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New forestry agreement signed



UINR's Lisa Young, Mark MacPhail and Charlie Dennis look on as the new forestry agreement Paper is signed. (left to right: Membertou councillor Ike Paul, Potlotek Chief Wilbert Marshall, Port Hawkesbury Paper's Marc Dube, Waycobah Chief Rod Googoo, Wagmatcook Chief Norman Bernard and Eskasoni councillor Charles Blaise Young.

Surrounded by the forests in Eskasoni and framed by the Bras d'Or Lakes, Chiefs representing the five Mi'kmaq bands in Cape Breton, and Marc Dube from Port Hawkesbury Paper, signed a new five-year forestry agreement.

The new contract with Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR) outlines the roles and responsibilities for harvesting and silviculture, while paying special attention to species-at-risk and culturally significant areas for traditional-use plants.

Quotas for pulpwood, stud wood, saw logs and biomass are also detailed in the agreement.

Mark MacPhail, UINR's Director of Forestry, explains, "UINR has represented Unama'ki's Mi'kmaq in forestry since 2001. Since that initial agreement with Stora Enso, we've signed new agreements with NewPage and are pleased to continue that tradition today with Port Hawkesbury Paper.

Port Hawkesbury Paper, in a difficult market for paper, are showing the North American paper market that they will be a leader in sustainable forestry while providing a high-quality product. UINR is pleased to be playing a key role in this success."

"Port Hawkesbury Paper is pleased to continue the agreement we have with UINR. It is consistent with our commitment to create good employment opportunities for the Mi'kmaq peoples of Nova Scotia," said Marc Dube, Development Manager, Port Hawkesbury Paper. "We look forward to expanding UINR's participation in forestry on the Crown and Private lands we manage."

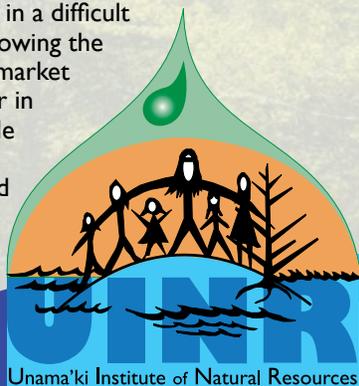
Port Hawkesbury Paper is committed to the goal of providing long-term sustainability and natural biodiversity for many ecological, social and cultural values while providing a stable and long-term wood supply, and economic viability for the company, local wood suppliers and sawmills.

UINR and the Chiefs of Unama'ki share the focus on land and water conservation that have been traditionally used by the Mi'kmaq people.

Port Hawkesbury Paper LP is a forestry operations and paper mill in Port Hawkesbury. Port Hawkesbury Paper forestry operations are the only large forest operations that are Forest Stewardship Council® certified in Atlantic Canada.

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources is an organization that represents the five Mi'kmaq bands of Unama'ki (Cape Breton) on issues related to natural resources and the environment.

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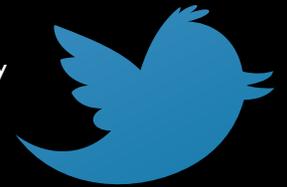
Here's where we keep you up-to-date on new stuff online at uinr.ca

Did you know that every back issue of the UINR Marten is available online in the LIBRARY section of our website? That's 32 issues or over 250 pages of information on natural resources and the environment in Unama'ki. And they are free! Don't forget that our LIBRARY is an excellent tool for school projects and university research.

If you are a Facebook user (and who isn't) be sure to LIKE our UINR page. There you will find albums of photos and up to the minute information on everything from fishing eels to invitations to our events, workshops and training opportunities.

Recent examples are photos of our catch and release of salmon in the Margaree and photos from our summer camp experience Nikani Awtiken. See how many people you recognize!

If you're a Twitter user, be sure to join our over 800 followers! It's the best way to stay informed on new additions to our website and all the latest updates.



Above: UINR held a meeting with Guardians to discuss training opportunities and collaborative projects.



Alex Levy and Michel Biron from Fisheries and Oceans Canada join Angela Denny, Shelley Denny and Tyson Paul at a session to provide community updates on salmon populations in Unama'ki.



