W8BANAKI PILASKW

NEMIKWALDAMNANA LET'S REMEMBER

October 4th is a significant date full of emotions and memories for the Abenaki community of Odanak. 256 years have passed since the infamous event recognized today as Rogers’ raid.

A LITTLE HISTORY...

By stepping into the past, it is important to remember the different alliances with the French and the establishment of Abenaki warriors near the Saint-François River in the late 17th century. Many raids carried out by the Abenakis ensued in New England on several English villages. During this period, and even since the beginning of the colonial wars, the Abenakis were perceived by European colonizers as fearsome warriors. Because of these conflicts and the reputation of the Abenakis, General Jeffrey Amherst ordered Major Robert Rogers and his rangers to destroy the largest contingent of Abenaki warriors then established in the Saint-François village, now called Odanak. History tells us that at this time of year, the majority of warriors normally present in the village were absent and military surveillance was at its minimum. Thus, at the dawn of October 4, 1759, Rogers’ soldiers arrived in Odanak, taking by surprise the villagers while women, children, and elderly men were killed during the massacre. Almost all the houses were burned and the same occurred to the Catholic Church and its treasures were looted.

Upon his return to New England, Major Rogers reported having killed at least 200 Abenakis. However, it is likely that he greatly exaggerated the actual number in order to justify his own casualties. He would have likely killed around 30 people, most of them women and children.

Today, the Abenaki people commemorate in their way this sad event which has marked their history. They remain proud to proclaim their existence as a Nation. For the occasion, an event was held on October 4 to honour those who perished in the attack, which occurred 256 years ago.

VIGIL FOR MISSING OR MURDERED ABORIGINAL WOMEN

During the same event, in collaboration with Aboriginal women from the Abenaki Nation of Odanak, an event was organized in support of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. The event is part of a national movement while most activists are asking the federal government to hold a public inquiry into these murders and disappearances to better understand the factors that lead to the fact that Aboriginal women have a higher rate of violence in a higher proportion than the rest of women in Quebec and Canada. For nearly 30 years, more than 1,200 Aboriginal women have disappeared or have been murdered in Canada. Proportionally, this number would equal 8,000 Quebeckers and 30,000 Canadians.

While several vigils were held across the country, the community of Odanak also took part in the event, inviting the local and regional population to participate and express themselves. People were invited to come and share their concerns regarding violence towards women, children and even men or to honour the people who have experienced violence or who have fought back. A candlelight vigil ended the evening, to honour their memory, while nearly 50 people came to show support for this cause.

Word from the Chief

Let me begin by wishing you all a very happy new year. Also, I would like to thank you for your support, giving me the opportunity to represent you as Chief for yet another term. As we embark upon this coming mandate we do so taking into account, the issues and concerns raised by you the members of our band throughout the electoral process, the main thread being our Nation’s unity.

In the last term we experienced a movement which is beginning to redefine our priorities. Community based models, in their embryonic stages, are replacing old models developed by strangers, unfamiliar with our community needs. We are proud to support these initiatives often spearheaded by community members. Many of these activities help us connect our current reality to invaluable threads from our history’s rich heritage. Our services and programs have already begun to reflect our values in their development and implementation. We must not give up on this important process. The culture committee is a perfect example of the change that can be achieved with the investment of our members.

Another very important initiative is taking place in our family house where members of our community are providing educational support our children, thereby improving their chances for academic success. Keep up the good work!

In an initiative that has bridged a regional project with our community, Kiuna Institution the First Nations College, is now talking autonomy and expansion. This talk encourages many of us at the Chief’s table who continue to defend our children’s rights to a quality education.

As a strong believer in this project I will continue to highlight and support the successes of this initiative. The relentless efforts of all involved will, without a doubt through its successes, influence other governments to remain partners in this project. This project not only promises but has also proven that we can have a hand in building a better future for our community as well as for the larger First Nations community. Moreover, Kiuna has recently crossed borders in welcoming their first students from our American Abenaki community. At the local level this possible expansion also means more opportunities for both employment and self-development.

As you can see our community is continuing to grow and develop. However this has not been without its growing pains. We have encountered some hurdles in building a sustainable economic base, the current council is very careful in taking the next step concerning the Calumet restaurant. We are exploring our options. Rest assured that we are working hard on salvaging what we can from this initiative, both economically and socially.

We can celebrate our successes and learn from our failures. The biggest gifts we take from our experiences are the lessons that help us keep building our community stronger. With your support, we can continue to work hard on achieving a strong, sustainable foundation for the generations to come.

