



W8BANA



PILASKW



Word from the Chief

Kwaï fellow band members,

These are very trying times. With all of us doing our best to deal with the adjustments needed to live our lives in the midst of a

rapidly changing world, life must continue. How do we interact and continue the very important work of reform within our nation? Groups such as “Reforming the Abenaki Circle” are called upon to be creative in the efforts to continue this important process. As Abenaki people our capacity to adapt is being called upon. It is difficult, but not impossible to continue to build our community. We are relying more and more on technology to meet and deal with sensitive issues that can jeopardize the stability and sustainability of our nation for future generations.

This pandemic is forcing us to reflect on our limited resources and how we as a nation choose to use them in a way that will sustain us now and well into the future.

In loosing a dear friend, brother and teacher, Chief Joe Norton, I am made to think about just how short life is. Although his legacy will remain the driving force of those he left behind, his work at this crucial time was indispensable. He will be missed!

We continue to work hard to ensure our voice is heard and recognized as the stewards of our lands. We have but little lands where our people thrived as a nation in the past. Our

sovereign rights to this land is often being threatened not only by government but also by other nations encroaching on what is our nation’s ancestral territories. Our lands office, the Ndakina Office, has worked diligently to ensure this process is followed closely.

We at council support these efforts and will continue to lead the discussions and negotiations with other nations and government.

Here in the community, our current project of creating new streets and the infrastructure to continue to build houses is nearing its end. We now have the space to build in the area of 30 new houses for our young families wishing to either remain or return to the community to raise their families.

We continue to grow. As a collective we can continue to do what is necessary to leave a strong foundation for the generations to come.

In peace and friendship,

Chief Rick O’Bomsawin



Word from Councillors



ALAIN O'BOMSAWIN
Councillor

Kwaï,

I hope you were able to enjoy the summer despite the pandemic and its many limitations.

As for the community church, painting work on the roof is expected to be started or completed, while other work will be done on the front of the building to make the wall weatherproof.

In addition, we are awaiting a bid for work to replace the gantry located in the front, facing the river. We also received a bid for the renovation of the heart of the church. However, the work was postponed considering that the front wall and the gantry are a priority. Minor repairs were done to the parish priest's home.

On the health side, the “mini-emergency service” project, which was scheduled to open in September at the Coopérative de Solidarité et de Santé Shooner-Jauvin, has been postponed until around the first quarter of 2021.

Please note that this service will be accessible to all Odanak residents, whether or not you are a cooperative member.

Wli Wni
Alain O’Bomsawin



CLAIRE O'BOMSAWIN
Councillor

Kwaï everyone,

As you can imagine, no activities have been organized for seniors in recent months due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The first post-confinement activity was held in mid-August and was a corn roast. I would like to thank everyone who participated in this event. It was good to get together after all this time.

However, the date for the resumption of normal activities for the seniors of the community has not yet been determined. We will inform you as soon as it has been set.

Until then, I wish you a nice end of summer and a beautiful beginning of fall filled with health and love.

See you next time!
Claire O’Bomsawin





Word from Councillors



FLORENCE BENEDICT
Councillor

Kwaï,

Fall is already around the corner and the last few months have been difficult for everyone; with the confinement, restrictions, mandatory mask wearing, social distancing and so on! In spite of everything, summer was finally, let's say, almost normal. The sun and the heat did not disappoint.

With all of our employees teleworking, essential services were maintained. I would like to take this opportunity to salute their work and their daily efforts to meet the needs of the Nation's members since the onset of this pandemic.

I would also like to mention that the Musée des Abénakis as well as the "Awikhighanigamikok" library have reopened their doors to the general public since July 13, to everyone's delight.

Life is slowly but surely returning to normal and we hope that the Council offices will reopen very soon. We continue to attend the weekly meetings as elected representatives of the Nation and

to respond to the expectations and demands of the population to the extent that our capacities allow us to do so given the situation we are facing.

Recently, as part of the Présence autochtone 2020 festival, I had the privilege of attending the screening of Ms. Alanis Obomsawin's documentary film at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.



"JORDAN RIVER ANDERSON, the Messenger" is a 65-minute documentary that tells the story of a child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba who was born with multiple disabilities and his family who found themselves caught in the middle of one of these jurisdictional disputes (**by definition, the jurisdictional dispute arose because different levels of government fund different services for First Nations children, especially those living on-reserve*). This led to disputes between the provincial

and federal governments over who would pay for his specific care.

Jordan River died at the age of 5 without having received the recommended services he needed. The years that followed were a long legal and political battle that led to the creation of "Jordan's Principle" in 2007 in memory of this little boy who was a victim of the discriminatory and colonial government system of the day.

