



## Word from the chief



Kwei fellow band members,

Odanak, Abenaki for "OUR VILLAGE". I always keep this in mind my role as Chief calls for. Likewise, I consider of the fact that we are but keepers of our village and have a responsibility to safeguard its existence for the generations to come. When I was a young man, I heard a speaker in the churchyard state that someday our village would be reduced to a rock on which the history of our people would be remembered. I always said to myself that if I had something to do with it we would survive and not ever be reduced to a historical landmark.

At this time in our story, we are being asked to address some very important issues such as status and citizenship as well as the future of land management. The choices we make at this point cannot be made hastily and without careful consideration of the impact these choices will have on the long term, for our children and grandchildren.

Outside sources cannot make these choices for us. Where we are going as a people with respect to these issues has to be discussed among us. I was very happy to be part of some very good discussions which took place at the first public meeting on the land management act. It is my quest to ensure that we continue to meet through this process and voice our concerns. We need to ensure that the land owners of our community are the primary voice of any changes that will affect their land, with reference to zoning, proprietorship or any other changes, direct or indirect to the Indian act. These issues are serious and need to be addressed with truths being told in the process.

Other meetings will be called to continue the discussions. **Be informed and be heard!**

It's important for us to share information and voice our concerns. Dialogue must be the precursor to any possible development of a land management document allowing us to guide the way in which we govern our lands. Our vision must be its backbone. If you are a landowner in Odanak and want to be made aware of any meetings planned on this issue please contact the band office and make sure we have your contact information.

On another note, this year's pow wow in its planning stages. I am excited to see the direction it's taking. The theme this year is "The Family". Many activities will take place to celebrate the family. If you can make room on your calendar the weekend of June 30th to July 2nd we would love to see as many of the Abenaki family members as we can around our fire.

In peace and friendship,  
Chief Rick O'Bomsawin



A lot of people came to the Expo-sciences autochtone - Québec 2017 to support the 41 participating teams.

PHOTO THERESA WATSO

## Under the theme "Where Knowledge Enlightens", this important event was held at the Kiuna Institution in Odanak, on March 28, 29 and 30.

Kiuna, the First Nations post-secondary Institution, is extremely proud to have joined the Quebec Aboriginal Science and Engineering Association (QASEA) in hosting the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair, and to highlight the remarkable work done by the 41 teams gathered for this provincial science competition.

In total, 56 First Nations and Inuit youth from 17 communities representing 22 schools attended the event. They managed to seduce the public with their skilful demonstrations, rigorous analyses and impressive communications skills.

The winning teams were invited to an award ceremony hosted by Ms. Monika Ille and attended by Mr. Martin Carli, co-host of the youth science program Génial!, and Ms. Alanis Obomsawin. The teams were competing for several awards, including the most prestigious: to represent Quebec at the Canada-wide competition.

Tobias Commanda-Odjick from Kitigan Zibi, Destiny Côté, also from Kitigan Zibi, and Konwanakere Diabo from Kahnawake won the honour.

We are very satisfied with the public's response who attended the event in large numbers to encourage youth and congratulate the families and teachers who support them. We would also like to thank the many local sponsors who contributed to the event's success.

If you missed the Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair, or would like to view the presentations given by the participating teams, please visit the Kiuna Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/KiunaCollege/](http://www.facebook.com/KiunaCollege/)

### About us:

The Kiuna Institution is a First Nations college-level studies centre located in Odanak. Established by the First Nations Education Council in 2011, the Kiuna Institution's mission is to enhance academic achievement among Aboriginal youth and raise their level of education by providing a learning environment that respects and thrives on the identity, values and traditions of First Nations. [www.kiuna-college.com](http://www.kiuna-college.com).

The First Nations Education Council is an association that represents 22 Quebec First Nations communities, from eight different nations. The FNEC's mission is to work in the best interest of its members and improve the quality of educational services provided to First Nations students throughout their learning cycle. [www.cepn-fnec.com](http://www.cepn-fnec.com).

The QASEA is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote sciences and engineering to Aboriginal youth who attend schools located in First Nations and Inuit Communities in Quebec. QASEA achieves its mission through the Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair Program, which allows youth to conduct popularization or scientific experiments by participating in the Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair finals, organized since 1998. [www.esaquebec.ca](http://www.esaquebec.ca).