In peace and friendship,
Chief Rick O’Bomsawin
**Word from Management**

**DANIEL G. NOLETT, Executive Director**

In my last article, I wrote that the construction of the administrative office building was over. As of July and August, only the parking lot work remained, i.e. installing streetlights, benches and garbage cans. This was completed in September. The parking lot work was carried out by Danis Construction in September. The parking lot work amounted to $250,000. We received a $28,000 grant from AANDC for LED streetlights.

Starting in the winter of 2015-2016, our public works employees shall be responsible for snow removal operations, spreading de-icing salts and abrasives on our streets and sidewalks. With the help from a funding program from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, we were able to purchase the necessary equipment in order to carry out these operations.

As for the former administrative office building, the lease was finally signed with the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki. We have agreed on a five (5) year lease with an option of five (5) additional years. The Grand Conseil will occupy the premises as of January once the renovations are completed.

Regarding the challenge of Section 6 and its discriminatory impacts, we obtained a favourable ruling from the Honourable Justice Chantal Massé of the Superior Court of Quebec over the summer. As expected, the government of Canada has appealed the decision. We are waiting to know the exact moment when the Federal Court of Appeal will hear our case.

All seven (7) commemorative bronze plaques, which had been stolen in the fall of 2014, were installed on the grounds of the Catholic Church and the Anglican Church. Restoration work had to be carried out on the monument located next to the Odanak Chapel, which was built in 1961. Due to its condition, this work was essential prior to installing the three (3) new plaques. I remind you that replacing these plaques has totalled nearly $40,000. A large portion of these costs will be covered by our insurance.

Finally, I would like to announce that the lands that were owned by the CN during a certain period have officially become reserve land again. We received confirmation by the Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada on May 14. A little history: in the weeks following the destruction of the CN bridge after the fire in 1974, the Council at the time had taken steps with the CN so that CN lands be returned to reserve land. The CN had officially abandoned the idea of repairing or rebuilding the bridge in 1989. It was only starting in 1992 that steps taken by the Council actually progressed. Due to the presence of hydrocarbon contamination, negotiations dragged on.

This is because the Council decided in 2012-2013 to decontaminate the CN land and therefore the case could move forward and finally become reserve land again over the summer.

Finally, following the recent elections to the Council held on November 28, and following the Council meeting held on December 21, 2015, it was decided that the elementary school project for Odanak would be abandoned. It could not be shown that the project was financially feasible and viable.

With the Education Partnerships Program (EPP), which was finally renewed until 2020, we can continue our partnership approach with the La Riveraine school board and with our elementary schools on the territory (Maurault and Vincent Lemire) to namely integrate in the curriculum certain elements of our history and culture.

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**Word from councillors**

**Réjean O'Bomsawin, Councillor**

Kway Mziwi Wôbanakiat,

**Claire O'Bomsawin, Councillor**

Kwaï!

**DEAR ABENAHI PEOPLE,**

I would first like to thank you for choosing me for another term to represent you in good standing within the Abenakis of Odanak Council, and thus maintain my seat at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki.

I will pursue my work with respect, professionalism and determination, always interested in hearing your needs in order obtain the necessary resources to meet these short and long term needs.

Also, I would like to mention that, on December 18th, Maude Courcesne graduated as police at the École nationale de police de Nicolet. I was very proud to be present at this event. Congratulations Maude and I wish you to have the best career.

I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016.

**KCHI NIWASKW (THE CREATOR) PROTECTS YOU!**

**Réjean O'Bomsawin**

Councillor at the Abenakis of Odanak Council

Hello to all, members of the Abenaki Nation.

I am happy to announce that, for an other year, I have been elected as councillor in the last election of the Abenakis of Odanak Council. Once again, thank you for your support. It's because I still have the sacred fire, and in my opinion serving the people is a privilege with great responsibilities for the individual wishing to become involved, such as I am. I think the core values to put forth in politics are righteousness, a high sense of responsibility, sound judgment and courage. These principles have never failed me.

I have always given my best, no matter the task or file entrusted to me. I have never shied away from controversial topics or important decisions, because I have too much respect for the people I represent.

I am proud and I love this community where I grew up and which I have seen evolve. I am proud of the previous generations who have managed to retain our culture and traditions with makeshift means compared to those we have today.

