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Comments and questions are welcomed. E-mail us at [info@uinr.ca](mailto:info@uinr.ca)

## Lobsters Get New Home

The Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR) was successful in bidding for an artificial habitat to be put in East Bay in the Bras d'Or Lakes (Lobster Fishing Area 28). Three hundred and twenty-four specially constructed concrete blocks were put into the Lake in October 2005 to become habitat for young lobsters that may not be able to find suitable natural shelter for protection from prey. Not only do the blocks provide shelter for lobster, it is anticipated that it will increase overall productivity of the area by providing substrate for seaweeds and shellfish such as mussels and protection for small fish.

Some areas in the Bras d'Or Lakes have limited habitat for lobsters, especially East Bay. Areas rich in a mixture of gravel, cobble and boulder support lucrative lobster fisheries partly because of their ability to provide protection for future recruits to the lobster fishery. The effects of artificial reefs are not immediate. It may take up to an entire generation of lobsters (5 to 7 years, maybe as long as ten) to become evident to the local fishers. However, adding habitat is the first step toward enhancing the local lobster population.

Before the reefs could be deployed, Eskasoni Fish & Wildlife Commission (EFWC) and UINR teamed up to conduct the "before" assessment. Biologists Shelley Denny and Allison McIsaac, with the assistance of Dean Denny and Allan Stevens, completed the SCUBA assessment of the reef area for the

East Bay reef. They also completed two other "before" assessments for the other sites on the Atlantic coast in River Bourgeois, Nova Scotia where a similar reef was deployed. Using a 100 metre lead line divided into 10 metre sections, 400 metre<sup>2</sup> of the bottom was surveyed by describing the bottom type and counting and measuring all lobsters in their path. Many

transects were completed for each reef sites. Next year, they will follow up with the "after" assessment to determine if the reef structures increased the numbers of lobsters found in the area. Meanwhile, both organizations are jointly pursuing funding for long-term monitoring and research of the reef area.



Deployment of the reef blocks was completed with the help of Dean Denny, Allan Stevens, Allan Jeddore, Dale Stevens and George Denny. Funding for the assessment, reef material and deployment was provided by the Habitat Compensation Fund through Public Works Canada.

### Photos

Top: Shelley Denny underwater

Left: One of 320 concrete blocks making the artificial reef

Above: Shelley Denny and Allison McIsaac prepare to dive



# Elder's Vision

## Seismic Testing

by Elder Albert Marshall

Cape Breton Mi'kmaq Elders have added our voice to the many environmental groups, fishermen's unions and ordinary citizens opposed to Texas company Hunt Oil's seismic testing in Sydney Bight. The testing covers an almost 1000 square kilometer area and is as close as 10 kilometers off shore. The Mi'kmaq community was not consulted before the testing began.

Despite the findings of many scientific studies showing negative effects from seismic cannons, including the study by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans near Cheticamp in 2003 on the harmful effects on the snow crab harvest, the seismic testing went ahead. Many scientific studies have confirmed what Mi'kmaq fishermen and hunters have known for years; marine mammals and fish avoid areas where seismic surveys are conducted. The noise from the surveys can cause physical damage to fish ears and other organs and in close range can kill adult fish, larvae and eggs and disturb migration routes. The surveys threaten commercial and subsistence fishing and have a negative effect on catch rates.

After the Union of Nova Scotia Indians requested a judicial review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) review of the dredging of the Middle Shoal Channel by Little Narrows Gypsum Company in 1996, it was determined that consideration must be given to the impact on the use of the fishery by First Nations' people. Despite this legal finding, no effort was made to contact the community's elders by the government regulator, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board in this round of seismic testing. The area being tested is of great importance to our Mi'kmaq people. A framework must be established for First Nations' input in these important decisions.

The importance of traditional knowledge is increasingly recognized as an important component in scientific study. Cape Breton University's Integrated Science program is leading the way in the international movement towards combining practical, traditional knowledge with scientific practice.