For those unfamiliar with Jordan's Principle by definition: **It is to ensure that all First Nations children living in Canada can access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them. Funding can help with a wide range of health, social and educational needs, including needed supports for First Nations LGBTQ and Two-Spirit youth.*

Among those present in the room at the time of the presentation, we noted the presence of Alanis Obomsawin, filmmaker, as well as Ms. Cindy Blackstock, a great Gitxsan activist and Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society who is fighting for the well-being of children and who played a very important role in this battle with the government for the recognition and application of Jordan's Principle, whose dedication to this cause we can clearly see in the documentary.

Much more than a political and legal battle, this documentary recounts the collateral damage of an entire family leading up to the completion and application of

"Jordan's Principle".

Another magnificent production by Alanis Obomsawin.



At any time, you can contact the Odanak Health Centre for more information about the Jordan's Principle program at 450 568-6766.

In conclusion and according to the last updates, we did not have any Covid-19 cases in our community, which means that the measures decreed by the governments have been effective for our community.

Let's continue in this direction, with respect for others. Let's not let up!

Take care of yourselves and we'll talk again after the holidays.

Wliwni

*Source Wikipedia.



Short Column on the Abenaki Language

In this issue, I will discuss **THE FORMATION OF THE PLURAL OF ANIMATED NOUNS**. Since **indefinite** and **definite** articles do not exist in Abenaki, the singular of a noun, such as **tree**, designates **a** tree as well as **the** tree and the plural of trees.

1. As a general rule, to form the plural of **ANIMATED** nouns, "ak" is added to the plural.

Tree	Abazi	Abaziak
Eagle	Mgezo	Mgezoa
Snake	Skok	Skokak
Frog	Chegwai	Chegwaiak
Wowaron	Agbala	Agbalaak
Bread	Ab8n	Ab8nak
Kid	Aw8ssis	Aw8ssisak
Wave (on the water)	Tegw	Tegwak
Flea	Pabikw	Pabikwak
Kettle	Kokw	Kokwak
Skunk	Seg8gw	Seg8gwak

2. For names ending in "a" or "8", simply add "k".
- | | | |
|-------|--------|---------|
| Homme | San8ba | San8bak |
| Chef | S8gm8 | S8gm8k |

3. For names ending with "em", add "ok".
- | | | |
|-------|--------|----------|
| Woman | Phanem | Phanemok |
|-------|--------|----------|

We also add "ok" to all names ending with "akw or agw" and "skw or sgw". To form these nouns in the plural. Replace the "w" with an "o".

Cod	Nokamagw	Nokamagok
Groundhog	Agaskw	Agaskok

4. For names ending with "ad or id", the "d" is removed and replaced by "jik".

Baker	Nodab8nkad	Nodab8nkajik
Widower	Sigwid	Sigwijik

¹ Excerpt from the book INITIATION À LA GRAMMAIRE ABÉNAKISE, Monique Nolett-Ille, Odanak, 2006.





Word from Councillors



JACQUES T. WATSO
Councillor

Kwaï,
we are all affected by Covid-19 so here is a brief message of thanks to allband employees from all sectors having participated in the well-being of the community as well as all residents of Odanak for their collaboration during these trying month.

The Abenakis of Odanak and Wôlinak are the sole guardians of their language, their culture and their traditions!

Following the April 2019 resolution, signed by the councils of Odanak and Wôlinak, we established a Wabanaki Affirmation Committee. Composed of members of both communities, this committee aims to:

1. Generate a movement of positive and constructive cultural affirmation
2. Reduce and / or discredit efforts to recognize self-proclaimed Abenaki individuals or groups;
3. Effectively inform the members of the Nation about self-proclaimed indigenous people.
4. Promote the efforts of the Odanak and Wôlinak Councils and all our band members as the sole custodians of Abenaki culture and traditions.

Despite the current covid 19 situation, the Affirmation Committee continued to sit and one of the conclusion was the importance of having a real and introspective dialogue among the members of our nation.

This is why we are at the stage of setting up an Abenaki Nation Affirmation Forum scheduled for November 2020.

The main objectives of this forum are as follows:

- Draw a real, sincere and actual portrait of the Abenaki nation about our identity, social, cultural and political stance.
- Promote dialogue for members off and on reserve.
- Establish an action plan for the future of our nation.

Stay tuned for the Affirmation Forum. All technological means will be at our disposal for a maximum of participants (zoom, simultaneous translator, online moderator, etc.).

Another hot topic that concerns all members of the nation, cultural and identity appropriation.

