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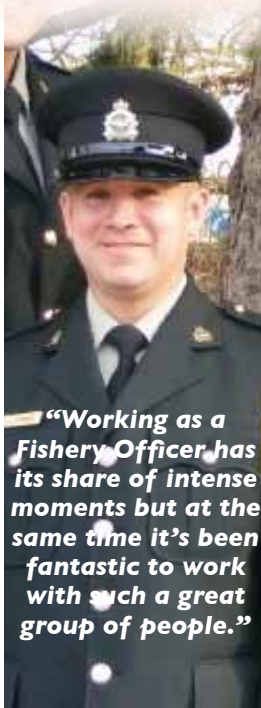
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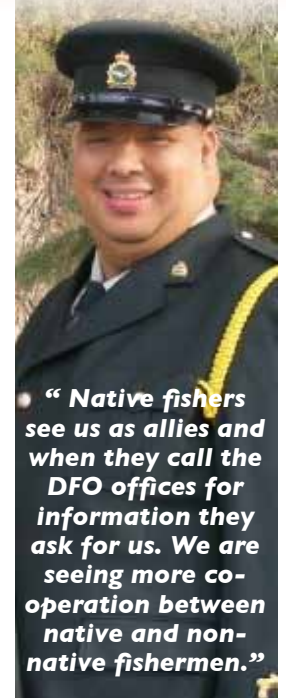


"Working as a Fishery Officer has its share of intense moments but at the same time it's been fantastic to work with such a great group of people."

Mi'kmaq enforcement

There's no mistaking Phil Prosper and Tim Cremo when they pull up to the wharf in their DFO truck. While they couldn't be more different physically, they share an identical view of the importance of the work they do. Phil and Tim are Fishery Officers in the Conservation and Protection branch of Maritimes Region Fisheries and Oceans Canada. They are responsible for a large portion of the Bras d'Or Lakes and over the past couple of years have become a familiar presence to Mi'kmaq fishers. They monitor the Mi'kmaq food and ceremonial fishery to ensure regulations are met and on a daily basis they deal with commercial fishers. They make sure that all fishing activity is reported—when boats leave and return, how much catch is on board and monitoring off-loads.

Flashback two and a half years ago. Phil and Tim were fresh-faced students that were accepted as the first Mi'kmaq students in a pilot Unama'ki Mi'kmaq Fisheries Officer program funded through Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management Program (AAROM). After 17 weeks of classroom training and 30 months of on-the-job training, they will write a final exam in November.



"Native fishers see us as allies and when they call the DFO offices for information they ask for us. We are seeing more co-operation between native and non-native fishermen."

In addition to their enforcement duties, they are working with the five Unama'ki bands to help identify and develop priorities for the Unama'ki Mi'kmaq Fishery Officer program and develop an enforcement plan based on their concerns. They work closely with the bands and fisheries captains to educate and explain the conditions and regulations. Tim says, "We get questions and requests for information every day from fishers on everything, from technology to explaining the fisheries act."

Over the next few months, Phil and Tim will be visiting the five communities to get people's input into the program and to see what their priorities and concerns are. Phil explains, "In a perfect world we would like to see at least three more Mi'kmaq fishery officers working in a separate Mi'kmaq office on the Bras d'Or Lakes, working cooperatively with DFO and sharing their resources."



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NEWS



The latest batch of Unama'KIDS have been chosen to participate in UINR's popular youth program. We have some really great activities planned and in our next issue, we'll introduce you to our new coordinator.



Vicky Googoo and Joef Bernard are UINR's first participants in a new Atlantic Junior Rangers project. They recently returned from Manitoba where they received training in first aid, boating safety, canoeing, forest management and chain saw safety.



UINR met with staff from Gespe'gwaq Mi'gmaq Resource Council to share our knowledge of eels. Pictured below from left to right: **Tasha Metallic, Craig Metallic, Mark Sark, Shelley Denny** (UINR) and **Victoria Metallic**.