Clean Annapolis River Project led UINR staff, Guardians and ACAP Cape Breton on culvert assessment training this summer.



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Welcome



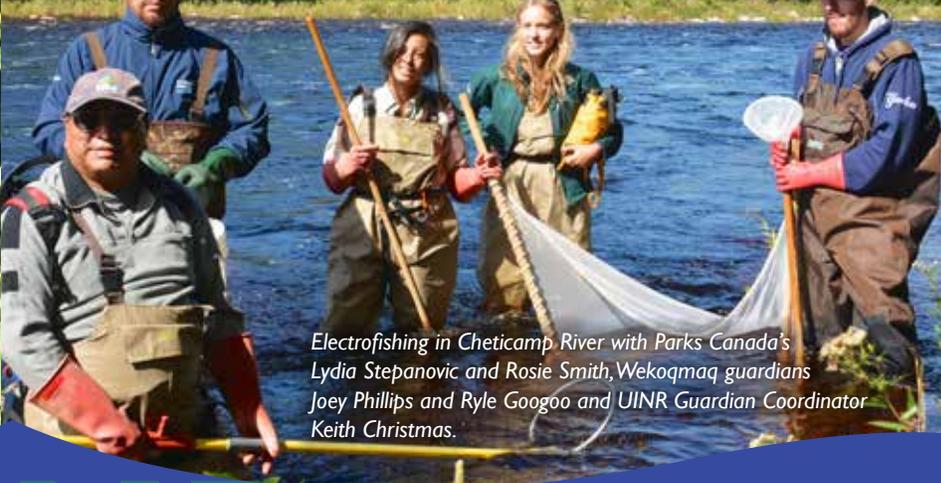
Meet Malikewe'j resident John Doucette who Charlie Dennis has assigned as our UINR Marten distributor for Mala!



Frederick Whoriskey (left) from Ocean Tracking Network at Dalhousie University gave salmon scale aging training to UINR, Unama'ki Guardians and Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife staff.



Shelley Denny and Tyson Paul work on Community Aquatic Monitoring Program with Membertou Guardians Rosalind Christmas and George Christmas..



Electrofishing in Cheticamp River with Parks Canada's Lydia Stepanovic and Rosie Smith, Wekoqmaq guardians Joey Phillips and Ryle Googoo and UINR Guardian Coordinator Keith Christmas.

Where do you like to go when you feel like you need a break, an escape from the online world? If you're like me, nothing clears your head like a walk in the woods.

Forests are an important part of our lives. They provide food, lumber for our homes, fuel for our stoves, materials for crafts, medicine and habitat for animals and birds. Did you know that one mature tree gives off enough oxygen for two people? Now with biomass harvesting, the forest even provides electricity for our homes!

Of course, forests also provide a source of income and are an important part of the economy, employing our people in harvesting and silviculture.

This summer UINR signed an agreement with Port Hawkesbury Paper to make sure that our people share in the economic activities in the forests. This renews and expands our previous agreements with Stora Enso and NewPage and lays the groundwork for this new partnership. We are especially pleased that Port Hawkesbury Paper recognizes the importance of our youth in continuing its funding of our scholarships.

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Fish-WIKS in Unama'ki!

Shelley Denny, Leon Denny and Tyson Paul award Eskasoni's Lenita Dominique Denny as a winner in the Fish-WIKS logo contest.

Lenita Dominique Denny, a 14 year old grade eight student from Eskasoni, is the winner of the Fish-WIKS logo contest for the East Coast region. Her design, along with designs from three other regions across Canada, will form the Fish-WIKS logo.



UINR is a partner with Fish-WIKS, along with the Assembly of First Nations, BC First Nations Fisheries Council, Government of Nunavut, Vancouver Island University, University of Guelph, University of Toronto and Dalhousie University. Fish-WIKS is a five-year collaborative project funded by the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada.

