

W8BANAKI PILASKW

Odanak Abenaki Newspaper

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Photo : André Gill

Call to all members of the Abenaki Nation

BY RICK O'BOMSAWIN, CHIEF

What do we celebrate in 2009?

Fifty years ago Théophile Panadis and Father Dolan and many others began an annual celebration of our people and our culture in the form of a pow-wow. Since then, on the first weekend of July every year a celebration is recreated. Friends and family gather to celebrate being Abenaki to share in Cultural activities and other fun festivities.

Two hundred and fifty years ago in the beginning of October Robert Rodgers

and his rangers attempted to wipe out the Abenaki Nation. Much of our village was destroyed and many of our ancestors were killed. The people who were the threads left following this event, have weaved together to continued to rebuild and survive as a Nation. Many of our ancestors have left a story of their contribution to the struggle, then and since then. This year we celebrate 250 years of resistance. We thank and honour all of these people.

Chief and Council is calling upon you for your involvement.

We have two reasons to celebrate and one very important wish to hope for in this coming year. We want to work in collaboration with you to create a memorable event, for our Ancestors and our Children. We want to build a theme for this year's up and coming July celebration. Help us by sending us your ideas. What is your favourite POW-WOW memory? How can we re-create it?

If you can make time to get involved let us know. Chief, council, some of our staff and community members have already made the commitment. We are on board

for the planning and implementation of this important event. We will be calling upon you for your help in the very early part of the New Year. Let's get together and create a great memory of 2009.

If you are interested please call in at the Band Council and give your name to either be part of the planning committee or to be a volunteer for the event. If you want to be involved from a distance, Email or fax us your ideas. Those who are involved from a distance will receive periodic updates of the event's development.

Word from the Chief



RICK O'BOMSAWIN

“These are demanding times. Coupled with the objective of seeing our Nation through the recession we are challenged with developing a plan that will lead us towards self-sufficiency.

I have often heard it said in our circles that each decision we make today has to be made with the next 7 generations in mind. My concern is that within 7 generations we cease to exist as a people. The non-native governments will have won, we the Abenaki people will have been assimilated, leaving only threads of what was once, a rich and beautiful culture. If we want to work together to ensure our survival as a people we have to think seriously about how we will provide the stability needed to do so. We need to develop a social safety net that will allow us to continue to exist as a distinct people. We have rights as a people, but, these rights come with a collective responsibility to ourselves, our children and their children. Our priority, before fighting as a nation is to determine;

- What defines our Nation? How do we balance the inequity our women face with the exclusion of their children based solely on the gender of their parent? With limited resources, how do we provide services to our band members living out of province? What is culture in our community and how do we conserve it?

I urge you to take a moment and reflect on these questions, write something down and send it to the attention of Chief and Council. Your input is invaluable to us.

These are demanding times. Coupled with the objective of seeing our Nation through the recession we are challenged with developing a plan that will lead us

towards self-sufficiency. How are we going to do that? First and foremost we have to create a stable economic base. We have to tighten the purse strings and invest vigilantly in our community.

Factors that distinguish us from other nations, such as the impact of bill C-31 on the families of our women by decreasing numbers of recognized status Indians, increase the urgency of developing a plan. Today we still have limited resources but the near future is very uncertain. Already there are threats of budget cuts with education, and human resource development. Long term our only salvation will be the fruits of our own labour, coupled with careful planning. If there ever was a time where we need to come together as a Nation, moreover as a coalition of First Nations this is it. We are currently bringing the C-31 issue to the regional and federal assemblies of Chiefs for support. We will keep you posted on the developments in our fight for our women and their children, and if needed we will call on your help.

Let me end this address with the famous words of JFK 'Ask not what your nation can do for you, but what you can do for your nation'.

Together we can...

In Peace and Friendship,

Rick O'Bomsawin, chief

A Committee Is Elaborating The Cultural Policy Of The Abenaki Band Of Odanak

BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS D. O'BOMSAWIN

Since fall, a committee of 10 band members is elaborating a cultural policy. This representative group from the community meets regularly to exchange and propose ideas to draft the policy, The cultural policy will be used as a guide for the political leaders in the making of decisions affecting different aspects of Abenaki culture. The importance of preserving culture, language and heritage has already been addressed during the meetings.

The committee showed the will to receive comments and recommendations from all the members, including those living outside the community. Meetings have been planned in the United States and Ontario in order for the policy to properly represent the Abenaki points of view from the whole band.

