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Comments and questions are welcome. Email us at info@uinr.ca

Fishery officer pilot program

Here are two guys that you can't miss seeing walking around the Coast Guard College in Point Edward! Phillip Prosper, 33 and Tim Cremo, 32 are the first Unama'ki Mi'kmaq Natural Resources Officers to be accepted in a new pilot program, a collaboration between UINR and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The new program is training two Mi'kmaq DFO officers who, upon completion of their training, will be assigned to the Unama'ki region to work on issues of concern to the Mi'kmaq communities.

Phillip travels to the Coast Guard College every day from We'koqma'q. He has been a commercial fisherman for the past 17 years, starting at an early age when he reluctantly fished with his father, eventually becoming skipper on a snow crab vessel. "This NRO position is my dream job," he explains. "Because of the ups and downs in the fisheries, I was looking to find something more stable. The only thing I've ever been good at is the fisheries!" he says, smiling.

Originally from Eskasoni and currently living in Membertou, Tim brings a totally different skill-set to the NRO training. "I have always been interested in law enforcement and this training is exactly what I was looking for. This is an incredible opportunity for a career as opposed to a job." For the past five years, Tim has been working in security for the Membertou Band Council.

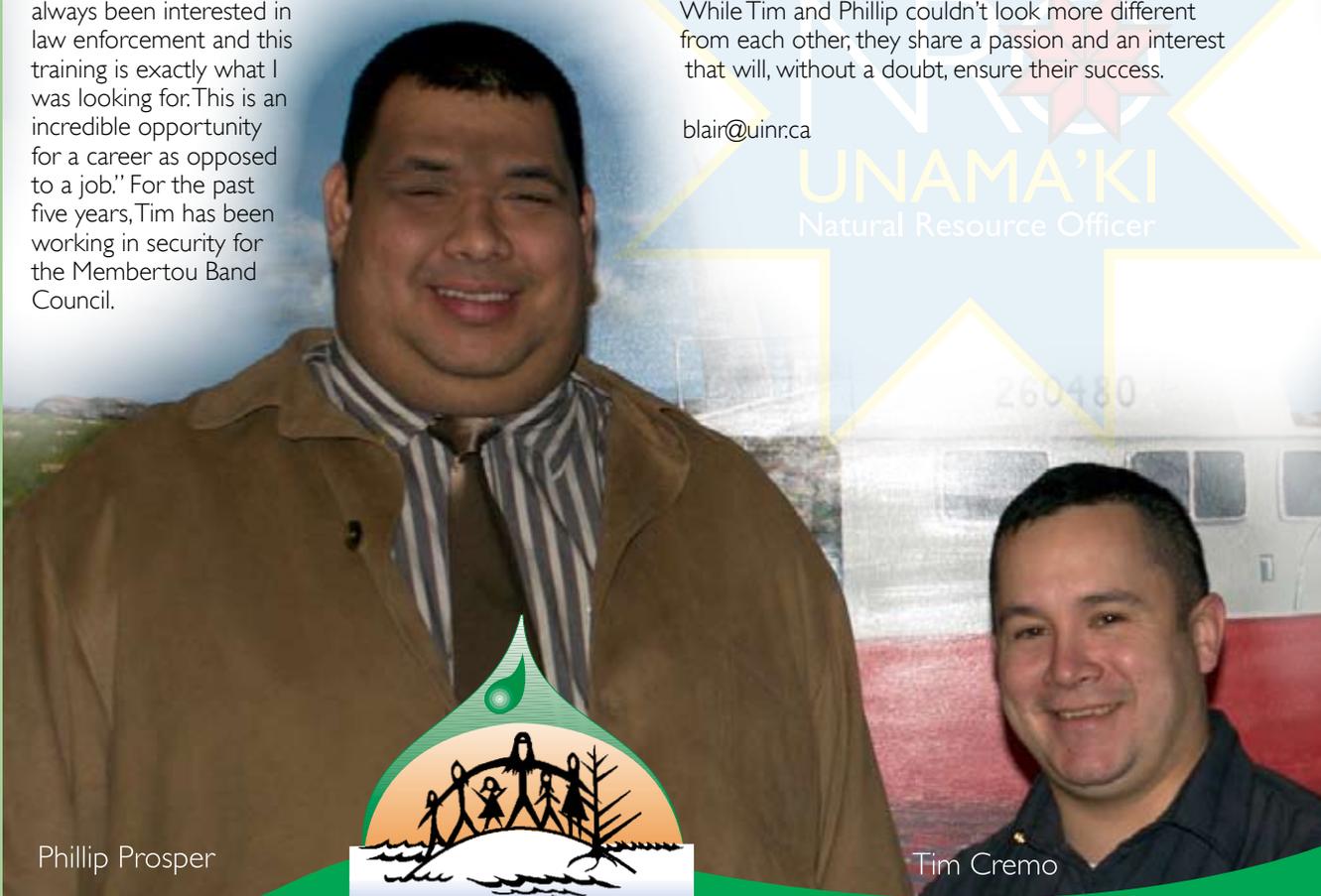
The DFO training is intensive. After six weeks at the Coast Guard College, they move to Chilliwack, BC, where they will continue their training. They will graduate in Regina in mid-May and begin work right away. "From learning about all of the Atlantic fish species, federal acts and regulations, marine emergency, and duties training, the training so far has been very interesting," Phillip says.