Fish-WIKS research looks at understanding indigenous knowledge systems and how they can be used to enhance Canadian fisheries governance and management. Fish-WIKS aims to identify both what is similar and different in indigenous knowledge systems in four regions and communities across Canada (Tla-o-qui-aht, BC; Repulse Bay, Nunavut; Nipissing, Ontario; and Eskasoni, Nova Scotia).

Working with users and decision makers, key research questions focus on examining how western and indigenous knowledge systems currently influence fisheries governance and understanding how indigenous knowledge systems could improve efforts.

Graduate students from Dalhousie University visited Eskasoni to begin their research and were guided by Liaison Coordinator Tyson Paul of Eskasoni. Tyson provides an ongoing link with Eskasoni and members of the research team, helps build community awareness and organizes meetings and other events.

To learn more about Fish-WIKS visit their website and check out their newsletter at fishwiks.ca

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Did Eels Change the Course of History?

Earlier this year when we were wrapping up our ten short eel videos with Parks Canada, Elder Albert Marshall told a story that captivated everyone around the table.

The story takes place almost 300 years ago during the siege in Louisbourg. Having run out of gunpowder, French soldiers went to the Mi'kmaq people in Unama'ki to request help. As the French and Mi'kmaq had very good relations, the Mi'kmaq agreed to assist the soldiers. What happened next may have changed the course of history!

To help celebrate Louisbourg's 300th anniversary, UINR worked with Albert to develop a script so more people could hear the story. Membertou artist Dozay Christmas did a series of illustrations to illustrate the tale and videographer Madeleine Yakimchuk assembled the elements to create videos in Mi'kmaq, French and English.

The story is told by Elder Albert Marshall, Anthony Morris and Monique Catin, accompanied by drumming and chanting by Sons of Membertou.

It's a great story with lots of twists and turns. It's guaranteed to make you wonder...what if...

You can see the videos at uinr.ca or on our YouTube channel UINRtv.



Anthony Morris, Monique Catin and Albert Marshall



it's all about the partnerships Bras d'Or Lakes CEPI

Five Mi'kmaq communities and four counties border its shore and share in the Bras d'Or Lakes bounty. It provides nourishment for the body and soul, it is a place to work and play. The Bras d'Or Lakes watershed is not only the water and shores, but includes the land and forests that surround it.

Ten years ago, on the urging of the five Unama'ki Chiefs, the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Planning Initiative (CEPI) was formed to address the complex problems inherent in the development of a watershed management plan. No easy task, as you can imagine. In addition to the four municipal jurisdictions, a host of other federal and provincial departments play roles in the governance, plus a wide range of organizations, business and individuals that have their own ideas on what should be done. This is where CEPI comes in.

CEPI was formed to bring together all of these players to share their views and work together. Despite the differences, everyone around the CEPI table shares a common goal, to protect and preserve the Lakes for future generations.



One of CEPI's first tasks was to have all partners agree to some basic principles. The *Bras d'Or Lakes Charter* was developed and signed by every municipality's mayors and wardens, Mi'kmaq Chiefs, and federal and provincial department ministers. The Bras d'Or Charter remains as a unique collaboration of every level of government and it outlines the governing principles of the organization.

Now, every year, the Senior Council, representatives from the original Charter, meet to review the previous year's work and set priorities for the upcoming year.



CEPI Senior Council and staff

These days, CEPI is working on several projects to advance its goals—a survey of sewage pump-out facilities around the Lakes, a survey of all of the barrachois ponds and the establishment of oyster sanctuaries are currently underway.



Shelley Porter, Annie Johnson, Dan Christmas, René Lavoie, Lisa Young, Anthony Morris and Charlie Dennis at the Spirit document release.



The Spirit of the Lakes Speaks was released in 2011 and is a document that addresses environmental management issues around the Lakes. It is intended to guide decisions and actions with a well-rounded approach to managing the ecosystem.

Inspired by the medicine wheel, it focuses on knowledge, action, spirituality and feelings and acknowledges native and contemporary knowledge.

Things YOU Can Do to Protect the Bras d'Or Lakes is a booklet that gives practical advice on simple things that can be done to help the Lakes.