Elders are not opposed to development. Our community needs economic development, jobs for our children. But we have inherent responsibilities not only for our own actions and behaviour toward each other but also that these responsibilities extend to the greater sphere of Creation. We must ensure that we abide by the laws of nature and find the balance between economics and the environment.

In accordance with our beliefs, we do not call resources by that name, rather we call them gifts. We must ensure that these gifts are not used solely for our purposes now, but rather that we will ensure our behaviour will not cause a negative reaction for future generations. We believe in looking thoughtfully at our past and learning from that.

We have a unique opportunity because the courts of law give us a special relationship through treaty rights. We must optimize on these rights. When we see something not proper or sustainable, then we ultimately have responsibility to point out the right direction and be ready and willing to implement recourse. We must indicate a new way of doing things.

We must first look into our past with one eye, see where we come from, learn where we are now. Once we grasp some direction from mistakes we have made, then we are ready to move forward into the future. We must bring forth the knowledge which has been transmitted to us by our ancestors, by the spirits. Our forefathers managed to use the gifts in a balanced way.

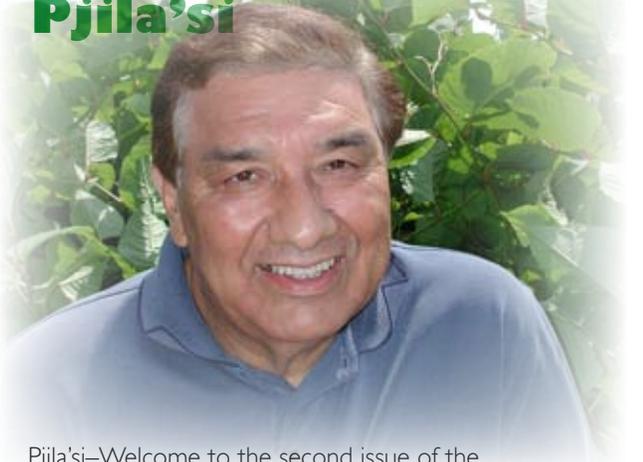
We need to learn from other species that have been here longer than us. Listen and observe some of the key players that were put here for a specific purpose. We must adapt the wisdom and clearness with which an eagle sees their natural world, and see what they must do in order to sustain themselves. We must look at other indicators, such as the dragonfly which has been here for thousands of years, and the frog. These are like the canaries in the mine. They warn of us of the seriousness of conditions.

We must humble ourselves in order to make a serious difference, accept that what we call corporate science can no longer be trusted by itself, rather we must listen and adhere to what the natural world is communicating to us. If and when there are changes, whether sudden or gradual, we must be willing to change course and direction as these changes occur.

We share with all species a dependency upon Mother Earth and upon each other; and that no one species is master over another. Rather the presence of each species is a gift, to be honoured, respected and preserved. We recognize that Mother Earth is seriously ill as a result of our human species living out of balance with her; and we also recognize our responsibility to move toward a restoration of that balance. We can no longer remain silent in the face of, or remain compliant with, other cultural values. We must heed the voices of our Elders as they urge us to bring our teachings forward and journey together with our neighbours to protect Mother Earth. We must be confident in breaking our long silence, and bring forward the gifts of our teachings in order to protect the gifts of species.



## Charlie Dennis Pjila'si



Pjila'si—Welcome to the second issue of the UINR MARTIN. We have been busy since our last newsletter and in this issue we'll try to fill you in on some of our current projects and activities.

The issue of moose management has been getting a lot of attention lately and I am happy to report that we now have the cooperation of the 13 bands in Nova Scotia to develop a plan to ensure that this important resource is around for future generations. We have hired a coordinator, Clifford Paul to help us put a plan in place and we have been meeting monthly to hammer out the many details in developing the management plan. We will be making some important announcements in the coming months.