Among the Abenaki people, cultural appropriation is a tsunami that harms our own cultural advancement.

Let me explain:

For several decades, many self-righteous (IndianLover) have appropriated our cultural heritage. That is, our language, our songs, our dances, our crafts, our art, our

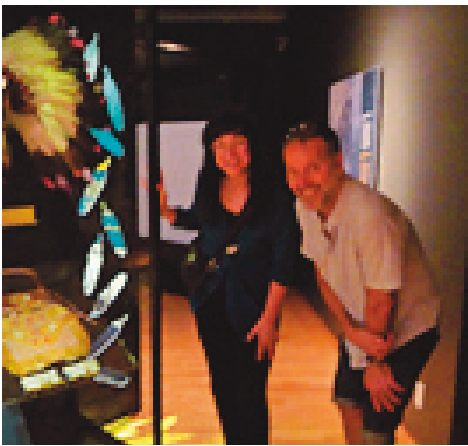
traditions and our spirituality for personal and monetary purposes. Many of these people claim to be our allies, they have sneaked into our communities taking advantage of our warm welcome and our generosity.

A term that can be used is the "race-shifter", this term generally defines a white man who believes himself to be Abenaki, without having to prove or justify his genealogy.

We Abenaki have endured a lot of cultural trauma, residential schools, missionaries, loss of language, racism, discrimination and lateral violence.

We have not yet healed the wounds of our past, they tell us how we should live our own culture and have the nerve to claim to live it better than we do. It's very infantilizing, paternalistic and colonialist.

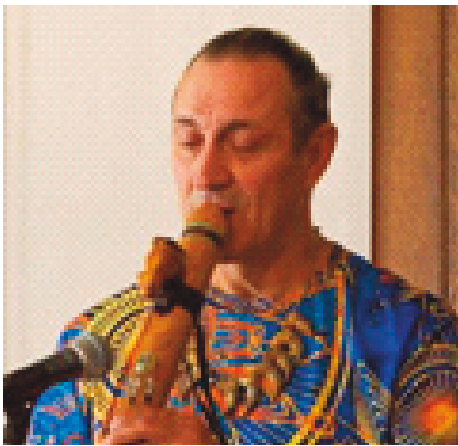
Here are some examples of self-proclaimed Abenaki:



Sylvain Rivard:
Always close to the community of Odanak. He built his career by falsely proclaiming himself of Abenaki descent, thereby creating vast cultural credit on the backs of our Nation.



Mathieu Montminy:
Self-proclaimed Métis of the East, Métis Abenaki.



Patrick Therrien alias Nia Skweda Sibosimis:
flautist of the Native New Age movement claiming to be Abenaki Métis.



Don Stevens:
Self-proclaimed leader of the Elnu tribe of Vermont, he has no Abenaki ancestry let alone Aboriginal, leader of the appropriation movement in Vermont.

Marge Bruschac:
She and her family have called themselves the O'Bomsawin family. Exploiting our culture for monetary purposes.

And the list continues.
One of the common threads of this cultural and identity appropriation is money. All these people exploit loopholes in the system to profit from government grants intended for indigenous members.
In conclusion, it is up to us to remain vigilant and assert ourselves as it should and continue to affirm ourself proudly.
Let's keep our heads high !
Jacques T. Watso



Word from Management



DANIEL G. NOLETT
Executive Director
Abenaki Council of Odanak

Kwaï mziwi!

During this time of pandemic due to Covid-19, where we have just experienced a brief resurgence of cases in Quebec, we are gradually returning to normal operations in our administrative offices, including the Health Centre. Since September 8, the employees who had been teleworking since mid-March have returned to their offices.

We have been extremely fortunate not to have had a Covid-19 case so far in Odanak. Lucky indeed, but we have made our luck by implementing the measures directed by Public Health. We have endeavoured to strictly follow the government guidelines and this has paid off. Although we all suffered from the isolation due to these strict measures during the confinement (some suffered more than others of course, such as our elders among others), we got through it. We will continue to follow the Public Health recommendations and guidelines to the letter until the end of this bad soap opera in order to minimize the impact on the health of all our community members and residents.

The 25-lot servicing project for residential development on the former CN land is now complete. At the time this article was written, only minor excavation work remained to be done on the Waban-Aki Street residents' properties. I remind you that this project is an investment of nearly \$1.5 million. You may have noticed that a shared-lane bicycle path has been created on Pakesso Street, which gives us approximately 1.25 km of bicycle path and/or pedestrian walkway between Waban-Aki Street and the end of the bicycle path near Kiuna.

