concerning this issue in the spring edition of the newspaper. I would also like to encourage you to support local businesses.

In closing, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year, in health, happiness and prosperity.

CHALLENGE STANLEY VOLLANT

OUTCOME OF THOUSAND OF HOURS OF WALKING

The Stanley Vollant Challenge is an annual event that marks the end of months of effort to accumulate kilometers of walking, as with the "Wli Pmossaw8gan-Bonne marche" walking club project that was set up for the Abenaki people of Odanak and Wôlinak by the First Nations Child and Family Services of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki.

As part of this innovative project, elders and children were invited to join an intergenerational movement to prompt people to move together and gather around Aboriginal culture and tradition.

The Abenakis of Odanak Council is proud to recognize that the people

of the community have taken genuine steps to improve their lifestyle by participating in individual and group walking sessions. For the elected representatives of Odanak, the Stanley Vollant Challenge is thus the logical outcome of strong community action, bringing together the people and all community partners.

To follow the Innu Meshkenu project and Dr. Stanley Vollant on social media:

facebook.com/Innu.Meshkenu
facebook.com/DrStanleyVollant
twitter.com/Innu_Meshkenu
twitter.com/DrVollant

MATHIEU GRAVEL Coordonnator,
Innu Meshkenu's Project

NATIONAL SAFETY COURSE IN THE HANDLING OF FIREARMS AND INTRODUCTION TO HUNTING WITH FIREARMS



Dates : 25-26 FÉVRIER 2017

Time : 8:00 AM

**Place : Odanak Community Centre
58, Waban-Aki Street, Odanak (Qc) J0G 1H0**

A maximum of 30 participants is admitted to this course.
FREE for all band members of Odanak*

**THE COURSES MUST BE PAYED IN ADVANCE,
BY FEBRUARY 24, AT NOON.
(76\$ - HANDLING / 45\$ - INITIATION)**

The courses must be paid cash, directly at the Abenakis of Odanak Council or by mail, by money order or by check in the name of:

**Abenakis of Odanak Council
104, Sibosis Street
Odanak (Qc) J0G 1H0**

For information and registration, please contact the reception of the Abenakis of Odanak Council at 450-568-2810
(IMPORTANT: Please note that the course is given in French)

**NEXT PUBLIC ASSEMBLY
March 25th, 2017 at 1:30 pm**

**For more information
450 568-2810**

Word from Management



DANIEL G. NOLETT
Executive Director
Abenakis of Odanak Council

Kwaï mziwi !

Thanks to the \$ 64,491 grant from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) under the First Nation Infrastructure Fund (FNIF) and the \$ 40,000 contribution from the Band Council, we have successfully completed the relocation and redevelopment of the Odanak library in the Council’s former conference room at 102 Sibosis street.

The post office was also relocated to where the library was, in the annex to the community centre, located at 58 Waban-Aki street. This annex allows better access for people with reduced mobility, among other things. The

former post office premises, at 62 Waban-Aki street, will now be used by the Environment and Land Office to store filing cabinets and files.

The second project approved by INAC as part of the FNIF consisted in the development of a pedestrian trail to ensure the safety of students walking to the Kiuna Institution. This trail is nearly completed. At the time of writing these words, all that remained was to install the streetlights for lighting the trail. This trail built on the former railroad track, along Route 132, is a project with a total value of approximately \$ 646,000, of which \$ 605,138 is from the FNIF.

We also installed a “canopy” style dome to store abrasives and de-icing salts used for our roads, sidewalks and parking lots in the winter. This represents an investment of \$ 30,000, almost all of which will be funded by INAC. However, funds are unfortunately not available for this year. Grants should be provided next year. This project will now allow the community to be self-sufficient in terms of abrasives and de-icing salts, which was not the case before. We will no longer depend on suppliers in the area with whom we used to do business, and whom were not always available

when our Public Works needed them most, i.e. during snow precipitations or ice storms.