UINR has been involved with Cape Breton University for many years. In November we put that relationship down in writing and signed a Memorandum of Understanding that gives us a framework to develop new projects. Keep tuned as we work out the details on some exciting joint projects.

Over the summer we employed two students under a program administered by the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP). This was very successful for us and through that relationship we have become closely involved with ACAP and are pleased to announce that we now have a Mi'kmaq representative on their board, Elder Albert Marshall. We are working closely with ACAP to establish an office of ACAP in Potlotek.

A highlight for UINR has been our involvement in the recent Canadian Aboriginal Science and Technology Society (CASTS) annual conference in Membertou. UINR was involved in the planning leading up to the conference and many of our staff were involved in presentations and in distributing information at our booth.

Until next time, keep warm...and watch for our Spring issue in March!



## Wisqoq and Mi'kmaq

Wisqoq or Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra* Marsh) is a very rare tree in Nova Scotia, with fewer than 300 mature trees identified by UINR staff.

The wood is very unusual—when pounded, it splits into thin sheets along its growth rings. Baskets are woven from slats produced by pounding a wet block of wood until it separates along the annual growth rings. The strips were also used in woven chair seats. This quality makes Wisqoq a very desirable tree species for basket making, snowshoes, canoe ribs and other crafts.

Young Wisqoq has bark that looks like cork. Black Ash usually is found in areas of full or partial sun and tends to grow in wet areas often at the base of a hill or incline. It will survive in area that floods on a yearly basis and can tolerate standing in water for several weeks. It usually grows along with white ash, balsam fir, red maple and speckled alder.

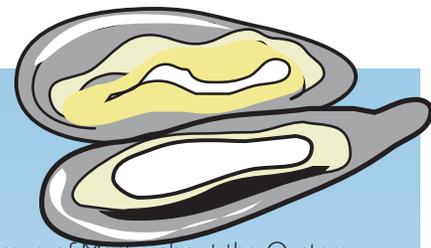
UINR has been involved with the Confederation of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) for the last 3 years in a project that hopes will help re-establish the population of black ash in Nova Scotia. There have been several sites throughout the province identified which contain viable black ash. In the fall of the year UINR and CMM together have conducted a seed collection, with several thousand seeds having been collected in the last 3 years. These seeds are delivered to a nursery where they are germinated and the seedlings then distributed to First Nation communities throughout Nova Scotia.

We have a small number of seeds available with detailed planting instructions if you would like to start a plantation of your own! Drop us a line at [info@uinr.ca](mailto:info@uinr.ca)

For planting instructions and more information about Black Ash go to [www.uinr.ca/blackash](http://www.uinr.ca/blackash)

# The Oyster Garden II

A Story by Charlie Dennis



## Tiam and Me

by Jackie Drinnan

When I was 8 years old, my grandmother Ellen Simon and I were picking blueberries in a field in Wagmatcook, near where the school is today. We were always out picking something, whether it was berries or medicine for the family. We were always together and she always taught me something new and interesting in our adventures. On this particular day, it was more exciting than usual...

As we were talking and picking, she happened to look below the field and saw a moose coming up the field towards us. She told me to run as fast as I could. As I watched her run to the closest house, which was Marie Basque's, I couldn't help wonder that I never saw my grandmother run before, but she ran that day! I started running towards my house, a 1000 yards away. As I was running, scared as anyone can be, I heard a gun shot. I stopped dead in my tracks and looked behind me and I realized that the moose was no longer chasing me. I slowly walked back and saw the moose lying on the ground.

As I looked around wondering what happened, I saw Eugene Peck with a gun. He happened to be at my great uncle's Frank Pierro's cabin visiting and was on his way out hunting that day. My uncle's cabin was hidden in the woods. As my grandmother checked me over to see if I was alright, I told her that I was really scared and I remember her telling me that I was one lucky girl. As word got around Wagmatcook, people came over to see the moose and ask us questions. They were amazed at what happened to me and my grandmother.