We received confirmation from the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (AAS) in mid-August that the application for infrastructure funding was accepted. As a result, we will proceed with the expansion of the former administrative office located at 102 Sibosis, which now houses the offices of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki. With the expansion of the Grand Conseil due to its many mandates, it has become imperative to proceed with this expansion. This represents a \$1.2 million project of which 50% of the costs will be covered by the funding we will receive from the AAS and the other 50% will be covered by a loan from the BMO. None of our membership funds or the Council's consolidated surplus will be affected by this project since the entire cost of this project will ultimately be borne entirely by the Grand Conseil from the rent we will charge them.

Regarding the class action brought by the victims of the federal Indian day schools, our community members who attended the Académie Saint-Joseph prior to its closure in 1959, can apply for financial compensation. You can also refer to the following web link for more information:
<https://indiandayschools.com/fr/>.

After several years of hard work at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki on specific claims, we hope for an early case settlement for the Seigneurie de St-François and its 38 lots. Indeed, hearings before the Specific Claims Tribunal began on September 9 at the Musée des Abénakis. The hearings will take place over a six-week period. Community members wishing to attend these hearings can do so via the Zoom platform. We expect to obtain financial compensation for the loss of use and for the damages that the loss of these lands has caused us. We will keep you informed of the progress and outcome of these hearings.

Wli tagw8gw! Have a good fall!



If you made an IAP or ADR claim for compensation for residential school abuse, there are records of your claim. You now have the opportunity to choose what happens to those records after your claim is finished.

The choice is yours

- Your records from the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) or the Alternative Dispute Resolution process (ADR) are confidential.
- To keep them confidential, you don't need to do anything.
- If you do nothing, your records will be automatically destroyed on September 19, 2027.
- Until September 19, 2027 you can get a copy of your records for yourself or to share with anyone you choose.
- If you choose, you can preserve your records for history, education, and research at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR).

Which records are being kept?

- Your application form
- The voice recording of your testimony
- The printed record (transcript) of your testimony
- The decision on your claim

Can I get a copy of my own records?

Yes. To get a copy of your application form, the transcript of your testimony, and your decision, call IAP Information toll free at **1-877-635-2648**. Or email **IAPRecords_DocumentsSAPI@irsad-sapi.gc.ca**.

Information that identifies other people will be blocked out, to protect their privacy.

It can take several months to receive a copy of your records.

Preserving the history of residential schools

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) has been created to preserve the history of Canada's residential school system. It is hosted at the University of Manitoba. It is the permanent home for the records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

The NCTR invites those who made a claim in the IAP or ADR to add their records to its collection. These records will be available forever, to researchers and others who want to learn about the history and impact of Canada's Indian residential schools.

Information that identifies other people will be

blocked out, to respect everyone's privacy.

If you choose to preserve your records with the NCTR, send your completed consent form to the IAP Secretariat and your records will be securely sent to the NCTR.

To get a consent form, call IAP Information toll free at **1-877-635-2648** or download the form from **www.MyRecordsMyChoice.ca**.

How would my records be used at the NCTR?

If you choose to preserve your records at the NCTR you may choose either restricted access or open access. "Restricted" means that your name and other information that identifies you is kept confidential. "Open" means that you could be publicly identified.

Can I get help?

Yes. Resolution Health Support Workers (RHSWs) can answer your questions and help you with forms. To find an RHSW in your area, call one of the toll-free information lines below, or ask at your band office.

To learn more

- **IAP Information**
toll free: 1-877-635-2648
email: MyRecordsMyChoice@irsad-sapi.gc.ca
online: <http://www.MyRecordsMyChoice.ca>
- **Assembly of First Nations**
toll free: 1-833-212-2688
email: iapdesk@afn.ca
online: www.afn.ca
- **Inuit Representatives:**
Contact for the Inuvialuit:
phone: 1-867-777-7018
email: ggruben@inuvialuit.com
online: <http://www.irc.inuvialuit.com/>

Contact for Makivik:
toll free: 1-800-369-7052
electronic communications can be submitted at:
<http://www.makivik.org/contact/>
online: <http://www.makivik.org>
- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR)**
toll free: 1-855-415-4534
email: NCTRrecords@umanitoba.ca
online: www.NCTR.ca

If you are feeling pain or distress because of your residential school experiences please call the free 24-hour **Residential Schools Crisis line: 1-866-925-4419**





Income Security

Annual Report 2019-2020 Income Security Program

Par Ann Landry

Sector’s mission

Provide last resort financial assistance for Odanak community members who do not have sufficient resources to support themselves.

