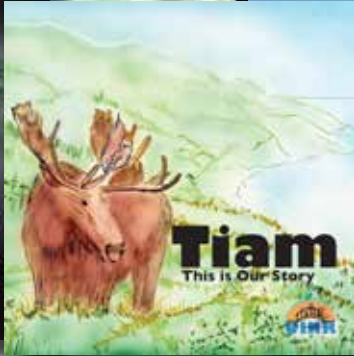
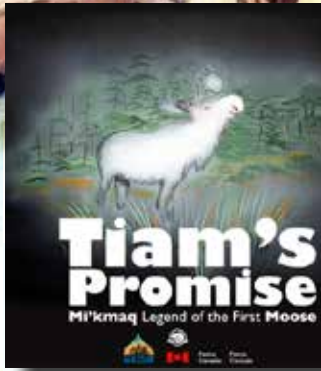


UINR marten

Eskasoni • Membertou • Potlotek • Wagmatcook • We'koqma'q
Volume 10 • Issue 1 • Siwkw/Spring 2014



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uinr.ca

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Year of the MOOSE!

Around UINR we have been calling 2014 the Year of the Moose! Clifford Paul, UINR's Moose Management Coordinator, the Moose Working Group, and UINR announced four exciting new projects (and it's only Spring!) Two new publications, a children's book and a book on Mi'kmaq ecological knowledge; and two videos, a Mi'kmaq legend of the first moose and a documentary on the Moose Management Initiative. These are all available, free of charge, at uinr.ca. These videos complement the books we published on the importance of moose to Mi'kmaq. Through partnership, collaboration, and technology, Mi'kmaq legends and current resource management successes from Unama'ki are being shared globally.

Tiam's Promise

is a four-minute video told in three languages, Mi'kmaq, English, and French. In partnership with Parks Canada, this is the second in what we've nicknamed our "Legend Series."

Beautifully animated with illustrations by Dozay, and featuring music by Sons of Membertou, it tells the story of Tiam's first appearance to the Mi'kmaq people in a time of need and the agreement that was made between the moose and people.

It follows the story from the time of the moose's disappearance and its reintroduction to Unama'ki, to the present day where, once again, we live in balance together through our renewed promise.

Tiam: This is Our Story

tells the story of moose in Unama'ki from the appearance of the first "spirit" moose to the present day.

Illustrated by Dozay and written by UINR's Lisa Young and Clifford Paul, it is both entertaining and educational. It is written in English and Mi'kmaq making it useful for language learning.

Funding was provided by Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum's Fund for Social and Economic Change.

Tiam: Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge

gathers traditional knowledge of moose and its importance to the culture and survival of Mi'kmaq people now and through the ages. It looks at the work of the Moose Working Group who developed voluntary guidelines for Mi'kmaq moose harvesting.

Written by Nadine LeFort with Clifford Paul, Ernest Johnson and Charlie Dennis, the book looks at every part of the moose that is traditionally used by the Mi'kmaq people, "The Whole Moose."

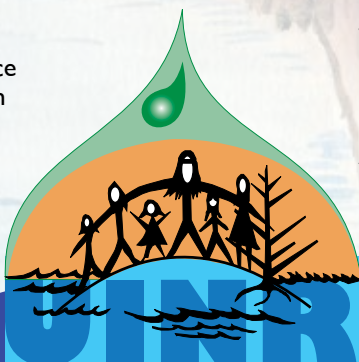
Funding was provided by NS Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Parks Canada, and Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum's Fund for Social and Economic Change.

Our Rightful Place

is a 23-minute documentary that chronicles the work of the Moose Working Group who developed voluntary guidelines for Mi'kmaq moose harvesting in Unama'ki.

Three years in making, videographer Madeline Yakimchuk follows the story of the Mi'kmaq identifying a problem and using the Mi'kmaq way to develop a solution. A traditional Mi'kmaq moose harvest echoes the main story and gives a look at the underlying philosophy.

UINR partners in this video are Parks Canada, Nova Scotia Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Kwilmu'kw Mawklusuaqn Negotiations Office KMKNO.



NEWS²

WWW

uinr.ca

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

There's tons of new stuff at uinr.ca including our two new books on moose in the Library, and both of our new videos at UINRtv! While you're there take a look at our new promotional video to learn more about UINR and what our partners have to say about working with us.