Prudence Hannis, Associate Director  
Kiuna Institution

58<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

ABENAKI  
**POWWOW**  
ODANAK

KOLIPAÏÔ

**Welcome**

Looking forward  
to seeing you  
at our gathering

**JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> 2017**

FOLLOWS US ON



## Word from councilors



**FLORENCE BENEDICT,**  
Councillor

Kwai,

Fed up with this grey weather and never-ending winter!

As you read these lines however, it will practically be summer again...

Finally!

The weather over the last few months has been harsh, but I nonetheless had the opportunity to participate in several events which helped me escape this endless winter, even for a brief moment! Here is a summary.

On February 22 and 23, I visited Wendake to attend my very first meeting of Quebec elected women as a woman recently elected. Important topics were discussed, including health, the lack of social housing in certain communities, the Descheneaux case and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (the first hearings will take place at the end of May). Women elected from various communities affected by this inquiry gave testimonies that upset us all. Among other things, this meeting helped me establish relationships with elected representatives from different nations and also provided the opportunity to discuss and share on political and social issues affecting our respective communities.



2017 February 22 & 23  
Meeting elected women

On March 4, 2017, Quebec Native Women (QNW) organized a rally in the family hall to mark "International Women's Day", followed by a dinner. About twenty women participated in the rally, including three special guests.

Ms. Johanne Lachapelle who shared her experience in Bolivia and the reasons for her return, Ms. Mylène Trudeau, police investigator for the Abenaki Police Corps, who also took the opportunity to explain her role in the investigation into missing and murdered women, and Ms. Annie O'Bomsawin, graduate student in Philosophy at the University of Montreal, spoke about her research on Aboriginal women's issues as part of political self-determination projects based on the revalorisation of traditional cultures.

To conclude, I would like to thank the organizers of this event, Ms. Mandi Thompson, QNW Local President, and Ms. Nicole O'bomsawin, Vice-President of Odanak Native Women.



Native Women of Québec

On March 8, Odanak Native Women were invited to participate in the official launch of the "REDRESS PROJECT" exhibit by Ms. Marie-Josée Roy and Ms. Myriam Beauchesne-Lachapelle, two teachers at Cégep Sorel-Tracy. Several community elders were present at the launch.



Ms. Thérèse O'bomsawin photographed with one of the red robes presented during the evening.

During this event to celebrate this important day, International Women's Day, I had the opportunity to speak and to thank these two extraordinary women for this marvellous initiative in memory of all the women who have disappeared or been murdered. Thank you to the event's organizers.



Ms. Marie-Josée Roy, co-responsible for the project, accompanied by Ms. Manon Hamel, also a teacher at Cégep Sorel-Tracy and a member of our community.

From April 3 to 6, 2017, in Roberval, the Colloque de l'autonomie financière au leadership politique was held and organized by Ms. Marjolaine Étienne, Vice-Chief of external relations in Mashteuiatsh. At this conference, I had the opportunity to participate in a number of very interesting workshops and conferences on financial autonomy. I also had the opportunity to attend a presentation on cultural safety for improving the quality of life and health conditions given by Professor Carole Lévesque, founder and director of DIALOG, the Aboriginal peoples research and knowledge network. Mr. Emmanuel Bertrand-Gauvin, Coordinator for the Business Women project at the FNQLEDC, led a workshop on Multiplying and Strengthening Economic Opportunities for First Nation Women Entrepreneurs.



Colloque de l'autonomie financière

This conference provided an opportunity to expand our knowledge of entrepreneurship and to identify certain obstacles affecting the desire of some women to start a business. Several special guests were in attendance including Ms. Lise Thériault, Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mr. Ghyslain Picard, Chief of the AFNQL, Ms. Viviane Michel, President of Quebec Native Women and several others.

On April 22, we celebrated Earth Day and the Aw8ssisak Akik singing troupe's 20th anniversary. The day began with a march organized by the Native Women of Odanak, followed by a continuous photo projection by the Musée des Abénakis highlighting the troupe's best moments over the past twenty years. Aw8ssisak Akik then sang a few songs from their repertoire and we performed the snake dance to the sound of the tam-tams.

Since it was Earth Day, a composting kiosk was set up on site

by the Environment and Land Office team to display the various tools used for composting. People were given a complimentary composting kit for the occasion. Thanks to Luc, Samuel and Christopher for their generosity!



