



We're on a mission!

Take thousands of people, put them on an island for four days with no sewage system and no where to dispose of their garbage and you can imagine what is left behind. This was the scene every year at the annual Chapel Island Mission in the small community of Potlotek.

Back in 2006, the members of the Pitu'paq committee decided that something needed to be done and they were going to do it! Pitu'paq is composed of representatives from the five Mi'kmaq communities and five municipalities around the Bras d'Or Lakes. Working together with the Mi'kmaq Grand Council, UINR, Health Canada and the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, Pitupaq developed a sewage and waste management plan for the Mission and put it in place.

For the third consecutive year, there is a plan in place and, once again, project co-ordinator Laurie Sutor from UINR is working with students from Nova Scotia Youth Corps, eight students from Chapel Island and other staff provided by Membertou, Eskasoni and Chapel Island.

The student task force will distribute Green Kits to trailer owners, cabin dwellers and visitors. Included are clear and blue bags, cabin notification/trailer permits and a brochure.

Over the years, sewage has been a major issue at the Mission. Among the main concerns are water contamination from trailer waste and cottage potties being dumped into the Bras d'Or Lakes. Now, in addition to portable toilets on the Island that are pumped regularly, a sewage-pump-out service is available for trailers on the mainland.

The work you see during the days of the Mission starts many weeks before, with clearing brush, making service roads and cleaning up debris and cabins.

The success of Pitu'paq's plan is summed up by Laurie, "Last year we were able to keep the beaches open before, during and after the Mission. Let's keep up the good work!"



Chapel Island
MISSION
2009

Pictured in the photo below are members of the Chapel Island teams.

From left to right: Darrell Morris, Brian Marshall, Kevin Johnson, Rueben Paul, Kendall Marshall, Keenan Bernard, Dennis Nevin, Derrick Dennis, Noah Johnson, Laurie Sutor, Justin Nicholas, Buck Levesque, Jude Johnson, Katie Lameman

Missing from the photo are team members: Clark Paul and Brandon Tracey.



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

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NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS

When UINR needs to twist someone's arm, we know who to send. **Mark MacPhail**, UINR's Director of Forestry just won his fourth gold medal in the Canadian National Arm Wrestling Championships! So next time you need a little persuading... Fisheries and Oceans Canada are working on a new Memorandum of Understanding with UINR that will lay the groundwork for future projects between the two organizations...A Management Committee has been formed to develop the workplan that will lay the groundwork for Fisheries and Oceans Canada Unama'ki officers. Representatives from, DFO, Unama'ki Chiefs and UINR form the new committee...**Laurie Suitor** spoke recently at Café Scientifique on the topic "Will Technology Make Our Water Resources Unlimited?" ...**Gwen Poulette**, UINR's Finance Officer attended a two-day seminar in Halifax on "Simply Accounting Beyond the Basics"....UINR biologist **Shelley Denny** spoke recently at a workshop in Halifax called The Role of Municipalities, First Nations and Communities in Coastal Management....Shelley will be joining Dean Denny on an electrofishing course in Dartmouth...UINR continues to be involved with the committee formed to come up with a solution to the erosion problems in Malagawatch. Initial studies show that approximately 70 metres of shoreline are affected and it is estimated that the solution could cost over \$500,000...UINR just completed a draft agreement on knowledge sharing between Unama'ki Mi'kmaq communities and Fisheries and Oceans Canada...A questionnaire on known aboriginal traditional knowledge has been completed by UINR Research...Another season of gaspereau monitoring was completed and preliminary results show great results from last year's efforts... UINR staff were the first in the Maritime region to participate in the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP)...This autumn UINR will begin Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network training (CABIN) with our Natural Resource Officers...UINR is coordinating efforts on eel and elver research with Cape Breton University and Fisheries and Oceans Canada...The Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI) recently held its first open house in Eskasoni...CEPI held a two-day workshop in Wagmatcook to establish its research priorities...Planning is underway for this year's Joint Enforcement Team that will be out on the Bras d'Or Lakes distributing information on the non-discharge designation that comes in force next year. Staff from UINR will join Transport Canada, RCMP, Nova Scotia Environment, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to distribute brochures and information to boaters on the Lakes...