Mr. Réjean O'Bomsawin and Ms. Claire Lamirande are the co-presidents and Ms. Nicole O'Bomsawin is the Committee secretary. You may contact the latter at the Council to receive more information.



Word from the Director

DANIEL GAUTHIER-NOLETT

Director General
Odanak Band Council

Political and economic uncertainty continues to hang over our heads. At the time of writing, we had just finished with Canadian federal elections that re-elected Stephen Harper's Conservative party for another minority mandate, when the American presidential elections followed. At least people opted for change on the other side of the border. We count on President Obama to re-establish some confidence and political stability at the national and international levels.

But we're not out of the woods yet; the opposition parties in Ottawa are now talking about forming a coalition government to govern our beautiful country. This only ends up delaying the actions undertaken with the different levels of government. Despite these political and economic crises, great projects are on the horizon for Odanak. There is namely the upcoming signing of our new police agreement (police services) and partnership actions are underway with businessmen for the establishment of an enterprise in Odanak...these are just two of many. I'll keep some of the other news for the next edition of the newspaper. Rest assured that if there is an important announcement to make between now and then, we will inform you at the right time.

Rumours are also going around that a petition is circulating on the Internet concerning the First Nations Post-Secondary Education Program. The funding of post-secondary studies will be withdrawn from our agreements as of April 1st, 2009. Our 5-year funding agreement will expire on March 31st, 2010. So, for us, this won't happen before April 1st, 2010. Unless...well, you never know. There's no smoke without fire. The Harper government seems to have a clear and cutting agenda for First Nations funding programs and especially for programs without a fixed term and that don't meet their objectives. This seems to be the case for the post-secondary studies program. The government is leading us towards a program similar to the provincial one, which means a loans and grants program. We will keep you posted on this file.

FILE CITIZENSHIP CODE

As you already know, we won our case at the Federal Court of Appeals last June and INAC decided not to appeal the decision. We have all these confirmations in writing. However, we still haven't received the band list from the Registrar's Office in Ottawa. This means that we still cannot proceed with the registration of our members in virtue of our Code. INAC must continue the deactivation process to remove members aged over 100 years from the band list; INAC must also remove from the band list any members for whom neither the Council nor INAC has the address. It's long; INAC is stalling. Rest assured that we will stay on them so that the member-list control process is transferred to the band as quickly as possible.

Following the minister's decision in our favor on September 4th 2008, the Membership code will be in retroactive force as of January 12th 2005. We can now proceed to register members that are not on the band list before January 11th 2005. Registration will begin February 1st 2009.

It is very important that all members not registered do so by communicating with the band registrar at the Odanak administration office. He will have all the details necessary for registration.

FILE DISPUTE – ARTICLE # 6

Our case will be submitted to the Court at the beginning of 2009. The last witnesses retained for the case were interviewed at the end of summer and the beginning of fall. Our lawyers then prepared the case file. This file will be presented to the Odanak and Wôlinak Councils during the week of January 5, 2009. We will keep you posted on the developments.

FILE SPORTS FACILITIES

The construction work on the skating rink was completed last fall. Therefore, it will be in full operation for winter 2009. The project cost about \$186,000. The *ministère du Secrétariat aux Affaires Autochtones du Québec* subsidized 50% of the estimated project costs, which is \$93,000.

FILE WATER METERS

Last December, the Council sent a funding request to INAC for the purchase of water meters. We are the last members of *la Régie Intermunicipale d'Alimentation en Eau Potable du Bas St-François* to not have water meters in private residences and businesses. We have to do our part for the environment and protect our Mother Earth. I think that as First Nations people, we have to set an example.



Photo : Theresa Watso

NOTICE

PUBLIC ASSEMBLY Abenakis of Odanak Council

Date : January 31th 2009
Location : Community Center
Time: at 13h30 pm

Agenda

1. Opening/prayer
2. Citizenship code
3. Electoral code
4. Minor repair program
5. Recreative and Leisure Center of Odanak
6. Pow Wow 2009
7. Programs Update
8. Questions
9. Closing

Public assemblies of the Band Council

You are invited to attend the public assemblies of the Band Council.

These assemblies are opened to all Abenakis members of Odanak.

Members with reduced mobility can easily attend the assemblies.

Band Council members and management will be available to answer questions.

