



Word from the Chief



Kwai fellow band members,

Let me begin by congratulating Chief Perry Bellegarde, on his re-election as our National Chief at the July assembly in Vancouver. As a supporter of Chief Bellegarde I am pleased with the outcome of the elections and look forward to continuing the work started on such files as the First Nation's Trade agreement, First Nation's Education, Cross Territorial Hunting between our nations and the impact on our nations of the Legalization of Cannabis at the Federal table. We can continue to work together with different levels of government while being supported to do so by a Grand Chief who acknowledges our distinct needs as Canada's numerous First Nations communities. This consideration while working for the common good is the foundation to improving the outcome for our people. Wliwni Chief Bellgarde.

At the community level we continue to see growth. A perfect example of regional/community collaboration is Kiuna College. The precious dedication of both First Nations' Education Council and Miss Prudence Hannis (one of our own) has led Kiuna's team to create a place where we are seeing very important academic and social strides for our young people. This fall will see new programs including culture and language in its curriculum. This is a welcome element in the education process of our young

people. Noteworthy, is the expansion of the college for the new academic year. Congratulations!

With this expansion came the need to build a new economic development park, which is now up and running, housing a few new businesses in our community.

In the realm of education, our students are beginning a new academic year. Our Council extends good wishes to all of the students returning to school or starting a new study program in 2018-19. I want to share a recent reflection; more and more we are seeing our people succeed in completing the necessary requirements to fill roles such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, judges and managers, to name a few. It is clear from talking with a few of our graduates that perseverance in spite of life's challenges is what led to their success. We are very proud to have these resources and role models for our community.

On the cultural front we have seen some very important work done by our people. Our youth group NIONA, published an interesting booklet called "SALAKIWI" in which they share valuable insights and information about our culture as well as a few good recipes. Another book "Legendes Wabanakises" which is a collaborative work by Monique Nolett, Raymonde Nolett, Philippe Ille and Christine Wawanoloath was launched in June. Here, one can find some of our stories to read and enjoy. We're excited to see groups of our members mobilize to gather very important threads of our history and reweave them into current, accessible resources.

We still have much work to do, but with work continuing at both ends of the spectrum, I am optimistic that we will continue to set the stage and create a better experience for our generations to come.

In peace and friendship,
Chief Rick O'Bomsawin

Abaznodali8wdi NIONA Basket Route

AUTHORS : DAVID BERNARD AND MEGAN HÉBERT-LEFEBVRE

Through a research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Niona youth intervention team, the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS), the Ndakinna Office, and the INRS-ETE will collaborate between July 2018 and July 2020 in the research project: Abaznodali8wdi: la route des paniers. This archaeology and history research project will focus on craftsmanship and the manufacture of black ash baskets from the 1500s to today. Over the next two years, we will analyze the history of the basket industry with respect to environmental contexts, occupation of the W8banaki Nation land and its use over time, divided into three parts:

1) First, we will conduct an archaeological survey of ash basket production methods to document the development of wickerwork and techniques used by W8banakiak artisans between 1500 and today, in the United States and Canada. In the coming year, Geneviève Treyvaud, an archaeologist with the Ndakinna Office, will visit archives at the Abbe Museum, the Musée des Abénakis, the University of Vermont and the Canadian Museum of History. Consulting all the artisanal productions in these institutions will enable her to understand the evolution of W8banakiak material culture and expertise transmitted from generation to generation within the framework of a collective and family tradition. This will also allow her to demonstrate the cultural and technological links between the W8banakiak of Canada and those from the United States. For example, it will be possible to determine which tools or techniques were used, or what impact did the development of the territory have on basket weaving methods.

2) We will then conduct a historical study of the W8banakiak basket industry between 1880 and today. About thirty interviews will be required to complete this phase of the project. In collaboration with David Bernard, Research Officer with the Ndakinna Office, the youth from the Niona team in Odanak and Wôlinak will conduct the interviews with the people from the communities wishing to share their knowledge, their memories and their related expertise in craftsmanship and ash basket making. Several pieces of information are important for the project's success. We are seeking to understand the locations where ash was harvested, where

baskets were sold, where baskets were made, manufacturing methods and any other related information or memory.

3) Finally, for the environmental aspect of this project, we will conduct an assessment of the impact of climate change and the emergence of the emerald ash borer – an invasive alien species – on the viability of the W8banakiak basket-weaving practice. Niona will be entirely responsible for the media aspect of the "la route des paniers" project, by developing a media support for a database where all the information collected during the project will be gathered.

First, Niona will participate in the production of the interviews. The team will be able to put into practice the knowledge taught by professionals in the field of communications and research. They will film the interviews, record the sound, take pictures and share the progress of the project through social media.

Secondly, thanks to the database they developed, Niona youth will be able to create different types of media content such as short films, video clips, flyers, books and more. Their goal is to make information accessible to the general public in order to raise awareness about this part of their history and culture.

This collaboration between Niona and the Ndakinna Office's research professionals will enable youth to develop research initiatives, audio-visual and communication skills that may be useful in the future. Moreover, the research project has already been presented to the ACFAS on May 10th. Ms. Megan Hébert-Lefebvre and Ms. Émy-May Duguay-Bonneville of Niona Wôlinak were among the panellists and were able to present their realizations at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

At the end of this project, thanks to the information gathered, we will produce an interactive map of the basket route and, who knows; maybe the project could be adapted into a temporary exhibit at the Musée des Abénakis!