If you are a Facebook user (and who isn't) be sure to LIKE our UINRpage. It's growing fast and if you take a visit you'll see why! For example, if you had liked

our page you could have received an invitation to our recent book and video releases (and moose meat hors d'oeuvres!) Check out our albums of photos and see how many people you recognize! This is also the best place to stay tuned on any employment and other opportunities that arise.

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



UINR hosted an information session for the Canadian Water Network to introduce them to the work being done at UINR. Pictured above are UINR's Clifford Paul, Charlie Dennis, Elder Albert Marshall, CBU's Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, CWN's Liana Kreamer, MELC's Shanna Paul and Eskasoni Councillor Charles Blaise Young.



Artist Dozay and UINR Senior Advisor Charlie Dennis present an original Dozay illustration to a lucky door prize winner at the launch of our new books on moose.



We had some help putting our smolt wheel in Middle River this spring: Larry Forysthe, Tyson Paul-UINR, Angela Denny-UINR, Shelley Denny-UINR, Leonard Forysthe, Michael Orr-CBU, Caelin Murray-CBU



UINR welcomes **Pie'l Lalo Paul**

as Project Coordinator for our new Climate Change Adaptation Project. Pie'l is working with our communities to help develop a modeling tool to assess the vulnerability of community lands and infrastructure to the impacts of climate change such as sea level rise and increased storm surge events.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to work on this project. It will help me to gain knowledge and experience in this field. We all see the effects of climate change, and this project will help educate our people on planning for future developments and raise awareness."

piel@uinr.ca

Shanna Francis is Assistant Camp Coordinator for MELC's Nikani Awtiken camp being held the August. Shanna will help provide hands-on opportunities while re-connecting youth with natural resource management and traditional perspectives of sustainability.

"As a Mi'kmaq of Unama'ki, I respect and have an understanding of the importance of Mother Earth. I am very fortunate to have grown up practicing my traditions and strongly value my language and culture. Working with MELC is increasing my knowledge of mainstream environmental issues along with sharing my traditional knowledge."

shanna@uinr.ca



As UINR enters our 15th year, it is an excellent opportunity to look back at the progress we've made and where we are headed. It might be a good time to look at those original goals:

- Provide resources for Mi'kmaq equal participation in natural resource management in Unama'ki and its traditional territory.
- Strengthen Mi'kmaq research and natural resource management while maintaining Mi'kmaq traditions and world views.
- Partner with other groups sharing the same desire to protect and preserve our resources for future generations.

A quick review of this issue is a good illustration of what we've done. "The Year of the Moose" is a perfect example of communities working together to develop a unique and effective Mi'kmaq management plan, while broadening our knowledge and understanding.

One of UINR's greatest strengths is in our successful partnerships. If you haven't seen our latest promotional video, check out what our partners have to say about us at uinr.ca in the UINRtv section.

We continue to build capacity, expanding our programs, bringing new people on board, and supporting our staff. Our own Shelley Denny has just been accepted to a PHD program at Dalhousie!

We are feeling pretty good about our accomplishments and look forward to even more successful projects in the years to come!

lisa@uinr.ca



At our video release: Tom Soehl-DNR, Benedict Toney, Annie Johnson-UINR, Eric Zscheile-KMKNO, Clifford Paul-UINR, Charlie Dennis-UINR, Madeline Yakimchuk-GRYPHON media productions, Chip Bird-Parks Canada, Monique Catlin-Parks Canada, Derek Quann-Parks Canada



A workshop to brainstorm on a monument for Mala: Nadine LeFort, Joe Googoo, Steve Dennis, Frank Gerard Cabot, Dave Simon, Charles Blaise Young, Charlie Dennis, Andrew Johnson, Gibbet Stevens, Anthony Morris, Gordon Kennedy Front row: Ekelit Simon, Veronica "Flo" Young, Beverly Jeddore, Melinda Young, Marjorie Gould, Judy Googoo





UINR's Mala Watch!

Malikewe'j is a special place. UINR has been working on a number of projects there over the years and we have some new things on the go for the community.



We just completed our annual Spring Clean-up and were pleased to see that all the hard work there has been paying off with a cleaner community.

We've been working with Mala residents and Elders to publish a new book on the history of the community and its link to Grand Council. It will be available later this summer.



UINR Senior Advisor **Charlie Dennis** was interviewed by APTN for a special news report on Mala that aired on the network this spring.



In consultation with community members and Elders, UINR has commissioned a local artist to design a monument to the people of Malikewe'j, past, present, and future. It will be unveiled at the entrance to the community cemetery later this summer during the annual mass.