\$15,000.00 in scholarships

YOUR
FUTURE
AHEAD

Once again, UINR with its partners NewPage and Georgia Pacific, are awarding scholarships to qualifying students in Unama'ki.

We are awarding \$15,000.00 to Mi'kmaq students to promote and encourage education and careers in the forestry sector and related science and technology programs.

The deadline to apply is Friday July 31. You can find all the details at our website— uinr.ca/section/opportunities/

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In this issue we've added a new column to keep you up-to-date on new stuff at uinr.ca

If you're not a Twitter member, maybe it's time to take a look. At the Twitter homepage do a search for UINR and become a follower. We post up-to-date information on a regular basis and you can also see our recent postings on our home page at uinr.ca

A 10 Year History of UINR is now online as a free download. It is a special publication to mark UINR's 10th Anniversary and looks at the many projects and milestones since 1999.

Check out the new photo gallery from our recent Unama'KIDS graduation. Meet some of the new Unama'KIDS and the graduating class of 2009.

We put together a special report on the American marten that gives lots of information on this endangered species and details on the release program that UINR is taking part in.

On August 17th we will be posting the historic Mi'kmaq guidelines for moose hunting in the Highlands: Tiamuwel Netuklimkewe—Unama'ki Moose Harvesting According to Netukulimk.

Be sure to check out the Opportunities section of our website where we post job openings and other information such as scholarship details.

In the news section you will find stories and news releases that might not make it into the UINR MARTEN. Recent news stories include Hubert Nicholas' view on the federal lobster bailout, details on the eel study UINR is participating in with Parks Canada.



New on board

Jason MacLean is UINR's new **Assistant Forestry Manager**.

Jason graduated with honours as a Forest Technician from Maritime Forest Ranger School and also holds an honours certificate in Forest Resources.

A graduate from Riverview Highschool, Jason has worked as a Forest Technician, chainsaw operator and labourer in Margaree, Ontario and British Columbia. Jason has also worked as a carpenter's assistant giving him experience from clearing land to final construction. With more than 10 years working in the industry, his passion lies in natural resources. He worked for five years on Manitoulin Island where he learned about First Nation culture.

"I am excited to be with UINR, and very interested in learning more about traditional Mi'kmaq knowledge and values, especially those associated with forest sustainability and preservation."

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Gwen Poulette is our **Finance Officer** at UINR.

Gwen is well-known in the community for her work with various organizations and businesses. Before joining us at UINR Gwen was the Accounting Technician at the Atlantic First Nation Help Desk. She ran her own business—Poulette's Bookkeeping Service in Eskasoni—where she helped businesses set up computerized bookkeeping, prepared tax rebates and other financial services for her clients.

She worked for many years at Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission as their Accountant and as Financial Auditor for the Unama'ki Training and Education Centre.

"I am so glad to be a part of UINR. My fellow co-workers are very friendly and a nice group of people. Our location is beautiful and I couldn't ask for anything better."

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Serena Paul has accepted the position as UINR's **Administrative Assistant**.

She is no stranger at UINR where she's been working on our Unama'KIDS project and was Project Assistant for the past year as well as assisting in our Finance department.

A graduate of Holy Angels High School, Serena attended Cape Breton University, taking business classes. She plans to finish her degree by taking courses part time.

Before joining UINR, Serena worked as a substitute Teacher's Aide at Eskasoni Middle School and was Band Secretary for Eskasoni. Serena also worked with the Eskasoni Health Centre.

"I enjoy working with the UINR team because I feel as I belong to another part of a family. It just makes me feel complete!"

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Welcome

Notes from UINR's Executive Director Lisa Young

Welcome to our 5th year of the UINR MARTEN! Our quarterly newsletter has been very successful in getting the word out on our activities at UINR. Not only do we deliver a copy to every household in the five Mi'kmaq communities in Unama'ki, we distribute copies far and wide—to libraries, government departments and, thanks to the Bras d'or Stewardship Society, we are included in the mailing of their newsletter across the country! Even while I was away the last year on maternity leave, I kept up with all the news through the UINR MARTEN!

If you haven't checked out our new website yet, surf over to www.uinr.ca and take a look...it's awesome! You can download any of the back issues of the UINR MARTEN, watch videos and stay up-to-date on what is going on with natural resources in Unama'ki.