Here are the dates for the next public assemblies:

- ♦ Saturday May 30, 2009
- ♦ Saturday September 26, 2009
- ♦ Saturday January 30, 2010

All the assemblies will be held at 1:30 pm at the community center, 58 Waban-Aki st in Odanak.

Please note ...

For those who would like to receive the newspaper or any information from the Odanak community, please contact Eddy Obomsawin at 450 568-2810 to see if he has your latest address.





Photo : Theresa Watso

To the population of Odanak

During the holiday period, roadblocks have been set up throughout the community in order to intercept drunk drivers. Using Operation Nez rouge or the local taxi service were both ideal ways to avoid driving under the influence.

If you have doubts or concerns about a situation that could involve public security, don't hesitate to contact the Abenaki Police Force. Security is everyone's business!

With the holiday period fresh in mind, the Abenaki Police Force (or CPDA for Corps de police des Abénakis) wishes to remind you of a few "tricks" that could help you have a next trouble-free holidays.

Every year in Quebec, hundreds of residences are burglarized during the holiday period. The perpetrators watch their victims, and at the first opportunity, break in and steal gifts from under the Christmas tree. The CPDA suggests that you not place your Christmas trees close to the windows, visible to all. Don't forget that when we don't tempt wrongdoers, we reduce our chances of being burglarized.

In Quebec, even though we're bombarded with countless commercials about driving under the influence, our roads are riddled with drunk drivers. Imagine losing a family member or friend during the holiday period because somebody wasn't looking after him or herself. Be responsible! Protect your family and friends and say NO to driving under the influence.

News from your Police Force

The Abenaki Police Force team has acquired a new top-level player in the 2008 draft. Dynamic and committed, Mylène Trudeau has just joined the team and will soon start working as a police officer. Currently, Mylène is working as an assistant at the Odanak police station. On behalf of the team, we welcome her to our organization.

Towards Fusion Of Police Force

BY ERIC CLOUTIER

Chief of the Odanak Police Service

Hello everyone,

A few years ago, the people in charge of the community police services of Odanak and Wôlinak undertook a complete analysis of their police service delivery, based on the needs and realities of the Abenaki communities.

This analysis proved very interesting. Basically, it demonstrated that the consolidation of police services would allow us to improve police service delivery, execute prevention plans according to the communities' needs, conduct investigations more quickly and

effectively and increase the police presence in both communities.

At the operational level, the improvement of police officers' working conditions would be considerable. They would have more suitable schedules and better tools to carry out their duties within the communities.

After having submitted the report and projection of the organizational structure for the new police force, the Band Councils collaborated in order to create the new Abenaki Police Force.

The police force would have its headquarters at the Odanak station with a service centre in Wôlinak in order to allow the police officer to meet the citizens.

All that is missing is the signature of the Quebec Minister of Public Security in order for the new police force to be operational. Therefore, we anticipate that the Abenaki Police Force will be officially on duty by the end of May 2008. During the implementation, there will be no disturbance perceived by the Abenaki community members – only an improvement of police service delivery.

We will keep you up to date on the developments in this file which should be quite interesting for everyone.

Best wishes,

Eric Cloutier

Directeur du Service de Police d'Odanak



LFNC REPORT Local First Nation Commission

ELEANOR HOFF
LFNC Agent

Since I last wrote in the newspaper we have hired a new team of workers for the construction of a four unit apartment building along the same lines as the previous one that was built in the fall of 2007. This team is composed of four (4) persons that had experience in construction work to a certain extent. For more details of this project you will have to get in touch with the band council.

In the fall of 2008, the LFNC B2 measures (general academic training) financed twelve (12) persons for various courses (short and long term). During the summer we financed fourteen (14) students on summer jobs. On the C1 measures (job creation initiatives) the LFNC financed twenty-one (21) participants and one (1) person refused to sign our contract because the salary was not high enough.

The LFNC is presently revising the existing policy because we have realized that certain measures are not helping the participants. The LFNC is working in conjunction with the social assistance department to better serve our clientele.

In peace and friendship,

Eleanor Hoff
LFNC Agent

Gérard O'Bomsawin Scholarship



The *FONDATION UNIVERSITAIRE PIERRE ARBOUR* has just created the *GÉRARD O'BOMSAWIN SCHOLARSHIP*, intended students of *l'École polytechnique de l'Université de Montréal* pursuing their postsecondary studies.

The *Fondation Pierre Arbour* has chosen to subsidize graduate studies in

computers, university diplomas in engineering and MBA; the four selected universities are l'Université de Montréal, Concordia University, l'UQAM and McGill University.