I remember the men from my family and the Peck family, cutting the moose that afternoon and my grandmother saying to them, "make sure everyone who wants this meat, gets it for their families." I am pretty sure that most of the people got the moose meat because they were still thanking us weeks later. I know my family ate really good for a long while after that day.

Ever since then, I am nervous of running into a moose in the woods, even today. When my husband Phil and I walk in the woods, I am always watching over my shoulders, listening. He asks me "what I am doing?" and I always respond, "remember my moose story" and he tells me, "I remember!"

This is in reference to my story in the last issue of Martin about the Oysters and my old friend Gabriel. If some of you took a guess (or were stumped!), the important tool was Cod Liver Oil. You are probably wondering 'What the?!' Why would a person use oil to fish for oysters? For those of you that are familiar with different techniques used in harvesting oysters, oil is very, very essential, especially when you are picking oysters by drifting along with your boat and looking for a clear vision to the bottom where oysters play 'hide and go seek' with you. Sometimes you can't see, or most of the times see only certain features of the oysters, like the bright white shells on the bottom. In most cases oysters tend to hide in fine sand or silt, slightly cover themselves and you can only see the other edge where they feed. If you take a close look at this, you might think it's only a blade of eel grass lying on the bottom. Mind you, there are two different kinds of oyster fishermen, ones that pick by cruising along the shore such as I described and the ones that use oyster rakes similar to a garden rake but quite large. This type of fishing is similar to the large drag on the fishing vessels, but not as large and usually done manually. This process is called raking for oysters and the other is just plain picking. So there's some education on oyster fishing, and getting back to the oil business:

The older fishermen or Elders would save Cod Liver after they had been fishing Cod and usually after cooking these livers they would save the oil on top of the pot and skim it off and collect it. This practice went on in the older days, and then I guess modern technology kicked in and this oil was developed on a commercial scale and you could go and get it anywhere. You must remember when growing up, your parents would give you this awful medicine when you pretended you were sick and you couldn't go to school. "It is good for you, it will make you feel better", but you probably agreed to go to school before you took the medicine! A few years later they stopped making cod liver oil and switched to capsular pills. I often wondered if this had something to do with the collapse of the ground fish, or was it the new technology on capsular pills.

Back to our original story...If the weather was not favorable to the oyster pickers and the shoreline looked a little wavy, they couldn't see the bottom. They would sprinkle the water with small drops of oil and this in turn would create a nice clear vision on the surface of the water and keep the wavy action away from the boat. It's amazing what this process would do, and it would create clear vision for about a fifty-foot radius, in whatever direction the wind was blowing. Of course, you wouldn't go against the wind. You can travel quite a ways with these drops of oil and collect many oysters.

Well, anyway, all things must come to an end, they discontinued making the oil, (or the old nursing station closed - but again, that's another story). Back in the 1970's, fishermen started asking me if there was another product that would be acceptable to the environment and create the same effects as Cod Liver Oil. Well, I took off to the old market, visiting old stores, modern grocery stores, outlets, etc. I came up with about six different brands of oil. Field studies were done, with curious onlookers, fishermen, old veterans. "Not clear enough." "Too much oil residue." "Drifting away too fast." And so forth, so it was back to the drawing board. I finally ended up in Port Hawkesbury, and looking at other products and speaking to clerks and managers, they commented that a new product had just hit the market - corn oil - or Mazola Corn Oil, to be exact. Environmentally friendly, and answered key questions the fishermen commented when we tried it—a success!

Congratulations to those that guessed and to those who didn't have a clue what I was talking about—oil. Many, many thanks to the company that produces Mazola corn oil!