If you have any information you would like to share, or if you like to get involved in this project, contact us!

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Word from Councilors



FLORENCE BENEDICT
Councillor

Kwai,

Despite a beautiful hot summer, with many heat waves, I cannot ignore the loss of loved ones in our community that has somewhat darkened our summer. Losses can sometimes be cruel, sudden and unexpected. In this issue of our newsletter, I would like to offer my sympathies and reiterate my full support for the Maher-Normand and Watso families who have been severely tested. May you find the strength and courage to overcome this hardship with your family and friends.

In the last issue of the Waban-Aki Pilaskw, I failed to mention two important events that took place last March

The end of the basket-weaving workshops:



Thank you to our two teachers, Mrs. Annette and Diane Nolett, who, as usual, have shown great patience.

Winter Festival held during Spring Break:



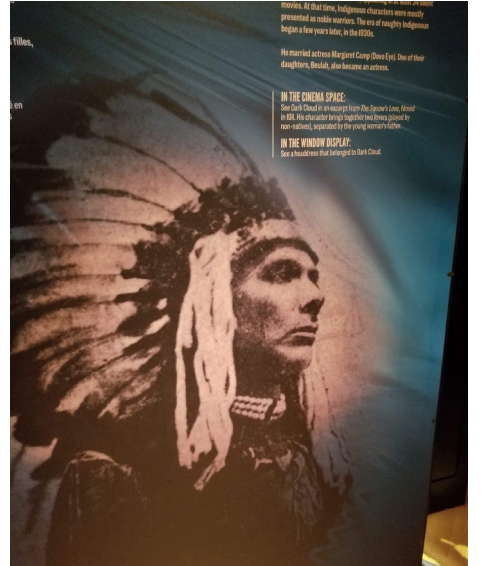
Fifty people, young and old, participated in several activities during the weekend, including a spaghetti dinner prepared by none other than Ms. Caroline Cardin. Draws and many gifts were also given to participants throughout the event. The Winter Festival ended with an evening at the Odanak Family Hall with a bonfire and free skating, with music from the 80s cleverly chosen by DJ Nicholas Langlois. I would like to

thank our valued sponsors: the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki and the Abenakis of Odanak Council, as well as our many volunteers who made this activity a success.

Now for the activities that took place over the summer. On May 5th, the annual Project W Parade was held, a colourful parade where young people paraded their traditional costumes made with the help of members of our community, complemented by a pleasant mix of techno and traditional music. Thank you to the FNCFS, especially to Ms. Jenny M'Sadoques, for her dedication and commitment to this great project. I take this opportunity to wish her a wonderful maternity leave.

On June 11th, all Council members, our Executive Director Daniel G. Nolett and I went to a press conference at the Mount Ham Regional Park as official partners, with the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki, for the unveiling of the new image of the Park. However, this new visual identity with Abenaki accents is not the only Aboriginal element of this tourist attraction. Indeed, the Mount Ham Regional Park also announced the development of a brand new trail inspired by our Nation, as well as a new annex named "Espace Abénakis" where we can find much information about our culture and our traditions. Several government officials and mayors from surrounding municipalities attended the event.

On June 28, the new temporary exhibit "L'Indien au-delà d'Hollywood" was held at the



Musée des Abénakis. It is a beautiful exhibit that transcends time and reminds us of the clichés of the past concerning Aboriginal people. Several objects from the personal collection of Mr. Sylvain Rivard are displayed. Among other things, there are several dolls and old toys, all with the effigy of "Indians" as we were called at the time. This exhibit was also the subject of an article in the Journal de Montréal, published July 28th. A must-see exhibit!

Several people attended our annual gathering, our magnificent Pow Wow, organized by Mr. Jacques T. Watso on July 6, 7 and 8. Thanks to Jacko and all the volunteers who gave their time for the realization and success of this event. Mr. Watso and his committee are already busy preparing for the Pow Wow's 60th edition in 2019.

In closing, I would like to say: be careful on the roads and enjoy the beautiful weather! Let's talk soon.

Wli Wni



CLAIRE O'BOMSAWIN
Councillor

Kwai dear members,

Here is a summary of the activities I have enjoyed participating in over the last few months.

First of all, on May 5th, the marvellous parade organized as part of the W Project was held. Since this year's theme was Abenaki culture, the youth paraded dressed in beautiful

traditional clothes made by members of our community. Congratulations! This colourful event was a success.

Then, on May 23rd, I attended a meeting at the Kiuna Institution focusing on our ancestral rights, from Confederation to today. Unfortunately, this meeting made us realize that there have only been slight changes over the years...

In mid-June, the various activities offered to elders, including cooking workshops, were on hold for part of the summer and resumed at the end of August. A nice break enjoyed by all!

I also take this opportunity to congratulate our Chief of police, Mr. Éric Cloutier, who recently celebrated 20 years of service. Well done Éric! Your work and dedication are extremely appreciated.

On June 28th, I was fortunate to be part of the launch of the new exhibit at the Musée des Abénakis, Indians Beyond Hollywood (L'Indien au-delà d'Hollywood) which focuses on the biased image of Aboriginal people which used to be disseminated into the popular culture. This is a very interesting and entertaining exhibit. I strongly recommend you see it.

Once again, Odanak's Pow Wow was a success! Several artisans, dancers, singers and members from communities everywhere were present on July 6, 7 and 8 to celebrate our beautiful Nation. Congratulations to Jacques T. Watso and all the volunteers for this beautiful event!