Pierre Arbour is Gérard O'Bomsawin's nephew and he has always had a great deal of admiration for this man who was the first Aboriginal person to receive a diploma from Polytechnique in 1945 and who marked his personal and professional industrial engineering circles throughout his career at ALCAN.

Thus, since September 2007, three (3) Polytechnique have had their studies funded through the *GÉRARD O'BOMSAWIN SCHOLARSHIPS* that they deservedly received.

We are happy to share this good news with you that, besides financially supporting deserving students, will continue to keep the memory of our father alive and showcase our Abenaki community of Odanak.

Johanne O'Bomsawin Carroué,
Gérard's daughter



News from your councillor

JACQUES THÉRIAULT WATSO
Councillor

Kwaï, kwaï,

As Councillor of the Abenaki Nation of Odanak, it is my duty to inform you of the work done by your Council but also to share my concerns and aspirations for the future of our Nation.

After Chief Gilles O'Bomsawin's 14-year reign, a new Council was elected 1 year ago (already). This new Council took significant action to meet the new challenges our community is facing. We are working hard on our community's economic development. The blatant lack of respect shown by different levels of government towards our requests and claims makes things more difficult, without forgetting the obvious needs of our off-reserve members.

The Harper government is making things tough for us by constantly threatening to cut out already-underfunded programs. We are constantly negotiating agreements that are slow in getting signed or respected. The Council must react to the rumours that several programs will undergo drastic cuts in the coming year, including post-secondary education and health.

Your Council won its case for the membership code last August. It also negotiated a joint agreement with the Abenaki Nation of Wôlinak in April 2008 to create an Abenaki police force; however, neither of these actions has been applied because the governments' part are unacceptable for the Abenakis of Odanak. This is why the Odanak Council supports the DECLARATION ON A AFFIRMATION PROCESS FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR, as adopted by the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador on November 27, 2008.

Your Council is working on the affirmation of our sovereignty on our traditional territory but to do this, the Council needs your support. Each one of us, each Band member must reflect on the future of our Nation. The notions that "we are owed everything" and that the Council must meet everybody's needs must change. After centuries of forced assimilation, we should look at ourselves in the mirror and define who we are as people and what we are ready to do to ensure the very survival of our Nation.

The Council is working on a cultural policy that attempts to define today's Abenaki Nation because, in Odanak and on our territory, we are very far from the realities of our ancestors. Now more than ever, the social fabric of our nation is torn by negative values. Envy, jealousy and resentment are the result of the assimilation policies perpetuated by the governments. These are not our traditional values, but rather the result of several centuries of conquest. Now it's time for us to face the music. We are the Abenakis of Odanak and it's our duty to ensure the very survival of our Nation, for our ancestors, us and the coming generations. You will be consulted in the upcoming months because the cultural committee needs your opinions.

The Council has made difficult choices over the last year but each decision was made by considering the impacts on the Nation's future while respecting our traditional values. Political allegiances are not considered, as they shouldn't be, since the very future of our Nation is at stake.

The Council decided to take over the organization of the 50th Powwow under the presidency of Chief Rick O'Bomsawin, who I congratulate for his initiative. The event's success depends on us. It is the national holiday for all Abenakis and not just those who put on their traditional costumes. It's an opportunity to assert our culture on our territory. And it's a rendezvous for each one of us who has Abenaki blood in his veins!

The Council is continuing the restructuring of all its entities, including the vocation of the Place jeunesse, its administrative programs and the establishment of a new electoral code. Along with this, your Council will be going on tour this spring to visit the off-reserve members. In addition, your Council is negotiating partnership agreements with other First Nations for a wind-energy park; this negotiation is still underway, but it will bring a lot to our community.

My words may seem fatalistic, but rest assured, I believe we'll make it. This is because, like our ancestors, we are a proud and hard-working people that have always known how to face adversity. There is a lot of work to be done and each person must get involved because our future doesn't depend on five elected councillors; it depends on each member of the Abenaki Nation of Odanak!

By the spirit of our ancestors, for all of us and the coming generations!

Jacques T. Watso
Podawazwinno



Education and Indian Registry

EDDY OBOMSAWIN
Education Administrator
and Acting Registrar

I have a couple of important things to say, so here we go...

REGISTRAR

Starting next spring, a new secured Indian status certificate will be available. I'll be following a training session next March and afterwards, I'll be able give you more information about the steps to follow to receive it.

