

W8BANAKI PILASKW

Odanak Abenaki Newspaper

Volume 4 Number 1

January 2010

THE OLYMPIC FLAME IN ODANAK !



The relay of the Olympic Flame was in Odanak on Monday, December 7.

The relay of the Olympic Flame was in Odanak on Monday, December 7. For this unique occasion, Richard O'Bomsawin Jr. carried the Olympic Torch over a 500 meter distance, from Awassos and Wabanaki streets to the ceremony point that was settled on Sibosis street, right across the Band Council office. After the blessing of the flame that will illuminate the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games from February 12 to 28, an Abenaki prayer pronounced by Mr. Raymond Watso, and the Honor song sung by numerous people,

the Torchbearer gave multiple interviews with the local and national medias, saying how amazed he was by the experience.

A REAL TREAT FOR CHILDREN

More than 200 youngsters from the Maurault, Vincent-Lemire and Paradis primary schools attended this historical passage of the blessed Flame and hundreds of people from the community and from the surrounding areas travelled to Odanak for the occasion.



PHOTOS ANDRE GILL





Chief's Address

Dear Band, and Community Members,

It is with humility and gratitude that I address you here in the first bulletin following my appointment for the upcoming term in office. Your faith in my capacity to lead our people through the challenges that we face as one of many First Nations communities, is the force I will use to bring us through.

I was at my grandson's christening this past weekend and Father Pierre Houle, pastor of our community's Catholic Church, shared a wish for Brandon, a wish that I would like to borrow and share with you all. He wished for him freedom of a very special kind. He wished him freedom from all of the human frailties that may impede his growth and advancement in his life, freedom from such things as hate, jealousy, racism, resentment and envy. It certainly got me thinking about how these elements are those which are the greatest contributors to apathy and stagnation not only for us as individuals but also for us as a people.

I thought about how we all come to this world with gifts that are meant to be developed and how each of us has an important contribution to make to our family, community and nation.

This coming era is one that will require all of us to focus on our personal and collective challenges and work to overcome them for the greater good and advancement of our people. If there ever was a time where we need to put aside judgment and learn to work with all the resources available to us it is now. The focus of our energies on building our community, rather than exhausting them by focusing on negativity or pettiness will provide us with a fighting chance at long term social and economic stability.

My promise to you in this term is that I will work hard, staying focused on a vision I am sure I share with the many that have placed their confidence in me, 'A free and self reliant community'.

In peace and friendship,

Chief Rick O'Bomsawin



Daniel G. Nolett
Director General
Odanak band Council

Following the elections of last November, we welcomed two (2) new members to the Band Council. We wish to welcome Ms. Claire O'Bomsawin, who had already been elected and served as councilor for two (2) terms from 2003 to 2007, and Mr. Rejean O'Bomsawin, who is serving his first term. Also, I was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the NCCC (Native Commercial Credit Corporation). The Abenaki Nation is very present and well represented at the NCCC. In fact, Mr. Martin O'Bomsawin, an Odanak resident and businessman, is also the president of the NCCC Board of Directors.

Last November 5, the Supreme Court of Canada refused, the appeal authorization request submitted by Ms. Sharon McIvor disputing the decision rendered by the B.C Appeals Court (*McIvor vs Canada, deci-*

Word from the Director

sion of April 6, 2009). This clearly reveals that the April 6 decision is applicable. The B.C Appeals Court awarded the decision to Ms. McIvor and gave one year to the federal government, until April 6, 2010, to amend the Indian Act in order to grant Indian status to Ms. McIvor's grandchildren (*cousin situation*).

The Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Chuck Strahl, sent a press release to the First Nations a few days after the Appeals Court decision (April 2009). He informed us that the federal government was going to amend Section 6 of the Indian Act to enable all persons of the third generation who are in the same situation as Ms. McIvor's grandchildren across Canada would obtain Indian status. More specifically, these are all persons of the third generation in a "cousin" situation, born after September 4, 1951.