Promote the integration of community members (employable) to the labour market through training, development of employability and employment support programs.

Provide adequate financial resources and individually-based professional services to people unable to work.

Mitigate the dependence on income security and the underemployment issues in Odanak.

Participate in various community-based projects.

Activities – Income Security (2019-2020)

- Annual meetings (2) of the communities adhering to the policy framework;
- Apply the administrative procedures of the Income Security Policy Framework, keep abreast of updates and apply them as required;
- Attend training and information sessions for the application of the First Nations of Quebec Income Security Policy Framework (3 training sessions were given by the FNQLHSSC);
- Provide professional services to program beneficiaries in consideration of their individual needs;
- Conduct annual reassessments in order to update claimants’ files;
- Monitor individual plans for employable clients;
- Develop healthy relationships with regional and provincial organizations related to income security, transfer to the province and employment;
- Work in close cooperation with each department.

Budget item, social assistance

In 2019-2020, income security payments totalled \$ 194,439.26 to income security program beneficiaries. Based on statistics, last year, herewith are the results:

Social assistance benefits expenditures	
Basic allowance	\$155,834.03
Limited capacity allowance ¹	\$36,256.00
Special allowance ²	\$1,074.23
Exceptional measures (power outage in November 2019)	\$1,275.00
Total for 2019-2020	\$194,439.26

Data were collected internally (accounting). They have not yet been verified by the accounting auditors.

Further information on budget items

Note 1: Limited capacity allowances are provided to people with physical or mental incapacity or due to pregnancy, age (58 and over) and for children under the age of 5.

Note 2: Special allowances are provided to people with special needs in the following situations: illness, pregnancy, death of a family member, etc.

Employment-based activities, training and special projects

- Periodic meetings are held with the aim of helping and assisting clients in their efforts towards employment;
- Meetings with external resources for clients (psychologist, counsellor);
- Meeting between the communities adhering to the policy framework and the FNHRDCQ (LFNC, single-window approach);
- Meetings and follow-ups of employment assistance measures;
- Work in close collaboration with the Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi (CJE) so that the clientele (16 to 35 year-olds) has access to all employment services and programs;
- The LFNC and income security are working closely to improve customer service;

Statistics over the last three (3) years

Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Training (adult, vocational (DEP), college)	2	1	0
Labour market	2	1	1
Employment assistance measures	1	1	1
Social reintegration	0	0	0
Employed following the project	0	0	0
Total number of participants	5	3	2



Technical Services



MARIO DIAMOND
Technical Services
Director

Kwaï N’nid8ba,

Fall is looming on the horizon and sounding the culmination of

several projects in Odanak. Among the most important are the extension of Sips, Mgezo and Pakesso streets, which is being completed on budget and on schedule.

Another major project will begin shortly, the expansion of 102 Sibosis Street, which will be occupied by employees of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki (GCNWA), among others. Thanks to this expansion, it will also be possible for all members of the Odanak community and their families to access improved services.

Thanks to the active participation of the Abenakis of Odanak Council, several programs are

currently underway; mainly the RRAP programs, minor renovations, as well as all the modifications made to the various buildings owned by the community, for the benefit of its members.

At the time of writing this article, bids are also being reviewed to equip various buildings with generators to address the recurring power outages experienced in the past.

In closing, it should be noted that this year, a large portion of Waban-Aki Street was resurfaced and that in 2021, the technical services team will be busy paving the rest of the street, up to the northern limit of the community.

As you can see, at all times, even during a pandemic, the GCNWA continues to work with the Abenakis of Odanak Council to further advance the work and carry out new projects in your community.

If you have any ideas or questions, do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, I invite you to visit our website or our articles on social media.

Wlinanawalmezi!

Adio.



Archaeology summer 2020 - Ndakina Office

Despite COVID-19, archaeologists from the Ndakina Office were called out into the field. In June, several visits were made to the forest management units of the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) to conduct archaeological surveys. This work allows for the recording and protection of archaeological sites, areas of archaeological potential or places considered sensitive for the W8banaki Nation.

Last spring, Energir mandated the Ndakina Office to draft an archaeological potential study and carry out field work in the context of the extension of a gas pipeline between Lévis and Montmagny. Since the target region is on the Wolastokuk, the territory of the Wolastoqiyik Wampanapik Nation (Maliseet Viger First Nation), the Ndakina Office's archaeologists developed the project in order to mentor the members of the archaeology team of the Wolastoqiyik Wampanapik Nation's Office of natural resources and territory. This mandate was an opportunity for the Ndakina Office to demonstrate the experience that has been acquired in recent years in archaeological project management and the protection of First Nations' archaeological heritage. The potential study included a historical component of First

Nations' occupation of the Côte-du-Sud region as well as a study of all archaeological sites and types of occupation on the territory prior to the colonial period. Following this work, some fifteen zones were surveyed in July as part of inventory work and excavation supervision.



