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UINR Marten

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A day to remember

Visiting Malikewe'j (Malagawatch) for the first time, people often describe a sense of peace and well-being that comes over them as they enter the Mi'kmaq community on the shores of the Bras d'Or Lakes. Mala, as it is affectionately known to the Cape Breton Mi'kmaq who share it, is off the beaten track, and its serenity is only broken by the call of eagles who share it with the residents.

It is unique in that it is shared jointly by the five bands in Unama'ki (Cape Breton), and has been used by the Mi'kmaq people as a gathering place and burial grounds for generations.

At the community's annual outdoor mass in September, the residents had a few new things to celebrate with the publication of a new booklet on the history and people of Malikewe'j, and a ribbon cutting for a permanent monument. Project coordinator **Nadine Lefort** elaborates on the process that led to the monument, "It was created through a gathering and conversation with Malikewe'j residents, Elders, and Cape Breton artist **Gordon Kennedy**."

A metal archway at the entrance to the graveyard commemorates people who lived and are buried there, honours those who continue to live in Mala, and those who will live there in the future.

UINR's Senior Advisor **Charlie Dennis** explains, "This monument reminds us of our traditions, helping us reconnect with the world around us in a way that encourages netukulimk and our Mi'kmaq ways."

The project was funded by the Mi'kmaq Cultural Activities Program of the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, and Heritage.

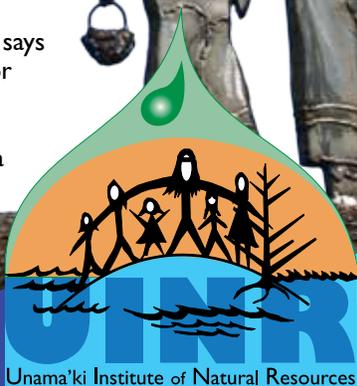
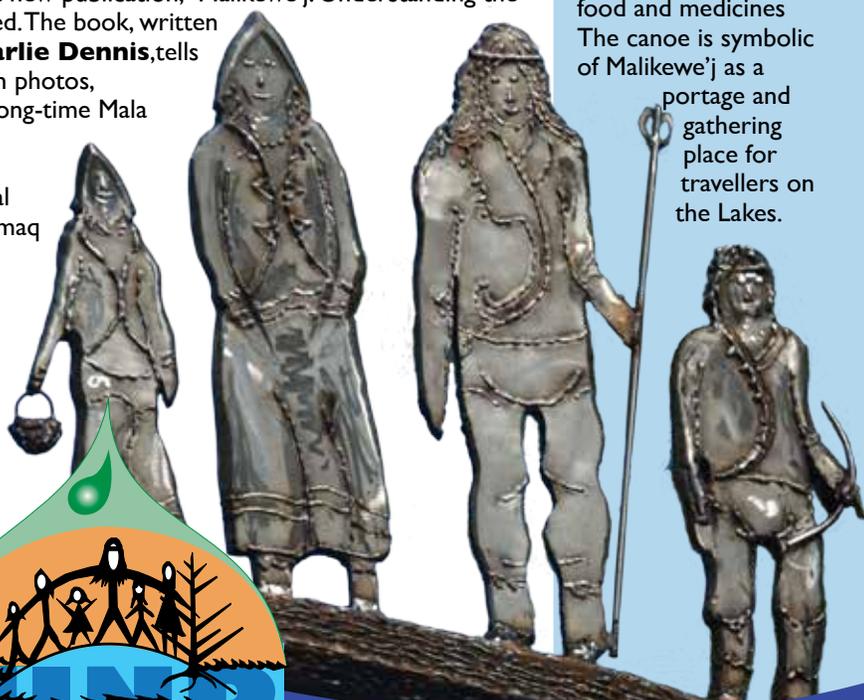
In addition to the monument, a new publication, "Malikewe'j: Understanding the Mi'kmaq Way" was also released. The book, written by **Nadine Lefort** with **Charlie Dennis**, tells the story of Malikewe'j through photos, illustrations, and stories from long-time Mala residents.

"It discusses the special cultural and spiritual relationships Mi'kmaq people have with Malikewe'j and looks at Grand Council's traditional role in resource management, with lessons on how to re-establish the "Mi'kmaq Way" as the community caretakers," says the project's coordinator **Nadine Lefort**.

nadine@uinr.ca



The images in the arch show the Mi'kmaq peoples' deep connection with the land. Black Ash trees form the arch and a sun represents the People of the Dawn as it rises over the horizon. A family holds their tools: a spear to fish, a bow to hunt, a basket to collect food and medicines. The canoe is symbolic of Malikewe'j as a portage and gathering place for travellers on the Lakes.



