



News from your Museum

Fifth Edition benefit cocktail of the Musée des Abénakis



For the fifth consecutive year, friends and partners of the Museum met on March 24 to participate in our annual benefit cocktail. Thanks to the contribution of the 75 guests who attended the event as well as many partners, the Museum is proud to announce that it has raised \$20,000, which will help our educational and cultural missions.

Again this year, the Musée des Abénakis invited guests to discover the contemporary culture of the Abenaki First Nation. The culinary discovery of the evening was given for a fifth time to the chef Steve Bissonette from the restaurant Sagamité, located in Wendake. In addition, a silent auction offered 12 artworks produced by native and non-native artists and craftspeople, including four Abenaki artists. A huge thank you goes out to Carmen Hathaway, Christine Sioui-Wawanoloath,

Jacques T. Watso and Joyce Panadis. These art pieces delighted all the guests in attendance. Finally, a draw for a getaway package in Essipit including two nights in a condo and a whale watching cruise was won by a lucky community member: Daniel G. Nolett. The Musée des Abénakis sincerely wishes to thank all its partners and guests, without whom this event would not have been as successful!

(continued page 8)

Word from the Chief



Kwai fellow band members,

In our current reality as first nations people we can't help but be impacted by the suffering in our sister communities with the ripple effects of generations of undignified experience. As First Nations we must continue to look at how our history is consuming our future and the power we

give to others for our outcome. We also want to look at how we can bring support and work together to address issues that keep leading to ongoing suffering. I want to say that my prayers are with those touched and affected by the current waves of tragedies.

Rebuilding our communities in a way that can help our children know and be proud of their roots is of primal importance. Gathering together and taking an active role in our community, near and far is contributing to strengthening and healing our nation. Reconciliation requires our restoring the core of our communities. The heart, the compassion, the collaboration once enjoyed by our people is what will be needed to restore a united force from which we can build a solid base for the generations to come.

We are currently reviewing programs, services and policies, to ensure healthy efficient working environments, thereby improving the services for our members and their families. We are also updating our employee manual to address concerns and issues raised in the last term, which compromised our advancement as a nation.

There is no doubt that the reality of existing factions cannot be ignored as an element that impacts much of the discord not only in the work environment but also in the community environment. We must continue to try and identify what we as a nation think of as our priorities and address them, together.

In peace and friendship,
Chief Rick O'Bomsawin

**ABENAKI
POWWOW
ODANAK**

KOLIPAÏÔ

JULY 1ST, 2ND & 3RD 2016

Welcome

**Black Hawk Singers
Buffalo Hat Singers
Aw8ssisak Akik**

FOLLOW US ON



Word from councilors



Florence Benedict
Councilor

Kwai,
Five months have passed since the last election. Pending files are going well and we are progressing slowly but surely.

The plans for the refurbishment of the library, located at 102 rue Sibosis, were prepared by the Grand Conseil's engineers, and we will issue a call for bids shortly for the next steps. The objective is to have our new library operational before the summer.

Meanwhile, the expansion of the daycare centre (CPE) will begin soon, which will create 16 new places.



A proposal was made to the Régie I.A.E.P. du Bas St-François that the Council's accounting department could provide secretary-treasurer services for the 2016-2017 fiscal year in the amount of \$14,000.

A basket-making workshop was held from January 24 to March 26 at the Abenaki Museum of Odanak. I would like to point out the professionalism and generosity shown by our elder trainers: Anette Nolett, Diane Nolett and Barbara Watso.

I would also like to thank all the participants: Carole, Lise, Ginette, Johanne, Mélanie, Rosalie, Charlotte, Alanis, Alice and Osalée. A special thank you goes out to Nathalie Cardin (Education Agent), without whom the project would not have been possible.

In closing, I wish you all, dear members of the great Abenaki family, a beautiful summer and may everyone attend the 2016 Pow Wow, held from July 1 to 3.

Thank you and hoping to see you soon.



Claire O'Bomsawin
Councilor

Kwai! Hello to all members of the Abenaki Nation,

I would like to mention that during my term, I will look after the elders' file first and foremost. This does not mean I will devote all my time on this one issue. I firmly believe, as a councillor, that my responsibilities include taking part in the decision-making process for all the initiatives and policies put forward by our Band Council.

During the past year, with the help of Robert Saint-Ours, I developed our policy for elders whose objective is to reduce their isolation and improve their quality of life using all the resources at my disposal in order to best meet their needs. For more information, please feel free to contact me.

Around mid-April, my fellow councillors and I discussed an important program in my view: minor repairs. The purpose of this small inexpensive program is to help elders, families and low-income individuals to repair homes requiring minor or urgent repairs. I eagerly hope this program will be renewed.

I would like to remind you of the importance of attending public meetings, of asking questions and voicing your opinion on issues that affect you. This is the best way for the population to feel they have the power to change things. Your participation and involvement are necessary for a healthy democracy.