We are really proud to be an instrumental part of the development of the new Mi'kmaq Moose Guidelines. We have been working on this since the early days at UINR and thanks to our staff member Clifford Paul, we have finally reached this major milestone. Clifford's tireless efforts working with the Mi'kmaq communities of Nova Scotia have paid off with the publication of these voluntary guidelines.

As you will see in this issue, we have a lot of new projects at UINR, new staff and new developments in our ongoing programs. I am just getting caught up on all of the activities here at UINR while I was away and am looking forward to see what the next 10 years will bring!

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Guidelines for Cape Breton Moose Hunting released

The Cape Breton Highlands have always been known as traditional Mi'kmaq hunting grounds. In fact, a Mi'kmaq hunter recently found a 4500 year-old arrowhead there, evidence that Mi'kmaq hunted there for thousands of years.

However, in the 1800s, moose disappeared from Unama'ki and this ancient relationship came to an abrupt end that lasted for almost 100 years. Cape Breton Mi'kmaq were separated from a very valuable resource and all it offered.

In the 1940s, Parks Canada brought 18 moose to the Cape Breton Highlands to give tourists a large mammal to see in the Park. The moose liked it here. Lots to eat, room to roam and they flourished and spread. In the absence of their major predators, wolves, Unama'ki became a moose haven, especially after the spruce budworm devastation of the 1970s. With a massive clearcutting of damaged softwood, hardwood shoots began to grow, offering ideal browse conditions for moose to thrive.

The 1970s and 80s were also a time of heavy litigation in the courts, with Mi'kmaq hunters being charged and treaties tested. Late in the 1980s, the Mi'kmaq proved that our treaties were valid, proving to Canada and the rest of the world that Mi'kmaq treaties still existed and were in force. These litigation victories coincided and grew with the moose population—10,000 animals from the original 18. A real population explosion!

With the traditional relationship between Mi'kmaq and moose reestablished, the Mi'kmaq felt it was time to become managers and stewards of the resource, to manage the hunt for our children and their children—the next seven generations. Mi'kmaq Elders advised that with these rights come great responsibilities. They saw the importance of balance, conservation and preservation of the herd and said the time had come for self-management.

In response to Elders and community members concerns, Grand Council asked Charlie Dennis to take on moose management as part of his duties. With Parks Canada, he established two committees and began to develop draft guidelines. This process reached a stumbling block—Mi'kmaq could not govern our people while off reserve where the hunting takes place.

It was clear that we were dealing with Mi'kmaq rights and, in the early 2000s, the issue was brought to the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs. As a result, Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (KMK) established the Moose Working Group and moose management became an important first issue to establish Mi'kmaq rights and unify the concerns of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities.

In 2006, Clifford Paul was hired as Moose Management Coordinator. His role at UINR is to engage Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities in active discussions around moose issues and promote discussions on the management of the Cape Breton moose herd and hunting practices. Clifford's philosophy is simple. "We come to your community with a blank book. You tell us what is right and what you feel is important and we will listen."

Over the next couple of years, Clifford and a team of advisors from KMK visited every Mi'kmaq community in Nova Scotia to talk moose. He heard a deep concern for conservation and protection of the herd so it will be available for future generations. A more respectful relationship is required and, as stewards of the resource, communities' communal rights take priority over individual rights.

Clifford visited each community several times, gathering information and seeing common themes arising at every meeting. In September of 2008, "Mawikwamk Wjit Tia'muk—Mi'kmaq—Gathering on Moose" was held in Wagmatcook, bringing together delegates from across Nova Scotia to look at some of the issues important to moose management. The two-day event reached consensus on three issues:

- Non-native accompaniment
- No-hunting time/A Mi'kmaq hunting season
- Hunter advisory groups

A fourth issue, selling moose, did not achieve consensus and further discussions are needed.

Out of this session, draft guidelines were developed and brought to the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs for review. Changes were made and now Tiamuwel Netuklimkewe—Unama'ki Moose Harvesting According to Netukulimk was approved.

The Guidelines will be officially released on August 17 asking Mi'kmaq hunters for voluntary compliance over the next two years. Over this time, Clifford and his team will again visit communities to talk about the Guidelines, answer questions and work out more details for the future.

Clifford explains, "The Guidelines are just one tool in the management plan. The Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network is developing the legal regulations and at the same time, we are moving forward with our Natural Resource Officer Program."