Once they have graduated, Tim expects to be posted in St. Peter's, and Phillip in Baddeck. Over the next three years, they will continue to take courses and on-the-job training as they patrol the Bras d'Or Lakes.

"Having Mi'kmaq officers will make a big difference," Tim explains. "We expect that people will be a lot calmer, more respectful when they are approached by a fellow Mi'kmaq." Phillip adds, "Speaking the language makes a big difference in communicating to Mi'kmaq people. We see a big part of our job is to educate natives and non-natives alike on the Mi'kmaq food fisheries."

While Tim and Phillip couldn't look more different from each other, they share a passion and an interest that will, without a doubt, ensure their success.

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Phillip Prosper

Tim Cremo



The Oyster Garden II

Eagles on the Bras d'Or

Story by Chief Charlie Dennis

This is a personal observation from information gathered over the years while talking to some of the hunters from Unama'ki.

Hunters observe that the number of eagle feathers found along the shoreline around the Bras d'Or Lakes have declined. Most of the eagle feathers that are collected by feather catchers for ceremonial purposes are coming from the Unama'ki Highlands, and some from the Margaree River. This change stems from the changes in fish population over the last few years. I know Malagawatch used to be the number one place to catch herring but, over the last few years the herring have declined. Some of the other species, such as ground fish, have also declined. No food—then probably no eagles.

In the spring time, people used to go out and collect eagle feathers. In the herring spawning grounds, the eagles fight for food and lose their feathers. People come along to collect the feathers for ceremonial purposes. But the last few years, that hasn't happened. I know that in the last five or six years I have been going out but not having any luck—maybe one or two feathers here and there, but not the way it used to be. One time you could collect one or two dozen feathers to give to the Elders for ceremonial purposes.

Chief Charlie Dennis is presented with an eagle feather by Elder Albert Marshall. He is surrounded by Elders and other guests in attendance at a special UINR Elders' meeting where the topic for discussion was Netukulimk.