The Energir archaeology project team

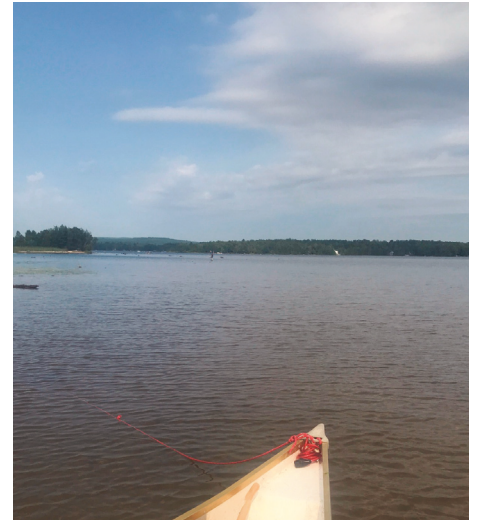
Between August 10 and 15, archaeological digs took place at the BkEu-2 site, located in the Aylmer Lake Park. This archaeological site demonstrates a continuity of occupation by W8banakiak ancestors dating back at least 6,000 years. This project is a partnership between the Municipality of Stratford and the Ndakina Office. It has several objectives. The first was to assess the condition of the archaeological site located on the beach and to conduct an archaeological inventory through surveys to

define the extent of the site. Unfortunately, the archaeologists could only observe that the major part of the site had disappeared under the effect of erosion caused by the rise in the water level for vacationing purposes. A few artefacts were collected in the water and uncovered during the

survey.

It should be noted that the BkEu-2 site at Lake Aylmer has been the object of artefact sampling by collectors for some fifty years. Over the past decade, several objects and collections have been submitted to the Laboratoire and the Réserve d'archéologie du Québec (LRAQ). The second objective of the project is to showcase the results of research conducted on the BkEu-2 site. Several artefacts will be displayed inside the main building, interpretive panels will be installed

and park users will be able to view short documentaries on the occupation of this part of the Alsig8ntegw by the W8banakiak people. Ndakina Office team members will participate in the documentation required for this project during the fall and winter of 2020-2021.



View of the submerged BkEu-2 site



Archaeological surveys on the shores of the beach at Aylmer Lake Park

FORTHCOMING : A MAJOR CONSULTATION OF THE FUTURE OF BLACK ASH

There is no need to reiterate the importance of black ash for the W8banakiak people as well as for other neighbouring First Nations in Quebec and the North-eastern United States. We also know that the emerald ash borer is a growing threat to the species.

This year, the Ndakina Office, together with the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI), intends to hold a dialogue on the future of the black ash tree and the role that First Nations could play in its protection and the monitoring of its condition.

Indeed, we were recently consulted by the Canadian Wildlife Service of the Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada to add black ash to the list of species at risk. Although it is paramount to protect the ash tree, the status of threatened species could come with certain prohibitions and limitations in our traditional practices. In light of all the social and cultural

considerations that will have to be taken into account in the Nation's positioning, and because of the central importance that ash has

always had for the W8banakiak people, we felt the need for a broader consultation that would include all First Nations concerned.



In short, how to protect the species while continuing to harvest and sell ash products, without altering the reputation of W8banakiak basketry in public opinion? And how can we support the sharing of techniques and knowledge related to ash, from its collection and threshing to its transformation into baskets?

This will require a great deal of dialogue among First Nations. A first virtual meeting should be held in the fall, followed by a second face-to-face meeting in the spring if the health situation permits. The details have yet to be defined and the schedule may have to change.

We will definitely announce the rest of our approach, which you will also be able to follow on Facebook at the following address:

<https://www.facebook.com/bureau.ndakina>

Wliwni.

News from the Odanak Environment and Land Office Beto team

The Covid-19 pandemic that has raged in recent months has not prevented the Odanak Environment and Land Office team from pursuing its environmental projects. Since the spring, we have been pursuing our many wildlife projects (striped bass inventory in Lake Saint-Pierre, environmental DNA research on copper redhorse in the Saint-François River, fish inventory at the Drummondville dam, turtle inventory at the Odanak marshes, etc.).