# Moose's Cry

5



**My brothers why have you forsaken me?  
You cry about your Treaty Rights,  
The right to support your livelihood.  
But you are as naïve as the conquerors.  
You are from the proud Mi'kmaq Nation of the East,  
They are the people of the dawn, nurture of life.  
It is your ancestor's will where all life will begin again.  
The struggles your forefathers have endured  
Have fallen on deaf ears.  
I lay fallen, wasted, abused and discarded.  
My brothers, why have you forsaken me?**

*Photograph and poem by George Paul*



## UINR Logo

Unama'ki artist Arlene 'Dozay' Christmas is the person behind UINR's unique logo. We contacted Dozay to ask her about the symbolism she used in designing our logo and here's what she had to say.

"The logo represents the sacred balance we have with Mother Earth, and the very fragile ecosystem, which is represented by the drop of water encircling the sheltered family, and the trees. It symbolizes the unity we have with the earth: The blue circle on the bottom represents the earth, and the larger orange circle represents, sunrise, symbolizing the "People of the Dawn". The larger figure in the centre is the father figure, with out stretched arms symbolizing protection."

"We are all connected, the water, the earth, the trees, and the people, if one is hurt or dying, everything is effected."

If you would like to see more of Dozay's art-work, visit her website at [www.dozay.com](http://www.dozay.com)

## CASTS Conference

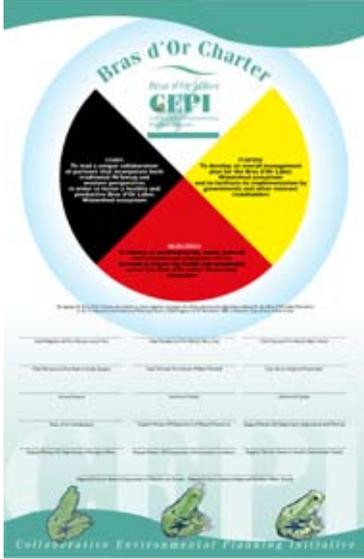


UINR joined forces with Cape Breton University in the Canadian Aboriginal Science and Technology Society Annual Conference in September at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre. Featuring speakers from around the world and attracting nearly 350 participants to its 7th national conference, organizers are calling the event a resounding success. The theme of the conference, "Spirit of the East", focused on what Mi'kmaq Elders describe as "two eyed seeing"—one eye being the strengths of Indigenous Knowledge and the other eye the strengths of modern science. The conference hosted presentations on health, careers, education, environment, traditional indigenous knowledge and Health Canada's National FN Environmental Contaminants Program.

UINR's Charlie Dennis, Laurie Sutor, Allison McIssac and Shelley Denny joined over 100 presenters from around the world, presenting research and information in a number of sessions throughout the conference. Elder Albert Marshall was a featured keynote speaker. Booths distributing information were set up and were a popular component to the conference. UINR distributed the first copies of our newsletter and distributed seeds from the Black Ash to encourage participants to expand the growth of this rare species. For photos from the conference visit [www.castsconference2005.ca/conf\\_photos.htm](http://www.castsconference2005.ca/conf_photos.htm)

# Historic Charter Signed

In an historic move towards developing a comprehensive management plan for the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed,



Cape Breton chiefs, mayors, wardens, and provincial and federal government partners signed The Bras d'Or Charter, committing to work together to pursue the vision, purpose and objectives of the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative. (CEPI)

CEPI's vision is to

lead a unique collaboration of partners that incorporate both traditional Mi'kmaq and western perspectives in order to foster a healthy and productive Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed ecosystem.

The purpose of the Charter is to develop an overall management plan for the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed ecosystem and to facilitate its implementation by governments and other relevant stakeholders. The objective of the Charter is to pursue a balance of environmental, social, cultural and institutional objectives to ensure the health and sustainable use of the Bras d'Or Lakes.

Joining the Chiefs, Mayors and Wardens were representatives from Nova Scotia Departments of Aboriginal Affairs, Environment and Labour, and Agriculture and Fisheries. Federal Regional Director Generals from Departments of Fisheries and Oceans, Indian and Northern Affairs and Environment Canada were also on hand for this historic signing.