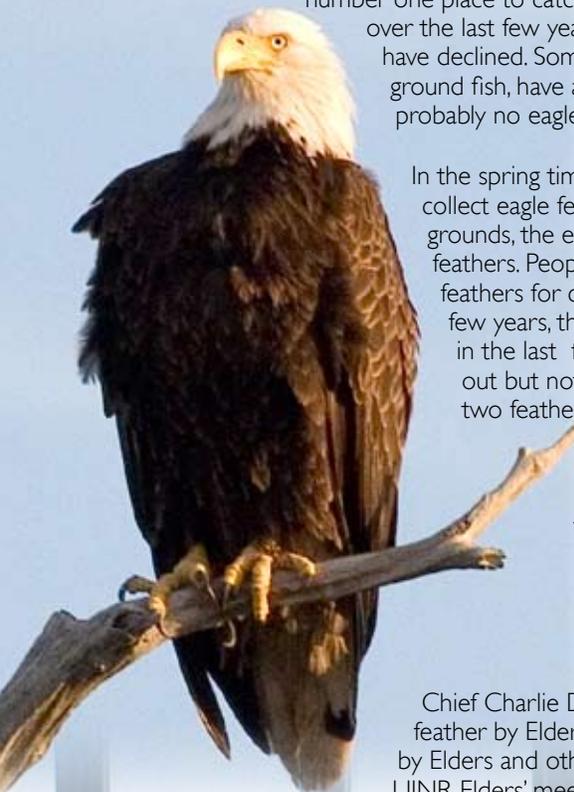
Now-a-days, the best place for you to collect eagle feathers is probably the Department of Natural Resources.

Once in a while, quite a few people travel up to the Highlands to collect eagle feathers, especially after a moose hunt. There are quite a few of you who would be surprised by the number of eagles up in the Highlands with the hunters. The eagles are feeding on the carrion and the left-over meat and whatever. Quite a few people are going up there to collect feathers.

But back to the problem with the decline in feathers along the Bras d'Or Lakes. Along the River Denys Basin, there was a time when you could pick eagle feathers up anywhere. That was a time when the fish were plentiful. As the eagles fight among each other over who would get the better herring, cod, or gaspereau, they would lose a few feathers in the battle. So, in some ways, in the whole cycle, everything is connected. Eagles will go where the food is and right now, it is up in the Highlands.

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Photos of eagles: Tuma Young



3
pjila'si

Siwkw/Spring has finally arrived!

The coltsfoot are flowering, the robins are returning, and the smelt are in the brooks!

Siwkw was a time when Mi'kmaq families gathered together their belongings and moved to the coast, relying on the resources of the lakes, rivers, and streams for their livelihood.

Besides the plentiful resources of the sea, summer camps were more visible, and could be easily found by family and friends travelling the shores.

And don't forget that other benefit of the seaside breezes—keeping the black flies and mosquitoes at bay!

This is a special issue for The Marten. We have expanded our distribution to every family in the five First Nations communities of Unama'ki. We want as many people as possible to know about our natural resources and environment and how UINR is working on behalf of the people in Unama'ki.

As you will see in this issue, there is a lot of activity at UINR these days. Our staff is working hard to achieve Netukulimk for the Unama'ki community.

Netukulimk is achieving adequate standards of community nutrition and economic well-being without jeopardizing the integrity, diversity, or productivity of our environment. That's our guiding principle at UINR and is behind everything we do.

I hope you enjoy this issue and if you have any comments, be sure to let us know.

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year of the frog

In the Mi'kmaq legend of Kluskap' and the giant bullfrog, the source of water is from the belly of the frog. Kluskap identified the frog as the culprit who was hoarding the village's water and squeezing it, he was able to release the community's water supply.

Sometimes, legend has a way of being confirmed in modern-day science. We now recognize frogs and other amphibians as being significant indicators on what is happening in our environment. This becomes really alarming when we look at the state of the frog in our world today.

Frogs and other amphibians have been on the planet for over 360 million years. Scientists are saying that, in our lifetime, up to 1/2 of the amphibian species that we now know will be extinct! More than 120 have already gone in recent years.

To raise awareness, 2008 has been named the International Year of the Frog.

Habitat loss is the major threat and the rapid spread of a disease called amphibian chytrid fungus is of urgent concern because of its tendency to drive species to extinction quickly. Amphibian chytrid is currently unstoppable and untreatable in the wild, even in protected areas. In the environments where it thrives, the fungus can kill 80 percent of native amphibians within months, leading to widespread amphibian extinctions.

So why should we care?

Amphibians are a critical part of a healthy natural world. In addition to their value as a beautiful part of nature, they offer many benefits to us.