NEWS²

WWW

uinr.ca

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

The latest publication available on our website is **Malikewe'j: Understanding the Mi'kmaq Way**. It's free and available in the LIBRARY section at uinr.ca.



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 had liked our page you could have received an invitation to our Feast in the Highlands. 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.



UINR Moose Management Coordinator **Clifford Paul** makes a presentation at a two-day workshop that was held to develop a unified vision for the future of natural resource management in Unama'ki. Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) Program Managers from across Unama'ki attended.

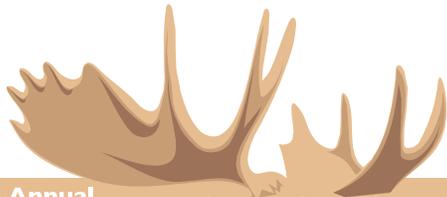


UINR's **Angela Denny, Tyson Paul, and Shelley Denny**, were in Quebec City this summer presenting their poster, "Managing for Seven Generations: Mi'kmaq Knowledge, Eels and the Bras d'Or Lakes" at the 2014 Annual Conference of the American Fisheries Society. You can get a look at the poster at uinr.ca



UINR hosted a session with the Canadian Water Network Field Course participants to introduce them to the work we are doing here and to learn about each other's activities.





Annual Feast in the Highlands

Thursday October 9, 12:30–2:00 PM

At the paved airstrip 13 km from Hunter's Mountain entrance (watch for signs)

The Feast will include a campfire, outdoor cooking, and a buffet of moose stew, eels, baked beans, fishcakes, salmon, apple pie, luskinikn, and all the trimmings.

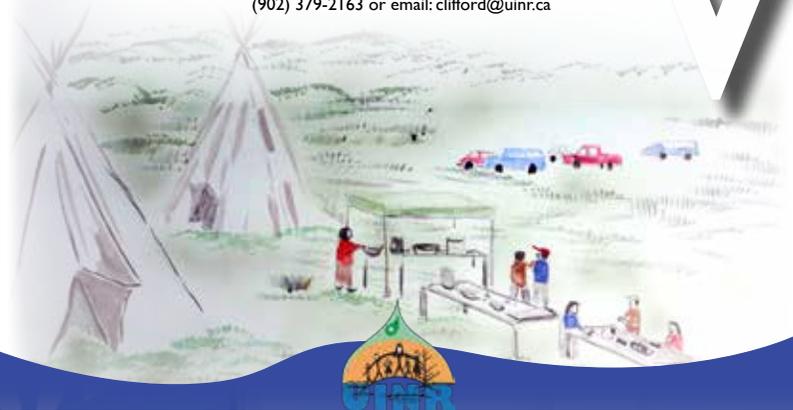
Whether you are in the Highlands hunting, fishing, working, or for recreation, please drop by.

An **Ammunition Exchange** will be held to promote non-lead hunting alternatives. Bring boxes of lead bullets and we will exchange for a box and a half of copper bullets. (A partnership with UINR and Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters)

Everyone is welcome!

Harvesters, visitors, youth and Elders are encouraged to share contributions of traditional knowledge (tall tales included).

For more information, or if you want to contribute to the knowledge sharing, please contact: **Clifford Paul** (902) 379-2163 or email: clifford@uinr.ca



UINR's Welcome

We love Malikewe'j at UINR!

It's not just the peaceful feeling you get when you enter the community, but what this part of Unama'ki represents. It reflects what UINR is and how we operate. UINR represents the five Unama'ki Mi'kmaq communities, and Mala is jointly owned and governed by those same communities.

UINR has done a lot of work here over the years, from our annual community clean-up to the development of best management practices to spearheading the preservation of the cemetery.

Traditionally, Malikewe'j has been an important area for hunting, fishing, and gathering. It still is today. Resources are plentiful and are managed in a cooperative way that ensures long-term sustainability. This is the "Mi'kmaq Way", and the title of the new publication we just released with our partners at Mi'kmaq Environmental Learning Centre, Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey, and Parks Canada. It looks at the special cultural and spiritual relationships we have with Malikewe'j.

Throughout the book the teachings of Mi'kmaq Grand Council are highlighted along with stories and photos of people who know the place best. We look to these teachings on resource management practices at Malikewe'j for lessons on how we can move forward to re-establish the Mi'kmaq Way as caretakers of this land.