To conclude, I would like to congratulate Joyce Panadis for her induction as a signatory member of the Institut des Arts Figuratifs du Québec. This organization only welcomes distinguished artists as members, whose talent and quality of works are remarkable. I invite you to visit the Institut's website to better understand this organization's mission.

Thank you for taking time to read my article.

Best regards



Réjean OBomsawin,
Councilor

Kway Mziwi Wôbanakiak,
DEAR ABENAKI PEOPLE,

I am pleased to undertake this new mandate with objectives that, even recently, have already taken form. I handle primarily the Education and Land files.

EDUCATION

My main objective for this file is to "Broaden our knowledge to ensure the sustainability of our Abenaki Nation through education".

To achieve this, meetings are going well to bring together resources from different services (child care, homework assistance, etc) and school authorities to adequately meet the needs of all members. Also, in the coming weeks, I would like to speak directly with members to better understand your needs and expectations concerning these existing services and identify together the improvements to be made where

necessary. I invite you to participate in large numbers for better efficiency. Regarding the teaching of our culture, we already have educational materials. This is a basic curriculum designed for teaching elementary school students, which I have validated the information included. I therefore intend to propose a systematic implementation of the curriculum in elementary schools so it becomes part of the educational program. This application can be offered and adapted, if necessary, depending on the region where you live, and I can present it to the school boards if needed.

It goes without saying that we need more material to establish a curriculum in high school or even college. Considering that many of you have done advanced studies and now possess various expertise, I would like to extend an invitation to participate on a voluntary basis in a democratic exercise drawing on your knowledge and sharing this with me. The goal is to expand knowledge concerning different disciplines such as applied sciences, astronomy, law, education, to name a few.

Please send me your details by email at obomsawinr@gmail.com so that we may eventually get together and form a permanent round table for Abenaki education. It will therefore become

possible to build a quality education program with factual information about our Nation and thereafter have it implemented in educational institutions and community actions by knowledgeable Abenaki people. Together, the Abenaki Nation will make its mark in education!

LAND

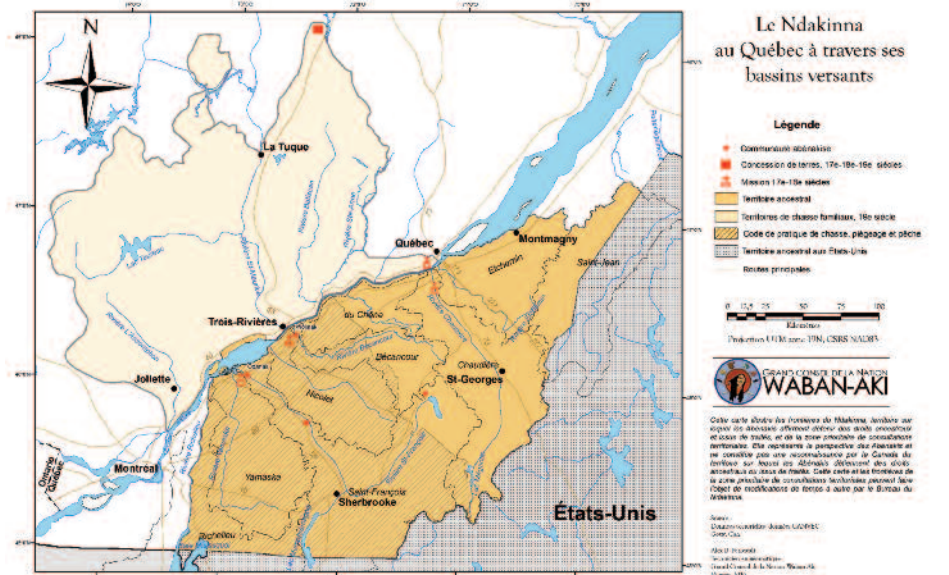
This file is still relevant in my goals as a representative for both the Abenakis of Odanak Council and the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki. I would first like to congratulate the Ndakinna Office team and highlight their hard work informing and educating our people on the importance of protecting our environment and our ancestral rights.

I have inserted below a map of our ancestral territory that we use and which extends over a significant land area. We have occupied our ancestors' territory for over 12,000 years. I am available should you have any questions.

MAY KCHI NIWASKW (THE CREATOR) PROTECT YOU!

Réjean OBomsawin
Councillor at the Abenakis of Odanak Council

Representative at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki



Word from councilors



Alain OBomsawin
Councilor

Hello to all,

Below is a short progress summary of the files assigned to me as councillor:

Restaurant Le Calumet

Since February I've been in charge of meeting individuals who are interested in renting Le Calumet restaurant. At the time this article was written, there had been one visit and five people had shown interest. To be continued...

