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

UNAMA'KIDS

In this issue we introduce you to the Unama'KIDS!

These fourteen Grade 5 students were selected by their teachers to participate in a new UINR project that focuses on natural resources and the environment. One of our goals at UINR is to reach the youth in our communities and work with them to determine what information they need, and to develop innovative ways to get that information to them that will have the most impact.

Rather than simply giving the information to the students, we decided to involve them every step of the way. We believe that if they take an active role in the creation and distribution of the material, we will be more successful in getting our message out.

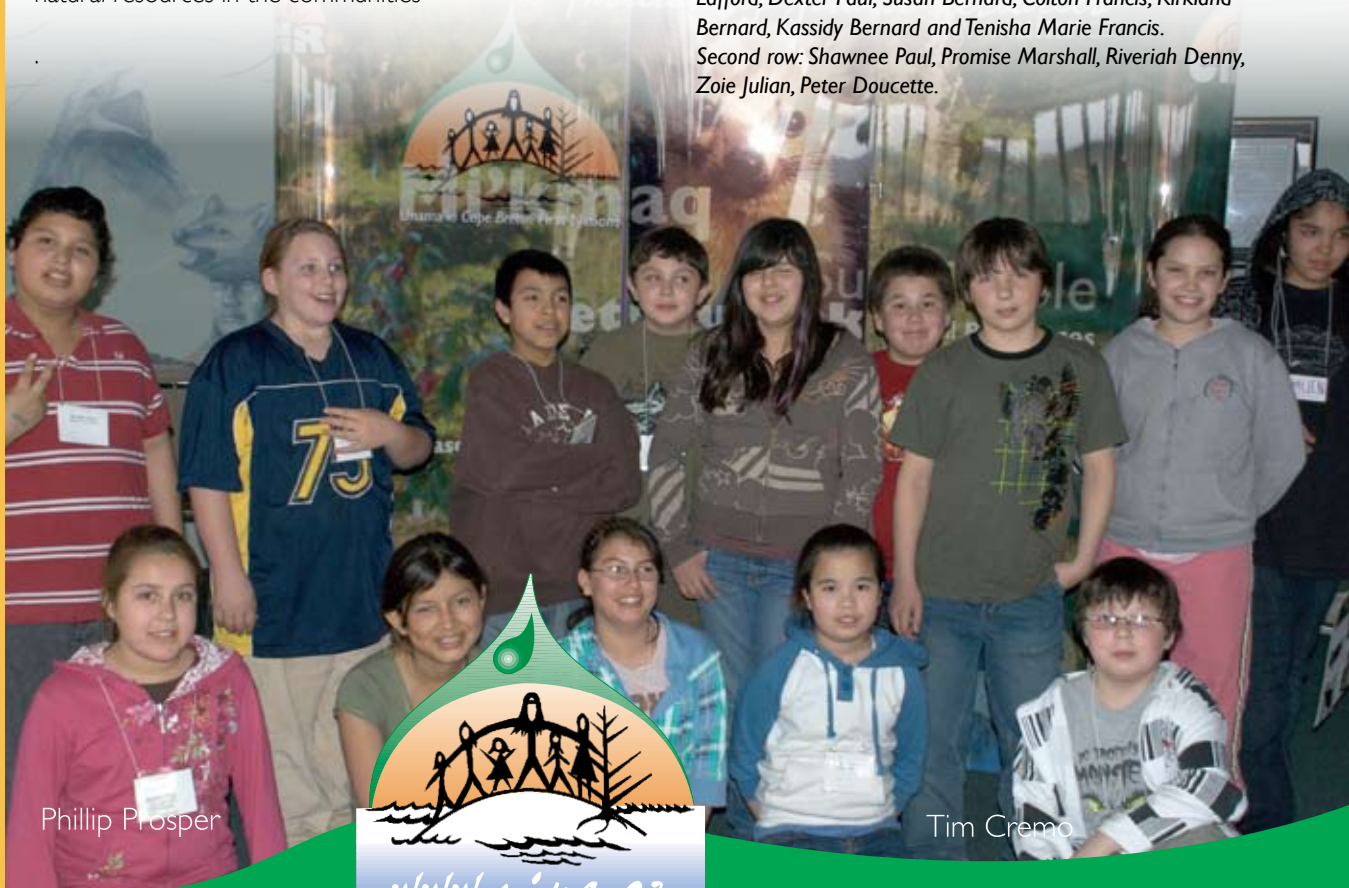
Our first step was to hold a day-long conference where we focused on the message of respect and the relevance of Mi'kmaq culture, rights, and responsibilities. Students learned through activities and from the stories of facilitators Rochelle Owen and Clifford Paul. Elder Albert Marshall shared his wisdom and respect for the environment and Shauna Gould gave a hands-on lab tour highlighting the application of science in protecting natural resources in the communities.