You can download a free copy of this booklet now from the Library section of our website uinr.ca We hope you enjoy it as much as we have in putting it together!

lisa@uinr.ca

Fisheries and Oceans Canada Fisheries Officer, **Timothy Cremo**, meets with UINR Guardian Program Liason Coordinator, **Keith Christmas**, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada Field Supervisor, **John Williams**, at a meeting to look at the future plans for AFS Guardians.

UINR Guardian Program Liason Coordinator, **Keith Christmas**, works with AFS Guardians and Technicians: **Ekkian Lafford**, **George Christmas**, **Terry Denny**, **Joe Phillips**, **Glen Googoo** on barachois assessments around the Bras d'Or Lakes.





Nikani Awtiken

This year's summer camp was a great success as you can see from the photos and the participants' enthusiasm.

Camp Director **Nadine Lefort** was ecstatic! "This year's camp was wonderful. We had great staff...they were confident in their culture, brought great skills, and were lots of fun. We were thrilled to have new partners and new activities, like the trip to the Cape Breton Highlands National Park, and we're already making plans for next year's camp. Thanks Nikani Awtiken campers!"

The thing I found most challenging about camp: leaving.

I learned so much this week. I learned about the soil, trees, and medicines, and camp helped me be less shy.

I will definitely continue to learn about my culture. I loved the stories I heard this week. I feel proud to be Mi'kmaq.

This camp made me so proud of my culture. I want to become a Mi'kmaq teacher to keep sharing my culture.

I learned a lot about our culture. Making sweat lodge and sharing moose stories made me feel more confident. And I had so much fun hiking the Skyline Trail with my new friends!

I feel like my spirit is healthier because of the sweat, and the hikes, and from the stories that were shared this week.

The things I loved most: meeting great people, fires at the beach, beading, and the forestry session. So much fun!



I really appreciate how hard everyone worked to make this camp a success. Everyone is amazing!

I loved making eel spears, I loved the sweat lodge, I loved listening to stories...this camp is great!

I have more confidence to go to university to become a wildlife biologist. It seems like a great career!

I loved meeting everyone, laughing, having fun, and sharing stories.



it's all about the partnerships

MOOSE Management Initiative



Clifford Paul lives, breathes, and dreams about moose, so it's no wonder that he is the Moose Management Coordinator for UINR's Moose Management Initiative. Clifford has been working on moose issues since 2005.

"In the late 1990s, Elders expressed concerns about the behaviour of some Mi'kmaq harvesters who were taking too many moose and leaving too much of the animal behind. They believed this might be detrimental to hard-fought Mi'kmaq treaty rights and to the health of the moose population. They said that they would rather stop the harvest than harvest in a way that harmed the moose population."

Maw-klusuaqn (KMK) established the Moose Working Group in 2005, and moose management became an important issue to establish Mi'kmaq rights and unify concerns of Mi'kmaq communities.

In 2008, a Symposium on Moose was held, and community engagement sessions across the province led to the publication of voluntary guidelines in 2009, *Tia'muwe'l Netukulimkewel'—Unama'ki Moose Harvesting According to Netukulimk*.

Recently, information on the toxicity of lead bullets has come to light. Toxic traces of lead in the meat and gut piles seriously affect human health and contribute to sickness and death of eagles and other animals. This and any issues that affect moose and moose harvesters continue to be on the table for the Moose Working Group.

"We continue to work together so our children, and the next seven generations, will continue to enjoy the bounty of our natural environment."

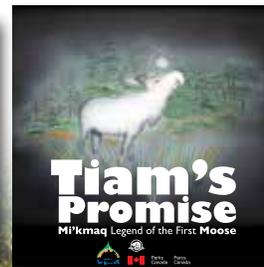
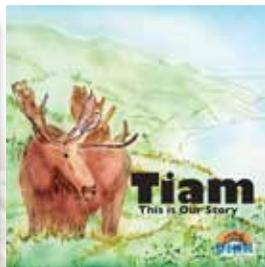
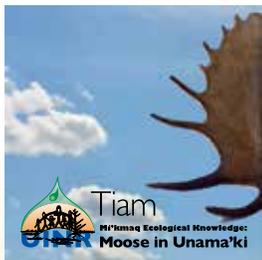
Elders brought their concerns to Mi'kmaq Grand Council who, in turn, asked Charlie Dennis at UINR to take on moose management as part of his duties.

In the early 2000s, two committees were formed by Parks Canada and UINR. One discussed matters regarding the Cape Breton Highlands National Park's property, and the other focused on moose issues. Both groups consisted of members from the Mi'kmaq community, Unama'ki Guardians, Parks Canada, and Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

Elders requested an opportunity to bring people together to discuss moose harvesting. A workshop was held in Wagmatcook in the winter of 2002 and, as a result, an initial set of guidelines was written.

