



THIS ISSUE

Respect salmon

NEWS

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Welcome

Feast in the

Highlands

Oyster Garden

It's all about

the people

Staff

Annie's cartoon

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questions are

welcome.

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The environment is our priority: Respect salmon



UINR and the five Unama'ki communities are asking that people not take any salmon from Middle River for food, social, or ceremonial purposes. The salmon population in the river is not meeting conservation requirements, with very low numbers being found.

This fall, to confirm our findings, UINR's Shelley Denny and Angela Denny did a swim through of a portion of the river. They saw no salmon. When UINR biologists brought this information to the Unama'ki Chiefs, the decision was unanimous. It was agreed that the right thing to do was for Mi'kmaq fishers to immediately refrain from fishing in the river until the population improves.

We asked **Jaime Battiste** from Kwiilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office to explain the nature of a "communal right" accessed by individuals. "The Nature of Aboriginal rights in Canada and Mi'kmaq rights within Mi'kmaki are considered "communal rights." Mi'kmaq have been successful in defending our rights in court with regards to hunting, fishing, and gathering, however, these rights have been identified as rights belonging to the collective Mi'kmaq community as opposed to an individual right. A Mi'kmaq person is able to practice these rights as an individual as long as they demonstrate a knowledge of the right being asserted, and a knowledge that they can practice that right in accordance with Mi'kmaq laws of conservation. As well, a Mi'kmaq must ensure that he/she can practice that right safely without harming others. In summary, the Mi'kmaq communal rights of environmental stewardship and the Mi'kmaq responsibility to preserve the resource for generations to come, will always outweigh or supersede an individual's right to assert that right for personal use. As our Elders have stated, "The environment has to be a priority."

**The SALMON
Population in
Middle River
is Not Meeting
Conservation
Requirements**



**Respect
Salmon
and DO NOT
Take Them
for Food,
Social or
Ceremonial
Needs**

Effective
October 1, 2014
Until Further Notice



NEWS²

WWW

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

Did you know that you can find every back issue of UINR MARTEN on our website? That's 37 issues or almost



300 pages of information on Unama'ki's natural resources. Great information for school and other research projects. Best of all...it's FREE!

If you are a Facebook user (and who isn't) be sure to LIKE our UINR page. It's growing fast and if you take a visit you'll see why! For example, if you like our page you could get a chance to receive our 2015 calendar. Check out our albums of photos and see how many people you recognize! This is also the best place to stay tuned on 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.



At a swim-through looking for salmon in Baddeck River are: **Tara McIntyre**, DFO Aquatic Science Biologist; **Paul Leblanc**, DFO Aquatic Science Technician; **Tyson Paul**, UINR Research Assistant and FISH-WIKS Community Liaison Coordinator; **Greg Stevens**, DFO Senior Advisor; **Jamie Gibson**, DFO Research Scientist; **Shelley Denny**, UINR Director of Aquatic Research and Stewardship; **Alex Levy**, DFO Aquatic Science Biologist.



UINR's Moose Management Coordinator **Clifford Paul** poses at Wagmatcook Culture & Heritage Centre with Wagmatcook students who enjoyed his presentation of our two moose videos at the Centre's monthly Lecture Series.



UINR's Climate Change Adaptation Project held a meeting of Unama'ki Elders to discuss the project and have them share their knowledge on observed changes. (Back): **Ernest Johnson**, **Terry Denny**, **Norman Basque**, **Piel Paul**, **Lisa Young**, **Charlie Dennis**, **Nadine Lefort**, **Annie Johnson**, **Howard Jeddore**, **Dennis Isadore**, **Albert Marshall**, **Joe Googoo**. (Front): **Cameron Paul**, **Noel J. Gould**, **Murdana Marshall**, **Susie Marshall**, **Judy Googoo**, **Diana Denny**.

UI



pjila'si

Welcome

UINR hosted the second annual AAROM Symposium in November, bringing together Atlantic groups that operate under the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management program umbrella.



A ceremonial tree planting at UINR's Annual Feast in the Highlands.
Susie Marshall, Kerry Prosper, Flo Young, Cameron Paul,
 UINR's **Lisa Young, Charlie Dennis.**

It's been quite an autumn!

We were disappointed to learn about the decline of salmon in Middle River. While numbers have been in decline for years, now, the once-productive river doesn't even meet conservation requirements. UINR is doing a lot of research on salmon and we have been working with many partners through the Collaborative Salmon Initiative. The best thing we can do right now is to leave the few remaining salmon alone and give the population a chance to rebound. Throughout the month of December, UINR is working with partners at CBU, Dalhousie University, and Ocean Tracking Network to monitor salmon kelt movements in Middle River.