My greatest wish is to see the young generation prosper, take the rightful place in our community and in society in general, while recognizing that their rights have been acquired at great cost by their ancestors, and they must honour them.

Thank you so much for your precious support.

Respectfully

**氯**
Word from councilors

Florence Benedict
Councillor

First of all I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

I would also like to thank all those who supported and encouraged me during the last election campaign which was intense and filled with emotion!

A special thank you goes out to Ms. Denise Watson for organizing the debate held in Albany, New York, on October 24, as well as to Mr. Jacques T. Watso for the debate held on November 15 at the Odanak community hall. I would also like to thank the people of Trois-Rivières for their warm welcome last fall.

At our very first meeting, held on December 7 at the Odanak Band Council, I was assigned the various files I will represent as an elected official, which include:

- Library
- Early childhood centre
- Musée des Abénakis (Abenaki Museum)
- Water board
- Public security

I am very excited and looking forward to this new challenge as Councillor for the next two years. I have a positive and constructive outlook for the future of our Nation and of our community over these next few years.

Thank you for the trust you have shown me,

All the best,
Florence Benedict

Alain B’Bomsawin
Councillor

Kwai,

I want to thank my family and all those who gave me their support in the last election. I was assigned the various files as an elected official, which include:

- Health
- Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki
- Anglican and Catholic Church
- Cultural Policy

I wish you my best wishes of health and happiness for this new year!

Update on Taxation

On the regional level, talks and negotiations are still underway on the many taxation issues that affect you, both as a first nation’s consumer and/or businessperson. These issues include:

- Specific tax which is integrated in the cost of certain goods (tobacco, alcohol, gas)
- Taxes on stock delivered to reserve
- The claiming mechanisms for taxes paid for on reserve purchases
- Taxes paid for the delivery of purchased goods to the reserve
- Exemption of sales taxes for purchases off reserve

As fiscal representative for the Regional Chief’s assembly I will provide you with more news on this file as we go further along in these negotiations.

Chief Rick O’Bomsawin

Next Public Assemblies

January 30, 2016
AT 13h30

For more information
450 568-2810

WINTER TIRES

Remember:
From December 15 to March 15 inclusively, all taxis and passenger vehicles registered in Québec must be equipped with winter tires. This requirement also applies to passenger vehicles rented in Québec as well as mopeds and motorcycles.

However, there are some exceptions:

- Exemption for the first 7 days following the purchase of a passenger vehicle from a dealer;
- 7 days prior to the expiry of a long-term lease (duration of one year or more);
- for a passenger vehicle on which is affixed a removable license plate (“dealer” plate or “X” plate);
- for a passenger vehicle on which is affixed a temporary registration certificate (transit), for a period not exceeding seven days from the date of issue of the certificate;
- for a motor home (motor vehicle permanently designed to serve as permanent self-contained living quarters);
- for the emergency tire of a passenger vehicle or taxi;
- for a motorcycle used as an emergency vehicle as defined in Article 4 of the Highway Safety Code;
- for a vehicle for which a certificate of exemption for winter tires was issued by the SAAQ.

Investigations

With regards to the investigation conducted by the SPVM (Service de Police de la ville de Montréal), on allegations of sexual assault against Aboriginal women in Val-D’Or, our investigator Mylène Trudeau was named by the Ministry of Public Security in Québec to assist by lending her expertise to the investigation. In fact, Ms. Trudeau was recruited because she has the training and experience required to provide support for police officers already in charge of the investigation. Once again, we can observe that your Police Force plays an active role in the communities, even at a provincial level.

Eric Cloutier
Director Abenaki Police Force

From December 15, 2014, only tires with the snowflake icon affixed or tires with spikes are recognized as winter tires by the Highway Safety Code.
Cleaning out your medicine cabinet in 5 steps!

1. Choose the right place
Medications should be stored in a dry place, away from direct light, protected from extreme cold or excessive heat, and out of the reach of children. Keep products requiring refrigeration in the fridge, but not those that don’t. Read the labels to ensure you are following storage conditions.

2. Check expiration dates
From prescription medications to natural products, get rid of expired products. Keep in mind that some products, such as antibiotic syrups and eye drops, can expire before the date on the label once opened.

3. Only keep what is necessary
Don’t keep medications that are no longer necessary or have had to be stopped because of side effects. Always keep medications in their original containers and dispose of those you cannot read the label.

4. Check your medication carefully
Put aside all medication that seems altered, whether by appearance, taste or smell, as well as what was not stored properly. If in doubt, consult your pharmacist.