On July 19th, the community elders and I made a trip to Old Montreal. We took a guided tour

aboard an "amphibus", i.e. a bus that travels both on the streets and on the water. It was a very interesting experience!

Aquafitness classes for elders also started on July 31st. This is an activity offered at the Odanak public swimming pool where classes are given by Ms. Jessica Papineau, kinesiologist. I would like to thank the Odanak Health Centre for holding this wonderful activity.

Finally, I would like to inform you that I surveyed the elders in the community to identify all those who have an air conditioner. I wanted to conduct this census partly because of the abnormal heat we had this summer. I will inform you of the results and my findings shortly.

Hope to see you soon!

Word from Councilors



ALAIN O'BOMSAWIN
Councillor

Hello,

First of all, I would like to begin by thanking the organizers and all the volunteers who contributed directly or indirectly to our magnificent Pow Wow last July. The event was a success ! Bravo !

I participated in an ancestral rights training held at the Kiuna Institution to better understand the issues of these past and future agreements.

I was also fortunate to witness the unveiling of the new image and vocation of the Mount Ham Regional Park, which now includes a sun representing the Abenaki Nation. The brand new Espace Abénakis was also unveiled at this press conference. It is found attached to the main building of the Regional Park and contains information about our history, culture and traditions, as well as artefacts and sculptures.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Éric Cloutier on obtaining his medal honouring his 20 years of service

with the communities of Odanak and Wôlinak with the Abenaki Police Force.

In closing, I suggest you visit the new exhibit Indians Beyond Hollywood “L’Indien au-delà d’Hollywood” presented at the Abenaki Museum. This is a spectacular exhibit that awakens childhood memories, accompanied by a superb collection of objects.

Wli Wni,



JACQUES T. WATSO
Councillor

Kway dear members of Odanak,

Our 59th edition of Odanak's Pow Wow was held on July 6th, 7th and 8th. This year, we were in “AFFIRMATION” mode, proudly celebrating our origins and sharing our culture with First Nations people from all over the world and many members of the human family. A big “Kchi Wliwni” to everyone! This is an invitation for the 60th edition, July 5, 6 and 7, 2019. The committee is already formed and each member is working hard to ensure that this edition is a total success.

Unanimously, the Band Council passed legislation prohibiting the production, distribution, storage, marketing and sale of cannabis on the Odanak territory. The Council also banned the use of cannabis in public places (parks, swimming pool, and public roads) as well as in homes belonging to the Band.



For the rest, what happens in your home does not concern us.

On August 18, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Pavage 132, a paving company that contributes greatly to the community life of our community, as well as my personal sponsorship, fifty or so members of Odanak had the chance to attend free of charge the legendary Jacques Rougeau Wrestling Gala. In fact, Mr. Rougeau had already come to Odanak last May to give a conference to fight against bullying.



In July, we proceeded with the demolition of the restaurant Le



Calumet. This saga stitched by mismanagement and blatant nepotism is finally over.

Also in July, we set up a Pow Wow drum group for the Odanak community. The group is called The Flying Sturgeons. We will be the spearhead of the cultural renewal of Odanak. Contact me for more information about this.

On October 27, the second traditional Fall Pow wow will be held in Odanak. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the ALS-Quebec Foundation. This terrible disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, carried away my brother last June.

Here's a little feedback on my last article about the electoral code. The goal is not to prohibit off-reserve members from voting, but to hold them accountable to their community. 95% of the funds administered by the Abenakis of Odanak Council come from the Canadian government and are calculated according to the members living on reserve. A reform is largely due, because the



automatic process of receiving a ballot by mail without even knowing the real issues of Odanak or even without knowing the candidates is absurd. The majority of off-reserve members do not know the reality of our community where their only source of information is this newsletter. The reality is different than the beautiful stories we read about! It's time for a reform. Your leader depends on the outside vote, so it is for this reason that he opposes this reform without considering the on-reserve members who live and ensure the continuity of Odanak. Please give it some thought! And do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this further. Don't be shy.

Finally, know that we are currently working on a plan of action to attack head-on the “wannabes” and usurpers of our culture. May the battle begin!

Lasting success and let's continue to move forward positively and constructively.

Short Column
On The Abenaki Language

In this column, I will discuss animate and inanimate words, in particular animals.

In the Abenaki language, as in all First Nations languages, there are animate and inanimate words. For common nouns, everything alive is animate and, as a general rule, things that are not alive are inanimate. There are exceptions however. Some inanimate objects are considered animate.

All the conjugation, for example the verb accompanying the word or adjective that qualifies the word, will follow logic considering if the noun is animate or inanimate. In the plural, animate nouns end in "k" and "l".