At the end of the day, everyone was invited to participate in a potluck meal, which was a success wonderful in which each participant brought a dish prepared especially for the occasion. Thank you all for this beautiful day and thank you to the Aw8ssisak Akik troupe!

To finish the day in style, we went to Nicolet for the evening to attend the Project W fashion show. It was a colourful show! The costumes made and worn by Odanak and Wôlinak's youth were magnificent. The clothes were made from recycled materials such as newsprint, wild turkey feathers, cardboard rolls, etc. They met the challenge again this year of wowing us with their creations and ingenuity. Congratulations once again and Bravo to Michel Thibault's (director of the FNCFS) team for this wonderful evening



W Fashion Show

In closing, I would like to share with you a brief reflection. As you know, we will soon be in an election period certain people have already shown some interest in running for Councillor or Chief. It is essential that each person wishing to run must first make sure they are doing so for the right reasons and not out of spite, resentment or greed, for in my view a Councillor's role is to put the interests of the community and its members first and not the opposite.

My role as Councillor has taught me to be more considerate to all members without exception and to put personal conflicts aside because personal quarrels and conflicts will always harm the community and prevent us from growing.



## Word from councilors



**CLAIRE O'BOMSAWIN,**  
Councillor

Hello to all fellow members of the Abenaki community,

Allow me to sum-up the various activities our community elders enjoyed over the last few weeks. The annual winter carnival took place from March 6 to 11. We had the opportunity to participate in the many activities held throughout the spring break week. About forty people, families, friends, young and old alike took part in the festivities. A great success!

On March 15, we had the opportunity to attend a conference hosted by Ms. Jaimmie Lajoie from the Regional Round Table for Elders organized by the FNCFS team, on the issue of elder abuse. It was a very interesting activity.

On March 28, we met two journalism students from the UQAM. They wanted to learn more about the sharing of our culture and asked the elders several questions to better understand how they

conveyed to the youth their knowledge and the importance of Abenaki cultural traditions.

As with every spring, the elders enjoyed a delicious traditional meal at the sugar shack. Indeed, on April 12, nineteen of us travelled to St-Wenceslas to the Érablière Prince for a hearty maple flavoured meal. It was delicious!

As every year, the elders offered basketwork (basket making) classes to the community's youth. We would like to thank the volunteers who generously shared their knowledge during this very popular activity, namely Ms. Barbara Watso, Ms. Annette Nolett and Ms. Diane Nolett.

Meals-on-Wheels activities have been rolling along in recent months. Twenty-two people have enjoyed these tasty meals. However, please note that the Meals-on-Wheels service will suspend its operations for the summer period from mid-June to September, and the same goes for the collective kitchen services.

In closing, please note that Tuesday lunches and Saturday breakfasts will end at the end of June and resume in September.

I wish you all a wonderful summer. More news to come in September.

Health, happiness and peace to all!



**ALAIN OBOMSAWIN,**  
Councillor

Bonjour à tous les membres,

Hello to all members,

Here is some news about the ongoing files under my responsibility; i.e. everything related to cultural policy, the presbytery, health and the Nation.

### CULTURAL POLICY

First of all, I would like to inform you that the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec has decided to abolish subsidies for the position of cultural officer. As a result of this decision, we approached the FNCFS team to discuss possible opportunities available to us.

### PRESBYTERY

In accordance with the Quebec Religious Heritage Council's request, a health record for the presbytery will be produced and delivered on April 30. After consulting and reviewing this record, members of their board will be in a position to determine

whether financial assistance can be granted. With regard to the request previously sent to Canadian Heritage, it was rejected.

### HEALTH

A meeting will soon be held regarding funding for the Community Health Plan, as there is a shortage of \$150,000 for 2017-2018. It should be noted that the Community Health Plan was amended three times at the request of Health Canada, which we believe was a major contributor to the deficit. Funding for the plan is currently being reviewed by Health Canada. To be continued...

### NATION

An amendment to the fisheries code of practice was requested to permit the use of live minnows (baitfish) for all Band members. We should receive more details in the near future.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all those who participated in the W fashion show for the fabulous event presented on April 22. We were fortunate to witness the great imagination of our Nation's youth. They succeeded in creating a magnificent collection of clothes made from recycled materials and presenting an extraordinary fashion show.