Congratulations to the 2010 UINR, New Page, Georgia Pacific Scholarship winners: (left to right) **Jennifer Sylliboy, Stan Johnson Jr., Simon Sylliboy, Catherine Paul.**

WWW
uinr.ca

Here's where we keep you up-to-date on new stuff online at uinr.ca

If you haven't visited us on the web yet, take a look and see what a great resource uinr.ca is. There are videos, reports and every issue of our magazine UINR Marten. All free!

UINR's Wulo'tmnej Miniku, a brochure distributed before and during this year's St. Anne's Mission gives tips on things that you can do to keep the Island and her surrounding waters clean.

If you missed seeing it at the Mission, you can download a copy at uinr.ca

As you see in this month's issue, our short video "Netukulimk" won three awards recently, including Best Educational Film. You can see it and the other short videos in the series on our forestry program, moose management, research, science and more.

Potlotek
Wulo'tmnej Miniku
Let's Take Care of the Island

You may be at the Mission for a short time, but the Bras d'Or Lakes feel your presence much longer!

The waters of Potlotek are rich in eelgrass that gives a home to important foods such as eels, cod and oysters.

Some of our actions are hurting this habitat.

We must treat our land properly during this special Mission weekend. Please respect Mother Earth, the Bras d'Or Lakes and our community's wishes by following these guidelines during your stay.

Ooops! We missed a couple of things in our last issue. **Taya Francis** from Potlotek holds a handmade bowl she won at UINR's hardwood workshop. We also forgot to credit **Tyson Paul** and members of the Unama'ki community for their contributions to our Sespite'mnej brochures.





Lorraine Marshall was recently presented with Canada's Assistant Deputy Minister Award of Excellence. The award, presented for innovation and creativity recognized a team effort in the development of resource tools to improve water safety, emergency preparedness and response plans for water in First Nations communities. Lorraine (centre) is pictured above with Assistant Deputy Minister **Carolina Gilberti** and Health Canada's **Len O'Neill**.



UINR welcomes aboard **Matthew Bryden**. Over the next few months Matt is working as our Salmon Researcher and we're looking forward to his report summarizing the known information on Atlantic Salmon and its habitat. If you have an interest in salmon, drop Matt a line at matthew@uinr.ca

UINR's video **Netukulimk** recently won three Cape Breton Filmmakers Association awards—Best Film Under Five Minutes, Best Educational Film and Best Editing. **Netukulimk** is one of a series of short films that videographer **Madeline Yakimchuk** produced for UINR. You can see these at uinr.ca



from **Lisa Young**
UINR's Executive Director

Nipk is a time of abundance and this year, summer has brought plenty of warm weather and sunshine. 2010 is on track to become the hottest year on record. So far this year in Nova Scotia, we have had the hottest temperatures in over 100 years, since records started being kept. While this sound is great to those of us enjoying the warm summer in Unama'ki, along with it comes extreme floods, melting ice and fires that are being experienced around the world.

On a brighter note, we have a big jump in growth of UINR's staff and activities. Salmon is a big issue at UINR and we have hired **Matthew Bryden** to research the issues. **Anthony Morris** is the new co-coordinator for the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative. Over the next few weeks, we'll be announcing some other new staff, so stay tuned.

Congratulations to **Vicky Googoo** and **Joef Bernard**, the first two participants of UINR's Atlantic Junior Rangers project! You're going to be hearing a lot from them in the future as the program develops.

In this issue, we feature **Charlie Dennis** who needs no introduction to our readers! Charlie's vision was responsible for the establishment of UINR over ten years ago and he has served as Executive Director, Board member and now as our Senior Advisor.

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Unama’KIDS

The final road trip of the year for the Unama’KIDS was a trip to Ingonish and a hike on the beautiful trail in Middle Head. Our guide for the day was Parks Canada’s Suzanne Stevenson Lambert who pointed out interesting birds, animals and plants along the trail and told us about the history of the area.