"The key component in our management plan is the Mi'kmaq response to these initial Guidelines. It is a living document and through the hunters' and communities' feedback we will once again regain stewardship over this important resource."

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Tiamuwel Netuklimkewe—Unama'ki Moose Harvesting According to Netukulimk will be released on August 17 at a press conference in Wagmatcook. Following the official release, it will be available in every Mi'kmaq community and can be downloaded at www.uinr.ca.

The voluntary guidelines focus on 5 main areas:

1. Safety
2. Community Authority and Hunting Advisory Groups
3. The No-Hunting Time
4. ID and Non-Mi'kmaq Helpers
5. Hunter Reporting



it's all about the people

Hubert Nicholas

Hubert Nicholas must have salt water in his blood! He's been out on the ocean fishing for as long as he can remember. He started working professionally as a fisherman's helper in 1988 and eventually became Captain of his own commercial fishing business. Over the years, he's fished lobster, snow crab, herring, rock crab, tuna and mackerel.

This first-hand knowledge of the industry made Hubert an excellent candidate for UINR's Commercial Fisheries Liaison Coordinator position that was established in 2008.

Hubert works for all of the commercial fishers in Unama'ki and, on their behalf, he attends meetings that affect any of our commercial fisheries and reports back to each community's Fishery Managers on DFO and Industry decisions that may affect them. This information helps managers to make decisions that benefit their communities and their fishery. Hubert voices concerns regarding management issues that are raised in meetings.

Hubert explains, "It is interesting attending meetings on commercial fisheries now that I am not actively fishing, seeing the process unfold and how DFO involves industry and science. Sometimes the final decisions may not be well-received, but they usually seek industry and science advice to help with decisions. I can't wait until the day that Mi'kmaq are totally involved in co-management of the fishery and are asked for management advice at the decision level instead of just sitting at the table as another member of industry. The definition of co-management is different for the federal and provincial governments than what the Mi'kmaq believe it to be. When the governments agree to a definition then we can move to the next step and define what a livelihood fishery will be for the Unama'ki Mi'kmaq communities as defined by the Marshall decision."

In addition to his life-long involvement in the commercial fisheries, Hubert worked with Kwilmu'k Maw-klusuaqn (KMK) as a consultation liaison coordinator before joining us at UINR.

Hubert is a member of the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management Initiative, a collaborative ocean management and planning process facilitated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. He is also participates in meetings of the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative.

Left: Hubert in discussion with Phil Drinnan, Waycobah's Director of Fisheries and Natural Resources; Right: Hubert shares a meal with KMK's Eric Zscheile.



When not embroiled in commercial fisheries issues, Hubert spends his off time with his wife and three kids. When they aren't too busy with hockey, ballet, jazz dance, baseball and tennis, he likes to take his kids hunting and fishing.

Hubert says, "I love to work with the team at UINR because there are always interesting conversations about the different aspects that each person deals with regarding natural resources. I have learned a lot about Unama'ki and the impact that UINR has on the management of its natural resources.

UINR made me realize that conservation is the key and without the resource there is no right to it. Conversations with UINR staff help me realize that conservation and Netuklimk is the key to preserving all resources available for our future use and benefit."

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UINR/ Parks Canada Eel Study

UINR is working with Parks Canada to study the population of American eel in Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

Throughout June, UINR staff will catch, measure and release elvers (young eels) as they enter the rivers and brooks between Ingonish Beach and Neil's Harbour.

The project is looking at the migration of the elvers from the ocean into the freshwaters of the Park. The project is part of a larger Parks Canada study designed to better understand the status of the American eel in Atlantic Canada.

UINR biologist Shelley Denny explains, "I think this is an excellent opportunity to learn about eels in other habitats around Cape Breton Island. We often forget that eels can be found in virtually any body of water, from the smallest stream or pond to large estuaries such as the Bras d'Or Lakes."

In 2006, American eel was listed as a species of special concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Eels live in freshwater, but breeds only once in the saltwater of the Sargasso Sea before it dies.

"It's great that Parks Canada has taken a keen interest in learning about the local eel population and we are honoured to have been invited to assist with their project," Shelley concludes.

UINR is Cape Breton's Mi'kmaq voice on natural resources and the environment. UINR represents the five Mi'kmaq communities of Unama'ki on Mi'kmaq natural resources and their sustainability.