For persons of the third generation in a "cousin" situation, born before September 4, 1951, the new registration rules will continue to deny their right to registration. It will be the same thing for all those in a "brother and sister" situation or other discriminatory situations remaining in the registration rules.

It is for this reason that the

Abenaki Nation (the Grand Conseil and the Councils of Odanak and Wolinak) is making lobbying efforts, namely towards the AFNQL Chief's assemblies and federal MPs (such as the Aboriginal Affairs critics of the Bloc Québécois, the NDP and the Liberal Party) in order to have all cases of discrimination covered by the amendments that must be made to Indian Act and adopted before April 6, 2010.

The construction of the industrial motel along Route 132 in Odanak started at the November. If everything goes as planned, the building would be ready to receive lessee businesses toward the month of March.

ERRATUM- There was a piece of misinformation in the previous edition. During the special general assembly called last May 30, concerning the Citizenship Code, the band members present elected the following three (3) people to the Citizenship Code Appeals Committee for a two (2) year term:

- Mr. Richard Côté;
- Mr. Michel O'Bomsawin; and
- **Ms. Manon Hamel and not Nathalie Hamel.** I apologize for this error.

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 and management members will be available to answer questions.

Here are the dates of upcoming public meetings:

- **Saturday January 30, 2010**
- **Saturday May 29, 2010**
- **Saturday September 25, 2010**

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

Our Newspaper: An Effective And Unifying Communication Tool

WORD FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF – The Band Council is aware that W8BANAKI PILASKW newspaper will have a more and more important role to play as an effective and unifying communication tool for our members, as well as being useful to inform partners, employees and our political leaders about the community achievements. A community newspaper like ours is a pillar strengthening the relationship that exists between people of our nation, a messenger carrying news from one point to another. to the doorstep of every member's home, and the affirmation of our identity. That is why it is important that you can participate to Odanak's collective life.

One of your children is taking part in a special event? A friend is preparing for a sporting accomplishment? You have a cultural activity to share? Write to us!

For business people, it is possible to show a publicity demonstrating your solidarity. Each publication is mailed to every member across North America representing more than 1,200 individuals and their families, and is available online over the Odanak's website.

Speaking of involvement, the new journal produced by the Odanak Health Center represents an initiative that is well demonstrating the employees dynamism about community people's health. You will find this OHC publication as an insert form in this edition.

Have a good reading !

If you have any commentaries or suggestions, please write to us at: communications@nationwabanaki.com

An old tradition revisited

An ancient tradition practiced by Odanak hunters was revisited last December 31st at night, when many residents came to my home for saluting the year that was ending. As the tradition wants it, there was a volley of firearm shots to salute the ending year and another one to welcome the New Year a few seconds later. Everything was done properly, and we all felt pleased to live this tradition together around the campfire. I want to thank the people who visited us that night and Claude Deschenaux for the wood he provided. Finally, I want to wish a Happy New Year to all Odanak members.

- Chief Rick O'Bomsawin

Councillors Mandates



Claire O'Bomsawin

Responsible for BIBLIO Network of the Centre-du-Québec, Lanaudière and Mauricie, Band Council representative on the board of direction of Aw8ssisak CPE (Early Childhood Center), Intermunicipal control corporation for drinkable water of the Bas-St-François.



“ I would like to use this edition of our journal to thank Odanak's population for having placed their confidence in my candidature in last November's election.

Besides, I will represent the Band Council at the direction board of the Aw8ssisak CPE (Early Childhood Center) and will lead certain projects touching the public library and potable water. Do not hesitate to contact me for any questions concerning our community, as I will always be available for you.

Claire O'Bomsawin
Councillor



Alain O'Bomsawin

Catholic Church responsible, Band Council representative on the board of direction of Intermunicipal control corporation for drinkable water of the Bas-St-François and Waban-Aki Nation Grand Council.



“ I would like to take a few lines to thank electors for giving me their confidence for another mandate.

I am also seizing the opportunity to mention the contribution of Clement Sadoques and want to publicly thank him for his implication, he is a man who worked as a councillor for nearly 20 years and who had done a lot for us.