Mi'kmaq Youth CAMP

Join Mi'kmaq Youth from across Nova Scotia at **Nikani Awtiken**, August 7-14
Camp Rankin, St. Peter's, Cape Breton

Participate in Hands-on Learning about Natural Resources, Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge, and Career Opportunities

- First Aid Certification
- Medicinal Plants
- Traditional Crafts
- Boating Safety
- Eel Spearing
- Hiking
- Canoeing
- Sweat Lodge



There's no cost to participants. You must be 15 to 18 years old and in school. DEADLINE: July 15, 2014 For more information and to apply, contact: nadine@uinr.ca or shanna@uinr.ca or call 902 379 2163

melcentre.ca



it's all about the partnerships

MELC

Mi'kmaq Environmental Learning Centre



While barely four years old, MELC–Mi'kmaq Environmental Learning Centre has accomplished a lot in that time. Now with a full-time Education and Outreach Coordinator, **Nadine LeFort** has taken MELC to new heights!

“MELC is a tribute to Mi'kmaq Elders who generously share their knowledge on traditional values. Our objective is to keep these teachings alive in our hearts and actions for the benefit of future generations.

All our work is based on the guiding principle of netukulimk, which is really about uniting people with plants, animals, and the environment as a whole. MELC's programs help deepen people's awareness and appreciation of cultural and natural history. What I love about MELC is the commitment to community. From young children to Elders, everyone contributes to our programs and helps to promote healthy communities and a healthy environment”

The goals of MELC are to collect and preserve traditional Mi'kmaq knowledge on environmental sustainability, create and deliver educational programs to promote and share Mi'kmaq traditional knowledge, and partner with other groups sharing the desire to promote environmental sustainability for the benefit of future generations.

It's been a busy year for MELC with participation in :

- the publication of “Tiam: Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge: Moose in Unama'ki”
- North American Association of Environmental Education's “Community Climate Change Fellowship”
- Celtic Colours Youth Symposium
- regional science fair judging in Potlotek
- EcoLiteracy & Outdoor-Learning workshops with Green Learning Canada
 - workshops on Two-Eyed Seeing.

Some new projects you will be hearing about include a new book on Malikewe'j, a Mala monument project, and of course, Nikani Awtiken 2014 summer camp.



Visit to Kluskap's cave



Workshops in schools



Community tree planting



OYSTER garden

by Charlie Dennis

Chapel Island Mission

Last August I received a call from my close friend Noel J. Gould saying he had a story he wanted to share with me. I think it's very important to share it now because of events that have taken place. Noel had grave concerns about the conditions on Chapel Island, especially where his cabin and the great majority of the cabins are located on the east end of the Island. Over the years the area has been prone to flooding and sea level rise.

After talking to other Elders, the last five years have gotten worse with storm surges and, in one instance, water almost got to the church. I told Noel that this problem is not an isolated one and it is happening around the world. Then he asked me, "What can we do about it, Charlie?"

Before I could give him an answer, Noel commented, "Have I got a story for you! We might resolve our problems by asking for help from Saint Anne."

While we were talking, Noel stood up and pulled a photograph from the corner of the kitchen and laid it on the

table. I recalled seeing this photo before at key locations, such as Band offices around Unama'ki. It was an aerial photo taken from a small plane by a photographer from Eskasoni, Derrick Denny.

The photo was given to Noel as a gift a few years back from a family member. Noel started his story by telling me that he just got back from the Chapel Island Mission and while he was there, after the Feast, he decided to lay down for a while to rest a bit until he picked up his energy again. While he lay there, his granddaughter ran in and tied a ribbon on his leg saying, "This will help you with all your pain, Grand Dad." Noel had major surgery a few months before and he wasn't healing as much as he hoped. He was used to being active. Noel's granddaughter kept repeating, "This ribbon will help you, Grand Dad. See, Grand Dad, I have one on my ankle too and all the other kids are wearing ribbons too."



I knew the significance of these ribbons but Noel explained how and why they originated. Before the celebrations begin, women from the Grand Council take sheets of cloth and thoroughly clean the statue of Saint Anne for display during the holy service. After the service, the cloths are cut into strips and distributed to everyone that requires help or want one for somebody else. After his explanation Noel told me that the words of his granddaughter fascinated him. "Grand Dad, this ribbon will help you."