Churches

A sum of money was offered to the Catholic and Anglican churches to assist employees with administration tasks and/or other property related expenses such as heating, electricity, etc.

Odanak's Anglican Church was inspected by a building construction engineer as well as a structural

engineer to provide an updated condition report of the building. A copy of these reports will be presented to the committee of the St. Francis Anglican Indian Mission Church. In addition, we unfortunately learned that our request for financial assistance from the Québec Religious Heritage Council was rejected. Steps have therefore been taken so that the Anglican Church may qualify for the program.

Health

Certain people have expressed their concerns about the reliability of medical transportation. Indeed, some worry that if for any given reason the designated driver is unable to provide the transportation, there is no replacement. I would therefore like to reassure these people that Ms. Claire Laramée will ensure medical transportation if required.

Cultural policy

An agreement in principle was reached between the Odanak and Wôlinak band councils in the event the position of cultural policy program coordinator was created. This individual would be under the authority of the Waban-Aki Nation. For the moment, we are awaiting confirmation from the Wôlinak Band Council as to their participation in the program.

NEXT PUBLIC ASSEMBLY
May 28 2016 at 13:30 pm

For more information
450 568-2810

Daniels Case overview

Here is a brief summary of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision handed down on Thursday for the Daniels Case, done by David Schulze, from Dionne Schulze law firm. :

ambiguities" that will be resolved in the future – it only decided that "the two groups, however they are defined, are within the scope of s. 91(24)."

- Métis and non-status Indians are "Indians" for the purpose of the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments – "the historical, philosophical, and linguistic contexts establish that 'Indians' in s. 91(24) [of the Constitution Act, 1867] includes all Aboriginal peoples, including non-status Indians and Métis."

- The Court emphasized that it was not deciding whether any group had Aboriginal or treaty rights protected under section. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

- This should not be surprising since the Supreme Court decided in 1939 that the Inuit are "Indians" for the purposes of the division of powers and fall under federal jurisdiction.

- Finally, the Court stated that "finding Métis and non-status Indians to be 'Indians' under s. 91(24) does not create a duty to legislate," meaning the federal government has the power to pass laws concerning these groups, but no obligation to do so.

- Neither the term "Métis" nor the the term "non-status Indian" is defined in the Daniels judgment: the court recognizes "definitional

- If there is no federal obligation to legislate concerning Métis and non-status Indians, we believe there is also no obligation to spend money on them – that remains subject to the government's discretion.

Word from Management



DANIEL G. NOLETT,
Executive Director
Abenakis of Odanak Council

Kwaï aln8bak! Sigwan kizi païa!

We received a letter from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) in February finally confirming they would offer funding of \$93,731 for our snow removal equipment purchased last December totalling \$228,000. A letter indicating our displeasure was sent to Mr. Bruce Labrador, Regional Manager, Capital and housing with INAC. We received a letter from INAC last fall following our request for funding for the purchase of the said snow removal equipment informing us that the purchase of such equipment was admissible without specifying that it would only represent 35%. We had proceeded with the purchase with the understanding that the expenditure was eligible.

We obtained additional funding of \$82,423 from INAC for infrastructure work on the new

administrative offices (fall 2014) and for various repairs to hydrants and streets such as paving repair work (2015-2016). It was like manna from heaven! We had not expected this at all. The sum received allows us to free up funds for other future projects.

At the end of February, Chief Rick O'Bomsawin signed the funding agreement with the Secrétariat aux Affaires Autochtones (SAA) in the amount of \$400,000. This agreement is intended as a new investment in economic development for the Council, which is in Phase II of the construction of an industrial motel next to the existing motel along Route 132. This amount stems from our agreement under our Aboriginal Initiatives Fund II (AIF II) with the SAA. This project was submitted to the SAA in the fall of 2014 and it took them a year and three months to finally analyze and accept our project. The building construction cost is estimated to a sum of \$800,000. If you add the cost of the repairs of the site and the cost for the extension of the infrastructure, the total cost will approximately be 1.5 million. A sum of \$400,000 will stem from the AIF II, while the other portion will be a loan the Council will contract with a financial institution.

The Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki currently occupies the premises of the Band Council's former administrative offices, located at 102 Sibosis, since February, following the renovations completed in January.

Regarding the challenge of Section 6 and its discriminatory impacts, the Government of Canada had appealed the favourable ruling made

by the Superior Court of Quebec in the fall of 2015. In late February, we were informed that the Government of Canada was withdrawing its appeal, and thus the ruling made by the Superior Court still stands. The Indian Act will be amended to reflect this new Court ruling. Certain people in Canada will therefore become eligible for registration once Section 6 of the Indian Act has been amended. However, this may take about a year and a half.

The Council applied for funding from INAC to conduct a feasibility study for offering recreational tourism accommodations on Judge Gill's property. This study will allow us to determine whether the proposed accommodation project in Huttopia-style tents is feasible. In addition, we would conduct a feasibility study for lighted interpretation trails located in the same area. We are awaiting a response from INAC for this study.