Both these publications, and others, can be found at brasdorcepi.ca

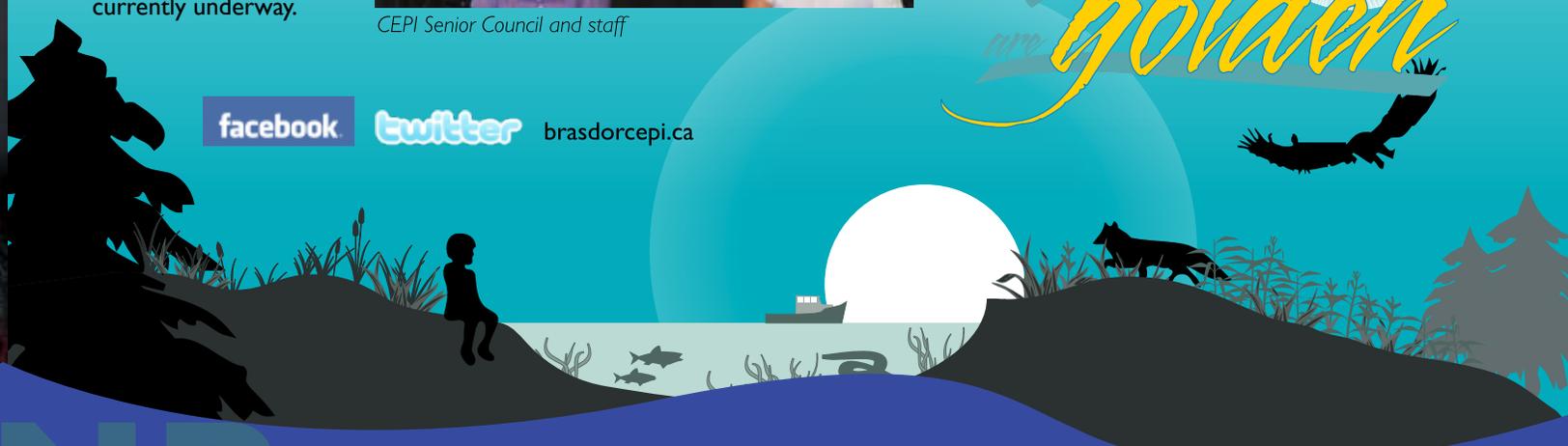
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OYSTER garden by Charlie Dennis



Illustration: Brianna Paul

Earlier this summer I received a call from Noel Gould, my good friend and Elder from We'koqma'q, asking me to come over to his house and to bring a tape recorder, "have I got a story for you!" He just returned from his annual pilgrimage to Chapel Island to honour Saint Anne. Noel was my Dad's best friend when they were growing up and he always told me about all the fun expeditions they had together. Noel's stories always fascinated me so I was very eager to hear his story.

Noel wanted to make sure the recorder was on and that I knew how to operate it. I just smiled and reassured him.

He was only around five years old when the story took place, around 1933, but Noel remembered it well. It was his first boat trip and he was so excited to get on a boat with all the people that went on the trip. He described the fancy boats that were part of the journey and talked about the famous Kennedy boats that were made on Alba Road near Boom Island, off Malagawatch. The Kennedy brothers were famous for constructing excellent row boats. Noel explained there were five Kennedy boats in We'koqma'q, but in this journey only three were used. The boats were loaded. There was barely sitting room but it was very comfortable. The boats were operated by two men with two sets of oars to each boat.

Noel described some of the people that were on the journey—his father, Joe Gould and family, Grand Chief Gabriel Sylliboy and family, his uncle Levi (Silipay) Poulette and family, and his brother Andrew (Antle) Gould.

The first part of the journey took them to the east of Whycocomag Bay heading to what we call today, Portage Creek, near Alba. To their surprise there was a man with a horse and wagon waiting along the shore like he was expecting them. It was his job to keep an eye on vessels coming to use the portage route that was established long ago by the Mi'kmaq in birch bark canoes.