The students helped us discover the best methods of teaching and the best way to reach them. Some of the top methods they identified for learning included arts and crafts, outdoor activities, action projects, and Elder activities. A clear preference for communicating included MSN chat followed by email, videos/video conference, and outdoor camps.

The Unama'KIDS identified key subjects they were interested in including fishing, wildlife, learning with friends, animals, and weather. Hands-on and outdoor activities, along with high tech communications, were highlighted as key in "thinking of a memorable experience" and in the communication and learning methods suggested.

Unama'KIDS is coordinated by Weldon Bona and Serena Paul. Teachers: Sheila Gould, Mike Isaac, Tim Jesty, Monica Larade, Lori Leroy, Gerard Livingston, Agnes McFarlane. Special Assistance: Kevin Burton—Atlantic First Nations Help Desk, Sheldon Googoo—Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board.

Left to right, Top row: Nevada Pierro, Jane Basque, Allan Lafford, Dexter Paul, Susan Bernard, Colton Francis, Kirkland Bernard, Cassidy Bernard and Tenisha Marie Francis. Second row: Shawnee Paul, Promise Marshall, Riveriah Denny, Zoie Julian, Peter Doucette.



Phillip Prosper

Tim Cremo

The Oyster Garden 12

Lobster in Area 28

Story by Chief Charlie Dennis

The Bras d'Or Lakes have always been known to have harvestable lobster. I talked to old fishermen, like Alfred MacKay, Clearwater, and other fishermen from Alder Point who remember fishing in the Lakes. There were so many lobster in those years that you couldn't squeeze another lobster in a trap, but the markets were poor.

Anyway, it got to a point that I was getting involved in different aspects of commercial fisheries. I worked for Eskasoni Fish & Wildlife, but we also wanted to make sure everybody worked year-round. We were interested in harvesting lobster in the Lakes, but the licensing was the most difficult part.

We found out that there was one available lobster license that was owned by an Elder in Eskasoni. His name was Peter Richard Paul-Piël Lalo. Well, that was how he was known. I think one of his grandsons works in the fisheries right now, but anyway, enough with the small talk.

I found out from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans about this program that an individual who wanted to retire could sell their license, just paper—no boat, no lobster traps—just the paperwork. The day I approached Piël Lalo, I asked him if he would be interested in selling his license. At that time, people weren't interested. I knew he wasn't active at that time as far as lobster goes because he had very little equipment. So, when he heard about the DFO payback, he told me he would be more than glad to sell his license to me for what the government would pay, which was \$2,000 for just the paper.

So, we had a fair exchange: I got the license but no boat, equipment, or experience. I had no experience fishing lobster. All I knew was I had to get lobster traps and cod heads. At that time, they were what anybody I talked to said I had to use. "You got to use cod heads, they last longer." Which I found out wasn't the case, but anyway, I'm jumping the story a little bit.

The first thing we had to do was get a little boat—one of those aluminum, flat-bottom fisheries boats. They were made by a boat builder in Baddeck, Warden MacRae, an aluminum welder. It was not that thin aluminum, this was heavy gauge aluminum. We had a boat that could haul maybe twenty traps. I already had a motor from my small little boat that I used for my trap line.

Well, anyway, next thing that had to come along was lobster traps, so I asked around the community—any fishermen that I ran into that had some experience. A lot of people were telling me all you have to do is get a truck and go down to Cheticamp, where there was a lucrative fishery. And sometimes people saw traps piled up in the yards, so there I went.

Old man Lawrence Toney, great friend of mine, him and I went down there. We didn't have a lot of money so we didn't want to pay too much for lobster traps. We bought about fifty and I was so proud of those traps! Now, the next thing we had to do was buy some rope and some buoys.