5. Dispose of medications safely
Never throw out your expired medication in the trash or flush it down the toilet or sink. To ensure medication is disposed of safely, return them to your pharmacist.

Isabelle Dupuis
Nurse

References:
http://www.usherbrooke.ca/fr/conseils/faites-le-menage-de-votre-pharmacie.html, consulted October 6, 2015
http://www.mins.gouv.qc.ca/sgt/organisationsmedicales/medicaments-donnees.php?d=13546d91f5649296f27a88f5d1643d4,
consulted October 6, 2015
http://www.quebec.gouv.ca/fr/AGrand-public/compportement-responsable/emenage-de-la-pharmacie/, consulted October 6, 2015

In order to ensure a healthy environment for your children, here are some tips that might be helpful.

1. Washing hands
Hand-washing with warm water and soap after going to the bathroom, touching animals, and before every meal helps to prevent infection and reduce exposure to harmful substances your child may have touched.

Tips for hand washing include:
• Use warm water.
• Lather soap for 10-15 seconds. Any soap will do.
• Have your child(ren) sing a favourite song while hand-washing to help them wash for a longer time.
• Rinse hands and dry well with a clean towel.

2. Taking shoes off when you come inside
The soil outside your home can contain a number of substances you do not want inside. Taking your shoes off when you come inside is one way to reduce the amount of these substances in your home.

3. Preventing breathing problems

Outdoor air
• Listen to the radio or watch television reports for information about air quality and smog advisories. Plan your day based on this information.
• Consider limiting or rescheduling physical outdoor activities on smog advisory days when air pollution is more harmful than usual.
• Reduce exposure to motor vehicle exhaust by limiting physical activity near heavy traffic areas, particularly at rush hour.
• Stop unnecessary vehicle idling. This is an easy way to help improve the air quality in your community.

4. Protect child(ren) from the sun
Too much sun can be harmful.

The sun’s ultraviolet (UV) rays can cause painful sunburn and lead to skin cancer. This is especially true for babies and children because their skin burns easily.

To protect your child(ren) from the sun:
• Do not use sunscreen on babies less than 6 months old. Keep them in the shade.
• Dress children in protective clothing (light colours with long sleeves and pants), including a broad brim hat, AND use sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15 whenever they are in direct sunlight.
• Be sure to use lots of sunscreen lotion and reapply every two hours as well as after swimming.
• Keep children out of the sun between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun’s rays are strongest, unless they are well-protected by clothing and sunscreen.
• Take extra care on days when the UV level is high.
• Don’t think that children are safe just because it’s cloudy. The sun’s harmful rays can get through fog, haze, and light cloud cover.
• Bring water or some juice for your child(ren) to drink when they are outside.

Andréeanne Gouin
Responsible for Community Health (RCH)

**Culture shock**

Different mobility contexts can cause culture shock. Whether through migration or defined-period stays (studies, internships, employment contracts, etc), one can hardly escape the turbulence!

However, before we discuss culture shock, it is important to clarify that there is another shock that comes before. Namely, the shock between the imagined stay before actually leaving and the real stay! Before leaving, everyone has expectations and ambitions. Everyone dreams about the trip, but just like anything, there is a gap between what is dreamed about and what actually occurs. This gap causes the first disruption experienced by someone traveling abroad.

Then there are environmental, administrative and socio-cultural differences, which are likely to shake the newcomer. The more significant the differences are, the more the culture shock is likely to be important.

**Question: how can we explain culture shock?**

First, it is important to mention that nothing in our culture prepares for cultural differences. Culture offers representations on most major differences as part of the human experience such as the difference between humans and animals, between men and women, between youth and the elderly, etc, but it does not introduce questioning about its own difference (Kaes, 1998). In other words, culture does not present itself to the individual receiving it as one culture among others, but rather as a universal fact (we are all the same!). In doing so, when other cultures, different, are experienced, this may be considered as an unpleasant surprise or transgression.

Second, with a lack of preparation for cultural differences, individuals often use their own cultural references to interpret the behaviour of people of other nationalities. For example, a Quebecker may interpret the behaviour of an Italian using Quebec cultural references rather than resorting to Italian cultural references. The Italian who refuses to go to the kitchen to talk with his Quebec host may well be perceived by the Quebecker as haughty because Italians simply do not go to the kitchen and leave the entire decision-making process for this area to their wives. For Quebeckers, being in the kitchen is considered being friendly, but for the Italian, it is less manly. In other words, whatever our nationality, we do not always consider what it means for the other, in their own culture, to adopt such behaviour. Each individual evaluates and interprets with his own cultural baggage.