We have begun construction of a semi-detached residence building (CMHC, Section 95) at the end of Managuan street, behind the semi-detached units located at 7 and 9 Skamonal street. This project represents an investment of \$ 350,000 and should be ready for rental around February or March. In addition, we will soon conduct a viability project for twelve (12) additional residence lots by extending Mgezo street and looping it to Managuan street. This work will be carried out on the former CN land which has become reserve land since May 2015. This project represents an investment of \$425,000 and is eligible under INAC as part of the clean drinking water and community infrastructure program.

We are still awaiting a response to our requests for funding made to INAC and Canada Economic Development. We submitted requests for funding for repairs required at the Abenaki Museum. This includes work on the roof’s terrace, the old building’s window wells, painting the porch, eaves and columns, etc. We will keep you posted...

Last September, new exercise modules were installed in the pool

park so that young and not-so-young people can enjoy and get in shape. They will also be used by the Odanak Health Centre’s fitness program, in particular the cardio-military program. An amount of \$ 25,000 has already been invested in this project, not to mention the \$ 17,000 grant from the MRC Nicolet-Yamaska Pacte Rural. The planned investment was almost \$ 40,000, but it ended up totalling only \$ 25,000.

The Council has undergone some changes in the last few months. We would like to acknowledge the arrival of Ms. Lucie Michaud on August 29 as Assistant Executive Director and in charge of Human Resources. She has over 18 years of management experience, including human resources management. In addition, Ms. Julie Gagnon, Economic Development Officer, has been in charge of the housing department since late November. She took over from Ms. Karine Gill in June 2015. Finally, following the departure of Ms. Emilie Paquin, biologist with the Odanak Environment and Land Office last August, we have hired Mr. Samuel Dufour as biologist. He therefore takes over from Ms. Paquin for environmental projects in Odanak.

Have a good winter! Wli pbon!



SHORT COLUMN ON THE ABENAKI LANGUAGE

From now on, we will present a short Abenaki language column in each edition of the Pilaskw so you may learn a little more about our language. Let's begin with the months of the year.

First, it is important to know that in Abenaki, 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 language vocabulary: 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”. 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” must sound like the “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 it is before a consonant, is pronounced as an “o”. Finally, the “o” is really pronounced as an “o” and not as an “a”.

January	Alamikos	prayer month
February	Pia8dagos	month when buds burst open
March	Mozokas	month for moose hunting
April	Sogalikas	month for sugar making
May	Kikas	month for field planting
June	Nokkahigas	month for hoeing and tilling
July	Tmaskikos	month for grass cutting
August	Tmez8was	month for cutting and harvesting
September	Skamonkas	month for harvesting corn
October	Pnibagos	month when leaves fall
November	Mzatanos	month when rivers freeze
December	Pbonkas	winter month

THE ABENAKI COUNCIL OF ODANAK HAS NOW A FACEBOOK PAGE



Kwaï,

A new Facebook page is now online! It is now possible to easily have access to information and relevant news about the Council and the Abenaki Nation of Odanak !

LIKE & SHARE en grand nombre !

Go to the following address :
<https://www.facebook.com/conseildesabenakisodanak/>

Wliwni !



Ndakinna's Office

DECLINE OF THE YELLOW PERCH POPULATION

Nation's position on the recovery of yellow perch in Lake Saint-Pierre

Yellow perch (m8m8lamagaw) in Lake Saint-Pierre. Recently, the Nation has undertaken various measures to improve the situation, such as identifying priority spawning grounds to be restored and redeveloped. However, the Nation has noticed a lack of response from the government on this issue, opposition from the agricultural community and a lack of commitment by certain key stakeholders for implementing an effective recovery strategy for yellow perch in Lake Saint-Pierre.

In this context, the elected representatives of the Odanak and Wôlinak Councils recently took a stand to support any action that could help restore yellow perch in Lake Saint-Pierre. They have commissioned the GCNWA's Ndakinna Office (Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki) and colleagues from the Environment and Land Offices of both communities to represent them on this issue.