Cape Breton Highlands National Park is part of a system of national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas committed to protecting and presenting Canada's natural and cultural heritage for generations of Canadians.

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CIER

CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

We have many neighbours: people, plants, animals and all the wonders that occupy the land and water. We share the earth's resources (including water), often without any plan for the future that ensures our shared water resource is clean and available to all. A watershed plan focuses on water and is a tool that identifies our vision for the water that runs over and under the land, from source to tap and back to the rivers and lakes.

Representatives from the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) visited UINR recently to talk about their plan to work with First Nations communities across Canada to help with the development of watershed plans and develop a watershed-planning tool to share across the country. First Nations have been developing watershed plans that are based on their needs, perspectives and knowledge. These plans are being used by First Nations to ensure safe and healthy First Nations' managed watersheds.

CIER is a national, First Nations-directed environmental organization based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It recognizes the need for Aboriginal peoples to have the capacity to solve environmental problems affecting their lands and resources. While in Cape Breton, CIER met with groups involved in watershed planning—Pitupaq, CEPI, the Eskasoni Watershed Planning Committee and the Potlotek Source Water Protection Plan. They found a strong commitment to collaboration between the municipalities and First Nations.

CIER has teamed up with leaders in the field: Hupacasath First Nation on Vancouver Island, the Mikisew Cree First Nation in Northern Alberta, and local groups in Cape Breton, UINR and the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, to develop and test a tool to assist communities in designing relevant and effective watershed plans.

In the upcoming months, CIER will be visiting other partners, discussing the ways that watershed planning is done in First Nations, and how they can transform that into a useful tool for First Nations. They will be returning to Cape Breton in the fall to share this knowledge.

To learn more about this project or CIER, please visit its website at www.cier.ca.

Unama'KIDS

The first class of Unama'KIDS graduated at a ceremony in Eskasoni and joined a new group of kids that will be involved in next year's project. The focus of the day was eels and we looked at the species from a traditional and a scientific point of view. Blair Bernard showed how to spear, clean and prepare eels and biologist Shelley Denny demonstrated an eel dissection and talked about the eels life cycle and some of the science projects UINR is involved in.

Over the last year the Unama'KIDS were involved in lots of different projects on natural resources. One of the highlights was participating in the release of American Martens in the Highlands last fall. This was a memorable hands-on experience where the Unama'KIDS got to see this elusive endangered species up close.

Over the next year, the new batch of Unama'KIDS will participate in projects relating to natural resources and our environment in Unama'ki.

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Congratulations to our first class of Unama'KIDS: Jane Basque, Kassidy Bernard, Kirkland Bernard, Susan Bernard, Riveriah Denny, Peter Doucette, Colton Francis, Tenisha Marie Francis, Zoie Julian, Allan Lafford, Promise Marshall, Dexter Paul, Shawnee Paul and Nevada Pierro.

Meet the new Unama'KIDS: Tristan Bernard, Ariel Battiste, Jenai Christmas, Levi Denny Jr., Annie Doucette, Brandon Francis, Sabrina Googoo, Sipu Gould, Cassandra Isaac, Talisha Isadore, Julian Marshall, Tena Marshall, Jade Peck and Taneesha Stevens



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<p>“Wish You Were Here”! At UINR</p> <p><i>Some of the staff have thought to mail us postcards from their vacations in previous years... see if you can guess who sent which postcard based on previous cartoons!</i></p> <p>HEY I NEVER WENT ON VACATION IN YEARS!</p> <p>WE SAID SOME STAFF, NOT ALL...</p>	<p><i>This one was from Gros Morne National Park in Newfoundland...</i></p>	<p><i>One from California's Redwood National Park...</i></p>
<p><i>One from John's Lunch in Dartmouth, NS – didn't know they even made postcards there...</i></p> <p>JOHN'S LUNCH</p> <p>PLATE OF CLAMS... FRIES... EXTRA PIECE OF FISH... COKE... AND TWO ORDERS OF CLAMS TO GO...</p>	<p><i>A neat underwater postcard featuring different marine life...</i></p>	<p><i>Even with all these trips, there are some that enjoy (?) a 'Staycation' and will be at UINR all summer – come out and visit us if you're in the area!</i></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Anne E. Johnson</p>



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