In closing, the Council plans to invest about \$50,000 for relocating the Odanak library. We have learned that the library no longer meets the Réseau Biblio standards in terms of surface area. Steps have therefore been taken with Réseau Biblio and technical services at the GCNWA to develop plans and specifications that meet Réseau Biblio standards. However, should this plan not work, we plan to relocate the library in the conference room of the Band Council's former administrative offices.

The work would then begin in the spring.



Looking for Health Risks

What you can do!

Early Spring

- Do not cross a frozen body of water once the temperature begins to rise as unstable ice is not always noticeable.

Sunshine and High Temperature

- Apply a moderate SPF sunscreen (at least SPF 15) and use a lip chap or balm with SPF protection.
- Make sure you consume enough water before and during your time outdoors and make sure you have access to safe drinking water.

Our Animals and Those Pesky Insects Too

- Wear clothing that covers the skin and apply insect repellents containing DEET.

Breathing Easy

- If you have a puffer, carry it with you at all times.
- During poor air quality days, it may be advisable to stay indoors and to limit any strenuous outdoor activity.

The Impact of Environmental Contaminants

Water Sources and Food

- Do not swim, bathe, or fish near drainage sewers or industry dumping sites.
- Avoid direct skin contact with chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, etc.) and use protective gear as appropriate.

Smoke and Fumes

- Avoid inhaling fumes released from products, for examples: kerosene, gasoline and other solvents.

Waste Disposal

- Dispose waste properly - including human and animal waste.

How Climate Change Could Impact Outdoor Life

- Share observations on changes to the environment with your community.
- Monitor food that is stored outside to ensure it remains dry or frozen.

Paule Leiby
Community Health Representative (CHR)

Reference:
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/promotion/public-publique/home-maison/fn-pn/summer-ete-eng.php>

COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN

We recently completed the planning activity for the next five years (2016-2021). The five-year plan takes into account the results from the Community Wellness Study conducted in 2015, along with the data collected to date. The plan will then be submitted to Council for approval for Health Canada.

PHYSICIAN

Since March 2, 2016, Dr. Pascale Robert has been receiving patients at the Odanak Health Centre. Priority is given to members and their immediate family (spouse and children) who do not have a family physician. However, a time slot is also reserved for walk-in patients. Contact the Health Centre for more information.

Have a wonderful spring!

Deny Obomsawin
Health Services Director
Odanak Health Centre

Before You Head Out Into the Bush...

- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back.
- Ensure you have all the fuel, food, clothing, camp gear and clean water you need.

Safe and Clean Water

- Use water purification equipment or bring the water to a rolling boil for at least one full minute before consuming.

Gone Fishin’

- Always wear or have enough lifejackets or Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) on board.
- Make sure your boat, motor are in good repair and always bring paddles.
- When cleaning fish, make sure you wash your working area to avoid contaminating other foods.

Hunting Game and Gathering Foods and Medicines

- Wear durable and warm and bright hunter's clothing.
- Do not use old lead shot.
- Clean shot out of the animal as quickly and as thoroughly as possible to minimize risk.



FIFTH DISEASE

Eruptive disease in pre-school and school-age children

The incidence of an eruptive disease varies from year to year. However, several cases of fifth disease have been observed in 2015-2016.

The disease was so named because it was the fifth disease to be discovered among the group of infectious rashes. This disease is the cause of the virus named **Parvovirus 19**.

It most often affects school-age children (5 to 10 years old), but also extends to adults and infants. It occurs primarily in late winter or in the spring. Its incubation period is around 14 days and its contagiousness from 1 to 5 days before the eruption. It's different from other infections since it begins with red cheeks, giving a slapped-cheek appearance. Thereafter, the rash extends to other body parts, especially the forearms and thighs and sometimes to the rest of the body. Rashes resemble lacelike patterns. In the weeks following the illness, redness may reappear due to stimuli such as exercise, irritation, stress, heat or sun.

Children nevertheless remain in good condition, usually without any fever, sometimes itchy, and adults often have joint pain. Children can attend school since the disease is no longer contagious at the eruption stage. Treatment of symptoms may be required as needed since healing is spontaneous in 2 to 5 weeks. Although benign for children and adults, it can be dangerous to a fetus which may increase the risk of developing severe anemia. When a pregnant woman is exposed to fifth disease, she should consult her physician. There is no vaccine against this disease. The only way to be immunized is to have developed antibodies after being exposed to the disease. It is believed that 50% of adults are not immunized against fifth disease.

If you wish, please contact us at the Health Centre!

Marcelle Hannis
Nurse MCH - Ext. 233

Jean-Bernard Girodias / CHU Sainte-Justine, Montréal / October 2010

Did you know?