UINR's Executive Director Charlie Dennis chaired the meeting where the Charter was presented. "It is an historic day for the Bras d'Or Lakes to have this diverse group share in a joint commitment to the health of the environment for today and the future. We all recognize and acknowledge by this signing, the unique and valuable role the Bras d'Or Lakes plays in our lives and the futures of our children."



## Pitu'paq Report

Pitu'paq was pleased to welcome Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour's Deputy Minister Bill Lahey to its November meeting. Mr. Lahey was impressed with Pitu'paq's collaborative process and congratulated the group on their successes to date. Recognizing that there is much more to accomplish, Mr. Lahey brought a letter of support from his Department with a contribution of \$8,000 for a feasibility study to address the challenges of managing rural on site sewage disposal systems in a sustainable manner.

Pictured in the photo above, Pitu'paq's chairman Chief Terry Paul is presented with a letter of support from the Deputy Minister Bill Lahey. Back Row - Sharon Carter, Chief Sandy Googoo, Vera Pierro, Donnie Patterson, Dan E. MacNeil, Virick Francis, Duart MacAulay, Joe MacPhee, Charlie Dennis Front Row - Kim Paul, Esmond Marshall, Chief Terrance Paul, Deputy Minister Bill Lahey, Chief Wilburt Marshall, Laurie Sutor.

Mr. Lahey noted Pitu'paq's work on securing multi-partner funding to support ten interns in the undertaking of an analysis of sewage and other issues in the Bras d'Or lakes and the production of a Bras d'Or atlas, and the signing of the ten commitments to address sewage contamination in the Bras d'Or.

Valerie O'Grady, Atlantic Coastal Action Program Cape Breton's (ACAP) new Executive Director also met with the Pitu'paq board to present an overview of ACAP's programs and activities. Some of ACAP's programs include vermicomposting, restoration of fresh water habitats, involvement in the One Ton Challenge, promoting a healthy, active lifestyle and cleanup of dump sites.

The Bras d'Or Lakes designation as a non-discharge zone for boating sewage under the Canada Shipping Act has passed its first hurdle and has made it to Gazette I. Sharon Carter from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour will be visiting communities with pumping stations to inform them of the designation.



## Piping Plover in the Bras d'Or?

The piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is a bird found only in North America and is currently listed under the Species At Risk Act (SARA) as endangered. The adult is a small, sandy-colored bird with a white underbelly and black ring around its neck. Other distinctive features include a black band across its crown, an orange bill and yellow-orange legs. In the winter months, the black markings disappear.

Along the Atlantic coast of North America it breeds on sandy beaches along the Canadian Maritime provinces down to South Carolina and winters along the Gulf of Mexico, the southern Atlantic coast and in a few Caribbean Islands. Piping plovers arrive on the shores of Cape Breton in late March and start nesting between late April and early August, laying 2-4 eggs. They nest on sparsely vegetated, flat, sandy or gravel-like beaches. Both parents incubate the eggs which hatch 27-29 days later in early June. Shortly after hatching they are able to feed themselves and are usually fledged by late July to early August.

The Bras d'Or Lakes have similar physical habitats for the piping plover compared to the Atlantic Coast of Unama'ki, however, the idea of the Bras d'Or Lakes as piping plover habitat has often been over-looked.

Twenty beaches along the Atlantic coast of Cape Breton Island are monitored yearly for piping plovers. As of 2003, only three of these sites are known to be existing piping plover nesting areas and only two are known to be pre-existing nesting areas. Initial reports through traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) suggest that piping plover populations exist along some of the sandy areas of the Bras d'Or Lakes, especially in Malagawatch. Malagawatch is an area in Unama'ki where all five First Nation communities in Cape Breton have equal access as a hunting, fishing and gathering area. Many beaches and shoreline along the Bras d'Or Lakes were not examined as piping plover habitats until 2004.