WATER CONSUMPTION

It is important to tell the population that the drinkable water rate will go up from \$2.25 to \$2.30/1,000 gallons, this rate beginning January 1, 2010.

I am always open to discuss with you about the projects concerning our collectivity, so do not hesitate to contact me to share your concerns.

Alain O'Bomsawin
Councillor



Réjean O'Bomsawin

Band Council representative on the board of direction of CKBN radio station, Odanak's 350th anniversary responsible, including the 2010 Pow Wow.



“ Kway,
Wôbanaki alnôbak odana

I would like to thank you for having given me the honour to represent you as councillor. Be confident that I will continue to be devoted for you, my people.

I am available and I am aware of your expectations and will find the necessary resources to satisfy your needs.

Kchi Wliwini,

Réjean O'Bomsawin
Councillor

To join me :
Office : (450) 568-2810 # 2819
Cellular : (450) 494-1401



Jacques T. Watso

Band Council representative on the board of direction of Odanak Historical Society and Waban-Aki Nation Grand Council.



“ Kway,
Let me start by wishing everybody a happy new year. Peace, health and prosperity to you and your loved ones. May 2010 be a good year.

After last November's election, I took the time to think about different situations that are afflicting our community.

First of all, those who followed the Mcivor case in British-Columbia know that she has won her case. Which means, in a nutshell, that the children who were reinstated after 1985 will receive a new status in march 2010. Thus all 6-2 will become 6-1 under the Indian act. And all non-status (6-3) will receive a 6-2 status .

(following on page 4)



Graduation Ceremony of the 108th cohort of the Quebec National Police Academy took place October 2nd 2009 in Nicolet.

Dave O'Bomsawin and Pascal Gill join the Abenakis Police Force

As a part of a regular formation reserved to Native cadets of Quebec's different regions given at École nationale de police du Québec (National Police School of Québec), it was Graduation Day on October 2nd.

Two Odanak residents were part of the graduating group. Although they will be able to pursue a career within any official Police service throughout the province with their new policing permit, they had been hired by the Abenaki Police Force (CPDA).

Congratulations to **Dave O'Bomsawin** and **Pascal Gill**, we wish you a great career with our own nation's police corps!

Business Start-Up THE BUSINESS PLAN



By Paul Gosselin
Economic Development Officer

At the beginning of this article, we identified the seven important steps involved in the start-up of a business. They are:

- STEP 1: THE IDEA (Article 1)
- STEP 2: THE ENTREPRENEUR (Article 2)
- STEP 3: THE MARKET STUDY (Article 3)
- STEP 4: PLANNING (Article 4)
- STEP 5: THE BUSINESS PLAN
- STEP 6: FUNDING
- STEP 7: THE START-UP

Now you are ready to draft your plan. The planning step allowed you to gather all the information required for the preparation of your business plan. Therefore, it is a precious tool enabling you to manage all the elements of your project.

Your business plan will be used to communicate the outline of your project to financial (or other) partners to convince

them that you have a business opportunity that is interesting, viable, and of course, profitable.

There are many business plan models. Whatever one you choose, you must submit the results of the four previous steps in writing (the idea, the entrepreneur, the market study and planning).

It is important to provide full details on the following points:

- 1. Presentation Of Your Business**
 - Mission or mandate
 - Short-term, medium-term and long-term objectives
 - Products or services offered
- 2. Presentation Of The Team**
 - Curriculum vitae of the project's promoters
 - Personal record of each director
 - Assets and skills of each person
- 3. Market Study**
 - Qualitative and quantitative assessment of the potential market
 - Identification of the target market
 - Evaluation of the competitive situation
 - Identification of potential
- 4. Marketing Plan**
 - Advertizing and promotional

- strategies
- Price policy and customer service
- Guarantees and after-sale service
- Mode of distribution
- Definition of the product and its characteristics

- 5. Human Resource Plan**
- Labour needs
 - Payment conditions and work schedules
 - Labour training

- 6. Financial Resource Plan**
- Financial needs of the business
 - Funding sources
 - Financial statement forecasts
 - Loan conditions

As mentioned in the previous article, ***do not underestimate the time required for your business project.***

Your economic development service can help you through these different stages and provide you with a business plan model, in collaboration with the *Centre Local de Développement de la MRC de Nicolet-Yamaska*.