CONFIDENTIALITÉ



- There are legal restrictions to access a file?
- Spouses are not the user's representative? Therefore, they cannot sign a consent form to access the spouse's file?
- Parents cannot make a request alone for access to their child's file if the child is 14 years of age or older? The child must be consulted and must give consent. Children must give their free and informed consent.
- If there is a breach of confidentiality by a staff member, sanctions may be applied.

Right to privacy: "Every person has a right to respect for his private life."

Right to respect: "Every person has a right to the respect of his reputation and privacy. No one may invade the privacy of a person without the consent of the person unless authorized by law."

Marie-Pier Nolin (in replacement of Andréanne Gouin)

Quebec health information manager (Medical Archivist)

Reference:
<https://www.agisq.ca/boutique.asp?Typlde=2&MnuPer=0&MnuIde=2>

Administration

Administration of the Indian Register

New procedure for the renewal of an Indian Status card:

Please note that we can no longer send Indian Status cards by mail. From now on, members will have to come to our offices to renew their Indian status card **by first communicating with us to make an appointment**. Members can also request a renewal of their Status card from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) by completing the relevant forms found on their website at: www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca. We can also send these forms by mail. The numbers for these forms are the following:

83-111 (Guarantor Declaration) and 83-130 (Adult Application) or 83-131 (For Applicants Fifteen (15) Years of Age or Younger).

Change of address or event(s)

Remember to contact us in the following cases:

- Change of address
- Death of a status member
- Marriage
- Divorce
- Birth.

Nathalie Cardin

Education

Education Policy

This is to inform you that the education policy – post-secondary component is currently under review.

We invite you to visit our website regularly at <https://caodanak.com/en/>, under the “Services –Education” tab, as information will soon be added in order to properly inform you on the education program – post-secondary component.

For further information about the Department of Education, please contact our agents at the email addresses indicated below:

Ann Landry – Cégep
alandry@caodanak.com

Nathalie Cardin – Université
ncardin@caodanak.com

Car seats for our children



ÉRIC CLOUTIER,
Director of the Abenaki Police Force

Why is it important to keep the child seat facing the rear of the vehicle for as long as possible?

Answer
Head-on collisions are more frequent and usually cause more serious injuries. When the car seat is facing forward, young children are at greater risk of injury. Indeed, their heads are heavy in proportion to the rest of their body, the bones in their spine are not fully formed, their ligaments are loose and their neck muscles are not strong enough to effectively hold their heads in the event of a collision. When children are installed in a car seat facing the rear, the force of the impact is distributed over the entire body rather than just the contact points with the harness straps positioned at the hips and collarbones. In this position, the seat back supports the child’s head, neck, spine and pelvis.

What do the child seat regulations say and what are the sanctions for an infraction?

Answer

Section 397 of the Highway Safety Code (HSC) mentions:

- In a moving vehicle, every child whose sitting height is less than 63 cm, measured from the seat to the top of the head, must be restrained by a restraint system or booster cushion.

- The car seat must:
 - comply with Transport Canada regulations;
 - be adapted to the child’s height and weight;
 - be installed according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

A police officer who observes a violation of Section 397 can issue a fine of \$80 to \$100 and three demerit points. Other fees may be added to this amount. Similarly, the following question was raised:

What are the regulations and penalties for using an outdated car seat?

Answer
Section 397 of the HSC, as mentioned above, concerns the use of the child seat. In this Section, it is required that the car seat be installed according to manufacturer’s instructions. The manufacturer is responsible for determining the expiration date of the seat; it is not a regulatory requirement. Thus, an outdated car seat no longer complies with the manufacturer’s instructions and therefore no longer complies with Section 397 of the HSC. The fine is the same as for any offense in terms of child safety seats, a fine of \$80 to \$100 and three demerit points.

To have your car seat inspected, please contact us at 450-568-3733 ext. 2 to make an appointment with a police officer.



Service to residents only

Access to the Odanak disposal site



- 1.To enter the site and to open the gate, you must be accompanied by a disposal site representative.
- 2.For all disposal projects, contact the Abenakis of Odanak Council to access the site..
- 3.Outside the Council's opening hours, make an appointment in advance with one of the representatives by calling the Council.

Abenakis of Odanak Council 450 568-2810

104, rue Sibosis, Odanak
Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon

Accepted at no cost
Peat and topsoil,
branches and tree trunks,
soil and sand,
dead leaves and grass

Non Accepted at no cost
Stones, cement and asphalt,
lumber, garbage,
any other material

Odanak Environment and Land Office

Forest Area Cleanup

A large-scale clean-up operation took place last fall. For 10 weeks, Luc Gauthier, Christopher Coughlin, Kenny Panadis, Danny Gill and Steve Williams (Odanak Environment and Land Office) assisted by Éric Gauthier (Odanak Public Works) worked hard to clear Odanak's wooded areas of an impressive amount of waste. With the exception of a few sites, the team cleaned all the areas identified in 2014. A total of 5 large containers and 3 metal waste containers were removed from our community wooded areas. Much of this scrap metal (appliances, cars, metal containers, etc) had been there for a long time, back when it was normal to dispose of garbage in the woods. This clean-up operation has resolved this issue. However, we discovered a lot of waste recently disposed of in the wooded areas, mostly large items (furniture, clothes, appliances, etc) and construction waste. In addition, we had to clean-up several camps and caches buried in garbage.