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animalsing.Awaas
Wild	
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Bearsing.Awassos
Bearsplur.Awassosak
Turtlesing.Tolba
Turtlesplur.Tolbak
Moose	.....sing. ....Moz
Moose	.....plur. ....Mozak
Caribou	.....sing. ....Mag8libo
Caribou	.....plur. ....Mag8liboak
Hare	.....sing. ....Matgwas
Hare	.....plur. ....Matgwasak
Deer	.....sing. ....Nolka
Deer	.....plur. ....Nolkak
Squirrel	.....sing. ....Mikwa
Squirrelsplur.Mikwak
Beaversing.Tmakwa
Beaversplur.Tmakwak

Domestic	
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Dogsplur.Almosak
Catsing.Minowis
Catsplur.Minowisak
Sheepsing.Azib
Sheepplur.Azibak
Goat	.....sing. ....Kots
Goats	.....plur. ....Kotsak
Pig	.....sing. ....Piks
Pigs	.....plur. ....Piksak
Chicken	.....sing. ....Ahamo
Chickens	.....plur. ....Ahamoak
Rooster	.....sing. ....N8balha
Roosters	.....plur. ....N8balhak
Cow	.....sing. ....Kaoz
Cows	.....plur. ....Kaozak

Word from Management



DANIEL G. NOLETT
Executive Director
Abenakis of Odanak Council

Kwaï mziwi!

Work on the Sibosis Street storm outlet, which extends to the Saint-François River, was carried out last June. All that remained was for the contractor, Excavation LJJ Inc., to complete the final paving work on Waban-Aki Street and the final hydraulic-seeding landscaping work. Once these landscaping was complete, the paving work of the community centre's parking lot could be done by Pavage 132 in early July.

Construction work on the new Public Works garage along Route Marie-Victorin in the industrial park area has now been completed. At the beginning of July, the paving work was also carried out by Pavage 132. Public Works will be able to move into their new facilities after the summer vacation period in late

August-early September. Thus, the Odanak Environment and Land Office will be able to occupy the premises of the old Odanak wastewater treatment plant in order to store their equipment. It should be noted that they were very cramped in the garage which had formerly been built for them behind the building of the former post office at 62 Waban-Aki Street.

Due to watermain breaks in May and November 2017, the Council decided to carry out cathodic protection work on the old cast-iron water mains on Waban-Aki Street, Awassos Street and Tolba Street. After receiving bids from contractors, the costs were deemed too expensive to justify the work. Bid amounts were double what had originally been estimated. It was decided to only repair the defective valves on the water supply system. Two valves were replaced on Awassos Street. The repair of at least two other valves should be done on Waban-Aki Street once we have obtained the necessary authorizations from the Ministère des Transports du Québec. Since we were on the verge of the construction holidays at the time of writing this, the work is likely to take place in August or September. The purpose of this work is to contain the drinking water closures in the houses of the community in the event of a break in the water network, thus minimizing impacts on users. We no longer want to

have to cut off the water in all of Odanak's homes during future repairs carried out on the network.

At the beginning of July, part of Managuan Street was paved at the cost of \$55,000, from Skamonal Street to Tolba Street.

The demolition work on the old presbytery will take place in September. Given the site's archaeological potential, archaeological excavations will be conducted in August to ensure that no potential artefacts are damaged during the demolition. The cost of demolition will be just over \$16,000. Speaking of demolition, the building that housed the restaurant Le Calumet was demolished in mid-July. It required too many repairs to hope to rent it out. Repayment on this type of investment would have unfortunately not been profitable.

Finally, following the announcements made during the unveiling of the last federal budget, we learned that Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will obtain budgets for the servicing of lots for the construction of houses. The Council intends to take advantage of this windfall by applying for the servicing of more than 40 lots on the lands formerly occupied by the CN. We will be able to complete the loop of Mgezo Street and Pakesso Street (a new street developed on the former CN grounds in 2016-17) with Waban-Aki Street. Therefore, we would end up with more than 50 lots,

which would meet the housing needs for the homeownership program for the next twenty or thirty years. The related costs are estimated at just over \$1.5 million. The Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki Technical Services are busy completing plans and specifications. The funding application will then be sent to ISC.

Following Lisanne Côté's departure last May, the Odanak and W8linak councils agreed to share a full-time resource in economic development through the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki. At the time of writing this, the Economic Development Officer position was posted and yet to be filled.

For our part, we posted a part-time commercial real estate agent, which led to the hiring of Mr. Claude Panadis. Mr. Panadis started his new duties on July 16th. His duties include the renting and maintenance of social and commercial housing belonging to the Council.

Following the departure of Ms. Christelle Pelbois last May, we recruited a new director for the Odanak Health Centre. Mr. Jean Vollant, a member of the Innu community of Pessamite, was named Executive Director last July. However, Mr. Vollant began in early September.

Wli Tagw8gw ! Hope you had a great fall !

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



MARIO DIAMOND
Technical Services Director

Kwaï N'nid8ba,

Just like the vegetables that matured over the summer, many wonderful projects came to an end for the community of Odanak. They will benefit all members of the community and make their daily lives easier.

Although not yet over, 2018 will be remembered as one of the most

prolific years in terms of achievements and investments.

Like an athlete who steps back to gain better momentum, the demolition of the restaurant Le Calumet and the Presbytery will make way for new projects which will undoubtedly enhance the quality of life of everyone.

In addition to what has already been accomplished and what lies

ahead, it is with great pleasure that the GCNWA Technical Services team continues to support and participate in the RRAP programs as well as many other construction or renovation projects initiated by the Band Council.

2019 should be even better!

Adio! Wlinanawalmezi!

Kwakwa, the Frozen Monster Haunted Trail

Will you dare facing the creature?

October 26-27, 2018

From 8pm to midnight, departure every 15 minutes

* Reservation is required. Group of 10 people max.