Don't forget to check the expiration date on the back of your status card so that I may send you the necessary documents for renewal. You may reach me at the Band council office hours to make sure I have the right information to get in contact with you either by phone, email or postal service because it's important that the membership list be up to date so that we can inform you of any changes in the near future.

I'd also like to mention that many people call to ask about the possibility of them having any Indian blood in their family. We try to help them to the best of our knowledge by directing them to the resources and connections we have. Some time ago, I met an 81 year-old woman that needed help to prove her Abenaki origins and today I received a letter stating that she is now recognized as an Abenaki from Odanak. So for those of you still doing research on your origins, don't be discouraged, patience and perseverance will always get the upper hand. Welcome among us, Margaret Lewko.

EDUCATION

Many of you must have heard about a petition concerning the end of school funding for First Nation students across Canada. Here's what I have as information, a rumour is going around saying the INAC intends to transfer the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) to a third party. This means that Band councils will no longer be able to help First Nation students financially. These students will have to ask grants and loans directly from this third party. So the Kitigan Zibi community and the FNEC prepared a petition concerning the future of post secondary schooling. The object of this petition is to get 10,500 signatures throughout Canada. It's very important that you sign this and get as many people as possible to do the same.

For all post-secondary students, don't forget to send me your report cards for the Fall 2008 session and make sure that your name, student number and your school's name are indicated.

Finally, I'd like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the students and fellow Abenakis as well as their families and friends.

Eddy Obomsawin
Education Administrator and Acting Registrar



Income Security

ANN LANDRY
Income Security
Officer

Hello everybody,

I am very pleased to join the administrative team of the Odanak Band Council as the income security officer. I have 25 years of experience in customer service and also college training in Aboriginal administration.

The tasks connected to this position include providing last-resort financial aid to the community members that don't have enough resources to meet their needs, and encouraging members to enter or re-enter the job market through training, employability-development and job-support programs.

I fully understand people's concerns and wish to work concretely, with you, to recognize the strengths of each person in order to support you in your job searches.

I'm looking forward to meeting you.



Word from the Economic Development Officer

Typical characteristics and basic needs of an entrepreneur



BY PAUL GOSSELIN
Economic Development Officer

In the last article, I presented the seven (7) main steps to take to go from the idea to the start-up of a business¹ by insisting on Step 1: the idea. Today, we will move on to the second step: the typical characteristics and basic needs of an entrepreneur.

Do you have an entrepreneur's profile ?

Answer these questions by basing your answers on your concrete actions or experience.)

In my everyday life :

- ♦ Do I show leadership ?
- ♦ Am I able to take calculated risks ?
- ♦ Am I autonomous in my way of working ?
- ♦ Do I believe in myself ?
- ♦ Am I a person who easily communicates with others ?
- ♦ Am I dynamic when I undertake something ?

Show initiative, tolerance to stress, tenacity and perseverance, ability to make decisions, ability to adapt, are many characteristics that I must analyze to know myself as an entrepreneur.

What are my motivations in creating my own business ?

- Do I want to :
- ♦ Create my own job ?
 - ♦ Be my own boss ?
 - ♦ Create other jobs ?
- Is it because I want to :
- ♦ Lead others ?
 - ♦ Realize my potential ?
 - ♦ Meet a challenge ?

Am I well-supported ?

- ♦ Identify (note in writing) the people supporting you in the realization of your project. (Family, friends, business contacts, economic development officers, experienced advisers, contact networks.)

Ensure that you have at least some basic notions of the following fields :

- ♦ Management, marketing, accounting
- ♦ Would following the **business start-up** training be useful to me ?

Can you invest in your project ?

- ♦ Assess your savings.
- ♦ Identify the assets (goods) that you can transfer to your business.
- ♦ Identify, if needed, people who can invest (time, money) in your business.

Never underestimate the time required for your business project.

Your economic development service can help you through these different steps. Don't hesitate to contact me at 450 568-2810 to make an appointment and take the steps required in the creation of your business.



PAR JOHANNE ARCAND, B.A.A.
Accountant - Financial Services

Business Income

The income that you [*person with Indian status*] draw from a business is generally tax exempt if the actual activities that bring you business income are conducted on a reserve. If you conduct all your commercial activities on a reserve, your business income is connected to a reserve and therefore exempt according to Section 87 of the Indian Act. If you conduct most of your commercial activities off-reserve, your business income is taxable because the exemption set out in Section 87 does not apply.