I wish you all a wonderful summer filled with sun and happiness.



**Réjean OBomsawin,**  
Councillor

Kway Wôbanaki alnôba Odana,

### LAND, EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES

For personal reasons beyond my control, I am unable to tell you what the real situation is regarding the projects that I'm in charge of.

KCHI NIWASKW (THE CREATOR)  
PROTECTS YOU!

Réjean OBomsawin  
Land/Education/Social Services  
Councillor at the Abenakis of Odanak  
Council,  
Representative at the Grand Conseil  
de la Nation Waban-Aki

## SHORT COLUMN ON THE ABENAKI LANGUAGE

In this column, I will present the days of the week.

Brief reminder: In the Abenaki language, it is important to know that all the letters in a word must be pronounced. For example, the "s" at the end of SIBOSIS should be pronounced. We therefore say "sibosisse" rather than "sibosi".

Moreover, the following letters are not part of our alphabet: F, Q,

R, U, V, X, Y. The "G" is always hard as in "glove". The "J" for its part is pronounced "dz". The "ch" is pronounced "ts" as in "channa" (tsanna). The "H" is always aspirated. We do not have an "F" sound.

For example, woman is pronounced "phanem" in Abenaki. We say "P" hanem. Moreover, we do not have the "sh" or "ch" sound as in shirt or charade.

The "i" 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 placed before a consonant, is pronounced as an "o".

Finally, the "o" is really pronounced as an "o" and not as an "a".

Week, the week  
Sunday  
Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday

**Lasanda**  
**Sanda** (from English: Sunday)  
**Kizsanda** (after Sunday)  
**Nisdaalokan** (second work day)  
**Nsedaalokan** Nsedaalokan (third work day)  
**lawdaalokan** (fourth work day)  
**Skawategwikizgad** (day of the cross)  
**Kadawsanda** (Sunday is near. We want it to be Sunday)



# Word from Management



**DANIEL G. NOLETT**  
Executive Director  
Abenakis of Odanak  
Council

Kwaï mziwi!

In terms of our capital assets department, we have built a paved footpath over a distance of about 800 meters. This trail is located on the former CN railroad track. Obviously, our focus was on the safety of students from the Kiuna Institution who previously had to walk on the shoulder of Route 132 to get to the College. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) initially provided \$605,000 in funding from the First Nations Infrastructure Fund (FNIF) to carry out the work. The total cost of the project was \$660,000, so the Council had to cover the balance of roughly \$55,000. However, on February 22, INAC confirmed that they could finance the total cost of the project by granting an additional \$54,088.

As of today, all that remained was to install the streetlights for lighting the trail. This was scheduled for mid-December, but the lights were finally installed in the week of March 27.

We have also relocated the library and the post office. The library, which had been in a room adjoining the community centre since 2004, was relocated to the Band's former conference room located at 102 Sibosis street. The

post office was relocated to the library's former location in the community centre building. The main advantage of this change is to allow better access for people with reduced mobility. In addition, we have somewhat doubled the size of the library.

The work required an investment of \$110,000. INAC had originally granted \$65,000 to do all the work. However, they finally provided an additional \$44,790 on February 22. Thus, the Council has had to pay nothing for these two projects.

At the end of last summer, we also installed a "dome" type shelter in the industrial park adjacent to the industrial motel to store abrasives and de-icing salts. This investment of just over \$45,000 will be fully covered by INAC.

In addition, we have applied for the purchase of a new garage for the public works department. As this project is estimated at around \$400,000, we are still in discussions with INAC to secure fair funding for the construction of this new garage located in the industrial park, adjacent to the abrasives shelter. The latter would not replace the already existing public works garage, but would be an addition in view of recent equipment acquisitions such as the snow removal loader.

In February we purchased a new truck for the public works department. The truck being used was a 2001 model and had at least two major defects which would have failed the SAAQ inspection scheduled for late March 2017. Given the age and condition of the vehicle, it was better to replace it.

We purchased a new truck at a cost of \$51,500 and filed an application with INAC for this

purchase. We are still waiting for a response from them. We believe we can obtain about 35% of the vehicle's purchase cost, or approximately \$18,000.