Well, anyway, it was an interesting episode. We had fifty traps and it was a busy time for everyone trying to help put these traps together making sure they had no holes in them. It was really a family get-together. The day came when the season opened and it was all excitement. We had our boat and when the traps were all done up we were just lucky that the weather was very calm that evening. It didn't take long to put the traps in. I was throwing them just about anywhere as long as they were in the water, thinking that no matter where you threw them lobster would climb in and you would get them. But as time went on, of course we learned that wasn't the case.

For the conclusion of this story check our next issue.

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pjila'si

With the warm weather and sunshine of summer comes growth, and UINR is growing again! Lisa Young is on maternity leave and, as you see, I am taking some time, on a part-time basis, to fill in for her while she is away.

We've had some new arrivals at UINR, and I don't just mean Lisa's new son and Mark's new daughter! Joining us as Commercial Fisheries Liaison Officer is Hubert Nicholas from Trenton, NS. Also, welcome to Cheryl Bérubé, who has taken a term position with us as Administrative Assistant. Serena Paul has been helping out at the office, working on various projects such as Unama'KIDS, our forestry conference, and the upcoming moose symposium. With all these additions there are also some changes here at UINR—our resident cartoonist, Annie Johnson, has moved into the position of Director of Administration, and Janice Paul is filling in as our Finance Officer.

We are pretty excited about our new Unama'KIDS project. We see it as a great way to involve the youth of Unama'ki in our activities and to make sure we are meeting the needs of all ages.

I hope you enjoy this, our 12th issue of the UINR Marten!

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**\$15,000 in
scholarships
available**

If you are a Unama'ki Mi'kmaq and a student interested in science, technology, or forestry, apply now for up to \$5,000 in awards!

Find out what you need to know in the NEWS section at www.uinr.ca



NewPage™



New Arrivals!

Cheryl Bérubé, our new Administrative Assistant, and Serena Paul, our Project Assistant.

On the right: Andrea Grace MacPhail, born May 8th weighing 8lbs 1oz. Will she be the next arm wrestling champion of the family?!

Congratulation to Lisa and Buddy on the birth of their first son: Spencer Gabriel Young born June 1st, 8lbs 2oz., pictured here on the right with big sister Maria!





On another mission!

The Pitu'paq partnership will be making an even bigger presence at the annual Chapel Island Mission this year.

The five Unama'ki communities are providing student teams, and a dedicated Mission team has been hired under Nova Scotia Youth Corps program. Tobias Doucette and Eddie Doucette are back again this year, joined by new members Emma Johnson and Keenan Bernard.

Once again, there will be waste removal on a daily basis, pump-out services to trailers (a \$25 permit will be applied), fully serviced port-a-potties on the mainland and Island, and a recycling program. Recycled materials collected will be used to fund next year's Mission. Schedules for waste pick-ups will be posted in cabins and distributed to trailers.

We have put in small service roads for emergency purposes and waste pick up. Hurricane damage from last year's hurricane is being cleared from the Island thanks to the Eskasoni team.

Businesses have been making donations of water for Elders to have during Mission. This year, Pitu'paq has issued a Mi'kmaq Business Challenge for donations. Basque Fuels has started it off with a \$1,000 donation, and are encouraging other businesses to contribute. There is full accounting of Mission funds administered by the Pitu'paq partnership.

Pitu'paq would like to thank all community members who made last year's program such a success. Last year, there were no fecal coliform levels detected in the water; no vandalism of the port-a-potties, and a significant reduction in cabin vandalism throughout the year. This is a really important outcome of the program.

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Hubert Nicholas

Meet UINR's new Commercial Fisheries Liaison Coordinator. Hubert has experience as a commercial fisherman, captain, teacher, and consultation liaison officer with Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn.

From Pictou Landing First Nation, Hubert studied at Saint Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia Teachers College, and Dalhousie University. He holds degrees in Business Administration and Education.

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR) is developing a stronger role in commercial fisheries management and Hubert will provide the "eyes and ears" for Mi'kmaq commercial fisheries.

Our Commercial Fisheries Liaison Coordinator will attend meetings of Integrated Fisheries Management, Commercial Fishery Advisory Committee, and other related meetings and activities.

In order to better serve our Mi'kmaq communities, we are preparing to strengthen our ability to provide fisheries liaison services between member communities and management/advisory committees and groups.

The management of fisheries in Atlantic Canada involves a complex range of techniques and strategies involving scientific, resource, commercial, and market information. A main mechanism for communication between governments and industry is through advisory and various other fisheries committees and groups. Attendance at the meetings of these groups is critical to full participation in co-management of the fisheries.