Causes for the decline and solutions

There are numerous and diverse causes for the decline of yellow perch, which can be summarized by overfishing in the 1980s, habitat degradation and the deterioration of water quality. More precisely, the current issues identified include:

- many infrastructures, such as roads and culverts, impede its free movement;



- encroachment by agriculture into its spawning habitat, such as shorelines;
- contamination of water by fertilizers and pesticides.

In this sense, the Nation expects the Government of Quebec and other stakeholders to take effective measures to address these issues. Increasing access to quality spawning grounds is a first step. The Government of Quebec must also impose changes to current farming methods.

Improvements may include:

- expanding shorelines;
- reducing and optimizing the spreading of fertilizers;
- transitioning to crops without stripping the soil bare.

Such modifications would improve the quality of water in Lake Saint-Pierre and of yellow perch habitats.

To have any hope for these yellow perch stocks to recover, global mobilization and a genuine political commitment are necessary. To incite political will, the public must imperatively impose some social pressure.

The W8banaki Nation is therefore committed to mobilize and disseminate information and seek external support. For more information on the yellow perch situation in Lake Saint-Pierre and to view the Nation's full position, please consult the yellow perch tab on the GCNWA website: <https://gcnwa.com/en/yellowperch/>

Hoping for the recovery of yellow perch in the near future,

Karine Richard, Wôlinak
Environment and Land Office

Samuel Dufour, Odanak
Environment and Land Office

Hugo Mailhot Couture,
Ndakinna Office

Marie-Ève Samson,
Ndakinna Office

This position is a joint initiative from the Odanak and Wôlinak Environment and Land Office and the GCNWA Ndakinna Office, with support from several Lake Saint-Pierre fishing community members and support from the Abenakis of Odanak and Wôlinak Councils.

For comments or questions, please contact Hugo Mailhot Couture, Project Manager at the Ndakinna Office.

T: 819-294-1686

Email: hmcouture@gcnwa.com

Commemoration

You are – or you know – a veteran or a first responder?

Kwaï mziwi,
Hi everyone,

With remembrance month just recently passed we would like to take this opportunity to ask everyone if you have a family member or a friend who served under the flag, no matter what period or country, to help us create a data bank in order not to forget them and be able to commemorate their service.

This data bank that would include all pertinent information and photographs of their service, (i.e. name, service number, when and where did they join, what branch of the service, missions or theatre of war, etc.).

Luc O'Bomsawin

lucobom@videotron.ca

Culture

You are an artist, artisan or professional?

Kwaï mziwi,
Hi to all,

In the elaboration of the cultural policy we have stated that we would like to create a data bank of our artists, craftpersons and professionals of our nation. I you are one of them and would like to be included in this data bank please send us your coordinates (name, address, phone number) and all other pertinent informa-

tion concerning you or your realizations. This bank will be used to create a registry of expertise and competencies from which a booklet will be produced and therefore augment your visibility for those who are interested in acquiring your services.

Send your information to:

lucobom@videotron.ca

Luc O'Bomsawin

Odanak Environment and Land Office

New to the office!

A new biologist has joined Odanak's Environment and Land Office.



The Odanak Environment and Land Office has hired a new biologist to replace Ms. Émilie Paquin; his name is Samuel Dufour-Pelletier. Originally from the Gaspé region, and having lived in many corners of Quebec during his studies and professional career, he now resides in the magnificent Centre-du-Québec region. His

passion for the outdoors took shape during his visit to La Pocatière to complete his degree in bioecology technology. During these three years, he expanded his knowledge on many natural inventory techniques and on habitat development. He then attended the Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR) to complete his Bachelor of Science in Biology (a specialty in research on the management of wildlife and habitats).

During this period, he felt it was essential to learn more about the functioning and principles governing the dynamics of animal populations and their interactions and issues related to their habitat. Through his studies, he has had the opportunity to work on numerous contracts in the field of wildlife (spruce budworm epidemics, nesting of wild turkey, impact of

roads on the American marten, acquisition of knowledge on striped bass, modeling habitat selection of snowshoe hare and red squirrel, characterization of forest harvesting at the provincial level, etc). Following a contract of a few months as a technician with the Ministère de la Faune in Gaspé, Samuel decided to continue his academic training at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC). He then began a Master's degree on the effect of supplementation of deadwood and cavities in the boreal forest in order to reduce the impact of forest rejuvenation on species associated with deadwood (e.g. woodpeckers, owls, squirrels, and several types of insects).