As talks progressed it became clear that the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs needed to address Mi'kmaq rights. As a result, Kwilmu'kw

Pictured below are some of the videos and publications on moose available at UINR.



clifford@uinr.ca



The Moose Working Group: **Annie E Johnson**—UINR; **Benedict Toney**—DNR, **Andre Roy**—Fisheries and Oceans Canada, **Bob Petrie**—DNR, Wildlife Division, **Peter Austin-Smith**—DNR, **Eric Zscheile**—KMKNO, **Tim Courage**—Parks Canada, **Carol Ann MacNeil-Rolls**—NS Office of Aboriginal Affairs, **Dominique Audet**—Parks Canada, **Gary Lowe**—DNR, **Peter Labor**—NS Environment Protected Areas and Ecosystems Branch, **Dave Williams**—NS Environment Protected Areas and Ecosystems Branch, **Clifford Paul**—UINR, **Charlie Dennis**—UINR, Kneeling: **Bruce Nunn**—DNR, **Lisa Young**—UINR.

Missing are: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada



OYSTER

garden
by Charlie Dennis



My contribution for this edition of UINR Martin took longer for me to write than usual. I was having writer's block, and then while having breakfast one morning, thinking about the different species I usually write about, I thought, maybe readers would like to get an update on what's happening in the Bras d'Or Lakes fisheries.

This information comes from personnel observation, talking to fishers, Elders, youth, and other fish and wildlife groups.

Oyster An important species everybody is wondering about is oyster. I have been getting reports from Mi'kmaq fishers that they are seeing improvement in public beds and oysters leases. They are seeing oysters large and small, and even small seed on eel grass. We have been successful in getting all kinds of oyster seed in the research we have been doing, and their survival rate is good.

Lobster According to fishers, catches in the Lakes are still down. They are making a little living but not the way it was. Mi'kmaq fishers are catching a few and set some traps just to keep with their traditional ways.

Eel Eel is a very important species for food to the Mi'kmaq and they are having a hard time. The swim bladder parasite that has plagued eels in the last few years is not helping the species to rebound.

Cod Over the last few years people have been complaining about not catching any cod. Fishers have been going to traditional fishing grounds and having no luck. Once in awhile somebody will catch a cod and fearing it might be the last one, they practise catch and release.

Herring Herring in the Bras d'Or Lakes are scarce. Once we used to see signs of spring spawning, especially in Crane Cove, but now that is very rare.

Salmon The Bras d'Or Lakes is still closed for salmon harvesting. Numbers are still below conservation requirements for specific rivers.

Trout The last couple of years, people have been reporting good catches during the spring fishery. So get your fishing rods out!

Mackerel Some people are reporting some catches in the Lakes, but the fish are small. Many people travel to the outer coast, Sydney Harbour, North Sydney, and the Canso Causeway.

Gaspereau I spoke to a gaspereau fishermen last week and he informed me that the fishery has been down over the last couple of years and the fish is smaller. Trapping gaspereau this year was reduced to small amounts to let the fishery recover for a few years. Good strategy!

Smelt Smelt fishers in the Bras d'Or Lakes reported excellent winter fishing. Reports on numbers of spring spawning smelts migrating up rivers and brooks that flow into the Lakes are healthy. So get your snow suits, ice augers, chairs, and fishing rods ready!

Striped Bass One of the species that had been classified as an endangered species seems to be doing quite well in the Bras d'Or Lakes. Record sizes have been reported by Mi'kmaq and non-native anglers. People are reporting catches in all parts of the Lakes, rivers and fresh water tributaries. Some of these bass are huge, so be prepared to have good tackle and patience when reeling them in.

Green Crab This crab is a lot to blame for some the predation on oyster seed eel grass and soft-shell clams. Populations vary depending on the area. Overall, we hear less of them. I was speaking to an eel fisher the other day who mentioned that during the summer he had been torching for eels at night and noticed the number of green crab had dropped considerably. Years before they were all over the place

It would be interesting if striped bass or another species was feasting on the green crab. This might help the oyster population to come back.

This is a short report on some of the species in the Bras d'Or Lakes. It would be great if fishers would report their catches, especially species that not native to the Lakes. Some people have been sending pictures trying to identify some species. Please feel free to send along any observations you might have.