Referring to their personal code, the other person’s response may thus be seen as alienating or racist.

Third, it is important to mention that relationships between people of different cultures cause changes in all those who are involved in these relationships (Demorgon, 2005). As we have seen, the questions that people of different nationality must address are the same: relationship with nature, sexual differences, generational differences, etc, but the answers to these questions vary greatly from one culture to another. Culture shock is also caused by the change within oneself resulting from the contact with others. It is important to mention that there is more to be developed than our own culture allows with its responses and its symbols. Contact with other cultures makes certain parts of the individual accessible which have not emerged so far in the individual’s original cultural environment. This too can cause shock, during the period where the integration of these new parts of the personal identity are developing.

Wli pemkannow8ganal,
Sol Rivard, Ph. D, Psychologist
Odanak Health Centre / Tél.: 450 568-6766

References:

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**Depression and physical activity**

In industrialized countries, mental disorders affect 20% of women, 14% of men and 20% of children (mild depression). Depression would be the cause for 15% of work absenteeism (round-belly get-together). As the name so aptly implies, the workshops are designed to provide the necessary for the patients to find their own motivation so that these changes are sustainable. Please do not hesitate to inquire about the services offered at your community health centre.

Jessica Papineau B. Sc.
Kinesiologist

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**Wapan Rehabilitation Centre**

André Gill
Addictions worker

A new French speaking program with a 34-day therapy at Wapan.

The Wapan Rehabilitation Centre now offers a 34-day therapy, since August 23, 2015. In order to adapt to the needs of its First Nations clientele, the Wapan Rehabilitation Centre now offers, since August 23, 2015, a new 34-day program based on the A.A. 12-step model, including cultural and traditional elements. This new program was inspired by the current best practices and standards for residential treatment for Aboriginal clients.

For more information, please contact the Odanak Health Centre at 450-494-1267, extension 228.

You can also visit the Wapan Rehabilitation Centre at www.wapan.ca

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**Here is a little news from your family hall**

**Hello everyone!!**

- Attendance has increased significantly. For the homework assistance program, we have increased from 12 children enrolled last year to 19 this year. We have had several newcomers!

- A series of new workshops has begun at the Odanak family hall. In collaboration with the Odanak Health Centre, we are presenting workshops entitled “Midi Bedon rond” (round-belly get-together). As the name so aptly implies, the workshops are designed for Odanak mothers. This is an opportunity to chat with each other and learn certain things concerning topics related to motherhood, such as breastfeeding, childbirth, the baby’s arrival, etc.

- The W project will begin in November for the community’s youth, aged between 9 and 17. Children aged between 5 and 8 will also have a small role in the process. This year, new projects focused on sustainable development will be implemented. You can already mark on your calendars that the event will be held Saturday, May 7, 2016.

Remember to check out notices sent out by the FNCFPS team, including the monthly program schedule for the Café Chak wa.

Jenny B. O’Bomsawin
ENVIRONMENT AND LAND OFFICE ODANAK

New from the Odanak Environment and Land Office

KABASA

This spring, the team was monitoring lake sturgeon (Kabasa) spawning grounds in the Drummondville area. Similarly the last year’s project, scientific fisheries caught 53 mature sturgeon (measuring over a meter). Sexing of certain fish through a surgical operation performed by a veterinarian helped identify seven mature females. The biggest female weighed 17.89 kilograms and measured 1.45 m. Using the technique of «capture, tag and recapture», it is estimated that the number of sturgeon that spawned in Drummondville in 2015 was 143, which includes 24 females. We also delineated several egg deposit sites by collecting over 600 lake sturgeon eggs. Finally, we collected 79 lake sturgeon larvae in our larval drift nets. Again thank you to our special sorting team: Joanne Brunet, Kenny Panadis, Priscilla Watso, Denise Panadis, Diane Nollett, Gorgette Nollet, Charles-Williams Normand, Claire Laramé, Charlotte Gauthier, Nashua Watso, Justine M’Sadoques and Réjean Sadoques.