Also, as part of the First Nations Infrastructure Fund (FNIF), the Council filed a request for funding with INAC to link Mgezo street with Managuan street in May 2016. During the same period, we were also planning on servicing 12 lots for an eventual new housing project. The application was not considered a priority by INAC and was therefore rejected. During the prioritization exercise of August 31, the Council nevertheless decided to proceed with the street-linking project and the servicing of lots.

The project is estimated at around \$400,000 in total, including the survey work and deforestation of the site. Work began in early March and will be completed in April. On March 16, INAC finally confirmed a grant of \$180,000 for the work carried out prior to March 31, 2017. We can expect to receive the balance of the funding in 2017-2018.

With respect to the Descheneaux case, as many of you know, we were successful and the Government of Canada decided to withdraw the appeal from the Superior Court of Quebec decision in February 2016. This decision gave the government until February 3, 2017 to amend the Indian Act and thus comply with the judgment by abolishing the discriminatory aspects of Section 6 of the Indian Act relating to persons entitled to be registered. However, INAC somewhat lagged in its responsibility to consult with First Nations, and as a result has in rewriting the new Section 6.

We are trying by every means to correct each discrimination case.

In addition to the two cases in the Descheneaux lawsuit, we were able to identify at least four others, not including those added by INAC. We are also aware that we will face strong opposition from certain First Nations communities in Canada who do not necessarily wish to welcome new members into their band list. The Government of Canada must amend the Indian Act by July 2017. To be continued...

The Council recently filed a request for funding with INAC for the extension of infrastructure along Route 132 past the Kiuna Institution in order to expand the industrial park and thus proceed with the construction of phase II of the industrial motel during the summer. In addition, we also applied for funding from INAC for repair work to the stormwater outfall on Sibosis street.

We discovered that the rainwater pipe had collapsed near its extremity on the side of the Saint-François River. The request totals close to \$1.2 million. The Band Council received three alternatives from the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki's technical services.

The option chosen was to divert the rainwater pipe of Sibosis street starting at Waban-Aki street, directly in front of the public works garage, to the former federal dock road. The pipe would then flow into the river, close to where the former CN bridge was located. In the future, this option would allow us to connect the rainwater pipe from the development of residential lots of the former CN land, which has become reserve land again.

Have a wonderful spring!

Wli sigwan!



## BUDGET CUTS AT THE ODANAK HEALTH CENTRE



**DENY O'BOMSAWIN,**  
Health Services Director  
Odanak Health Centre

Every five years, we have to present what is called a "Community Health Plan" (CHP). This plan must be approved by the Abenakis of Odanak Council and subsequently by Health Canada, which then provides funding.

After assessing the needs with the results from the Wellness Survey and the available statistics, we submitted the Community Health Plan (CHP) to

the Council, which was approved and then submitted to Health Canada.

Health Canada then approved the Community Health Plan (CHP) and the budget. However, despite its approval, Health Canada has decided to

**CUTE OVER \$100,000.**

Evidently, we are forced to reduce the work hours of the Odanak Health Centre employees.

These cuts could lead to delays in health services.

Be assured that we are working hard to limit the impacts on our clientele following this decision by Health Canada.





## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**JULIE GAGNON,**  
Economic Development  
Agent

Kwaï,

Since my arrival last August, I have been involved in several projects related to tourism, economic, residential and community development. In order to seize maximum development opportunities for the community along with subsidies, I act as promoting agent for the community with various partners, government bodies and professional associations. I also ensure a presence at various activities.

### Subsidies

As part of the 150th anniversary of Confederation (Canada 150), the federal government launched the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP150). Two projects submitted by the Abenakis of Odanak Council have been selected for this program. We received an initial grant of \$100,000 to repair and renovate the Abenaki Museum. The second grant is also of \$100,000 and will be used to renovate the community hall.

The development of the industrial park is a long-term project and constant activities are carried out in order to strategically position the community as a regional development axis. In fact, we are waiting for a subsidy for infrastructure works. If we receive the

subsidy soon, the new premises will be ready in the fall.

### Entrepreneurs booklet

We have forwarded a form to all members to learn more about the different businesses in the community. Individuals who own a business, who are self-employed or in an entrepreneurial process, must complete this form and return it to the Council.