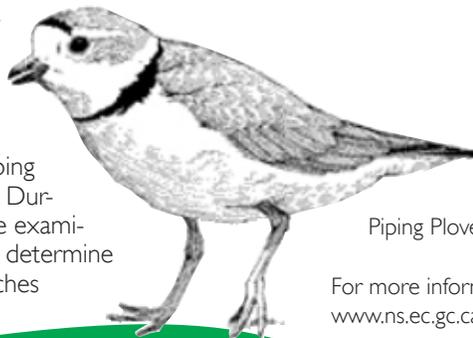
During the summer of 2004, UINR completed a study on piping plovers in the Bras d'Or Lakes. In this study TEK, surveys and habitat identification were conducted. One hundred and two beaches were surveyed for habitat suitability. Sixty-two of these beaches appeared to be suitable breeding habitat. UINR continued additional research in 2005 to determine if piping plovers were present in the Bras d'Or Lakes.

The research questions UINR investigated were included:

- TEK on sighting obtained from the Unama'ki communities (Chapel Island, Wagmatcook, Membertou, We'koqma'q, Eskasoni and Malagawatch residents);
- are there sites that would make good nesting and feeding areas; and
- Are there any existing piping plover populations in the Bras d'Or Lakes?

In 2004, one hundred and two beaches were examined to be potential piping plover habitat. Sixty-two beaches appeared to be suitable breeding habitat, and forty appeared to be unsuitable. Some results have changed due to the erosion of some of the shorelines. In 2005, 7 suitable beaches were reclassified as unsuitable, bringing the total of suitable piping plover nesting beaches around the Bras d'Or Lakes to fifty-five.

According to information collected from the TEK surveys, piping plovers have been seen in areas around the Bras d'Or Lakes. During this survey, however, no piping plovers were found. Future examination of these beaches should be periodically conducted to determine if there is a presence of piping plovers, especially on the beaches where people believe to have seen these birds.



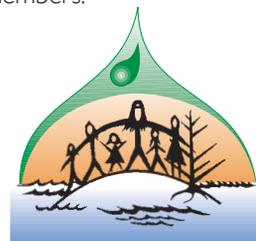
Piping Plover drawings by Environment Canada

## CBU-UINR MOU

Dr. John Harker, President and Vice-Chancellor of Cape Breton University and Chief Terrance Paul, President of UINR, signed a Memorandum of Understanding formally recognizing the shared interests of CBU and UINR in the well-being of society and its environment in Unama'ki. It provides a formal mechanism for the institutions to work cooperatively on the common goals of conservation, protection and sustainable development by applying science and traditional knowledge as they relate to natural resource management, education and health. The intent of the MOU is to build upon the institution's independently established roles to mutually increase capacity in the arenas of understanding and action.

The main representatives are Charlie Dennis at UINR and Cheryl Bartlett from CBU's Integrated Science Program. The agreement is to collaborate in several areas of scientific research and integrative science (western science and traditional knowledge combined—2-Eyed-Seeing). The areas covered include biodiversity, ecology, fisheries, forestry, geology, watershed, aquatic and marine ecosystem dynamics, ecosystem health and the environment in general.

Under the agreement, CBU agreed to develop collaborative research plans and proposals with UINR. CBU's Institute for Integrative Science and Health, the Bras d'Or Institute for Ecosystem Research, the Office of Research and Academic Institutes and the Schools of Science and Technology, and Education, Health and Wellness. They will facilitate and prepare joint applications to different funding agencies and active involvement of students, faculty, Elders and community members.