A day on a river

At the graduation conference this year, Mark MacPhail, UINR’s Director of Forestry, took everyone on a tour of Goat Island where he pointed out different trees and plants that make their home on the Island’s walking trail.

What better way to spend a summer day?!

In hip waders and with pens and paper in hand, technicians and scientists from Eskasoni, Membertou and Potlotek received Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) training and certification by Environment Canada this summer.

CABIN assesses the condition of rivers. It is a national program for determining the biological health of Canada’s fresh water. A long-term monitoring program for six rivers in the Bras d’Or Lakes watershed begins this fall.

Funding for training by Maritime and Northeast Pipeline.



Left to right: Keith Christmas, Rosaline Christmas, George Christmas, Glenn Googoo, Shelley Denny, Hubert Nicholas, Tyson Paul, Ohara Young, Piel Paul, Dean Denny, Charles Doucette.





Commercial fisheries update—2010

To keep our readers up-to-date on the state of Unama'ki fisheries, here is an update on the 2010 season so far.

Lobster prices showed a slight improvement over last year because of the slow recovery of the economy. On average, the price was 10% to 20% more than last year. The slight improvements in price and landings are promising and we hope this trend will continue to levels seen a few years ago with prices in the \$6 per pound range. Most fishing areas experienced an increase in catch rates which was a welcomed relief after the devastating 2009 season that saw record lows for prices and catch rates. The 2010 season started off with low prices due to record catches throughout the Maritimes, but as the season continued prices showed a slight improvement. Some areas saw no change in catch and price, while others experienced small catch and price increases.

Shrimp—The Scotian Shelf (SFA 13, 14 and 15) experienced a large recruitment in biomass which increased the 2010 total allowable catch. With fewer Gulf of St. Lawrence shrimp (SFA 12) available this year, the price increased slightly and with the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, Unama'ki communities could generate more revenue from the high biomass and potential for increased shrimp prices in the upcoming years. Unama'ki communities involved in shrimp fishing have an interest in the proper management of the resource and are active in co-management with other users and DFO.

Snow crab—The snow crab biomass is at its peak in Areas 23 and 24 which translates to increases in total allowable catches for each community-held license. Unfortunately, this increase is slightly offset by DFO's decision to issue another license in Area 23 in the 2009 season. This wasn't felt this year because of the increase in available biomass, but as biomass continues to fall, every affected license will feel the impact of the newly-issued license. Prices are beginning to increase and we expect them to

continue to increase over the next few years as the economy recovers. With snow crab supply in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Areas 12 and 19) at the lowest biomass seen in years and an anticipated slow recovery, we should see the world market paying higher prices. This year, the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Area 19) experienced a 64% decline in total allowable catch over last year and as a result, fishermen caught their quota in a short period. This helped reduce operating costs but not potential revenue. An increase in total allowable catch in Areas 23 and 24 helped Unama'ki communities generate revenue for their communities after experiencing low prices in the snow crab and lobster seasons.

Ground Fish—The ground fish industry remained stable over the past year with the majority of landings coming from Georges Bank. The industry has moved away from the coast of Southern Nova Scotia and mainly focused on the South Western end in areas off Yarmouth and Shelburne in zones 4x and 5z (Georges Bank). Unfortunately, as more species don't recover from over-fishing, more species could end up on the Species-At-Risk listing, limiting fishing and making significant changes in future fishing patterns and locations. Fortunately, Unama'ki communities that fish for Groundfish are specialized in fishing for certain species and may not be affected in management decisions protecting certain species or areas.

Scallops—The Bay of Fundy scallop fishery has remained stable. Prices and the total allowable catch has remained at around the same level as in the past few years. This is a well-managed fishery with yearly surveys ensuring that the biomass is stable and available for fishermen who rely on this fishery commercially as well as for food, social and ceremonial use.