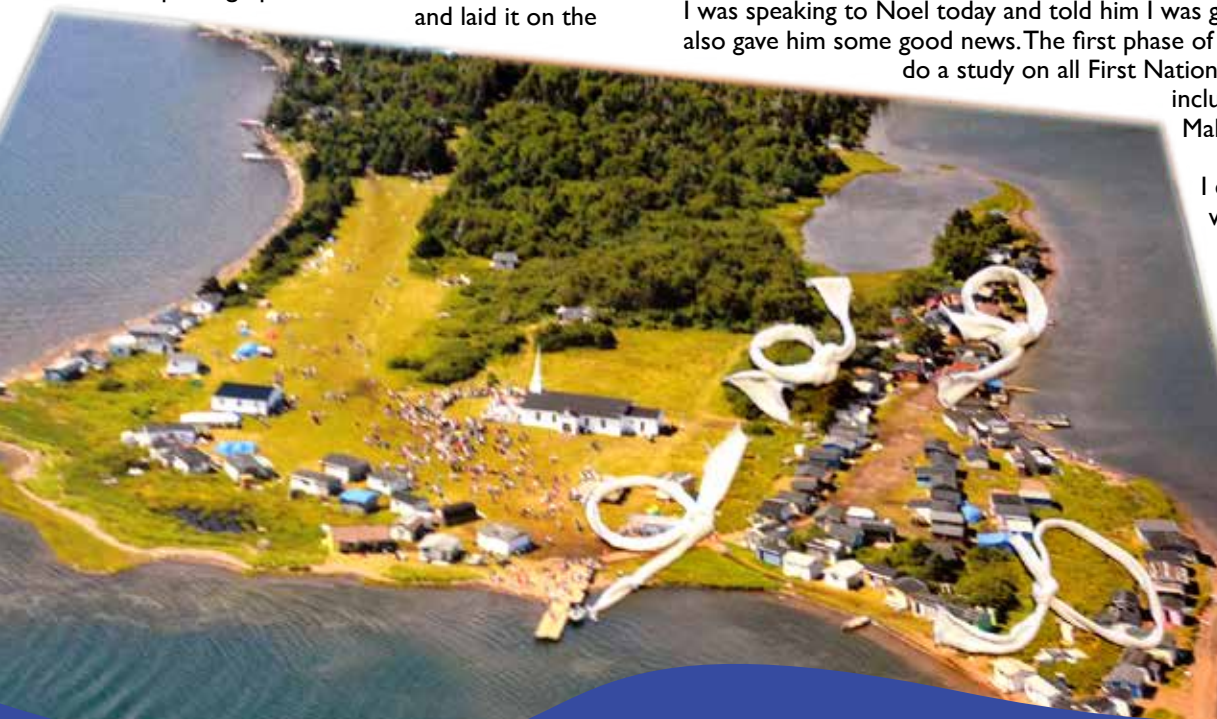
All of sudden Noel dug up a bag he had on the table and he pointed to me. "Charlie Joe, look at this photo and show me where the main problems are." It was easy for me to point to the photo and, every time I pointed, Noel would place a ribbon on the spot. Apparently he borrowed the ribbons from all his grandchildren.

Noel explained that all the children wear these ribbons all year and they get a new one at the next Mission. "So you see, Charlie Joe, these ribbons are very important to the young people and we have to save this Island for them. It's their future."

After a lengthy discussion he asked, "With all the work UINR is doing in Malikewe'j, and after saving the cemetery, can you do something for Chapel Island?" My answer was, "With the help that is on this table, we can give it a Mi'kmaq prayer and with help from Saint Anne we might be able to succeed."

I was speaking to Noel today and told him I was going to do this story and also gave him some good news. The first phase of a project was approved to do a study on all First Nations communities in Unama'ki including Chapel Island and Malikewe'j.

I explained that the project will be done in phases over a couple of years. The first phase would see discussion with community members and some of this discussion has already been done with Elders, some members of the Grand Council, and Unama'ki Chiefs. Maps, reports, some photos and actual plans from each community have already been collected.