The final phases of his work are still ongoing to ensure the transfer of the knowledge acquired and to promote the impact that this may have in the forest environment.

Needless to say, in his spare time he is busy with many outdoor activities such as hiking, ornithology, hunting and fishing. A true enthusiast!

The team welcomed him with great pleasure and excitement earlier this fall to represent the interests and values of the Abenaki people of Odanak on a traditional and environmental basis. The reality of First Nations is not a new concept for him, since he has many Innu people within his family (Matimekush-Lac John). Spending time with these people on a regular basis allowed him to better understand the importance of Mother Earth for everyone. Emphasizing the ability of the Abenaki people of Odanak to manage and protect their natural resources will represent his primary mandate.

The 6 commandments of recycling

1 Accumulate plastic bags in a single bag and put only a "ball" of bags in the recycling bin

The Employees at the recycling centre spend their day sorting plastic bags. By only putting a ball of plastic in our bin instead of dozens of individual bags, we are helping them. In addition, plastic films that do not stretch (pasta bags, bags of chips, cereal bags) cannot be recycled and must go in the trash.

2 Remove papers from the publicity bags (publisacs) to separate the paper

Plastic and paper must be separated when sorting. We only have one or two publicity bags (publisacs) to empty at home, while at the sorting centre, several

employees are strictly responsible for emptying thousands of these bags every day, and it's overwhelming sometimes.

3 Empty food containers and rinse them

Leftover food in containers attracts vermin at the sorting centre. They are literally overrun with rats not to mention the odour stemming from the sorting centre during hot summer days. Please wash the containers and avoid leaving food in them.

4 Put only plastic containers with recycling numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7

It's false! Although we might want it to be different, ALL plastics without a recycling symbol go in the trash. In

addition, plastic number 6 is still not recyclable, so it must also go in the trash. Before putting a plastic in the recycling bin, look for the symbol. Similarly, caps should be removed from containers and discarded if they do not have a recyclable symbol.

5 Put only the proper metal food containers and papers in the recycling bin

Let's talk about metal. Only small containers such as canned foods, beverage cans or aluminum plates and aluminum foil can be recycled. Scrap metal goes to the junkyard. In fact, non-recyclable metal is very dangerous for the equipment at sorting centres and can damage the sorting machines and even injure the employees.

6 Put in the trash what is not recyclable

Other products which cannot be recovered otherwise go directly in the trash. Here are some examples: bags of chips, chocolate bar wrappers, clotheslines, ropes for bales of hay, lights, Christmas lights, CDs, styrofoam, toys, broken dishes, diapers, sanitary napkins, cat litter, dead animals.

Would you like to see some actual pictures of the sorting centre's operations? Visit the Facebook page of the Odanak Environment and Land Office, in particular the photo album titled Visite du site d'enfouissement et du centre de tri (tour of the landfill site and sorting centre) which is accessible to everyone (even for those who do not have a Facebook account).



The 2016-2017 Odanak Environment and Land Office team:

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.

The Odanak Environment and Land Office team 2016-2017 :**Michel Durand, Luc Gauthier, Samuel Dufour-Pelletier, Christopher Coughlin, Kenny Panadis, Danny Gill and Steve Williams**

Odanak Environment and Land Office

62 Waban Aki Street, Odanak, Quebec, Canada, J0G 1H0
Tel : 450-568-6363

e-mail : environnement@caodanak.com

Web : <https://caodanak.com/> - Facebook

Odanak Environment and Land Office

Project Ideas for 2017

The Environment and Land Office will evidently pursue its efforts for the recovery of species at risk on the Odanak territory with significant financial support from the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk. Herewith is a list of ideas for projects that are under development and that will possibly be realized in 2017-2018 if the necessary grants are made available to us.