Collaborative Salmon Initiative (CSI Cape Breton) held their regular meeting in Wagmatcook to review projects and give updates on member projects.
 (Back): **Bruce Hatcher, Charlie Dennis, Harry Vickers, Keith Christmas**
 (Front): **Lewis Hinks, James Brigland, Angela Denny, John Hart, Don MacLean, Lisa Young, Geoff Nighi, Jillian Baker, Shelley Denny, David Cameron, Anthony Pierro, Tyson Paul.**

We have been working very closely with Parks Canada on a forest health initiative in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park that involves the harvest of 30–40 moose from an area in North Mountain. It is hoped that removing moose from this area over a number of years will allow the forest to regenerate without the constant grazing of young trees by moose. Unfortunately, because of time constraints in getting Parks Canada approval, the harvest is postponed to next year.

Speaking of moose, you can see from the photos in our feature on the Feast in the Highlands, that this was a fantastic year for our annual gathering. Between the lead-bullet-for-copper exchange, free books, DNR's exhibit, singing, drumming and, of course, the food, everyone had a great time. The feast keeps growing every year and somehow there's always enough food for everyone!

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NR



Annual Feast in the





NR



OYSTER

garden
by Charlie Dennis



It's October again and the fall season is upon us in the blink of an eye. Cold air is starting to roll down from the North. Frost appears in the morning on your car but it doesn't take long for the sun to melt it away. This signals the call of the wild, when moose hunters gather on beautiful Hunters Mountain for their winter supply of moose meat

Pretty soon you will see hundreds of trucks, 4x4s with trailers of all sizes, four wheelers in tow, with freezer tubs of all sizes heading to Hunters Mountain. If you're heading to the mainland and driving on the Trans Canada, you will notice all these vehicles going to Cape Breton or coming from here. It's very easy to tell with all the mud and grime visible on the trailers and vehicles. Sometimes you see antlers or legs sticking out and at times you will see the whole moose.

It's time that I remind my readers that I write these stories from my personnel observations. Around this time every Fall my mind gets going and I ask myself, "Do we have enough moose up in the Highlands to support the hunt every year?" Hunters that go every year to harvest their winter supply of meat tell me there is a bounty of moose and I shouldn't worry. I guess it's just in me that my concerns have to be recorded just in case that, in the future, the numbers are not high enough to harvest and be sustainable.

Maybe it is good for somebody to remind us that things are changing all over the world—climate change, global warming, and disappearing resources. I have personally witnessed the collapse of many species in the Bras d'Or Lakes such as cod, lobster, herring, salmon, and oysters. A few years ago, hunters had a hard time filling their freezers with deer meat and were complaining that the deer population had collapsed. But with some mild

winters, the population improved. This has happened in a very short time, so I get worried when things are going so well with the moose herd. I would like to see moose survive for a long time but things are changing so fast and we have to be vigilant.

Scientists are saying that climate change is imminent and over the next few years you'll see less ice cover. Glaciers in the North continue to melt at an alarming rate. Aboriginal people who live in the North are seeing their way of life changing and it's harder for them to make a living from the natural world as they are accustomed to.

I mention this because of the collapse of the Mainland moose. Biologists say that, because of lack of snow, parasites that harm moose have increased, almost wiping out the Mainland herd. Luckily, conditions are different in the Highlands. Greater snowfall keeps the parasites in check.

So far the moose herd in Unama'ki is healthy, according to our Mi'kmaq hunters. When you look at the success rate from the provincial hunt, the numbers are up 90%, and higher in some years. Maybe I shouldn't be so worried but it's better to be on the cautious side for the sake of the moose.

One of the things I would like to see from our Mi'kmaq hunters is a reporting system so we can have an accurate count of how many animals are harvested. Down the road, this would help us manage the hunt for future generations and to make sure the herd stays healthy.

Our Elders are always bringing up the issue of harvesting moose too early in the summer while the weather is warm and chances of the meat being spoiled increases. People have reported finding whole, gutted carcasses being left behind.

Fortunately, the moose hunt has improved in the last few years and everybody seems to abide by the guidelines that the Moose Management Initiative developed. Our natural resources are very important to our future generations and our treaties are sacred.

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Photo: © Tupulak



it's all about the people **Pie'l Paul**

After spending a few minutes with **Pie'l Paul**, it's not hard to guess what his favourite television show is. A self-professed Science Nerd, Pie'l has taken an interest from an early age in how things work and why things work the way they do. Growing up, he wanted to be an astronaut and was fascinated by planets and the night sky.

Pie'l went through school in Eskasoni—where he still lives today—except for Grade 10 at Riverview High School. Two degrees from Cape Breton University, a Bachelor of Science in Community Studies and Bachelor of Arts, led to him completing his Bachelor of Education at St. FX this past spring.

Pie'l's background and interest in science led him to UINR where he successfully applied for the position of Project Coordinator for our Climate Change Adaptation Project.

"My job at UINR is to raise awareness of climate change among our five Mi'kmaq communities. We are currently monitoring storm surges by measuring how high the water rises during storms. We installed storm surge boards in Eskasoni, Wagmatcook, We'koqma'q, Potlotek, and Mala. We recently completed LIDAR mapping of the five communities (a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser and analyzing the reflected light.) This allows us to make high resolution maps to monitor future rises in sea levels to help in planning new developments around the Bras d'Or Lakes."