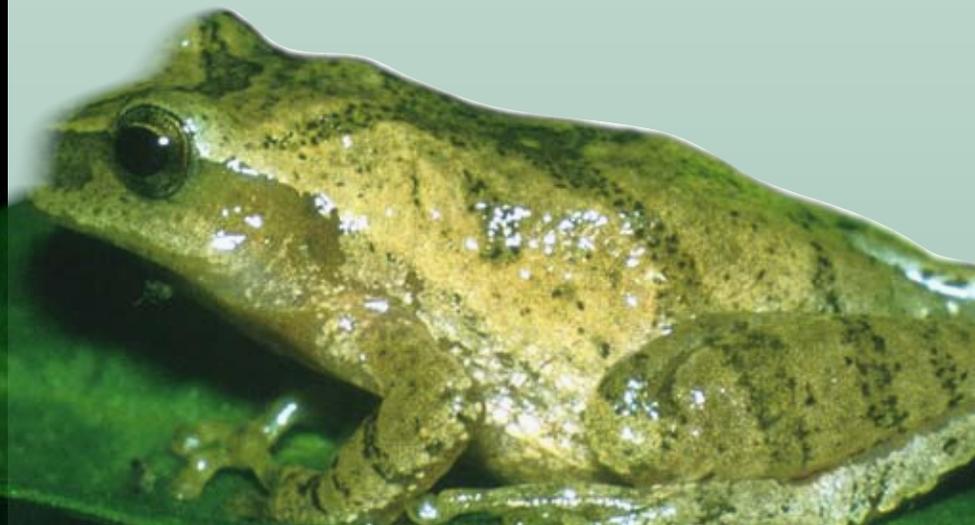
Amphibians are "the canaries in the coal mine"—they are among the first species to be affected by environmental stress so when they show declines in the wild, it serves as a warning to other species, including humans.

They play an important role in the food web as both predator and prey, maintaining the delicate balance of nature. Where they are disappearing, detrimental effects are already being documented.

Amphibians eat pest insects, benefiting successful agriculture around the world and minimizing the spread of diseases, including malaria.

The skin of amphibians has substances that protect them from some microbes and viruses, offering possible medical cures for a variety of human diseases, including AIDS.

Frogs have had a special place in various human cultures for centuries, cherished as agents of life and good luck.



The Pitu'paq partnership continues to work diligently on issues of environmental concern.

Of increasing interest to the partnership is the health of freshwater systems.

Although our planet is covered with water over $\frac{3}{4}$ of its surface area, less than 1% of that water is available to us in the form of accessible fresh water.

PITU PAQ
flowing into oneness



As the Province of Nova Scotia begins its water resources strategy, Pitu'paq has determined that it will work more closely with government on water issues.

Pitu'paq has passed a motion calling for a Full Panel Environmental Assessment from the Federal Government, and an Independent Mi'kmaq Environmental Assessment for the proposed hydroelectric project in Lake Uist.

Pitu'paq has completed an overview of projects from the past year, and is currently developing a workplan for this year.

Along with freshwater protection, Pitu'paq continues:

- planning a long-term strategy for sewage and waste management for the Chapel Island mission;
- encouraging planning strategies for the Malagawatch territory;
- pursuing better regulations on road construction for subdivisions to prevent damage from run-off;
- supporting the communities of Wagmatcook and Whycogomagh in their determination of solutions for the shared sewage treatment plant;
- continuing the Green Municipal fund application for strategic planning for sewage in the known areas of difficulty around the Bras d'Or Lakes.

Pitu'paq looks forward to completing another successful year in reaching its commitments.

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Ethical hunting Organized Youth Hunts



There is a lot of work and responsibility involved in a moose harvest, and it takes great effort to ensure our youth are taught these things in a proper way. The Millbrook Youth Hunt has been setting the standard for Mi'kmaq communities with successful harvests in the last several years. Moose meat harvested from their hunts is used for a community feast—with Millbrook Elders being the guests of honour. Youth from the community are paired up with community hunters and Elders for a weekend camp in the Cape Breton Highlands. The success of these camps cannot just be attributed to a successful harvest of moose. Most often, it is the quality time spent at the camp and the interaction between Elders and youth that makes the experience a success.