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Malikewé'i

Unama'ki Cape Breton Island



It all started here. A workshop was held to discuss how to best represent the people of Mala, past, present, and future. The meeting was attended by **Nadine Lefort, Joe Googoo, Ekelit Simon, Steve Dennis, Frank Gerard Cabot, Veronica "Flo" Young, Dave Simon, Beverly Jeddore, Charles B. Young, Melinda Young, Charlie Dennis, Marjorie Gould, Andrew Johnson, Gibbet Stevens, Judy Googoo, Anthony Morris, Gordon Kennedy, Noel J. Gould.**



Artist **Gordon Kennedy** puts the finishing touches on the archway



Here is the sketch from the initial workshop that inspired the final arch.



Erecting the archway took some muscle and calculation.



Joel Denny smudges the arch.



Long-time Mala resident **Veronica "Flo" Young** cut the ribbon.



Grand Chief **Ben Sylliboy** was the first person to walk through the archway.

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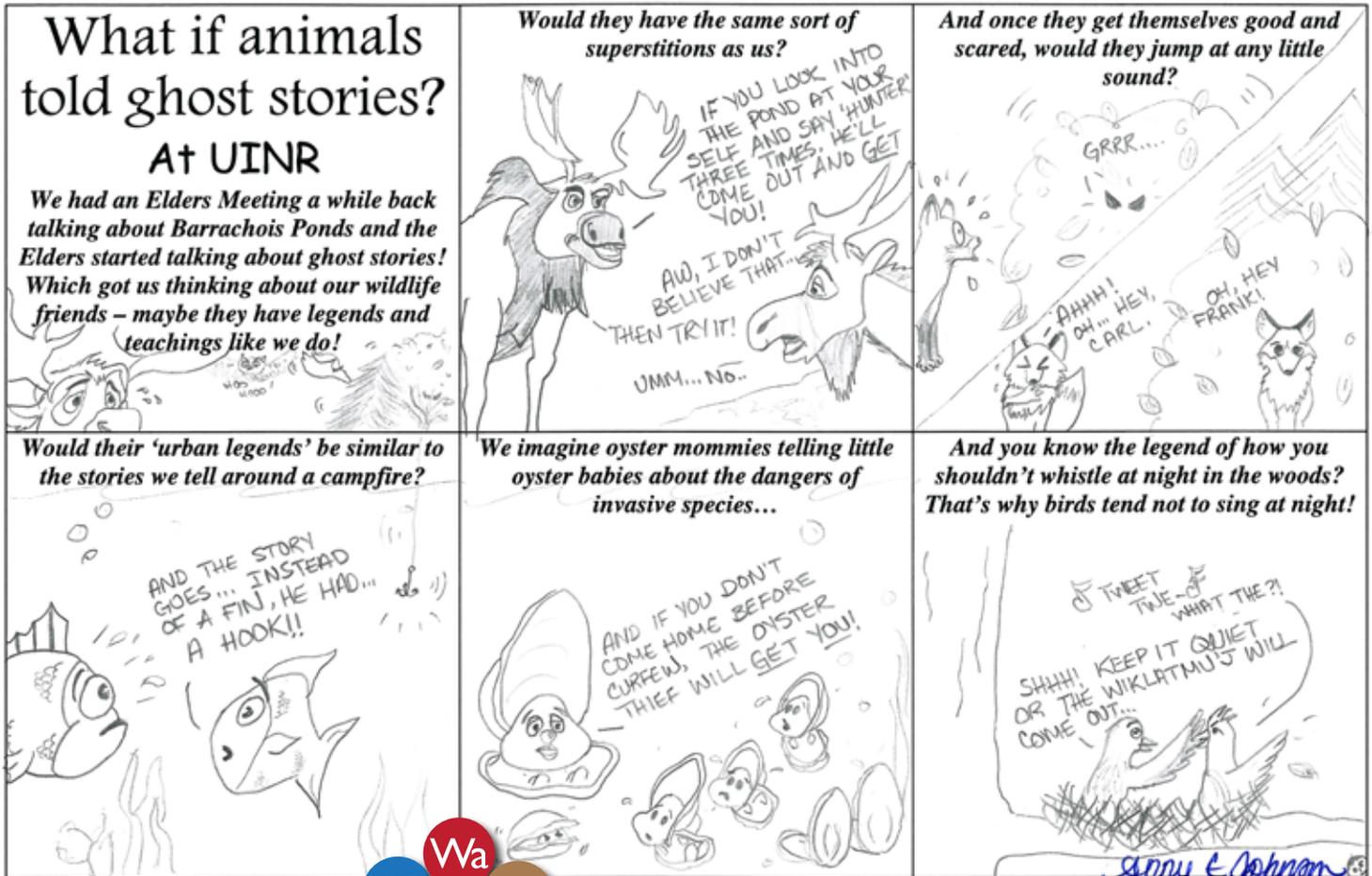
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