The information gathered will allow the Band Council to update its list of community businesses and community organizations and thus provide a portrait of the community's entrepreneurial profile in order to be able to provide services based on this information. Since some businesses and self-employed workers have not yet returned it, there is still time to complete the form return it to us by May 30. The form can be obtained at the band office reception desk or by e-mail at the following address: [jgagnon@caodanak.com](mailto:jgagnon@caodanak.com)

### Meeting on entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurs and self-employed workers registered in the entrepreneurs booklet will be invited to a brainstorming-type meeting on economic development and entrepreneurship issues in Odanak. The participation of all types of entrepreneurs is important in this process so that the result is conclusive and provides structure for the economic development of the community. The result of this meeting will allow us to identify the needs of entrepreneurs and how to best support them in their business projects. The target date for this meeting is the beginning of June.

If you have an entrepreneurial project, do not hesitate to contact me.

## Registrar

### Administration of the Indian Register

#### Remember to contact us for the following:

Change of address, death of a band member, marriage, divorce, birth.

#### Issuing of Indian status cards (certificates):

##### Reminder:

Under a directive from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, it is no longer possible for us to send Indian status cards by mail. Members must make an appointment with me and come to my office to renew their Indian status card. A member may also apply for a card renewal with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada by filling out the forms provided on their website at the following address: [www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca). We can also send these forms by mail or they can be printed from our website at: [www.caodanak.com](http://www.caodanak.com). On our Website, simply click on the "Council" tab, then click on "Documentation", "Indian Status Card Issuance", and finally click on the link "Procedure – Explanatory Document".

#### Elementary/secondary education

Again this year, the Abenakis of Odanak Council will provide financial assistance to parents of children attending elementary or secondary schools to help them pay the fees at the beginning of the school year. However, proof of enrolment will be required for each child for the 2017-2018 school year. This proof of enrolment must be sent to us by August 1, 2017 and may be mailed to the Council or sent by e-mail to: [ncardin@caodanak.com](mailto:ncardin@caodanak.com).

#### Post-secondary education

Application forms for financial assistance are available on our website for the fall 2017 semester. The deadline for applications for financial assistance for the fall 2017 semester is June 20.

Nathalie Cardin,  
Education Agent  
Administrator for Indian Register



## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR A STAY IN ODANAK

Did you know that the Kiuna Institution offers rooms for rentals in its student residences? And this, at a very affordable price!

For more information or to book a reservation, please contact Mr. Claude Panadis, at (450) 568-6464 or by email at [claud.panadis@kiuna-college.com](mailto:claud.panadis@kiuna-college.com).



### FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON FIRST NATION LAND MANAGEMENT

For any questions about the First Nations Land Management Act, please go on this website: <https://labrc.com/home/>

You can also read all the documents about the framework by visiting this web page: <https://caodanak.com/en/land-code/>

### THE ABENAKI COUNCIL OF ODANAK NOW AS 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

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



## Odanak Environment and Land Office

# The loss of old-growth forests, a major impact for cavity nesters



quantity and quality of a resource that seems meaningless but quite significant for biodiversity: dead wood. Indeed, many vertebrates and insects use dead wood, known as snags, for various reasons at some point in their life cycle. Several forest-dwelling insects thus have a predominant role in the dynamics of certain woodpecker species using dead wood as substrate for feeding.

By feeding and excavating cavities for nesting, woodpeckers increase the dispersal of fungi which contributes to the degradation of dead wood, and ultimately creates cavities that will be used by a host of other species unable to excavate their own shelters for nesting or resting.

Considering the difficulty of leaving dead wood in place, or in areas where forest disturbances are ubiquitous, it is nevertheless possible to provide temporary nesting habitats for certain target species.

The Environment and the Land Office has therefore been working hard over the winter to build 35 nesting boxes of six different sizes to be distributed according to specific habitats on the Odanak territory. These boxes could benefit over 20 species of birds as well as many mammals!

In this context, a small network of boxes for tree-nesting ducks installed along the La Commune marshes 1 and 2 a few years ago allowed us to tally several uses by wood ducks, eastern screech-owls and southern flying squirrels. This suggests there may be a lack of habitat (dead wood) on the territory and that these animals turn to artificial habitats to nest or for shelter. As soon as the devices are installed, it will become easy to visit the nesting boxes every spring in order to detect indications of use.

We therefore encourage you, providing it is safe, not to cut dead trees found in the forest or even on your land.