GRAY PARTRIDGE

The gray partridge – or Hungarian partridge – is a game species found in agroforestry areas in southern Quebec. Although hunting is permitted in the fall, there is virtually no knowledge of Quebec population dynamics.

The Environment and Land Office may therefore join a team of government researchers to monitor certain individuals (using transmitters) and describe their winter and nesting habitats. This information may be useful in finding solutions to reduce a very serious threat to farmland birds, which is the intensification of agricultural practices.



Hickorynut

This is a freshwater mussel species that has been detected in parts of the Saint-François River. This mussel is currently considered endangered in Quebec due to several factors such as the introduction of invasive species (zebra mussels), water pollution by agriculture and industry, and fragmentation of habitat by many dams. We are therefore planning to conduct an inventory of several areas of the river in order to detect its presence and to further characterize the habitat used. This project is all the more interesting, considering the close link that this species has with the Abenaki people and the making of *Wampum*.

KABASA

Last spring, several cooling periods combined with a drying-up of the river caused by a hydroelectric dam significantly disrupted the reproduction of lake sturgeon in Drummondville. We therefore concluded it would be useful to attempt to resume the project in order to determine the longer-term impact of water flow management on the spawning activities of this species.

SECOND MARSH

A development project is planned for the summer of 2017 to restore fish movement, including yellow perch, and will be located between the second marsh and the Tardif channel. A dike will also be built to slightly increase the water level and thus expand the area of habitat available for the spawning of yellow perch.

BIRDS AT RISK

We plan on identifying several types of forest, urban and marsh habitats to establish the presence of three species of birds at risk in Canada; the Canada warbler, the chimney swift and the least bittern. This would be a first step in laying the groundwork for the development of their habitat with a view to improving and contributing to their protection.

BATS

Bats are currently in a pitiful state in several parts of Canada on account of the white-nose syndrome; a small fungus with a very high mortality rate. This adds to a host of other threats such as loss and modification of habitat, disturbance in caves, expulsion from properties, pesticides, etc. This is why we consider it appropriate to report on the situation on the Odanak territory. In doing so, population and habitat inventories will be conducted with a view to identifying concrete measures to promote their recovery.

Capsule «Species at risk in Odanak»

CANADA WARBLER



The Canada warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) is a small brightly coloured forest bird measuring 12 to 15 cm in length. The Canadian population of this species is about 2.7 million individuals and corresponds to 85% of the world's breeding population. Long-term data from the Breeding Bird Survey suggest that the species declined by 4.5% per year between 1968 and 2007; this amounts to a loss of approximately 85%, and it continues to this day. In the summer, the Canada warbler is found in a variety of forest types, but it is most abundant in wet and mixed forests with a well-developed shrub layer. In winter, the bird migrates to South America where the quality of its habitat is mediocre.

In Odanak, inventories conducted in 2009 by Luc and an amateur ornithologist made it possible to detect its presence on Île Ronde, along the Koak trail, and at the Domaine Pierreville. Its nesting areas remain to be confirmed...



MUSÉE DES Abénakis

Increased summer attendance

The 2016 summer tourist season was very good for the Musée des Abénakis: an 11% increase in attendance was noted, which represents more than 4,800 visitors for the months of June, July, August and September 2016! This increase is the result of numerous advertising campaigns in which the Museum participated as well as the exceptional exhibitions presented here last summer.

Moreover, Essence of a Nation, by the Abenaki artist Joyce Panadis was warmly welcomed and congratulated by Museum visitors. The three live drawing seminars she hosted during the summer were also appreciated by our clientele. Many of you also came to discover the work by this talented artist. Thanks to all!

The outdoor exhibit, REGALIA – Native Pride, also received positive feedback from visitors as it invited them to an authentic meeting with First Nations. The structures built to support the panels for REGALIA – Native Pride will be reused in the coming months to present magnificent photographs from our photo archives. To be seen as early as next spring.