Students from We'koqma'q First Nation School have also been accessing the resource. They had very successful harvests this year. In fact, two grade 5 classes were involved in a successful harvest early last Fall.

For our younger Mi'kmaq hunters, training in Mi'kmaq ethical moose hunting practices is of paramount importance. The Moose Working Group acknowledges the efforts of the people that take the time to teach our youth proper safety and share their knowledge of moose harvesting.

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scholarships Students cash in

This year, UINR will be awarding \$15,000 in scholarships to deserving Mi'kmaq students in Unama'ki. Every year, UINR awards scholarships to students who are pursuing studies in Science or Forestry-related fields. Along with our partners, NewPage and Georgia Pacific, UINR's scholarships support Mi'kmaq students from the five Unama'ki First Nations' communities.

The Georgia Pacific and UINR Scholarships award \$1,000 to each of the five Unama'ki communities with the objective to promote and encourage education and careers in the field of Science and/or Technology.

Five NewPage and UINR Scholarships of \$1,000 each will also be awarded to promote and encourage education and careers in the field of Science and/or Technology.

One scholarship of \$5,000 will be awarded to a member of the Unama'ki community to promote and encourage education and careers in the forestry sector and related Science and/or Technology programs in the Unama'ki Mi'kmaq Communities.

This year, the deadline for applications is Friday 6 June. If you, or a student you know, are interested, you can download details from our website www.uinr.ca in the NEWS section. Good luck!

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Northern Spring Peeper

Pseudacris crucifer

Spring Peeper is our smallest frog; he grows to 2–4 cm long (pictured above in full size).

We know that spring has arrived when we hear a Spring Peeper singing at night. His song sounds like a high PEEP!

Spring Peeper lives in the woods near ponds, marshes, or swamps. He is our only tree frog and can change the colour of his skin to blend in with his surroundings.

Female Spring Peeper lays 400 to 1500 eggs per year in a pond, on an underwater plant or twig. Spring Peeper, like other frogs, often sheds his skin and then eats it, however; most of the time he eats things like spiders, mites, sow bugs, leafhoppers, ants, small worms, and caterpillars.

Illustration: Basma Kavanaugh, printed with permission from CBU Integrated Science <http://msit.capebretonu.ca/>