In southern Quebec, the loss of large forest areas and the rejuvenation of residual forests induce a significant change in the

## Capsule "Species at risk in Odanak"



### Little Brown Bat

The little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) is a resident (non-migrating) bat species that can be seen in the area. This species, like most other resident species, is affected by white-nose syndrome.

This is a fungus which, among other things, increases the number of wake-up periods during hibernation, which results in greater energy expenditure and forces it to tap into its reserves.

Bats die of exhaustion before the end of the winter. Prior to the arrival of white-nose syndrome in 2006, the little brown bat was the most common and widespread species in Quebec.

In recent years it has experienced a severe decline throughout eastern North America. The Environment and Land Office will conduct surveys throughout the summer to detect the presence of this species.

In addition, certain species, such as the big brown bat, use human dwellings more frequently as a refuge.

Although these species are generally safe, it is important not to disturb them. If you observe bats on your property or in your buildings, we invite you to contact us.



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 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](mailto:environnement@caodanak.com)  
Web : <https://caodanak.com/> - Facebook



## Odanak Environment and Land Office

# Large waste



The Odanak Environment and Land Office is developing and structuring a large household waste disposal service. Containers will be installed at a specific location in the community and beginning in early summer, it will be possible to place large household waste of all kinds: building materials, scrap metal, furniture without stuffing materials, bricks, plastic, etc.

This service will be free of charge and available at least until early winter. However, it will be necessary to respect hours of operation and instructions in order to use the service. Information will be sent to all residents as soon as the service is fully functional.

It should also be noted that the usual waste management services remain available to all. We encourage you to fully take advantage (green waste disposal site, hazardous household waste site, recycling). For those wishing to begin composting at home, you can contact the Environment and Land Office for advice and equipment. These measures are part of an approach to improve the quality of the environment for all and limit the risk of contaminating our natural environments.

### Odanak Disposal Site

If you are doing some work on your land and you are wondering where to dispose of your waste (peat, top-soil, wood, logs, branches, dead leaves, sand, soil, other).

There is a disposal site in Odanak for this type of waste which is free for Odanak residents. It is open from May to November. To use it, you must contact the Abenakis of Odanak Council so they can open the gate and accompany you on the site and indicate where and how to dispose of your waste. You can also access the site outside regular Council opening hours by making arrangements ahead of time.

**Note that the cost for transporting your waste is your responsibility and it is forbidden to dispose of lumber, concrete or asphalt at the site.**

For more information or to give us some feedback about this service, please contact the Odanak Environment and Land Office (450-568-6363).

Have a great summer!



### 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.

### 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

## W Fashion Show



Here is a quick review of the W fashion show held on April 22. We would first like to extend our warmest thanks to all, and to those of you who were with us that evening! There were nearly 190 people in attendance to encourage our youth from Odanak and Wôlinak during this colourful event.

This year, 26 youth between the ages of 2 and 17 created their own clothes during Project W.

This means that since November 2016, these 26 youth have been sewing, sticking buttons, cutting cardboard, painting wooden branches and more in order to put on the best possible fashion show.



And the result is even more incredible every year. We invite you to like and follow our Facebook page in order to have access to all the photos taken during the fashion show; April 22.

For the dedicated (and for the curious), note that we will be back at the beginning of May 2018 to



present another fabulous W fashion show.

Thank you once again!

Jenny M'Sadoques Benoit  
Community Worker – Odanak  
First Nations Child and Family  
Services (FNCFS)



## MUSÉE DES Abénakis



Friends and partners of the Musée des Abénakis met on March 23 to participate in the sixth edition of our annual fundraising event. Thanks to the hundreds of guests and numerous sponsors in attendance, the Musée des Abénakis is proud to announce that it raised \$29,000, which will contribute to its educational and cultural missions.

Again this year, participants to the event discovered the artistic and culinary wealth of First Nations and immersed themselves in the contemporary culture of the Abenaki people. For the sixth consecutive year, the culinary discovery of the evening was entrusted to Chef Steve Bissonette of the restaurant La Sagamité, located in Wendake.

Guests enjoyed Aboriginal-inspired mouth-watering dishes to the rhythm of electro music by Geronimo Inutiq, an Inuit DJ, who provided the evening's entertainment.