UINR currently holds a seat on the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management Initiative, a group made up of academics, provincial representatives, NGOs, DFO, shipping, oil and gas, environmental

groups, fishermen and concerned citizens that discuss management concerns and issues in the Eastern Scotian Shelf (ESSIM Area). We meet regularly to discuss items of interest to ensure that the ESSIM area is properly managed and cared for and that no one group can take advantage of or abuse the area. Eskasoni's Crane Cove Seafoods participates in the meetings to ensure that the views of its fishery are known to the other participants of ESSIM.

UINR and the five Mi'kmaq Unama'ki communities also hold seats on the NORIGS 3 coalition. This group works with a united approach to stop oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank. This is the only area that is still lucrative in ground fish and is a spawning area for many different types of species. Oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank could have a devastating effect on the Unama'ki communities as well as the Nova Scotian economy that relies on it.

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OYSTER garden

by Charlie Dennis

This story actually happened to me and my good friend, Lawrence Toney. Lawrence was involved in several areas where oysters beds were found. Most of the oysters were bought by me for sale in the Canadian market and restaurant trade.

Over the years, I have heard many stories around the campfire and listening to Elders tell how they fished so many boxes of oysters. Some of the stories relayed to me were incredible but, by the number of boxes fished by Mi'kmaq fishermen, they made a lot of sense.

Most days you'd probably got half or less of the day's catch before you located a good oyster bed, discovered by chance when somebody would throw in his rake and find oysters. Then, of course, they'd start fishing and would find more oysters and news would spread that "so and so" found oyster beds. The next day you'd find half of a dozen boats in the area.

That's the logistics on how oysters beds were located. Now getting back to our story about what happened to Lawrence Toney and me in Malagawatch... This story took place in the mid 90s. It was late in the oyster season and Lawrence was the last to leave the camp where we resided. It was a beautiful morning and not a ripple in the water. The sun was just coming up and you knew it was going to be a beautiful day. I got up and started breakfast for us. Bacon and eggs with toast and freshly brewed tea was on the menu. At the same time, I kept telling Lawrence, "We have to go...we're wasting precious time." Lawrence took his time and lit his famous cigarette. I just wolfed down my breakfast and out the door I went. Before getting too far, I hollered to Lawrence that if he was looking for me we would meet at the glass house (which is another story!)

I got into my boat and off I went. As soon as I got out of Malagawatch Pond I decided to do some exploring myself, but at the same time didn't want to leave Lawrence behind. Just below where Florence Young has her cabin there is a little bit of a cove. I parked my boat and at the same time kept an eye out for my friend Lawrence. I threw my oyster rake in the water and started to drag it along the bottom and it felt good, as if some oysters were in the rake.

As I lifted my rake, I knew that something was in it. When I looked into the rake, there were eight beautiful oysters, all market size and choice grade.



Lawrence Toney at the cross in Eskasoni and taking a camping break



At the same time, I saw Lawrence pulling out of the pond. Realizing that he had his hood up and his eyes focused in one direction (which was to the glass house) it would be impossible for him to see me. I just dropped my rake in the water and started chasing him to give him the good news. As I got closer to him I realized he didn't hear my boat or see me approaching the back side of his boat. I noticed he had a cigarette in his mouth. I gradually eased up from behind and was about a foot from his vessel. I spoke to him softly and said, "Well now Lawrence," and I regret to this day doing what I did, because I scared him so much he almost lost control of his boat! The words he threw at me can't be repeated. I think he swallowed his cigarette! We got control of our boats and sat there laughing. I kept saying how sorry I was and finally he looked into my boat and noticed that I didn't have my rake and said, "What happened to your rake? You forget it at the camp or what?" Well, we laughed about it some more before I told him my good news. Lawrence's comment was, "This better be good, you're losing valuable time for me." I answered, "Valuable time...I spent all morning waiting for you to get up!" We just laughed and headed in the direction where I left my oyster rake.