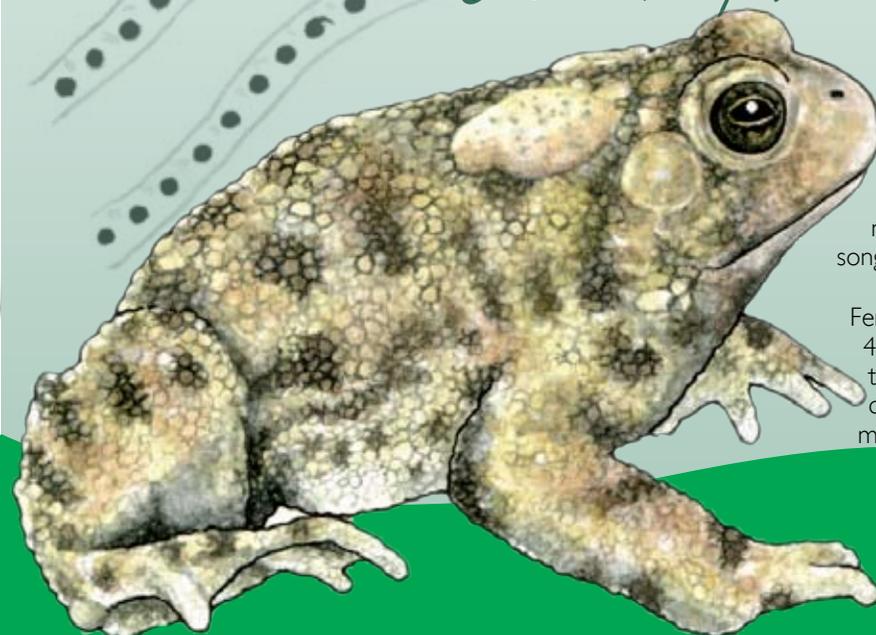


Eastern American Toad

Bufo americanus

Toad is a plump creature with stubby toes and rough, warty skin. He is usually brownish, with darker brown or black markings. Toad has a pale belly with dark spots that become more distinct at night. Toad can grow to be 5–11 cm long. Toad lives in many different places—in the woods, near a swamp or lake, in a field, or even in your backyard! His song sounds like a long, high trilling sound . . . TRRRR!

Female Toad prefers temporary pools for breeding. She lays 4000 to 8000 eggs at a time in two long strings near the bottom of the pool or puddle. Toad eats many kinds of insects like caterpillars, earwigs, sow bugs, as well as slugs, earthworms, and millipedes.



It's all about the people



Netukulimk

Netukulimk is the use of the natural bounty provided by the Creator, for the self-support and well-being of the individual and community. Netukulimk simply means achieving adequate standards of community nutrition and economic well-being without jeopardizing the integrity, diversity, or productivity of our environment.

As First Nations, we have long held to the belief that, although it has been established we have an inherent right to access and use of our resources, we also have a responsibility to use those resources in a sustainable way.

The Mi'kmaq way of resource management includes a spiritual element that ties the people to the plants, animals, and the environment as a whole. UINR's strength is in our ability to integrate scientific research capabilities with Aboriginal knowledge, practice, and understanding. Through this two-eyed seeing approach, the practice of Netukulimk can be restored.

Netukulimk na teluek kisi wekasikw msit mawi kisisaqn wjit ankweasin ki'l aq kikmaq maww msit wtanl. Netukulimk na teluek mimajuaqn tepiaq ta'n tijiw kisi a'jela'tu'n wtanl ta'n msit a'petaq aq wlapasin aq mu eyknuk ewla'tun wsitqmu. Kepmite'tmn ta'n telimilamuk aq ta'n teli apje'jk koqoey wla mawi wsitqamu.

Tlia na Inu'k kejitu'tij kisi ktantaqtijik kisikwitamitaq aq kisi kmujekatitaq ta'n pasiw, ma eyknuk jilo'tmitik mawi wsitqamu kulaman siawa'sitew ta'n tel mimaju'nsin.

Ta'n Mikmaq teli klamsitasit, mu ajkno'tmn ta'n koqoey wjamiijik. Msit koqoey mawi kisisaqn newte misit wejisqaliatiwk. UINR kejitoq kisi toqa'tu'k espikkina'mukksi'l aq Inuita'simkewe'l kisi etuaptkl kirk aq netukulimk siawa'sitew.

Whats new at uinr.ca

You can find all kinds of things at the UINR website:

- reports
- educational materials
- a resource library
- the complete back issues of our newsletter; UINR Marten

Among recent information @ uinr.ca are details on \$15,000 in scholarships available for Unama'ki students.

If you are into a detailed scientific investigation of water quality in the Bras d'Or Lakes, the full report from the State of the Bras d'Or series has recently been uploaded to our digital library. And if you are looking for a summary of the findings and a layperson's guide to the Bras d'Or Lakes, the Background Report is also available.

Instructions on planting an oak acorn with information for getting a complete planting kit is new online.

Learn about the various initiatives underway at UINR—for example, sustainable natural resources for Unama'ki Mi'kmaq.

We have some big plans for our website including more content.

If you want to be added to our email list, drop us a line to info@uinr.ca

Albert Marshall

In this and future issues, we will introduce you to the people behind Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources. In this issue we feature **Albert Marshall**, Elder Advisor.

Albert is the leading environmental voice in Unama'ki Cape Breton. He is advisor to the UINR Board of Directors and is a highly regarded spokesperson for Mi'kmaq natural resources and environmental issues.