Price: \$15 per person

Reservation: 450-568-2600

or by email:

info@museeabenakis.ca

In collaboration with



108, Waban-Aki Street, Odanak J0G

When Geomatics Contributes To Archaeology

As a geomatics specialist with the Ndakinna Office of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki (GCNWA), I use Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The term GIS refers to any software or collection of geomatics tools (geography + information technology) that can be used to assemble, manage, analyze and visualize any information or data that contains a geographic or spatial component. In other words, GIS provides spatial analysis and map generation.

GIS have a wide range of application domains, including archaeology. In order to locate new archaeological sites, there are specific steps to be followed. The first is to generate a map of what are called areas of archaeological interest.

Areas of archaeological interest

David Bernard, a research officer with the Ndakinna Office, and Jean-Nicolas Plourde, a trainee, conduct research for historical archives and oral knowledge in order to create a first computer map gathering all the places where one could find artefacts or ancient villages, encampments, sacred sites or burial sites.

With this research work, in order to create areas of interest, we must refine the research by integrating settlement patterns. These patterns represent all the archaeological knowledge that, as in the Ndakinna case, helps determine what criteria were generally chosen in the past by the W8banakiak people to settle an area or to draw resources from the land.

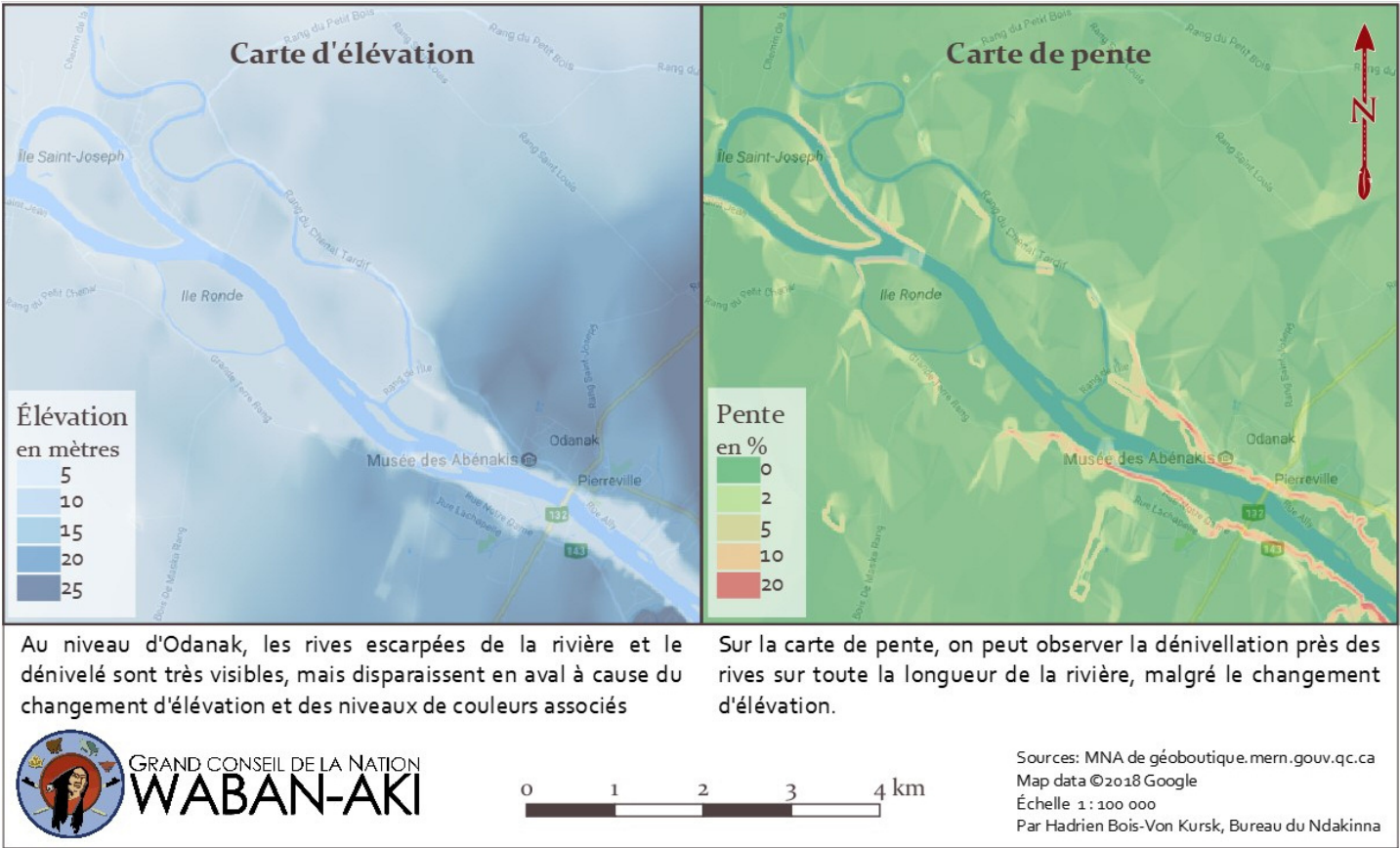
Settlement patterns represent geographical criteria such as: proximity of a major river, presence of a terrace (flat and elevated ground), well-drained soil (sandy for example), view of the river, spawning ground, wild herd (for example caribou migration route) and an old quarry.

Many of these criteria are already mapped and geo-referenced data can be obtained from municipalities, watershed organizations or different ministries.

Digital elevation model

The search for terraces along rivers requires analysis, where GIS become necessary. Using a digital elevation model (DEM) and the geomatics tools that are available in GIS, detecting terraces automatically becomes possible.