According to Noel, the man was Edward Madison and he lived near the crossroads of Alba and Portage Creek. With everybody helping it didn't take long to empty the boats and place them on to the wagon. Mr. Madison would haul each boat to the other side, connecting the route to Malagawatch via Portage Creek. A 50 cent fee was charged for the quarter mile trek, with everybody

giving a hand. The Grand Chief and Noel's father thanked Mr. Madison for his help and said that they would be back and he assured them that he would be there to haul the boats back to Whycocomag Bay.

The journey to Malagawatch didn't take very long and it was decided by everyone that it would be good idea to stay in Malagawatch overnight and the journey would commence the following day.

A crowd of Mi'kmaq residents in Malagawatch was a welcoming sight as everyone greeted each other as they hadn't seen each other in a long time. A place called Su'si'jek, where Louis Joe lived, was where the Grand Chief would stay overnight.

Noel slept under an overturned Kennedy boat and being young, had no problem sleeping through the night. When he woke up, there was hustle and bustle going on and he heard a funny noise that he never heard before. It sounded like "pot...pot...pot...pot, and then his father told him it was a gasoline boat steered by Captain Lewis Joe and his brother John Joe.

As Noel got ready, he saw that all the boats were packed and next thing he knew they were being towed by the gasoline boat! It wasn't long before they could see the church steeple with Potlotek in the background. Noel could hardly wait to get to shore and start exploring but that thought disappeared when his father reminded him there was work to be done. Boats needed to be unloaded and supplies delivered.

Noel described it to me that, in those days, each camp site was designated for different Mi'kmaq communities. For example, there would be part of field that was meant for Wagmatcook, Membertou, Potlotek, Eskasoni, and other sites planned for visitors from other communities.

Everybody was busy at something. Food had to be cooked and tea made. Being young and curious, Noel paid close attention to his father as he marked off where their wigwam was going to be located. He would hammer a piece of wood in the ground and then tie a piece of rope to it, then extending the rope to exact measurement of the width of the wigwam, nine feet from the center. Then he would carefully mark out a full circle with a handful of flour to show the line. Then he went into the woods and brought out a bundle of poles that were kept there from the previous year. Some people used old birch bark that they stored over the winter. Before you unrolled, it you had to soak it in the water so it wouldn't break while putting it up for your wigwam walls. After the feast they would do soak it again before storing it for the winter.

The wigwam his father had was very large because the Grand Council would hold their special meeting there during the celebration. They used a special canvas for the walls.

Noel recalled that where the large wigwam stood there was a flag pole which, I believe, still stands today. There is a spot where they used to hold dances and for years they would use the same place and, to this day, there is a hollow spot in the ground. I often wondered why this dent never disappeared as Mother Nature usually would patch a hollow like this over time. I guess is one of the mysteries of Potlotek.





Nikani Awtiken



If you were a Mi'kmaq teenager, what could be better than spending a week this summer on the Bras d'Or Lakes, reconnecting with nature, learning all about natural resources and traditional Mi'kmaq values and practices?

That is exactly what happened at Nikani Awtiken.

Nadine LeFort, Education & Outreach Coordinator at Mi'kmaq Education Learning Centre explains, "Nikani Awtiken is a Mi'kmaq phrase that means "trail blazing" or "creating a new path" and while this is our second year hosting the camp, every year is a new adventure!

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"I liked camp a lot. I am happy to have my first aid and boating safety certification, and meeting people here made me more confident"

"We learned so much about our environment—I now know how to identify many plants, make an eel spear, and start a fire!"

"Staff and campers were so respectful and nice. Everyone got along so well."

"My favourite was hiking to Kluscap's Cave. But I also loved eeling. Oh, and when Terry took us swimming on the boat. Really, it was all pretty fun."

"I loved the campfire stories"

"I liked meeting relatives I had never met before."

"I loved learning more about what my ancestors used as medicine. That's good for me to know."

"It helped me feel more positive for what I want to be in the future."

"The only thing that I can think of to improve the camp is to make it longer – more time to have fun and get to know everyone better."

"I would definitely recommend Nikani Awtiken to a friend. It was fun, educational, and a great experience. I loved it, and they will too!"