Don't hesitate to contact me at 450-568-2810 in order to make an appointment and take the steps required to create your business.



ODANAK LFNC Local First Nation Commission

ELEANOR HOFF
LFNC Officer

A warm hello to all.....

In this issue I would like to inform you of realizations of the LFNC (Local First Nation Commission) and inform the employers and students of the Student Summer Program for 2010.

Création d'emplois permanents :	10
On-going vocational training :	7
Adult Education :	4
New Business :	1

As I mentioned in the last issue, this year I will be posting a notice for the students that wish to work during the summer months. The conditions are the same as in the past: to be eligible for summer student jobs, you must be a student who is returning to school in the fall of 2010 and must not be receiving monies or allocations from another department in the Odanak Band office.

All participants will be asked to sign a written statement

attesting that they are returning to school in the fall of 2010 and are not receiving any other monies.

This year we will partnership with the private employers. It was agreed by the Council that the partnership will be 50/50. This means that the LFNC will pay 50% of the salary of the student. The salary for a student is minimum wage, so whatever the minimum wage is at the time of the student programs, the LFNC will pay 50%.

The number of hours per week and the number of weeks will be determined in January.



On another note, in the last issue we informed you that we were working on the policies, well this is a work in progress.

As always if you need further information please contact me at 450.568.2810 or email me at e.hoff@cbodanak.com

ELECTIONS AT THE BAND COUNCIL

Odanak 2009 November 28 th Election Results		
Chief		
O'BOMSAWIN, Richard	388	ELECTED
SIOUI, Anita	153	
TRUDEAU WAWANOLETT, Guy	68	
Concillor		
BENEDICT, Gary	39	
BIBEAU R. O'BOMSAWIN, Lise	126	
CÔTÉ O'BOMSAWIN Richard	202	
GILL, Martin	137	
O'BOMSAWIN, Alain	255	ELECTED
O'BOMSAWIN, Claire	317	ELECTED
O'BOMSAWIN, Nicole	190	
O'BOMSAWIN, Réjean	214	ELECTED
PANADIS, Claude Jr.	128	
PELLETIER O'BOMSAWIN, Pauline	112	
SADOQUES, Clément	198	
THÉRIAULT WATSO, Jacques	236	ELECTED
WILLIAMS BENEDICT, Steven	158	

“ Heart-breaking decisions will have to be made over the next months concerning the delivery of certain services and programs that will have an impact over community members.

To keep in the spirit of transparency, I believe it is time for you, the People, to pronounce on the deas that I will submit at the next public assembly that will occur at the end of January concerning the future and well-being of our community.

Jacques T. Watso
(continued from page 3)

I know that it seems complicated but here are some of the impacts for Odanak. Between 300 and 400 non-status members will be eligible for status under the Indian act. But the Indian affairs minister, Chuck Strahl, is very clear on the subject, there will be no new monies for those who will gain status even though they are admissible to all the Band programs, (postsecondary funding, FNLC, welfare program...) We will have to divide the actual funds with all our new members.

Furthermore, our friend Chuck warned all communities that the postsecondary funding program is under revision this year. There is a possibility that they will transfer the funds to the provinces, leaving us no other choice but to go to the loan and grant program of Quebec.

The funding of our programs by Indian affairs gives us certain leverage. We can transfer some of the postsecondary funds to compensate other programs. Once the revision of all our programs done by Indian affairs, we won't have any flexibility with our programs, meaning that we will have to cut somewhere. Heart-breaking

decisions will have to be made over the next months concerning the delivery of certain services and programs that will have an impact over community members.

To keep in the spirit of transparency, I believe it is time for you, the People, to pronounce on the deas that I will submit at the next public assembly that will occur at the end of January concerning the future and well-being of our community.