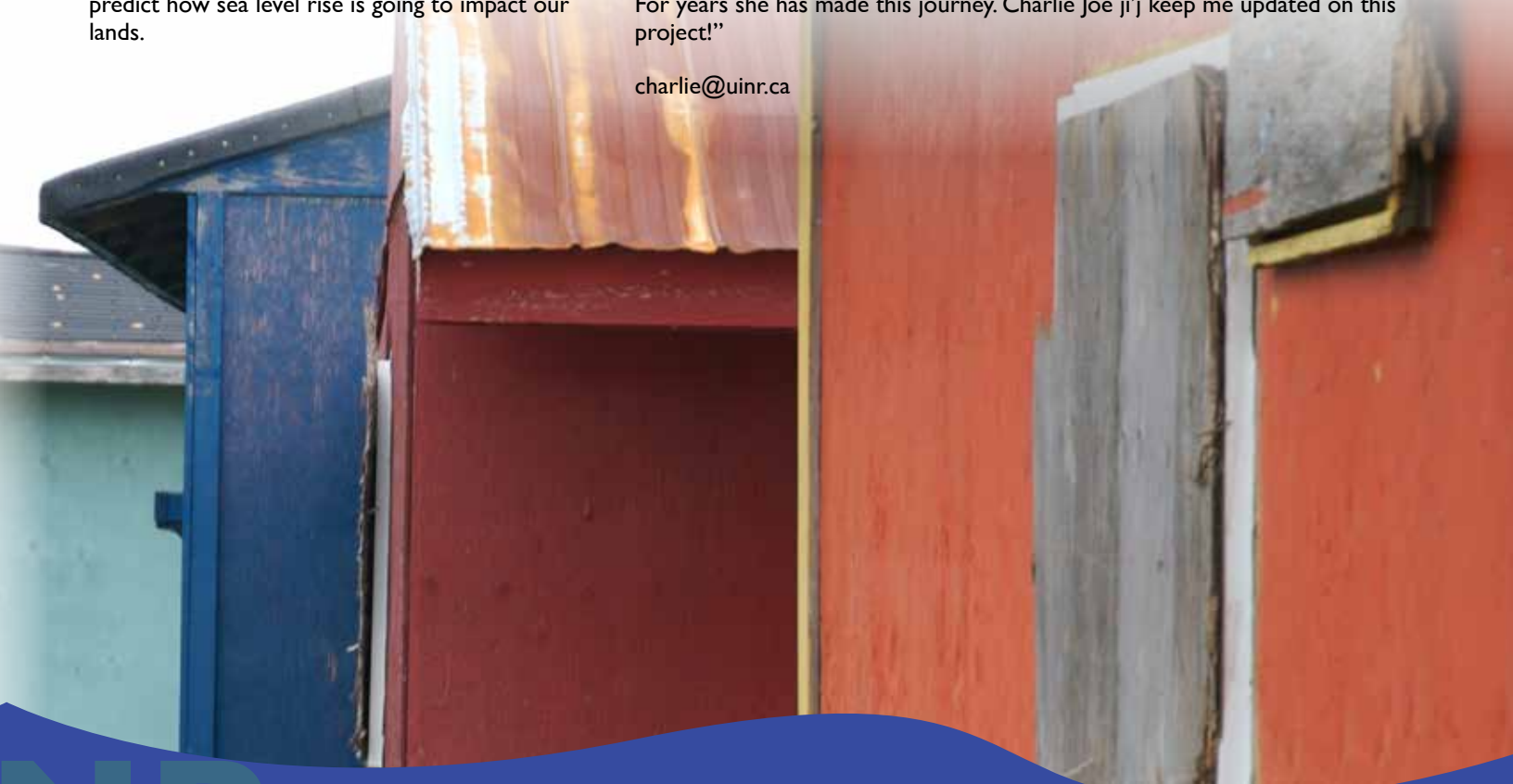
R. J. Daigle Enviro are environmental consultants who specialize in climate change and they have been hired to do the initial work mapped out in our proposal. This company has done successful projects with First Nations communities in New Brunswick and come highly recommended. They will determine how quickly the banks of the Island are eroding. Another company will take aerial photographs from a small plane using a technology called LiDAR to make high-resolution maps.

This part of the project is scheduled to be completed before the end of summer at all the sites. We will use the information collected to predict how sea level rise is going to impact our lands.

Once all the data is collected, at the end of the first year, the team will be able to show us what these areas looked like a long time ago, what it looks now, and what it will look like in the future. After all this information is computerized and evaluated it, will help us develop an adaptation strategy for the areas that will be affected by climate change. Among the team members that will be involved in this project are Mi'kmaq technicians including Guardians from our communities and staff from UINR. The successful candidate for UINR's job posting for a project coordinator for this Climate Change Adaptation Project was **Pie'l Lalo Paul** from Eskasoni.

When I was talking to Noel, he commented that these holy ribbons are very important to our people. "Charlie Joe, people travel from great distances to come down and celebrate the feast day activities but also to get a ribbon. I know one person that comes all the way from Boston just to get a ribbon. For years she has made this journey. Charlie Joe ji'j keep me updated on this project!"

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