"Would I recommend this camp? Yes 'cause this camp is AWESOME!!!"



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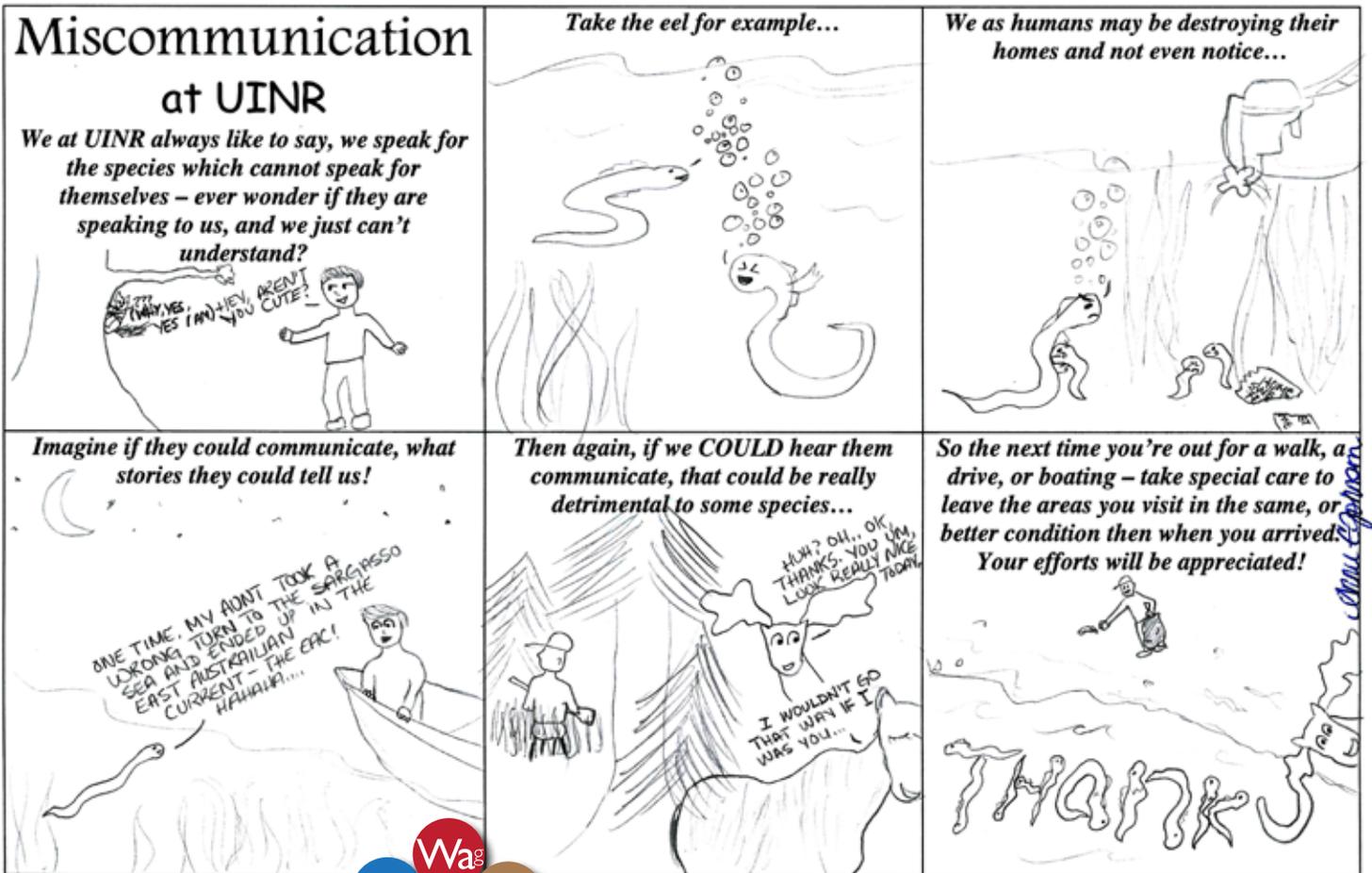
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