The DEM is an elevation matrix map. In other words, it is an image in which each pixel represents a



precise geographic coordinate and where the colour of each pixel is determined by the elevation of the location it represents.

On the elevation map, a terrace with constant elevation is identifiable by a solid colour surface. Around a terrace we find a hilly terrain with changing elevation, which is identifiable by a border with a change of colour.

However, between southern Quebec, where the Ndakinna rivers originate, and the St. Lawrence River where they flow into, the difference in elevation is too great for the eye to distinguish small elevation differences which is necessary for analyzing the terrain. For example, Lake Memphremagog, Grand Lac Saint-François and Lac Mégantic are respectively 208m, 288m and 396m above sea level, while the St. Lawrence River is only 8m above sea level. The elevation value associated with each colour must be continually increased as the rivers' course is ascended.

Slope images to locate terraces

To detect terraces more easily, the elevation map is then transformed into a slope map, using a matrix tool that analyzes the surroundings of each pixel to calculate an escarpment value, represented in degrees or percentages (such as on road signs).

Thus, on the slope map, a terrace with zero slope is identifiable by its green colour (the green representing a slope of 0%). Around a terrace is a steeper slope, with higher slope values,

identifiable by different colour borders than green, indicating percentage slope values greater than 0%.

It is important to avoid selecting flat valley floors that are probably poorly drained and wet, which on a slope map, could be easily confused with terraces. Choosing only flat land above the river reduces the risk of selecting peatlands and at the same time excludes flood-risk areas where the W8banakiak people avoided settlement.

Thanks to GIS, we can isolate all the pixels on the map with a very low slope (less than 2% for example) and thus create a new flat terrain map. By overlaying the flat terrain map to the elevation map, the GIS easily determines the elevation corresponding to these areas. With a powerful geomatics tool, the section of river closest to each one of these areas can be located automatically, and the elevation difference between the flat terrain area and the river can be calculated.

Finally, with this result, we are able determine which areas represent terraces outside the flood-risk areas by establishing a maximum altitude value (for example, we choose the plains along the river which are at least 10m higher than the water level). This provides us with a terrace map.

From areas of archaeological potential to archaeological sites

From the terrace map, we select those we consider as areas of archaeological interest. The

selection is based on historical research data, oral sources and archaeological knowledge. Subsequently, archaeologists like Geneviève Treyvaud from the Ndakinna Office as well as trainee Jean-Nicolas Plourde can visit the areas of archaeological interest in order to choose those that can be converted into areas of archaeological potential.

This inspection serves not only to verify archaeological potential, but also to exclude areas or parts of areas that have undergone natural upheavals such as erosion and subsidence. In addition, the inspection confirms the geography of the sites described by historical and oral sources. Finally, this field trip makes it possible to verify that the areas of interest have not been excavated and that the cartographic information used in the GIS is correct.

To be converted into recognized archaeological sites, it is necessary to conduct exploratory surveys in the potential areas. As long as an artefact or evidence of past human occupation, such as a home, is found there, a classification request can be made and an individual code (called the Borden code) will be assigned. Once the Borden code is issued, the site is finally considered an archaeological site.

Hadrien Bois-Von Kursk
Geomatics Specialist
Ndakinna Office
Grand Conseil de la
Nation Waban-Aki

Odanak Environment and Land Office

KABASA : PROJECT COMPLETED !

Over the last seven years, about fifty people have contributed to the project's smooth operations and the majority of them are members of Odanak.

Since 2012, the Odanak Environment and Land Office has been monitoring the reproduction of Lake Sturgeon (KABASA) in the Saint-François River. The project began with the search for spawning adults and egg deposit sites in the downstream portion of the river (between Odanak and Drummondville). This allowed us to determine that, in this river, lake sturgeon spawning occurs mainly in the downstream reach of the Drummondville hydroelectric complex. Since 2014, the project's objective has been to better document its breeding ecology at this specific location by meeting the following specific objectives: 1) monitor egg deposit sites, 2) estimate the number of spawners, 3) estimate the number of drifting larvae, and ultimately 4) assess reproductive success (number of eggs/number of larvae). Based on these observations, it is possible to subsequently recommend modifications to hydrological management measures if they were to compromise reproductive success.



The main findings stemming from this study:

- There appear to be around 50 spawning females coming to spawn in Drummondville annually;
- The final choice of spawning site seems closely linked to the pattern of water flow at the Drummondville complex (turbine water vs. discharge water);

- The overall management of water flows at hydroelectric plants seems to influence the reproductive ecology of sturgeon. The elements likely to disturb the spawning are the water discharge and the filling at the Hemmings dam in order to carry out maintenance operations and the ensuing flow fluctuations;

- Reproductive success varies by around 1%, which is comparable to other Quebec spawning grounds.

Various management measures have since been discussed with key stakeholders to limit the negative impact on fish spawning downstream from hydroelectric structures. The most notable are the maintenance of an ecological flow rate of 20 m³/s in the Drummondville spillway in order to avoid massive mortalities of fish trapped in the basins (mainly redhorse), and the maintenance of a total flow rate of at least 75 m³/s between April 1 and June 15 to maintain an adequate level at all known spawning sites.

Over the last seven years, about fifty people have contributed to the project's smooth operations and the majority of them are members of Odanak. This project has had the effect of training a good number of individuals to perform tasks in aquatic sciences while providing advanced knowledge on the ecology of Odanak's iconic animal.