Albert advises and lectures internationally on a wide range of topics:

- the environment
- tribal consciousness collaboration with non-Aboriginal society
- traditional healing, traditional teachings
- Mi'kmaq orthography and language
- First Nations' vision of science.

He is the creator of the "Two Eyed Seeing" concept—Balancing Traditional Aboriginal Knowledge and Contemporary Science.

Albert works to further positive work within First Nations' communities, to seek preservation and understanding of cultural beliefs and practices among all communities and to effect a strong vision for his people and the future.

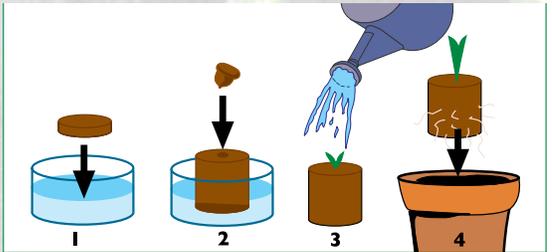
albert@uinr.ca



Plant a forest

You can tie a yellow ribbon 'round it, bask in its shade or eventually have flooring for your grandchildren's living room. UINR is giving away free **Mimkwonmooseel** (Red Oak, *Quercus rubra* L.) tree planting kits throughout the spring.

Complete with planting instructions, a Red Oak acorn for planting, and a peat pellet—all you need to do is add water, stand back, and watch your very own Red Oak tree grow!



You can pick up your kit at the UINR office on Shore Road, Monday–Friday 8:30–4:30

Mi'kmaq people once used the Red Oak's acorns by pounding them into a fine flour and baking it into bread. The bark was used as an astringent to treat hemorrhaging and powder made from acorns was used as a diuretic. An infusion of bark or roots was used for diarrhea.



Red Oak is a fast-growing tree and will grow in almost all well-drained soils. It can grow in full sun or light shade. The growth of a tree depends on the soil type, nutrients, water availability, and the amount of light it receives.

www.uinr.ca/reoak.html



SUSTAINABLE HARDWOOD MANAGEMENT

in today's Acadian forests
a conference on
best management practices
for sustainable forest communities

Forestry conference planned

If forestry is your interest, you won't want to miss this conference.

Internationally renowned speakers, forestry experts, Mi'kmaq Elders, and industry leaders are meeting to take an in-depth look at the state of hardwood forest management in today's Acadian forests.

UINR in partnership with Nova Forest Alliance, will be announcing details on our website, uinr.ca



Mark MacPhail

Mark MacPhail is UINR's Director of Forestry. Mark oversees the daily operations of our forestry contractors. Everything

"The most rewarding thing for me has been the growth of UINR's forestry division. Over the last 6 years, we have become one of NewPage's most valued partners."

from planning and laying out the areas for harvest, supervising the jobs, and ensuring all environmental concerns are met while meeting UINR's production quota. Mark also supervises all private land silviculture operations in Cape Breton and Victoria counties.

Mark graduated from UNB in 2000 with a BSc in Forestry Environmental Management.

One of Mark's noteworthy projects has been the re-establishment of Black Ash. This involved travelling throughout the province identifying trees and collecting any viable seeds, followed by germinating the seeds and distributing the seedlings to the communities.

Mark also participates in a lynx recovery plan that involves tracking and "live" trapping to attach radio collars to the lynx for monitoring.

A Team Canada member in arm wrestling, Mark also holds multiple provincial powerlifting records. In his spare time, he grows exotic trees and shrubs.