This project is funded by the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

KABASA 2015 IN PICTURES

CAPSULE «SPECIES AT RISK IN ODANAK»

CHANNEL DARTER

The channel darter (Percina copelandi) is a small fish measuring between 3 and 6 cm as an adult. It is light sand or olive in colour and has round spots along its characteristic sides. It is found only in North America. It is considered a species at risk in Canada. The little information on the abundance of the species in Quebec suggests that the population is declining. In fact, this species which is intolerant to pollution occurs in very specific and restricted habitats. In the Saint-François River, this fish occurs on gravel shoals nearby rapids. This species is particularly vulnerable to sudden changes in water levels, which are common in the lower area of the Saint-François River.

As information on this fish is lacking, the Odanak Environment and Land Office is conducting a two-year project to document the presence of the species in the Saint-François River between Drummondville and the St. Lawrence River. This summer, we walked the Pierreville islands and the Bélier area in search of potential habitats for the species. We also carried out seine fishery activities using minnows and we identified all the species caught during our search for channel darter. We caught channel darter only in the Pierreville islands in 4 of the 25 fishing stations set up. We had already found individuals in 3 other places in the Pierreville islands since 2013. The Pierreville islands are therefore a preferred environment for this rare species.

This project is funded by the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Management of Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) in Odanak

HHW

Hazardous household waste (HHW) includes products that are found in our homes and which are either dangerous to health or hazardous to the environment. They require special attention for the safety of the community, and in order not to contaminate landfills.

How to dispose of these products:
• Keep leftover products in their original containers.
• If this is not possible, use sealed containers and specify the nature of the product on the container.
• Bring these products on the concrete slab inside the HHW collection when open in front of the doors when closed.

The collection site is located near the community hall on Wa ban Aki street.

LIST OF HHW

Oils:
• All vegetable or synthetic oils
Paint:
• All paints (even if they froze)
Fluorescent bulbs and neon lamps:
• Screw-in bulbs or neon (unbroken)
Batteries:
• All types of batteries (rechargeable or not)
• Batteries for electronic devices and tools
Electronic devices:
• Cell phones, computers, televisions, other
• Wires for electronic devices and accessories
Flammable products:
• All aerosols (insecticides, deodorizers, oils, insulating foams)
• Propane and butane (small tanks)
• Waxes, glues, fondue fuel, antifreeze
• Solvent (varnish, thinner, paint stripper)
• Varnish
• Chlorine, ajax, peroxide
Toxic products:
• Pesticides, insecticides, algacides, other
• Veterinary products
Corrosive products:
• Acids or bases
• Scale removers, Dr. Tuyau
• Drano, cleaners, ammonia, bleach
• Thermometers and other mercury-containing products

For more information and pictures on these projects, visit our Facebook page: Bureau environnement et terre d’Odanak

Thank you, Wi l w ni

The Odanak Environment and Land Office team – summer 2015: Christopher Coughlin, Mathieu Lavro, Julie Pommaville (intern from the UQAM), Luc Gauthier, Émilie Paquin, Steve Williams and Michel Durand

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Website: http://www.wchodanak.com/environnement-et-terre.html
Ndakinning: Our Land – Project Progress

Since the last progress update for the project “Ndakinning: Our Land” in July, much has been achieved! The second phase of this study to paint a portrait of traditional activities practiced by Odanak and Wobinak community members is almost complete. This stage of the study, the biographical mapping survey, is a research method developed by First Nations in Canada. It now represents an essential tool in terms of affirmation of territorial rights.

After discovering early in project that the majority (over 90%) of the Abenaki people who responded to the preliminary survey practiced or have practiced in their lives fishing, hunting, trapping, gathering or collecting traditional materials, we are currently working to establish the specific places where these activities are practiced. This step requires significant time. In fact, some of you who participated in the survey were able to recognize the effort required to record on a map where you hunt, fish, trap and gather resources. But for us, the work is just beginning! These maps must then be scanned, and all the information they contain must be carefully converted into computer data.

But it is well worth the effort. The processing of approximately 25 interviews is now complete, and already almost 2,000 points have been listed in our database. There are two thousands locations where Abenaki people have practiced a traditional activity, and others will be added! These data speak for themselves, and we will undoubtedly demonstrate the extent of the Abenaki presence on the current Ndakinnina.

One last step will remain after the Holidays break: to conduct semi-structured group and individual interviews to explain the data, to allow the team to better understand the significance of these traditional practices for you.

We are therefore relying on you, once again, to participate with as much enthusiasm and dedication!

Wliwini!