Finally, certain residents accumulate excessive amounts of material on their property. This is not appropriate and could be subject to consequences issued by the Council given the risks to public safety.

Conduct for the common good of our community:

Bulky waste items:

Collection of bulky items is organized in Odanak twice a year. On this day, you can leave these items at the curb, such as old appliances, pool liners, carpets, linoleum, mattresses, furniture, etc. You can therefore accumulate these items and dispose of them for free on these two days. This year collection is scheduled for May 2 and October 3, 2016.

Caches and temporary camps:

It is important to understand that Odanak's wooded areas are the property of all community members. You must pick up your waste when you leave the woods. Other users of these areas should not have to deal with your garbage. Similarly, when you are no longer using your cache or temporary camp, you are responsible for taking it down and returning the site to its original condition.

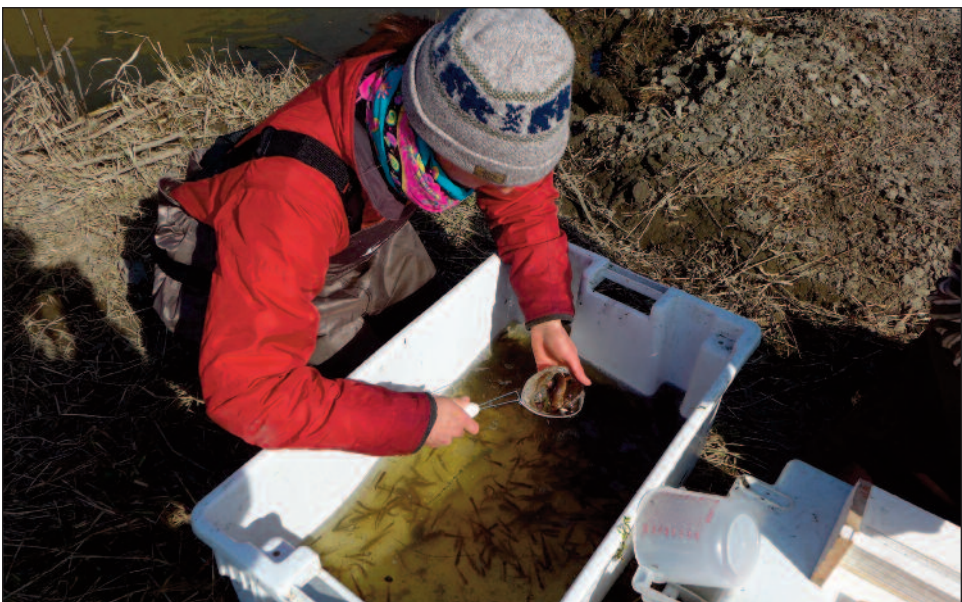
Witness of accumulated waste:

If you come across a pile of garbage while walking in the woods, notify us. We will be organizing other small cleanup campaigns to make the woods clean and safe.

Thank you!



Adult Bridle Shiner



Capsule "Species at risk in Odanak"

Bridle Shiner

The Bridle Shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*) is a small fish measuring from 4 to 6 cm when mature. It is present only in North America. It has large eyes, a dark band along the flanks continuing on a short snout and a black dot at the beginning of the caudal fin (tail).

It lives in grassy areas of rivers and the St. Lawrence River or in the marshes along them. Agricultural pollution and development along the rivers destroying aquatic vegetation and riparian wetlands threaten the survival of this species.

Although they are very common in the Odanak region (in the St. François River and Lake St. Pierre), Bridle Shiner populations are declining in Canada.

In Odanak, this small fish species whose survival is of Special Concern in Canada can be found in the newly created stream between the St. François River and the 1st La Commune marsh. It uses this stream and marsh as a feeding and spawning site. Works carried out for Yellow Perch at the 1st La Commune marsh are also beneficial for this small fish.



Fish identification in the new stream connecting Odanak's 1st La Commune marsh to the St. François River

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



Summer of 2016 Odanak Environment and Land Office team:
Michel Durand, Luc Gauthier, Émilie Paquin, Christopher Coughlin, Kenny Panadis and Danny Gill.