In addition, for a second time, the Odanak Historical Society, in association with the Société historique de la région de Pierreville, is proud to show the

photographic exhibition Paul Comtois; Emblem of a Region, presented until March 12, 2017, which highlights the life of the lieutenant-governor, tragically deceased 50 years ago in a fire.

Also, from March to May 2017, the Museum will host the exhibition Mirror of a People: the Works and Legacy of Zacharie Vincent. It will present the work of the famous Wendat painter: self-portraits, paintings, drawings and photographs will be exhibited and interpreted.

Wôlinaktegkw archaeological project

In August 2016, the Musée des Abénakis conducted an archaeological excavation project in Wôlinak and along the Bécancour River. Archaeologist Geneviève Treyvaud and archeology student, Roxane Lévesque, carried out some forty surveys on the entire Wôlinak territory. Surveys essentially revealed that the terrain has been significantly disturbed over recent years: the landscape has been greatly altered, notably during the construction of the railway bridge in 1972.

Despite all these disturbances, an archaeological site was nevertheless uncovered in the village. Wooden remains (probably a staircase), several ceramic sherds as well as a piece of pipe were discovered. Although further analyzes of material culture are still to come, the archaeologist mentions that the site likely dates back to the late 18th century and would have been occupied until the 20th century.

Surveys were also conducted on Île Montesson (island): several artefacts from the period of the French Regime were uncovered.

According to historical sources, Jesuits from Trois-Rivières had built a small mission on Île Montesson in 1669 to Christianize the Abenaki people passing through the region. Pierre Robineau from Bécancour moved to Île Montesson and built several buildings, including a church. The site discovered by the archeology team would therefore be associated with this late 17th century occupation.

Excavations will resume at this location in 2017 in order to better document this first mission and its buildings: several Abenaki dwellings, two churches, a manor and a mill.

New employee in the permanent MDA team

Due to a marked increase in the number of group visitors (schools and interest groups), the Musée des Abénakis has created a permanent position. We therefore hired Ms. Zoé Hannis-Grandmont, member of the Odanak community, who is in charge of animation. Her responsibilities include providing groups and tourists with guided tours of the Museum, exhibitions and the Catholic Church, answering questions about Abenaki and Aboriginal culture, and participating in the promotion of our educational program. We welcome her to the Museum team! You are invited to come meet her from Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

Archaeological publication

Through an \$ 81,000 grant from Canadian Heritage, the Musée des Abénakis is currently working on a publication project that will provide an update on the results of archaeological research conducted between 2010 and 2014 in Odanak and along the Saint-

François River and what the research revealed about the history, occupation of the territory and the ancestral ways of life of the Abenaki First Nation. This Museum's initial publication will target the general public, history buffs and archeology specialists in First Nations issues. This reference book will highlight the most important artefacts discovered during these excavation campaigns. The publication's launch date is planned for the end of March 2017.

Annual general assembly

The Odanak Historical Society's annual general assembly was held on September 25. The 2016-2017 Board of Director Members remain unchanged: Suzie O'Bomsawin, President, Helen Watso, Vice-President, Marjolaine Lachapelle, Secretary, Jacques T. Watso, Florence Benedict and Jean-Clément Gauthier, administrators.

Sixth edition of our fundraising event

As part of its 2016 fundraising campaign, the Musée des Abénakis will present the 6th edition of its benefit cocktail on March 23rd. This event is a unique opportunity to discover the artistic and culinary wealth of First Nations.

If you would like to get involved by donating a work, or if you would like to book your ticket, call 450 568-2600 as of today.

Amounts raised during the event will contribute to your Museum's educational and cultural missions.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

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

**DEVENEZ MEMBRE DU MUSÉE DÈS AUJOURD'HUI !
BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MUSEUM TODAY !**



**Et bénéficiez d'une gamme de privilèges !
And enjoy a host of benefits !**

MUSÉE DES



Abénakis

108, Waban-Aki, Odanak
450-568-2600
www.museedesabenakis.ca
info@museedesabenakis.ca