To know if your business income is taxable, you must ask yourself if there are factors connecting you to a reserve. The courts have indicated that the most important connecting factor is the location of the commercial activities that bring you business income. If these activities are done on a reserve, the location of your clients is also an important factor. Here are other less important connecting factors:

CONNECTING FACTORS

- ♦ Whether you live on or off-reserve
- ♦ Whether you have an office or a place for receiving orders located on a reserve
- ♦ Whether you keep your accounting documents on a reserve
- ♦ Whether the administrative, secretarial and accounting services take place on a reserve

Example 1

Jean, an Indian living on a reserve, works independently as a logger. He harvests and sells his wood outside the reserve. The income that Jean draws from this business is considered **taxable** because the commercial activities generating business income are conducted outside the reserve and his clients are outside the reserve.

Example 2

Delia is an Indian and owns a retail store on a reserve. She sells her wares to both Indian and non-Indian clients. Considering that Delia conducts her commercial activities on a reserve, the income she draws from this business is **tax exempt**.

Note

You have to consider all the connecting factors before determining whether business income is connected to a reserve or not.

Source : Michael Benedict, fiscal advisor at the Secretariat of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, and Revenue Canada.

For any information or questions: j.arcand@cbodanak.com

1. Lancer votre entreprise : de l'idée au démarrage, ARDEQ (Association régionale de développement économique du Centre-du-Québec)

WORD FROM THE HOUSING OFFICER

Housing Program And Social Housing



BY LYNE MAILHOT
Housing Officer

Hello,

Let me introduce myself; my name is Lyne Mailhot. I'm from Drummondville and have been residing in Odanak for a few years now. Since my arrival at the Band Council, I have occupied several contractual positions, but since the

end of July, I am the new housing officer. I am happy to be able to advise and inform you in this field.

For my community integration, I was part of the organizing committee for the TV program *La Petite Séduction* which features the community of Odanak. It was truly a pleasure to work in collaboration with many of you.

SOCIAL HOUSING IN ODANAK

The Band Council started the construction of a second 4-unit social housing building. The construction has been entrusted to "Work Team A" supervised by Chief Rick O'Bomsawin.

This construction is possible thanks to the participation of the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CMHC) to the amount of \$219,000. The total costs are estimated at \$316,000.

* Members seeking access to social housing must obtain a form at the Band Council. Applications are accepted from January 5 until March 31st, 2009.

HOUSING PROGRAM

Financial Aid Request for 2009-2010

Within the housing policy, community members can submit a financial aid request for the construction of a new house, minor renovations for an existing house or a renovation under the PAREL plan, which mean Homeowner Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program), ie an assistance program designed by the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation to rehabilitate housing .

* Members seeking access to one of these forms of financial aid must obtain a form at the Band Council.

Applications are accepted from January 5 until March 31st, 2009.

The applications will be selected in April 2009.

OBITUARY

List of the Deceased for 2008

Marie-Evelina Obomsawin

Daughter of
Olivier Obomsawin and Blanche Deblois
Spouse of the late Paul-Henri Lamarande
Born on February 26, 1920.
Passed away on January 2, 2008.

Yvonne M'Sadoques

Daughter of
Samuel M'Sadoques and Marie Morvan
Spouse of the late Bruno Obomsawin
Passed away on April 23, 2008
at the age of 103.

Joseph Léopold Auguste Gill

Son of Aimé Gill and Rosiane Roy
Husband of the late
Marie-Jeanne Beauregard
Born on September 18, 1928.
Passed away on June 18, 2008.

Marie-Rosée Sioui

Daughter of
Robert Sioui et Marie-Jeanne Lagrave
Spouse of the late Clément Laforce
Born on October 19, 1937.
Passed away on August 10, 2008.

Albert Watso

Son of
Fred Watso and Elsie Dauphinais
Husband of Marie-Jeanne R. Obomsawin
Born on January 29, 1937.
Passed away on March 6, 2008.



In memory of Chief Gilles O'Bomsawin

November 26, 2008 marked the first anniversary of the death of Chief Gilles O'Bomsawin. Chief O'Bomsawin's journey in this world has left traces that are still quite visible. He certainly left nobody indifferent.