Just so you don't think that Pie'l is all work and no play, when he is not at work you can probably find him playing defence for the Eskasoni Red Army hockey team. His team recently won the Addison Bernard Memorial Hockey Tournament. Almost every day he works out at Eskasoni Fitness center with a goal to enter a physique competition next year and, for fun, he's learning computer programming in C++!

Oh...and his favourite TV show? Why The Big Bang Theory of course!

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Ten questions

Chose an animal native to Unama'ki.

Bear

Favourite season?

Winter (hockey season!)

What is the best part of your work?

Raising awareness on climate change in our communities

Choose a quality you admire in others.

Intelligence.

Favourite beach?

Beach Loop in Jamesville

Last thing you read?

Forums on video game programming

What's for supper tonight?

Skinless chicken breast in olive oil with brown rice, spinach, and berries

What is your favourite website?

thinkgeek.com

What did you do in the last week

to help the environment?

Recycled

Chocolate or chips?

Neither right now, I'm trying to stay lean...
but I'd go for chocolate!



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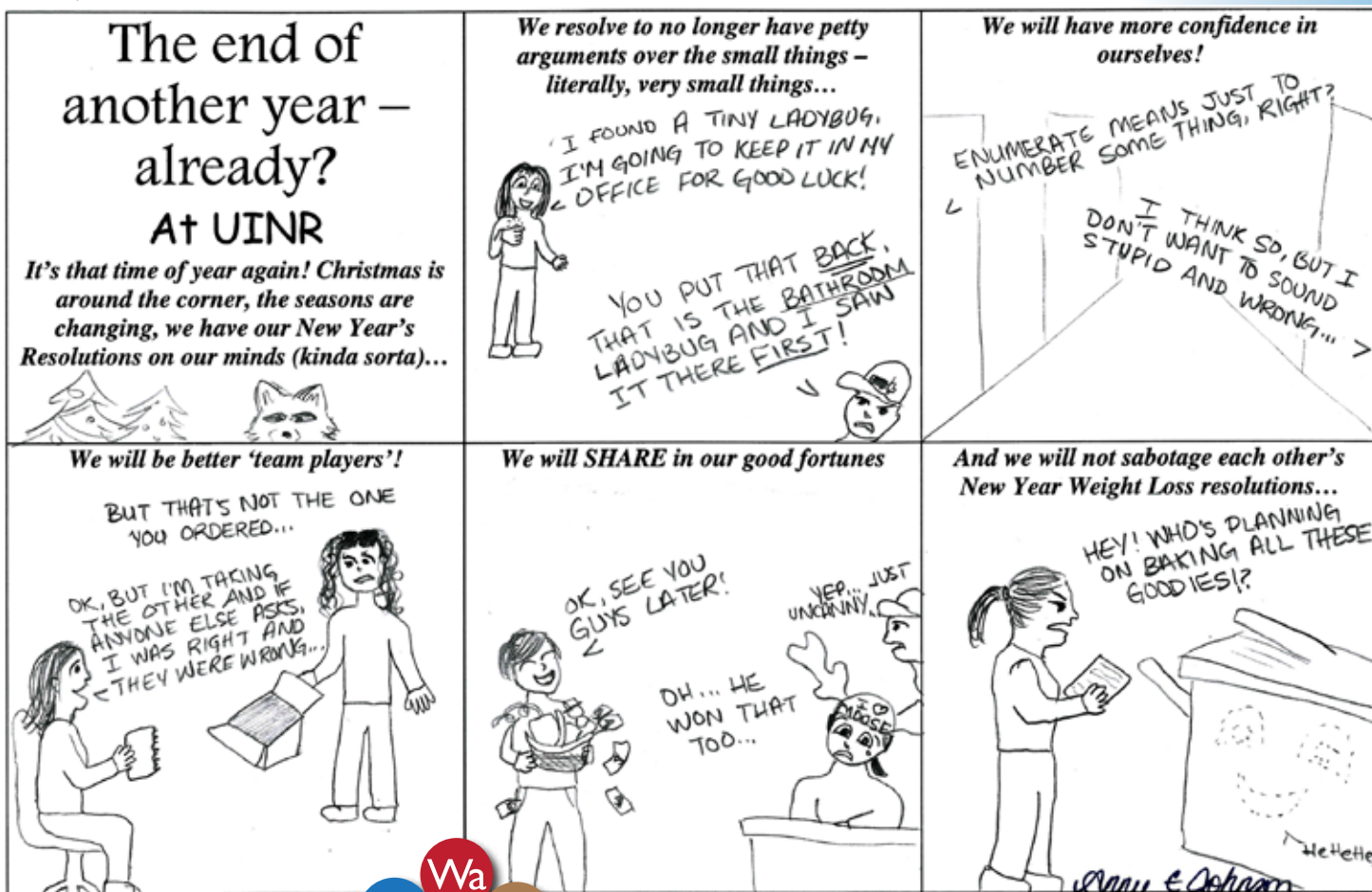
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