For more information or to access more detailed results, please contact us (hmcouture@gcnwaa.com or 819-294-1686). In addition, the new version of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki contains a section dedicated to the project in which you will find the most updated information about this project along with related publications. Take a look at http://gcnwaa.com/projet-nakinning/

News from the M8wwa Committee!

Camping on Île Ronde
In partnership with the Abenakis of Odanak Council, the Odanak Health Centre, the FNCF and the Ndakinning Office at the Grand Conseil, the M8wwa Committee has developed a camping project on Île Ronde. The activity took place on June 20 and 21, 2015. The experience was wonderful along with the participation of several people from the community. The project seems to have been appreciated and we are already planning the second edition! Wliwini to all those who have contributed in different ways to the implementation of the project!

Traditional gathering site: Wigodi
We have completed the installation of the Wigodi site near the community in September. We would like to thank Chief Rick O’Bomsawin for helping us set up the tipi. A huge THANK YOU also goes out to the Environment and Land Office and the Council for their technical and financial support. We have already removed the tipi and the poles before the snow begins falling. Book your calendar for next year for the formal inauguration!

Youth forum
The 4th edition of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Youth Forum was held from August 7 to 9. Marc-Olivier, Mathieu, Jennifer, Stefanie and Suzie attended the forum! Due to the non-renewal of funds allocated for the Youth Network by the Youth Secretariat and the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, the Forum’s scope was greatly reduced. From a hundred participants at the 3rd edition, there were only thirty for the 4th. Also at this forum, participants attending elected the new spokespersons for the next two years:

Female spokesperson: Mélodie Jourdain-Michel from Mani-Utenam Substitue: Jennifer O’Bomsawin from Wendake/Odanak
Male spokesperson: Wayne McDougall from Pikogan Substitue: Shotehra Rice from Kahnawake

Congratulations to the new spokespersons!

Film screenings
During the summer, the Committee held two outdoor screenings at the church square. We viewed La ligne rouge by Kim O’Bomsawin and 3 histoires d’Indiens by Robert Morin. We will resume the indoor screenings at the family hall in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for the next screening dates! Also, a huge thank you goes out to Kim O’Bomsawin for having generously attended to present La ligne rouge. A remarkable film and a must see!

Nemikwaldamnana and a vigil for murdered and missing Aboriginal women
M8wwa Committee members would like to thank the members of the organizing committee for the vigil for murdered and missing Aboriginal women and for the commemoration of Nemikwaldamnana. A touching and unifying event. Wliwini!

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions concerning the M8wwa Committee or the activities that the members of the Committee do!

If you have project ideas. If you want to get involved with the Committee. Contact us!

Wliwini. M8wwa Committee members

Visit our Facebook page Comité M8WWA Committee
News from your Museum

Summer traffic increased!
The 2015 summer season provided a very nice surprise: a 21% increase in customer traffic! We can attribute this increase to the reputation we received as a result of the prestigious awards won in recent years for our various projects, of our exhibit at the Domaine Tante in Drummondville, as well as our latest temporary exhibit and the advertising made. I would like to remind those who have not yet had the opportunity or those who would like to visit once again the exhibit Kizin8nninska kassigaden! The Musée des Abénakis: 50 years Young! That admission to the Museum is now free for all registered Odanak and Wôlinak band members. Take advantage of the opportunity to purchase the exhibition catalog which includes the 50 eye-catcher objects from our collections which were selected by 50 people who have animated, supported or built the Abenaki Museum. Moreover, along with the works by Jean-Claude Dupont, you now can discover the collection of Ilnu figurines produced by the artists Jourdain and Genest. These thirty small dolls were given to us in 1986 by the Odanak Band Council at the time. Guests are invited to come and see this Ilnu collection until June 2016.

Launching of the virtual exhibit!
The virtual exhibit Fort Odanak: 1704-1759. The search for traces of a fortified Abenaki village has been officially launched! With a grant of $248,500 from the Virtual Museum of Canada, this exhibit, accessible at www.fort-odanak.ca, describes the establishment of the fortified village in Odanak, the lives of its occupants and its destruction in 1759. It proposes to discover the ancestral territory of the Abenakis, which at the time extended from the Atlantic coast of northeastern North America to the St. Lawrence River, and then situate the current Abenaki community, in the 21st century. You will discover the history of Fort Odanak built around 1704 near the Saint-François River and many artifacts unearthed during the four years of excavations. During your visit, you will relive the fascinating history of this fort, unique in North America, and relive the conflicts that led Abenaki groups to settle at Odanak. It walks you through the steps taken by the team of archaeologists along with Abenaki youth in order to better understand the lifeways of the people who inhabited this fortified village.