CAPE BRETON  
UNIVERSITY

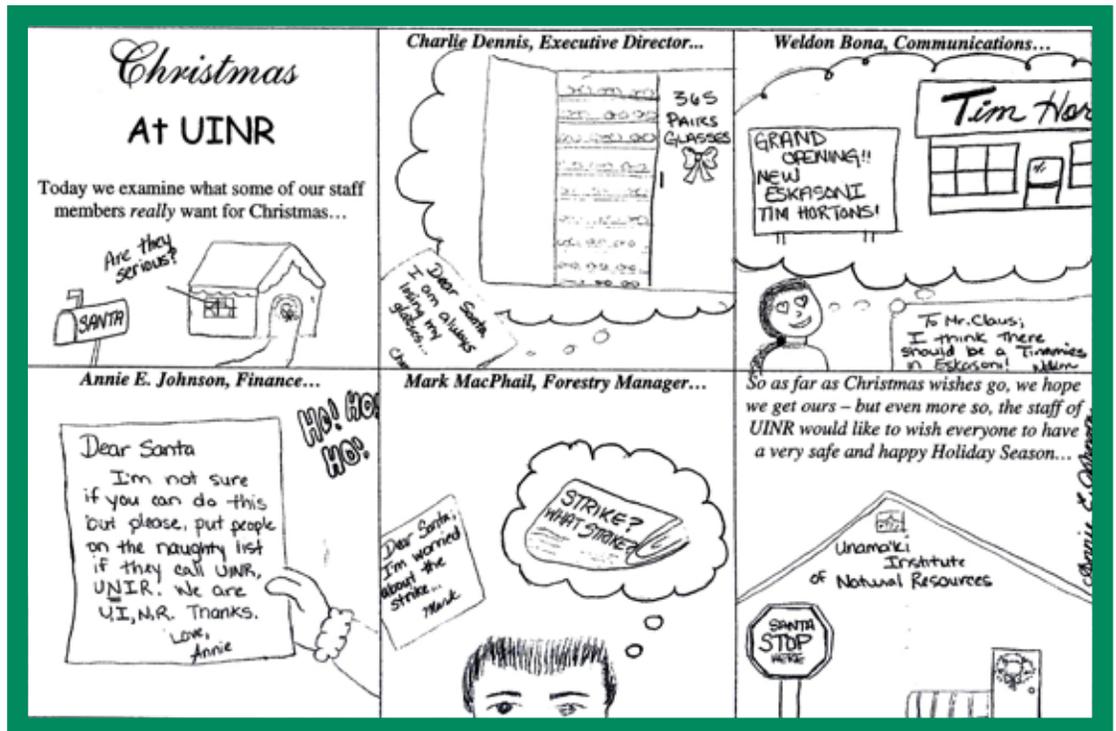
For more information on the piping plover go to [www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/plover/brochure/index.html](http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/plover/brochure/index.html)

# News Bits

UINR hosted a Mi'kmaq Cultural Awareness session in Wagmatcook for 40 Parks Canada employees in Cape Breton. The day started with a talking circle led by Clifford Paul and featured presentations by Lindsay Marshall, Peter Christmas, Joe B. Marshall, Eric Szechle and Laurie Sutor....Be sure to check our website regularly. It's the first place we post job opportunities and other items. [www.uinr.ca](http://www.uinr.ca)...UINR has been successful in our application to the Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Oceans Management program. (AAROM) for long-term funding for our projects...UINR will be hiring a Natural Resource Officer Co-ordinator early in the new year as part of a larger Mi'kmaq Natural Resource Officer program...More bad news for the oyster fisheries-oysters sampled earlier this fall from St. Ann's Harbour tested positive for MSX...CSI Cape Breton? That's right, but this time it's the Collaborative Salmon Initiative for Cape Breton, a new group with the goal to develop a management plan for salmon encompassing all of Cape Breton. The group's immediate goal is to hold a 1-2 day workshop to give people a better overview of the state of the salmon resource on Cape Breton Island. The date has been set for June 29 and 30, 2006. Watch for more details... UINR was contacted by Fisheries & Oceans to conduct a green crab survey in the Bras d'Or Lakes as a follow up to the initial survey completed by Kara Paul in 1999 and 2000... UINR obtained funding under DFO's Aquaculture Collaborative Research Development Program to initiate a breeding program for Bras d'Or Lakes oyster. The purpose of this breeding program is to produce a MSX resistant oyster at a faster rate than would naturally occur.

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