62, rue Waban Aki, Odanak, Québec, Canada, J0G 1H0
Tel : 450 568-6363 Fax : 450 568-6385
odanakenvironnement@gmail.com
Site web : <http://www.cbodanak.com/environnement-et-terre.html>

Energy East Pipeline – A project that concerns us all



View of the map showing the Lake Saint-Pierre's north shore. The red dotted line corresponds to the pipeline planned route, the red dot represents a pump station and fish are fishing sites visited by Abenaki members.



View of the map showing Batiscan (left) and Sainte Anne (right) rivers' mouth. In addition to fishing sites, this map depicts a harvesting site.

Over the last few months, much has been said and written about the Energy East project by the Alberta-based company TransCanada. The project to install a pipeline to transport oil from western Canada and the US to the provinces and refineries in the East, and ultimately allow the export by sea, has become increasingly controversial in Quebec. Since its setbacks in Cacouna, where a deep-water port project was canceled due to the presence of critical habitat for the beluga, an endangered species, opposition to the project has continued to grow.

Several municipalities, along with the entire Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC) have been opposed to the project in its current form, fearing impacts on their drinking water sources. The main reason for their opposition: the proposed pipeline will cross several rivers, near the St. Lawrence River, which together account for the drinking water supply for

a significant number of Quebecers. These municipalities are not convinced of the company's ability to manage a potential spill without it having an important environmental impact.

However, TransCanada has provided a variety of security, prevention and intervention measures in the event of emergencies to ensure the security of its facilities and surrounding resources. During the installation process, where each part is inspected thoroughly, and during operations, state-of-the-art equipment is used and teams of experts conduct real-time monitoring of the pipeline. In the event of a spill, the company ensures they are able to stop the flow of oil within about 10 minutes. Subsequently, according to pre-established intervention plans, emergency teams are mobilized on site to contain and clean up the spill.

How does this pipeline concern the Abenaki people? The planned route by TransCanada through the Ndakinna west to east extends about 200 km. Initially on the north side of the St. Lawrence River, the pipeline would follow Lake St. Pierre over about 5 km and traverse all the tributary rivers. It would then cross the St. Lawrence at Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures near Quebec City and follow the south shore, traversing the Chaudière and Etchemin rivers, and exit the Ndakinna in the direction of New Brunswick. Thus, the project could have an impact on ancestral rights and on our Nation's related interests, especially fishing and waterfowl hunting, in particular on Lake St. Pierre and the St. Lawrence River.

For these reasons, the Ndakinna Office at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki is conducting an assessment of the impacts that the pipeline could have on ancestral rights and on our Nation's related interests. We therefore need your comments and concerns about the project, regardless whether you are in favour or against. Our objective is to consider all opinions in order to help the Nation's elected officials to take an informed position.

In the coming months, we will be offering an opportunity for you to provide feedback to the Ndakinna Office team, which can currently be done now on a confidential basis over the phone, in person, in writing or by e-mail by contacting Hugo Mailhot Couture at the Grand Conseil (hmcouture@gcnwa.com / 819 294-1686).

For further information on the project, on the importance of the consultation process or any other related issue, feel free to contact us or visit us at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki.



View of the map showing the Saint Lawrence River and the Saint Maurice river's mouth. This map depicts a number of sites visited by Abenaki members for their subsistence, ritual and social activities. The white tailed deer represents big game, the hare corresponds to small game while the goose indicates waterfowl hunting.

Maps show preliminary results of the Ndakinna : Our Land study. Up to now, about thirty hunters, fishermen, trappers and gatherers have been met with the aim of identifying sites on the Ndakinna where they practice subsistence, ritual and social activities. These results were examined in relation to the Energy East pipeline planned route in order to determine priority areas and assess the potential environmental, social and economic impacts that the pipeline may cause if it is built.



Suzie O'Bomsawin, Director of the Ndakinna Office
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(cont'd from page one)

The digital age

To provide Quebec museums access to new technologies, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications recently launched a proposal for funding for the creation of innovative digital content. Several institutions have submitted projects to obtain this assistance: the Ministère has received 114 applications and only 35 projects were selected, including the Musée des Abénakis! Thus, in the coming weeks, we will develop a project jointly with outside firms to offer the Museum's clientele a unique immersive experience which will take the form of an augmented or virtual reality featuring our Abenaki collections and ancestral knowledge. You will be informed of developments soon!

Major gifts campaign

Since 2015, the Museum has been developing a major gifts program to find new sources of income and strive towards financial independence. Thus, by joining private partners and foundations, the Museum will develop structuring projects at the cultural, education and tourism level which will allow us to diversify the offer and clientele and thereby increase our own-source revenues.

In fact, we are proud to announce that Hydro-Québec has become our first major partner by joining the Museum and granting us a sponsorship of \$24,000, which will allow more than 500 students from disadvantaged backgrounds to have free access to enriching cultural activities through our educational program. With this donation, students from fifteen schools will have the opportunity to increase their knowledge and consolidate the skills developed at school by actively discovering the lifestyles of the Abenaki First Nation by following the 13 Moon Cycle that makes up a year in the Abenaki view of the world.