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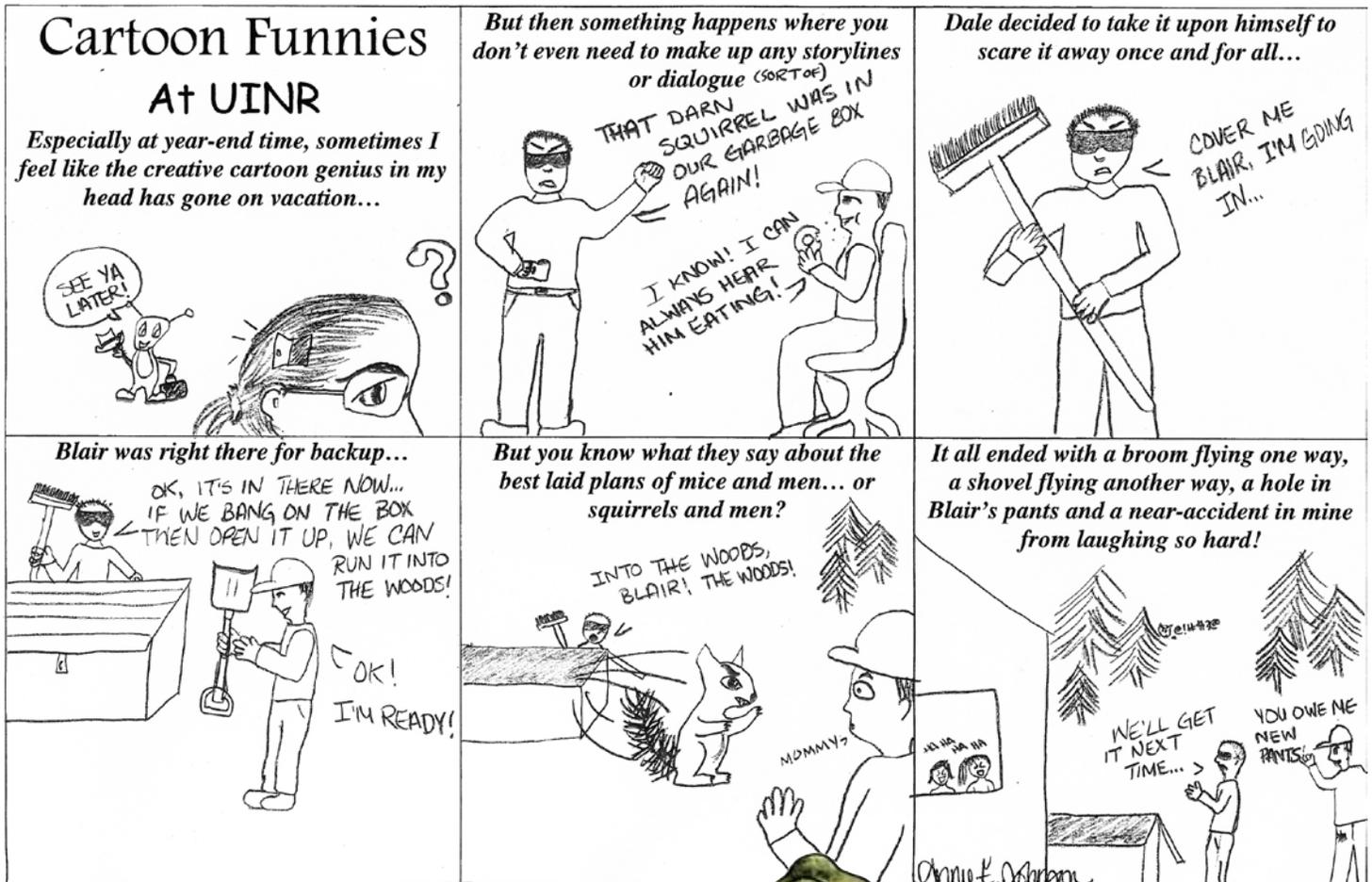
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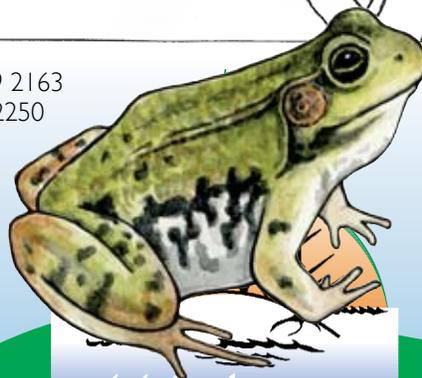
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