We also continued our rehabilitation of walking trails, reactivated the Odanak ecocentre and maintained the community's various gardens. We also worked to develop new projects for the coming year: inventories of bank swallows and cormorants, monitoring of erosion sites and archaeological potential, and much more. The majority of these are already confirmed, so stay tuned for future editions of the Pilaskw to learn more. You can also visit the Facebook page of the Odanak Environment and Land Office that we continuously update.

The 2020-2021 BETO team is made up of Samuel Dufour-Pelletier (Director), Luc G. Nolett (Field team leader), Émile Gariépy (Environmental project manager), Evelyne Benedict (Field assistant), Christopher Coughlin (Field assistant), Steeve Williams (Ecocentre attendant), Michel Durand (Land manager), Joannie Beaupré (Environmental project manager) and Stéphanie Harnois (Environmental project manager).

Rehabilitation of hiking trails

Extension of the Tolba trail:

Opening this fall

This summer, the Odanak Environment and Land Office worked on upgrading the Tolba Trail, which now connects to the Koak trail. The new entrance to the trail, located next to the Abenaki Museum, has also been improved in order to welcome you this fall.

Ten new interpretive panels on Abenaki nature and culture have been added: archaeology, invasive exotic species, ash and sweetgrass, river, clay, saltwater shells, the balance between wildlife, flora and humans, new marsh and forest panels and a new trail map.

Come and admire the wonderful natural environment thanks to the new facilities!



Staircase leading to the St-François riverside (behind the museum)



New observation tower at marsh 2

Surveying the Odanak turtles using a drone

This summer, the BETO also carried out a drone-led turtle survey project as part of project manager Émile Gariépy's workplace internship for her bachelor's degree in biological and ecological sciences at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières.

A drone-led turtle inventory sustainability project in Odanak has been developed to further develop our knowledge and skills in the use of a drone in the field of biology.

The main objective was to verify the relevance and efficiency of using a drone in surveying turtles, which is usually done using binoculars. To achieve this, we had to answer the following questions:

- Do the environment and weather affect the number of turtles observed?
- What are the drone's optimal parameters for counting turtles?
- Can we distinguish the different species?
- Is the ratio (observed turtles/time) more profitable by drone than by sight?

A total of 36 surveys, including a drone count and a visual count, were carried out in equal parts in three marshes on the Odanak territory, from June 4, 2020 to August 8, 2020. Meteorological

data (temperature, cloud cover and wind speed) and temporal data (time of day, preparation time and observation time) were also noted. These data influencing the calculations will be essential to statistically analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the two survey methods.

By comparing the results obtained using drones with those obtained using the visual method, we will then be able to distinguish which variables are conducive to drone-led surveys and which are conducive to visual surveys. If the results are conclusive in supporting drone-led surveys, other environmental organizations such as BETO will be able to benefit from a standardized, timely and efficient survey method that will allow access to territories that are more difficult to reach on foot. The final results of this project were published at the end of the summer.



Photo taken by drone of a few painted turtles (Chrysemys picta) warming up in the sun on the surface of the water.

The BETO hired a community member as project manager, Émile Gariépy.

Abenaki medicinal plants



Medicinal plant garden at the health centre

Last year, the medicinal plant garden located at the Health Centre was refurbished and several species were added, including yarrow, plantain, nettle, dandelion, sacred tobacco and mullein. This development will have been improved at the end of the summer, when several other medicinal plants from the Odanak territory were added. You are all welcome to come and pick what you need for your home remedies.

Since several projects are slowly taking shape on the Odanak

territory, we have been called upon to conduct plant surveys in the Masta marsh (ecotourism project) as well as in the Domaine de Pierreville (shooting range project). These surveys are intended to draw a portrait of the different plants, shrubs and trees in these environments. Some areas will certainly be protected in order to preserve certain sensitive environments.

In addition, the Kinaw8la (take care of yourself) team (Donna O'Bomsawin and Evelyne Benedict) worked on an educational document of their humble knowledge of the world of plants and Mother Earth. They want it to be a "living" document so that they can add the knowledge of all families and community members as well. In fact, we are calling on people who share this passion to contact us.

Species at risk capsule: Bank swallow

The Bank swallow is a declining migratory bird whose Canadian population has declined by 98% over the past 40 years. This species is exclusively insectivore and nests mainly in colonies on eroded slopes with a gradient of over 70% (sand pits, eroded riverbanks, sandy cliffs along roads). They form small burrows from mid-April to the end of August where they lay their eggs. The colonies can be used from one year to another if they have not been destroyed. Sand quarries, road construction and insect control play an important role in the decline of the Bank swallow.

If you see these burrows on your outings, it is important to limit disturbance to maximize their breeding success. We encourage you to share your observations with us.