Bell has also confirmed a financial partnership of \$5,000 with the Musée des Abénakis to develop a customized education plan. Through this partnership, high school students from the region will have the opportunity to visit the Museum and share and discuss various current issues with their peers from different Aboriginal communities. The purpose of this exercise is to go beyond the stereotypes conveyed nowadays and thereby establish viable and constructive dialogue between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. We will confirm other major partners over the coming months.

Upgrading the permanent exhibition

Thanks to a donation of \$35,000 from the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund (NIB Trust Fund) received last month; we will have the opportunity to update the permanent exhibition Wôbanaki, People of the Rising Sun, which opened 10 years ago already. Some reproductions of objects located in the showroom will be replaced with authentic objects from our collections. In addition, we will use this donation to replace outdated multimedia equipment with current technology, but rest assured, the screening of the multimedia show on the Abenaki creation myth (La Légende de la création du monde) will be preserved!

Must-see exhibitions

Summer is fast approaching and we have several beautiful exhibitions to offer. Do not hesitate to come and see the exhibitions and remember that admission to the museum is free for all registered Odanak and Wôlinak band members!

We will also have the honour of presenting, from June to October, the first solo exhibition of the pencil drawing artist Joyce Panadis. Her works as well as her creative process, anecdotes and photos will be highlighted in this exhibition.

Then, from June to mid-September, the Regalia, Native Pride exhibit will be presented in the Museum's outdoor facility. This exhibit includes 30 portraits of dancers – men, women and children – from 14 different Nations and offers an authentic encounter with First Nations. It provides an opportunity to take a step back from our first perceptions of the Pow Wow tradition and witness the identity and contemporary dimensions.

During your visit to the Museum, come see, or see again, our retrospective exhibit Kizi n8nninska kassigaden (until December 23) which celebrates the Museum's 50 year history.

In addition, for a second occasion, the Odanak Historical Society will partner with the Société historique de la région de Pierreville to present, in the fall of 2016, a new temporary exhibition that will highlight the life of Lieutenant-Governor Paul Comtois, a Pierreville native (St. Thomas).

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

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



Michelle Bélanger

Kwai,

It is with great sadness that I am leaving the Abenaki Museum's senior management team after nearly seven years. However, I'm leaving with a sense of accomplishment. The many projects and eleven awards given to the Museum in recent years confirm that the actions undertaken since 2009 have produced results.

I would sincerely like to thank the Abenaki Museum employees, both permanent and temporary, with whom I had the great pleasure of

working. Your dedication, professionalism and passion for your culture has allowed us to face great challenges and to realize strategic projects for both the Museum and for the community of Odanak. You will always have a special place in my professional life, and especially in my heart.

Members of the Board of Directors: thank you for your trust. From the start, you have supported me in my grand designs, in my desire to position the Abenaki Museum not only on the Quebec scene, but also on the Canadian and international scene. As evidence, invitations received to share our success in Barcelona and Mexico concerning the archaeological project Odanak Fort: The Past Revisited. Thank you for allowing me to experience these beautiful moments.

Chief Rick O'Bomsawin, councillors and employees of the Abenakis of Odanak Council: your cooperation and financial support for the Abenaki Museum confirm your attachment to your cultural

institution. I sincerely thank you for your support and for believing in my vision for your Museum.

Members of the Abenaki community of Odanak: thank you for your hospitality, for your support. Since my arrival in 2009, you have shown me the importance of safeguarding your culture, your heritage. You have shared your concerns and your desire to impart your culture and your expectations for exhibitions and cultural activities. I sincerely hope I have met your expectations, which were never over demanding and always legitimate.

I am leaving with a heavy heart, but with a smile, to face new challenges. I can finally say: mission accomplished! I am handing over the keys to your institution to a young member of your community whose passion for culture resonates. A young man who has shown me in a short time his management skills, desire to succeed, curiosity, creativity and a maturity rarely found; an Abenaki man who is knowledgeable about history,

culture and who shares his experience with pride. From a shy and somewhat insecure interpreter-guide seven years ago, he has proven his readiness to meet the challenge. Mathieu Gauthier-O'Bomsawin has the makings of a great Executive Director. He will need your support, but I am confident you will accompany him as you did me.

From the upper reaches of your river, I will witness in the coming years the achievements of a great team led by a true leader. After all, Sherbrooke and Odanak are only a few kilometers distance. So I say: see you very soon. Thank you for your friendship, for your warm welcome worthy of the Abenaki First Nation. I did not always have unanimous support; it was not the goal. I brought the Abenaki Museum to a higher level; that was my mandate. Mathieu will pursue the Museum's ascent brilliantly.

See you soon, Wli wni

Michelle Bélanger