THANK YOU TO ALL !

COMMUNITY GARDEN



Following the work done last fall for the construction of a greenhouse, the Odanak Environment and Land Office (OELO) has undertaken a second phase of development to bring the community garden up to date. This project would hardly have been possible

without the financial support of the TD Foundation, in collaboration with the Abenakis of Odanak Council, the Odanak Health Centre, the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki and the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS). Thanks to the carpentry skills

of OELO employees, community members can now enjoy 8 bins on the ground, 8 raised bins and 2 flower boxes for gardening, as well as benches for resting. The first fence needed replacement, so a new one was built to protect the garden from greedy animals! This addition was also made to upgrade the facilities with new items, such as a bee hive, a composter and rainwater containers to water the plants. In addition, Mr. Jardin, a specialist in the field, offered those who wished, training in garden maintenance and success.

In the spring of 2019, seedlings will be prepared and stored in the greenhouse to commence growing and then be planted later in the season. Odanak members wishing to use the community garden may contact the OELO or the other community service centres to register on the list of participants. Since space is limited, it is important to notify managers as soon as possible. First come, first serve!



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

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

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Odanak Environment and Land Office

OBSTACLES TO THE FREE MOVEMENT OF FISH: The Case of the Saint-François River



Although hydroelectricity is considered green energy, it does not necessarily mean that it has no negative impact on the surrounding environment and wildlife habitats.

During the dam operation phase, several negative impacts, such as hindering migration, can be observed on the dynamics of fish populations.

In fact, a hydroelectric dam can be a major obstacle to overcome during the fish ascending period, which can even contribute to the decline of some species. During the descending period, many of

them can also get caught in the turbines. Depending on the species and the type of infrastructure, this sometimes contributes to a significant mortality factor.

In the Saint-François River, there are nearly 350 water control structures, of which 19 are hydroelectric structures. For example, the Drummondville dam is the first impassable obstacle for fish coming downstream.

It has also been documented that several species of fish gather in its tailbay, mainly in the spring during the upstream migration, which can sometimes be a

problem. At this location, the flow of the Saint-François River is divided into two parts: the power station with turbines to produce energy, and the spillway which discharges the surplus water. The topography of the river bed ensures that when there is insufficient water, several small wells become isolated from each other and fish may be trapped inside. In the summer, after the fish spawning season, Hydro-Québec's managers adjust the flow pattern of the Saint-François River to turbine more water, which results in virtually no flow in the spillway.

In order to prevent fish from remaining captive in the wells during the restoration of water flows, the OELO made numerous observations in the spring of 2018 to determine approximately the number of fish present in these wells, and which of these wells seemed the most problematic. Two methods were tested simultaneously to answer these questions: 1) on-site observation with polarizing glasses to better see in the water and 2) observation using a drone.

The excellent collaboration with Hydro-Québec's personnel thus makes it possible to modulate the water flows in order to ensure better transition to a spillway with no outflow. Thus, during the transition, the operators adjust the turbine capacity of the plant as necessary in order to create a succession of water removal from the spillway (in the manner of many small bursts), which leads to a progressive withdrawal of the fish present in the wells. With each "wave", a number of fish exit the spillway and return to the river's main channel until there are none left. These interventions can take several days!

By making real-time observations, this ensures that no fish are caught, and if so, it also allows us to take the necessary steps to remove them. This shows that despite the negative effects that hydroelectric structures can have on aquatic wildlife, there are still solutions to mitigate the negative effects.

Large Waste Disposal Site

Odanak is well recognized in the Centre-du-Québec for its waste management initiatives. In fact, what used to be called "the dump" has been revamped in recent years. In 2017, the land was completely redeveloped to become the large waste disposal site. It is home to several types of recyclable materials such as green waste, hazardous household waste, construction, renovation and demolition materials, all types of metals and large non-recoverable waste (refrigerator, mattress, sofa, etc.).

In 2017, 48 tons of material passed through the disposal site and then to a recycling centre. It is estimated that less than 4% of these materials were sent to landfills.

In order to better meet the needs of community members, the opening hours of the disposal site have been changed. Since June 2018, the site is open from 3pm to 8pm (to give access to the site in the evening), from 9am to 4pm on Friday and Saturday (to offer day access during the week and on weekends). In addition,

an attendant is present at all times to guide members during their visit. This is to ensure that only people from the community access the site and that materials are sent to the correct section for recycling.

Following the disposal site's success, and the proper use by its members, the OELO (Odanak Environment and Land Office) has initiated a second phase of the site's improvement. If all goes well, starting in the spring of 2019, new infrastructure such as an elevated access ramp to the

containers will be added for the safety and convenience of the users. New sites and containers will also be added to encourage better on-site sorting and thus reduce certain costs related to the site's operation.

This wind of change will enhance Odanak's solid reputation for waste management and make it one of the most advanced communities in this sector. We encourage you to come and take advantage of this free service in large numbers and to be proud!



MUSÉE DES Abénakis

AN ACTIVE PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN !

The summer tourist season was excellent for the Musée des Abénakis! We welcomed nearly 950 visitors in June, just over 2,200 in July and more than 1,150 in August. We can therefore number our summer traffic at 5,300. This exceptional attendance is the result of numerous advertising campaigns by the Museum over the summer. Have you seen our TV commercials on Radio-Canada, TVA, LCN and RDI? We cannot ignore the excellent media coverage received for the exhibit *L'Indien au-delà d'Hollywood* (Indians Beyond Hollywood), as many radio interviews and newspaper articles have shown.