Our overall objective is to increase participation by member communities in the management and direction of integrated fisheries.

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Sustainable forestry conference

If forestry is your interest,
you won't want to miss this!

Internationally renowned speakers, forestry experts, Mi'kmaq Elders, and industry leaders are meeting to take an in-depth look at the state of hardwood forest management in today's Acadian forests.

Forestry management guru, Ralph D. Nyland, is the featured presenter at "Sustainable Hardwood Management in Today's Acadian Forests," a conference on best management practices for sustainable forest communities organized by the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources for July 8 and 9 in Membertou.

The two-day conference at Membertou's Trade and Convention Centre will feature presentations by experts in the hardwood forestry and sustainability field. Its objective is to enhance the hardwood forests of Cape Breton by educating our forestry industry.

Ralph Nyland specializes in northern hardwood silviculture and is Distinguished Service Professor—Silviculture at State University of New York College of Environmental Science of Forestry.

At this conference, Mr. Nyland will be presenting five different sessions on a broad range of topics, including: Silviculture and Ecosystem Management, Even-age and Uneven-age Management, Disadvantages of Diameter Cutting, and Restoration Silvicultural Practices.

Elder Albert Marshall of Eskasoni will look at First Nations' perspective on forest management, and Brendan Hemens from Nova Scotia's Department of Natural Resources will discuss the historical and present use of hardwoods in Nova Scotia.

Muskie Sockabasin will give a presentation on First Nations' management of Black Ash and hardwoods in New Brunswick. Patricia Amero, Picea Forestry Consulting & Woodlot Services in Bridgewater, will talk about growing high-value trees and her uneven-aged management outreach project.

Jean-Martin Lussier, research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service, Canadian Wood Fibre Centre, will discuss the economic objectives in optimizing selection harvesting prescriptions.



SUSTAINABLE

in today's Acadian forests

HARDWOOD MANAGEMENT

a conference on
best management practices
for sustainable forest communities

Tim McGrath, senior forester with Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources will make a presentation focusing on Nova Scotia silviculture management and the development and use of hardwood models in Nova Scotia. Gary Schneider from PEI's Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project is a strong believer in the importance of biodiversity and creating strong systems and, in his presentation, he will look at ecosystem hardwood management in the Acadian Forest.

Conference registration is \$50 and includes two days, luncheons and nutrition breaks. Pre-registration is recommended, as space is limited. Attendees can register at www.uinr.ca/hardwood.html

Ralph Nyland studies reproduction methods for both even and uneven-aged stands, the dynamics and tending of immature stands and age classes, and the production potential of alternate management strategies. Recent work includes effects of silviculture on wildlife habitat and other non-commodity values. His selection system research and studies of even-aged reproduction methods date to the early 1970s. It includes permanently documented stands, with some into the

www.uinr.ca/hardwood.html

second cutting cycle. He has authored or co-authored more than 135 technical publications, written two books, and edited another.

The conference is sponsored by Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources with assistance from Nova Forest Alliance and Canadian Forestry Service's First Nations Forestry Program and Canadian Wood Fibre Centre.

For more information contact Mark MacPhail
OR to register: www.uinr.ca/hardwood.html

mark@uinr.ca

Canada

First Nations Forestry Program
Canadian Wood Fibre Centre



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada





Green Frog • *Rana clamitans*

Green Frog is green with gray or brown markings on her back and legs, and has a pale belly marked with dark streaks. Male Green Frog is 6–10 cm long and has a bright yellow throat. Green Frog's song sounds like a loose banjo string being plucked, or like a small pebble dropped into water ... UNGK!

Green Frog prefers to be close to water, and tends to live at the edge of rivers, ponds, lakes, or streams. Female Green

Frog lays 1000 to 4000 eggs in a loose jelly mass that floats on the surface of the water like a raft. Green Frog tadpoles take one year to change into an

adult, and like Mink Frog, are large in May

when other tadpoles are small.