## Immense success for the 6th edition of the 2017 fundraising cocktail

Our silent auction also returned with its solid reputation! Indeed, the 17 pieces from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists and craftsmen delighted the guests; almost \$ 5,000 were raised through the auction! Thanks to the 8 artists from the Odanak community – Annette Nolett, Alanis Obomsawin, Barbara-Ann Watso, Carmen Hathaway, Christine Sioui-Wawanoloath, Helen Watso, Jacques T. Watso and Joyce Paradis for your generous contribution.

Finally, late night prize draws offered the opportunity for four lucky people to win getaway

packages, including a trip to Essipit, including two overnight stays in a condo and a whale watching cruise, one overnight stay at the Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations, along with a 5-course dinner for two at the restaurant La Sagamité, two nights in an EXP chalet in one of the 5 SÉPAQ national parks and an iPad Air 2. Congratulations to Odanak winners: Daniel G Nolett and Steve O'Bomsawin!

The Musée des Abénakis would like to extend its warmest thanks to all its partners and guests, without whom this event would not have been as successful!

Nouveauté ! / New !

Vivez une expérience numérique interactive et immersive au coeur du Fort d'Odanak !

Experience an interactive and immersive digital experience in the heart of Fort d'Odanak !



108 Waban-Aki, Odanak,  
Qc, J0G 1H0  
museedesabenakis.ca  
450 568-2600  
info@museedesabenakis.ca

## La mémoire d'un peuple A Nation's Memory



### The memory of a nation: a digital activity

Memory of a nation, the innovative digital application, accessible with an electronic tablet is now available. Pass by the Museum's gift shop, the interpreter-guides will explain how this new tool works! These three different themes will surely enhance your visit to the Museum:

**Memory of objects:** With the use of a geolocation system, you will discover additional content displayed on the tablet as you walk through our exhibitions. Interviews with three community members were conducted to complement the information already provided in the exhibitions. In addition, an additional option on the tablet will present itself as a key to the vault; By activating the option near an object, you will have virtual access to similar objects preserved in the museum's vault.

**Memory of water:** As you walk to the Museum's terrace, which offers a view of the surrounding area, including the Saint-François River, you can select, on a timeline, a significant moment in the life of the fortified village of Odanak in the 18th century. By pointing your tablet to the horizon, you will see elements

created in graphic animation. A surprising virtual window to the past will open before your eyes!

**Memory of the land:** The historic quadrangle of Odanak, which has been the scene of archaeological excavations in recent years, will give you access to an interactive journey. The site of the latest archaeological research will serve as an enclosure for an interactive game. You will be invited to walk the trail in search of approximately twenty artefacts. As you walk through the Museum's grounds using the tablet to find points of interest, the digital interface will give you access to an area rich in artefacts. You can shake your tablet like a sieve to access an object found on site and the application will provide additional content – contextual information, photographs, virtual modeling of the object.

### The Abenaki people of Odanak, an archaeological journey

With a grant from Canadian Heritage, the Musée des Abénakis has recently sent its publication to press which will provide an update on the results of archaeological research carried out between 2010 and 2014 in Odanak and along the Saint-François River, revealing the

history, occupation and ancestral ways of life of the Abenaki First Nation. This book will highlight the most important artefacts discovered during these excavation campaigns. The launch of the publication is planned for the coming weeks. You will all be invited!

### Visit to the Museum's vault

On April 30, visits were made to the Museum's vault, led by Patricia Lachapelle, our collections archivist. Special thanks go out to the dozen or so people who came to discover the treasures of our collections!

### 2017 summer programming

The warm weather is fast approaching and we will have beautiful summer exhibits to present for the occasion.

First, the exhibition *Enfant de la terre* by the Algonquin rapper Samian offers about thirty photographs, in black and white, from his many travels, placing the human being at the heart of his artistic approach, reminding us that we are all children of the earth.

The Offerings and Shared Territories exhibits will then be presented in the large exhibition hall

on the ground floor. Offerings is a multimedia installation that offers a reflection on the value and meaning of offerings. It explores the complexity and diversity of the different practices associated with the act of offering. It is also an innovative opportunity for artists and members of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to work together to create a work in constant evolution. The Shared Territories exhibit provides an incursion into a universe where Aboriginal views and oral traditions play a key role. This exhibition is intended to be a vehicle promoting a better understanding and appreciation of contemporary Aboriginal art.

These exhibits will be on display at the Museum beginning June 15 until mid-September 2017. Remember that admission to the Museum is free for all Odanak and Wôlinak band members!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

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