SUMMER CULTURAL PROGRAM

In June, the Museum launched its summer cultural program. Among the activities that were held in recent weeks, there was the rabaska excursion on the Alsig8ntekw which pleased the participants. There was also the archaeological activity where participants were invited to become apprentice excavators for a day, which was a success across the line!

I would like to mention that it is still time to register for the Outdoor Film and Documentary evenings, which will take place on September 13, 20 and 27. On September 13, watch Kim O'Bomsawin's "Ce silence qui tue" on September 20, Sonia Bonspille-Boileau's "Le Dep" and, on September 27, Steve Patry's "Waseskun". You are invited to exchange with the respective directors of these films following the screenings. These documentary evenings are completely free and will take place on the Museum grounds. If the weather fails to cooperate for an outdoor projection, the activity will be moved inside. Do not miss this chance to be moved and touched by these documentaries! Contact us today to reserve a place!

RENEWAL OF OUR PERMANENT EXHIBIT

The Ministère de la Culture et des Communications has donated \$350,000 to the Musée des Abénakis for the renewal of its permanent exhibit as part of Quebec's call for projects to support permanent and traveling



exhibits program (Appel de projets pour le soutien des expositions permanentes et itinérantes). The Museum's current permanent exhibit was inaugurated more than 12 years ago, during the reopening of the Museum, after the expansion work: a renewal is essential!

The primary objective of this project is to make the Musée des Abénakis a real place of exchange, transmission and promotion of Abenaki culture. This project is therefore an opportunity to create a movement to mobilize the Abenaki communities of Odanak and Wôlinak as well as Abenaki residents living outside the province and in the United States. From the early stages of this project, an open innovation process will be introduced. Abenaki members will be invited to actively participate in the design and realization of the exhibit. The Museum hopes that this space will become the gathering and reference place for all people belonging to the Abenaki culture. Scheduled for June 2020, the new exhibit will be accompanied by a program of activities and events to discover and experience the Abenaki culture.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Archaeological excavations continued from August 6 to 24 in Odanak's historic quadrangle. Several trenches were dug around the rectory to complete the work carried out in 2013 and 2014, where remains of the first church of Odanak had been unearthed in front of the building. The research was completed near the rectory's foundations to ensure that the former occupations were well documented before the destruction of the building. A team of archaeology students conducted a complete architectural survey of the building with different techniques that involve 3D recordings and virtual reality. The results will be kept in the Museum to present a visual reconstruction of the rectory.

An archaeological project was also carried out in front of the Museum to complete the excavation of the longhouse discovered in 2017, during the repair work on our foundations. During this work, a waste pit and several post holes were located.

The excavation team consisted of youth from the Odanak and Wôlinak communities, three archaeology students, members of the NdaKinna Office and archaeologist Geneviève Treyvaud. Among the archaeology students, two of them work in zoo-archaeology, i.e. they specialize in the identification of animal bones that were consumed between the 16th and 19th centuries. The bones of animals found in the longhouse pits were analyzed and the food diet of the Abenaki people was documented. The third student works in environmental archaeology; she outlines in the pits and soil traces of ancient cultivated plants, the position of ancient gardens and the insects present before and after the arrival of European settlers.

This whole project was led by the Niona team.

L'INDIEN AU-DELÀ D'HOLLYWOOD (INDIANS BEYOND HOLLYWOOD)

We launched the exhibit Indians Beyond Hollywood (*L'Indien au-delà d'Hollywood*) on June 28 and nearly 80 people attended. If you could not be with us or you have not had the opportunity to come discover this exhibit, it is not too late since the Indians beyond Hollywood exhibit will be presented at the Musée des Abénakis over an 18-month period, until December 2019. The exhibition will then be touring throughout America.

Indians Beyond Hollywood is an amazing exhibit on the image of Aboriginal Peoples in popular culture in three areas. First, we discover the images of Aboriginal people invented and conveyed by 20th century cinema, particularly in the western movies of the first half of the century, when a

stereotypical iconography of "the Indian" was conveyed: noble Indian, traitor Indian, Indian princess. The second area illustrates how these stereotypical images, disseminated by Hollywood films, among others, are found everywhere around us, from childhood onwards. Consumer products display images of feathered Indians and toys inspired by cinema and popular TV shows. It brings together a profusion of familiar caricatures, to highlight their recurring presence. The visitor will find an abundance of objects showing a "kitsch" iconography of Indians in every pretext. Finally, the third area addresses the subject from a current point of view. Following what was presented in the first two areas, the visitor can discover, from an Aboriginal perspective, how this long history now brings First Nations people to speak, to reclaim their own cultural image and to denounce the misuse of their image and thereby end the generalization and the stereotypes still conveyed today.

NEW AT THE KIZ8BAK GIFT SHOP

During the summer, we received new items in the gift shop, including a magnificent range of products from the Navajo, Zuñi and Hopi nations of Arizona in the United States. Jewellery such as bracelets, rings and necklaces for men, women and children are available for you. There is something for everyone and for all budgets! Remember the Musée des Abénakis Kiz8bak gift shop for your various purchases!

Reminder: by becoming a member of the Museum, you benefit from a 15% discount on gift shop purchases!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Vicky Desfossés-Bégin
Communications and Mediation
Officer
Musée des Abénakis