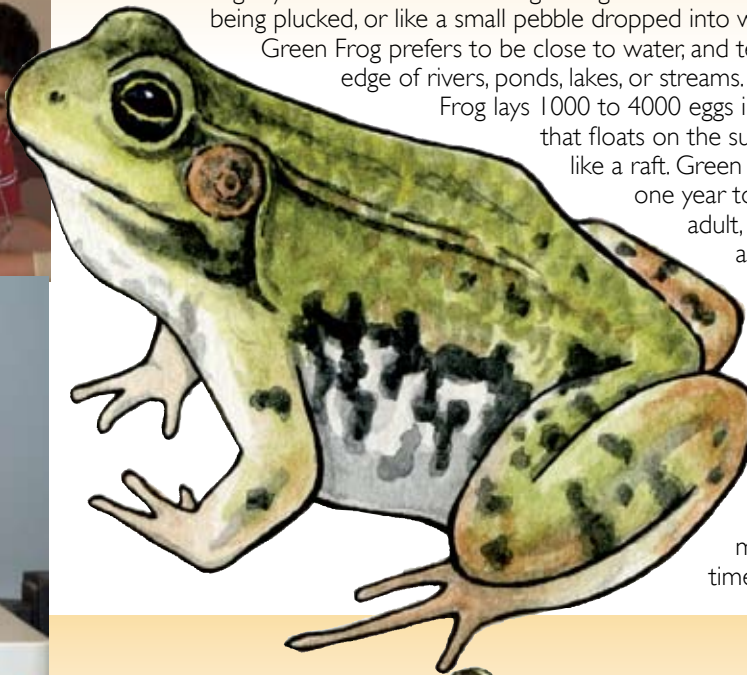
Green Frog eats beetles, flies,

caterpillars, grasshoppers,

spiders, snails, slugs, waterbugs,

butterflies and moths, and some-

times other small frogs.



ATAKALI

Mink Frog • *Rana septentrionalis*

Mink Frog is green with many dark markings and is 4–7 cm long. He gets his common name from his musky odour; he smells like a mink. Mink Frog's song sounds like pieces of wood being tapped together ... Tap, Tap! While other frogs live on both land and water, Mink Frog spends most of his life in the water. He

prefers permanent bodies of water like ponds and lakes. Female Mink Frog lays 2000

to 4000 eggs in a round jelly mass. This jelly mass is attached to an

underwater plant stem or submerged twig.



The Water Lady!

We call her Lorraine but many people in Unama'ki know her simply as the "Water Lady." Thanks to Lorraine's hard work, we can rest assured that the water we are drinking is safe, clean, and pure.

For the past six years, every week, Lorraine Marshall, Community Based Water Monitor, is on the road collecting drinking water samples from Wagmatcook, Membertou, Wacobah, and Potlotek. She even works through Christmas and holidays. As she puts it, "bacteria never take vacations!"

First stop in Lorraine's busy week is the lab in Eskasoni where she sets the two incubators to 35C. The incubators are used to bring the water samples to a temperature where, if there is bacteria present, it will grow.

Lorraine visits private homes, schools, health centres, apartments, and businesses in the four communities and collects water samples in sterile 100ml bottles. After removing any filters and screens from the taps, she runs the water for a couple of minutes before taking her sample. She checks the chlorine content and turbidity (amount of siltation) on site and records the readings. Then it's on to the next sampling site where she does it all over again. Some weeks, Lorraine is able to sample the sixteen sites in a single day, but often, it takes two.

The paperwork involved is stringent. Everything is recorded and double checked. Monitored by Health Canada, there are regular audits where Health Canada collects from the same sampling areas and checks that its results and Lorraine's are the same. Records are always kept up-to-date.

Back in the lab in Eskasoni, the samples are recorded and put into sterile plastic containers that are broken up into small squares. They look like mini ice cube trays! Then it's into the incubator that is set at 35C to mimic the temperature of our stomachs, the temperature that bacteria readily grows.