To mark this event, we have received a message from the people at l'Association Béarn Acadie Nouvelle France, where he stayed in June 2003, which expressed their sorrow at having lost a friend. They haven't forgotten him. Let us do the same and think of him today. May he watch over us, guide us through these difficult times of economic and political crisis, and prepare our journey to the Happy Hunting Ground when our time will come.

WLI NANAWALMEZI S8GM8



Photo : Theresa Watso

Activities and services to the Odanak Library

BY MARIE-CHANTAL BOUCHARD

Assistant and responsible for presentations and the Website

After two years of absence, the Odanak Library re-opened its doors on December 19, 2006. Hélène-Audette O'Bomsawin, Marie-Chantal Bouchard and recently Claire Lamirande have been in charge of the Library.

Even though this team is only made up of three people, we are devoted to helping you in your library research and offer you good moments of relaxation and learning, either by reading or presentations that the library offers everybody. In addition, we are proud to offer you other services, including the Inter Library Loan (*PIB - prêt interbiblio*) which allows you to order books from another library. Also, we wish to emphasize that most of the books are exchanged every 4 months, thereby allowing a better circulation of goods between libraries and a greater choice for readers. The next exchange will take place on February 10, 2009.

The library is not only a place for research, but also a way to get away from everyday life. The library's working hours are Tuesday evening from

7 p.m. and 9 p.m. (Hélène) and Saturday afternoon from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Marie-Chantal).

Story time, which is a semi-regular presentation, is animated by Ms. Nancie Constant, either monthly or bi-monthly, depending on her schedule. This activity is greatly appreciated by youths of all ages. For these presentations, Marie-Chantal takes the time to plan the interactive activities that follow the reading of stories and also prepare snacks for the children.

Our policy is that you can borrow books for a period of three weeks, which are renewable either in person, by phone or Internet, and that the late fees are \$0.03 per book for each day overdue. **Please note that this fee will be increased slightly at the beginning of 2009.**

Also, for our children who are less than one-year-old, the Réseau Biblio offers them a present if one of their parents registers them at the library **before their first birthday**. This is part of the program *Une naissance, un livre* which seeks to promote interest in reading at an early age.

At the library, you will find something for all tastes, including novels, documentaries, albums, comics, magazines, English books and audio books. And in all categories: romance, suspense, history, Quebec authors, etc.

For any other information, consult the library's site at:

<http://www.reseaubibliodubec.qc.ca/portail/index.aspx?page=3&BID=195>



Here is the contact info for your library :

58, rue Waban-Aki (Community Hall)
Odanak, Quebec J0G 1H0

Phone : 450.568.0107 Fax : 450.568.0107

Library e-mail : biblio139@reseaubibliocqim.qc.ca
E-mail for info on library presentations: hartleylover@yahoo.fr
(Enter **biblio Odanak** in the "subject" of your message so that it doesn't get accidentally deleted).

Sustainable Development: Advancing the environmental in the Odanak community

BY ALIKÉ HAREL

In times of economic crisis, it may seem awkward to talk about sustainable development. Nevertheless, it's about time to remind everyone that the economy concerns more people than industries. Yes, industries must make profits, but not at the expense of our communities' health. A community's "profits" cannot be measured solely in dollars. How strong is culture in its homes? Are drugs and violence constant social problems? How high are school enrolment rates? How stable are employment rates? Will our grandchildren or great-grandchildren be able to walk through a forest without encountering farmland, a factory or a dump? So, it is never out of context to speak of our sustainability.

As the community's forest technician and species at risk project leader, and recently, Lands Officer, Michel Durand keeps making great steps in the environment, which, along with economic and social conditions, is



Michel Durand, community's forest technician, species at risk project leader and Lands Officer.

one of the three pillars of sustainable development. In 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, habitat protections of species at risk and community capacity building have been successful

projects financed by the First Nation Species at Risk Funds of Environment Canada. Many species at risk have been found on Odanak's territory. In 2008, subsidies from Indian and Northern Affairs have been obtained through the Land Management Program. This subsidy will be used for the establishment of the first land management services to the members. These services will focus mainly on traditional practices and the establishment of an eventual protection area. At the moment, a request for financial assistance is being studied by the Hydro-Quebec Environment Foundation. If it is accepted, funds will be provided by the foundation for (1) the management of a nesting area for painted and snapping turtles, (2) the replanting of butternut, an endangered tree, and (3) training on Odanak's fauna and flora for the Musée des Abénakis. The work team is continually looking for external funding to bring forward these projects, in order to develop and preserve our environment for the long-term benefit of the community.