Annual General Assembly
The Annual General Assembly of the Odanak Historical Society was held on September 14. The 2015-2016 Board of Directors members are: Suzie O’Bomsawin, President, Helen Watso, Vice President, Marjolaine Lachapelle, Secretary, Jacques T. Watso, Mathieu O’Bomsawin-Gauthier and Jean-Clément Gauthier, administrators. We wish to thank all the members for their efforts and for their commitment to the success of several projects, including the benefit event in 2015. Also, during this evening, Monique Nollet-Ile received the title of honorary member of the Odanak Historical Society. She therefore joins Ms. Alanis O’Bomsawin, Ms. Annette Nolett, Ms. Thérèse O’Bomsawin-Gaudet and Mr. Fernand R. O’Bomsawin, who have all also received this title at the previous annual general assemblies.

Fifth edition of our fundraising event
As part of its 2016 fundraising campaign, the Abenaki Museum shall present, on March 24th, the fifth edition of its benefit cocktail. This event is a unique opportunity to discover the artistic and culinary wealth of First Nations. The money raised at the event shall contribute to the educational and cultural mission of your Museum. Tickets are now available. Book your place soon!

Appointment to the Abenaki Museum
It is with great enthusiasm that the Odanak Historical Society Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the Abenaki Museum announced the appointment of Mathieu Gauthier-O’Bomsawin as Deputy Director of the Museum. Holder of a bachelor’s degree in administration, specializing in human resources, Mathieu shall collaborate in the management of material and financial resources at the Abenaki Museum. Ms. Bélanger shall provide mentorship so he may eventually succeed her. We welcome Mathieu within the Abenaki Museum team!

Suzie O’Bomsawin, President

GATHERING OF WOMEN
RAISING AWARENESS ON OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

OUR ABENAKI IDENTITY!
DEFENDING OUR FUTURE GENERATION

ABORIGINAL PRIDE

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION OF THE WABANAKIS NATION!

JANUARY 23, 2016 FROM 10:30AM TO 12:30PM
AT ODANAK’S ALSNBAWI Hall
115 WABAN-AKI, J0G 1H0

➢ General information on the Quebec native women inc (qnwiw) association
➢ Review of the 2014 minutes
➢ Election of members
➢ Open discussion on the 2016 activities
➢ A community lunch will be served

Clariﬁcation: Here’s the text that should have appeared in the last edition of the Wabanaki Pilaskw, in July 2015.

Word from the Chief
Kwai fellow Band members,
Reconciliation is the act of causing two people or groups who were once friendly again after an argument or disagreement. The disagreement here was one sided, it was of a group that thought itself superior, who thought it best to do away with what they perceived as not being necessary in our world; a culture other than their own. The roots of the original people who seen as “less than” were of no consideration to those who at the time were in places of power. The results were generations of futile suffering. We now know that to be the truth!

Over the course of two generations many attempts were made at doing away with our nations. But now, the idea is turning the face of our communities and giving our place of civil liberties and respect as First Nations people. More than any other time in history we have the social space to be who we are and intend to be, a strong cohesive people.

The balance is returning.
Taking initiative as a community member and as a member of mainstream society, we contribute to the learning and sharing of our culture, language and history will allow us to begin to heal, acknowledge and celebrate who we are as a people.

It is through our culture and communities that we will heal the wounds resulting from a time where we were seen as a problem to be done away with. The shame and abuse experienced by our people just because of our race is no longer acceptable. The lateral violence within our communities must also come to an end. Our children and their children deserve better!

There is a final very important reconciliation necessary at this time in our world and that is the internal one. We must let go of the ties that bind us to destructive feelings such as hatred and shame, those we have internalized that rob us of individual and community wellness. We must let hostility be replaced by positive activities that continue to contribute to a healthy environment, one that no longer harbours hate. We must work together to restore the pride in our heritage, for this and future generations.

There are many initiatives that foster community healing and wellness. Contact your family house to learn more about them. It’s time to get on board, if you are not already. Many members have skills that can be taught to our children and grandchildren and initiatives are in place to welcome those teachings. Our community is buzzing with constructive activities that call upon the knowledge of our elders to be shared with the next generation. Initiatives such as the summer day camp program, canoe and camping activities and other community gatherings give such activities. Let’s get involved!!!!!

In peace and friendship,
Chief Rick O’Bomsawin