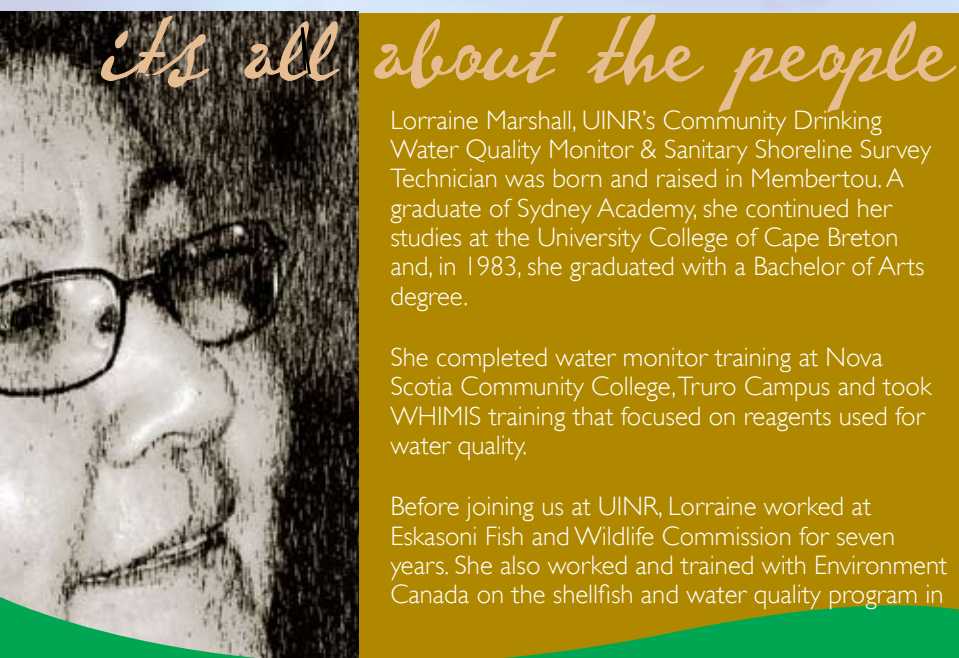
24 hours later tells the tale. If any of the squares turn yellow, a further test is done where the sample is viewed under blacklight. The colour change indicates that there are total coliforms or fecal coliforms present. Total coliforms could indicate anything organic in the water, including leaves or other debris. Fecal coliform is the presence of animal manure or human waste. That's the stuff Lorraine hopes she'll never find!



If the sample indicates the presence of fecal coliform, an alert is immediately sent to Health Canada. They sample the same site and if the results are the same, they issue an "Unsafe to Drink" order. Following the order, the site is sampled until it returns a clear reading and the order is lifted.

The good news is that, in Lorraine's six years of sampling, there has never been a level that warranted a closure. She proudly says, "We have never had a boil order advisory."

So, the next time you see the Water Lady in your community, you can thank her for making sure that the water you drink is safe and healthy.



Lorraine Marshall, UINR's Community Drinking Water Quality Monitor & Sanitary Shoreline Survey Technician was born and raised in Membertou. A graduate of Sydney Academy, she continued her studies at the University College of Cape Breton and, in 1983, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

She completed water monitor training at Nova Scotia Community College, Truro Campus and took WHIMIS training that focused on reagents used for water quality.

Before joining us at UINR, Lorraine worked at Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission for seven years. She also worked and trained with Environment Canada on the shellfish and water quality program in

the Bras d'Or Lakes. After completing histology training at Canada Fisheries and Oceans, Moncton and St Andrews, NB, she also did chlorophyll sampling in the Bras d'Or Lakes and learned how to process and read chlorophyll samples at BIO, Dartmouth.

When she's not out in the communities sampling drinking water, Lorraine spends her time in her vegetable garden, playing darts or TV bingo. Her love of long road trips has taken her across the country.

"The most rewarding part of UINR is working with Allison MacIsaac and Shelley Denny. I admire their dedication to the preservation of the Bras d'Or Lakes."

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It's finally Summer! At UINR

Everyone around the office agrees that this past winter lasted at least three years, so we're all very happy to see some good weather – but so are the critters that like to hang around our office... taking 'Natural Resources' to a whole new level.

Again, I don't have to make things up, we've had a Prince in disguise visit our office...

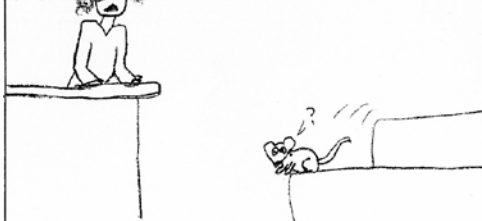


The boys have given up on trying to scare that squirrel away...



Motorcycle Mice have been spotted around the office... ok; maybe it was just a regular mouse...

HALP! BLAIR! EEEK! SOMEBODY!!



All these critters, plus all the oysters, elvers and gaspereau in our labs...



We may have to open some kind of Unama'ki Natural Species Display at our office... now if only we had a Marten...



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