We both threw our anchors into the water and started raking. Lawrence got excited when he lifted his rake and found one dozen perfect oysters in it and my rake was just as full.

At the end of the day we each had eight boxes of choice oysters. That was a great day in the River Denys oyster season.

Well, I tell you, we were there for one solid week and we relaxed each night looking forward to the next day's fishing events. After looking back and realizing what a small area it was, it's incredible that in that whole week we fished over 70 boxes of oysters in that one little spot. Our oyster buyer was happy that week!

To this day, I think about Lawrence and our day of fishing in the Lakes. Sadly missed by all and thinking about you.



it's all about the people Charlie DENNIS

There is nowhere that Charlie Dennis is more at home than in a boat on the Bras d'Or Lakes or walking along her peaceful shores....except sitting in a boardroom navigating the complexities of government and community relations. Anyone who has seen Charlie in action knows that one of his greatest skills is listening and his ability to bring a quiet calm to the bumpiest of seas. Maybe it's the many years that he spent on the Lakes, observing nature and the environment, that helps guide him in negotiating the sometimes rough waters of government departments and the private sector.

Charlie is UINR's Senior Advisor and he guides our staff of the delicate art of government relations and dealing with other user groups. His wealth of knowledge of the fisheries and wildlife is invaluable. Charlie, of course, is no stranger to UINR. He was instrumental in the organization's formation over 10 years ago and has served as Executive Director through much of that time, before becoming Chief of Eskasoni several years ago. Today, through his role as Senior Advisor, he continues to help get things done.

Everyone who has seen Charlie at meetings or in the boardroom is struck by his diplomacy and his ability to create an understanding between often competing interests. He has a way of bringing people together, finding a common ground and before long, they are working together towards a common goal.

Charlie has always enjoyed nature. For much of his early working life he worked fishing lobster and herring before finding his true calling in the oyster fishery. This is an area where Charlie has done it all—from raking oyster from a row boat to manager of a successful oyster farm—there is nothing that he doesn't know about oyster. Just the mention of the bumpy shellfish lights up his eyes! Over the years he has watched the industry rise and fall, and he helped it grow into a multi-million dollar industry, just to watch it be devastated by disease and destroyed by greed. Maybe this is why he works so hard to make sure that it doesn't happen in other areas by using his experience to ensure that the same mistakes are not made again.

Today, if you are looking for Charlie, he's likely at a meeting on moose management, helping develop a strategy to protect the Bras d'Or Lakes, protecting the wild salmon population or preserving his much-loved spiritual home—Malagawatch. And, if he's not out a meeting somewhere, you can likely find him sharing a story or quietly guiding UINR staff with his knowledge and wisdom.

"I will never forget the feeling of pride I felt years ago when the whole Mi'kmaq fishing fleet came in together to Eskasoni to celebrate our successful fishery. I dreamed that someday we would have Mi'kmaq fisheries officers and biologists trained and working on the Bras d'or Lakes...and it's happened. It's a great feeling!"



Ten questions

Chose an animal native to Unama'ki.

Eagle

Favourite season?

Fall.

What is the best part of your work?

Dealing with young people and inspiring them to a career in science and natural resources.

Choose a quality you admire in others.

Honesty.

Favourite beach?

That's easy—Malagawatch.

Last thing you read?

UINR Marten.

What's for supper tonight?

BINGO Surprise!

What is your favourite website?

www.uinr.ca

What did you do in the last week to help the environment?

Filled my bird feeder.

Chocolate or chips?

Neither. Strawberries and blackberries.



Above: Charlie Dennis with Faith Scattolon and Dave Duggan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Top: Charlie's new friend shares his salmon. Left: Charlie at Malagawatch

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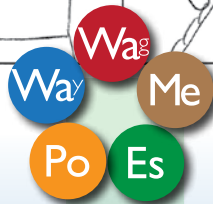
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