Bank swallow (Riparia riparia) and colony burrows



News from Your Museum



SUMMER 2020

After restructuring its programming, as well as access to its exhibitions and spaces, the Museum opened its doors on July 13 to provide a safe, fun and meaningful experience for all its visitors. Once again, the public's response was more than encouraging. More than 1,200 visitors visited the Museum from mid-July to the end of August. Considering that the visitors came exclusively from Quebec, attendance exceeded our expectations.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

After taking a break for the summer, our cultural programming is back this fall! The Museum offers three activities for a diverse clientele.

At the beginning of October, thanks to the active participation of Mr. Michel Durand Nolett, the Museum will hold a tasting of plants from the rising sun. Possessing a great deal of knowledge about the plants from the community, Michel will share his knowledge with the participants. He will teach how to use and prepare the edible plants that can be found in Odanak during the fall season.

On November 7th, a family activity - free for Odanak community children - will take place at the Museum. In collaboration with the Centre de la biodiversité du Québec de Bécancour, children between the ages of 5 and 10 and their families

are invited to conduct their investigation! Animals entered the museum during our absence and left evidence behind. Will you be able to find enough clues to discover who these mysterious creatures were?

At the end of November, we will again hold our Christmas Market. Taking place at the Museum for the past three years, we welcome more than fifty visitors each year, ready to get their hands on the perfect gift! If you are interested in participating in the Christmas Market as an artisan, please contact us now: or by phone at 450 568-2600.

The detailed programming will be mailed to you shortly. Some activities will be free for Abenakis registered with the Odanak and Wôlinak bands, stay tuned!

NEW FACES IN THE TEAM

Management

Ms. Julie Anne Tremblay took up her new position last May as Executive Director of the Musée des Abénakis. From the performing arts to museology, Julie Anne Tremblay has been working in the cultural sector for nearly twenty years. With a Master's degree in museology, she worked from 2009 to 2012 in Montreal and Nunavik for the Avataq Cultural Institute, an organization whose mandate is to protect and promote Inuit language and culture. Since then, she has worked as a consultant on museology projects and has also managed a family tourism business.

The Board of Directors of the Odanak Historical Society as well as the entire Museum team welcome Ms. Julie Anne, who will, they are convinced, take up this

new challenge handily.

Receptionist and maintenance worker

Last August, two members of the community joined the Museum team: Joyce Panadis and Johanne Lachapelle. Joyce succeeds Hélène Grenier, now retired, as maintenance worker. Johanne is a new receptionist. Their skills will undoubtedly be valuable assets for the Museum's future projects. Congratulations, ladies, and welcome to the team!

REVAMPED ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

In the coming weeks, you will be able to come and discover our brand new archaeological exhibition. Having unearthed more than 28,000 artefacts during the most recent archaeological excavations held in the historic square of Odanak, it was important to update the objects presented in the current exhibition "Pemighassi 8jmow8gan - Digging into History", in place since 2015. This new exhibition, designed for the young public, will appeal to everyone! It will present some sixty new artefacts, never before presented. This project is made possible thanks to a grant from the

Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec.

ALANIS OBOMSAWIN SHOWCASED IN BERLIN

A retrospective of the artistic work of Ms. Alanis Obomsawin will take the form of an exhibition in Berlin in the winter of 2021. It will cover all aspects of the multidisciplinary artist's career: film, music, engravings, creations, etc. Part of the exhibition will be devoted to the traditional Christmas party, which Alanis has been organizing for several years. The Museum is asking for your help in obtaining hand-made toys that would have been given to you during this activity. If you are interested in lending one of your souvenirs for this occasion, we ask that you first send a photo and a description of the object by email to: . Thank you for your continued collaboration!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

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



Kiuna College

In a different vein, but with enthusiasm, Kiuna started its 10th fall semester. The entire team worked tirelessly to implement the new procedures to ensure a safe environment for its students and staff, while respecting public health guidelines.

Each sector has been reviewed in order to maintain the quality of our teaching and services to students. As a result, psychosocial services, student life activities, and even group visits are conducted virtually.

Local transportation services and those between Trois-Rivières and Kiuna remain unchanged.

A significant new feature to mention is that since August 2020, all our programs and courses are now offered in distance education. For more information, please contact us at 1-866-568-6464.

Follow us on Facebook to follow the latest news and activities that will mark our 10th anniversary throughout the year!

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

You can now pursue your **studies online**.

Whether you register to one or several courses or in one of our programs, **Kiuna is now also offering distance learning**.

Visit our website for a full description of our courses and programs.

Kiuna-college.com