Have a good reflexion on this matter,

Jacques T. Watso,
Padawazwinno

Thoughts About The Past Few Years

Greetings to All, and I hope the New Year has brought all of our families health, happiness and prosperity!

The last couple years has been exciting as I work towards building relationships between Abenaki families on and off reserve, other First Nation people, museums, universities and NYS state agencies, our local schools, all through the efforts of organizing presentations of the Abenaki traditional artisans. It has been amazing to make so many connections with other Abenaki families of Odanak as well.

Some of the highlights of events:

CULTURAL EVENTS

In June 2008 many Abenaki people gathered to demonstrate their traditional arts and skills at the Wiawaka Holiday House on Lake George, New York. Abenaki members, Wiawaka guests, and friends gathered on the shores of the lake on a clear and sunny day. Barbara Watso, Priscilla Watso, Nashua Watso, Doris Jane Watso, Martin Gill, John Watso, and myself shared our traditional skills, music and knowledge. Lake George is a well known historical site for our ancestors, including such notable individuals as Chief Louis Watso, Samuel and Margaret (M'Sadoques) Benedict, Norman and Angeline (Otodôson) Johnson, and Susap Toxuse.

Last winter we met with Green Mountain National Forest to look at the possibility of gathering materials needed by Abenaki people. The purpose would be to harvest black ash or other forest materials for medicinal use or for splints for our basket makers, and to



(PHOTO ANDRE GILL / NEW YORK HISTORY BLOG)

create a pilot program to teach our members how to make the splints by inviting splint makers such as Clement S'adoques, Martin Gill and John Watso.

A year later, in July 2009, many of these same artisans arrived at the Adirondack Museum for Abenaki Day. The event coordinated by Denise L. Watso and the staff of the Adirondack Museum, along with Anthropologist Christopher Roy. This event drew several hundred guests to the museum where they experienced first hand true Abenaki pride and history.

Abenaki presenters included Barbara Watso, Priscilla Watso, Rejean O'Bomsawin, Jacques Watso, Martin Gill, John Watso, Andre Newton, and Philip Benedict with his brother David Benedict and myself. There were also

several Abenaki community members in attendance from the Albany area and the Adirondacks.

Quadricentennial 400 year – ResearchingNY, held at the University of SUNY, Albany, participants included Audra Simpson, PhD, Columbia University as discussant, Christopher Roy, Anthropologist commentator, and Denise Watso, Garry Reinhart, shared stories, and supporters Donna (Watso) Mason, Susan (Nagazoa) Marshall, Paula Reinhart.

POLITICAL EVENTS

During the past two Odanak election campaigns, I have organized the debates in Albany, (the Capital of New York) or the social gatherings to participate in the “meet the candidates” of those

seeking to be elected (October 2007 and October 2009). We appreciate the time and expense incurred by the candidates as they travel to Albany. Most of the debate questions were about tribal membership, the new tribal status cards, educational funding, and specific questions about how to vote.

I would like to thank Garry Reinhart and his wife Paula as being someone whose help was crucial to the success of the event. I would also thank Donna (Watso) Mason and Rogene Watso for helping with the coordination and set-up, Tom Dorsey for moderating. Paul Benedict for the story he told in the Abenaki language, Raymond Watso for opening the meeting and video operator Robert Hunter.

In closing, Our Abenaki Nation, considering both on and off reserve members, are now being impacted by new Canadian electoral laws, the Indian Act, and some new Court decisions that are on the horizon. Now is the time for open discussions, and through these discussions I believe the Abenaki Nation can persevere through serious changes and come through those changes has a stronger Nation.

ONE TRIBE, ONE NATION, THE E.N.D.

The year of 2010 is here, and there are many new initiatives I have on our sunny horizon, if you have an interest and time please call me at 1-518-334-3101, we are starting up new focus groups to discuss where our interests will take our Nation.

Denise L. Watso

1660-2010 350th ANNIVERSARY OF ODANAK

This year, the Odanak Band Council wants to value Odanak's 350th establishment anniversary.

For this occasion, multiple cultural and touristic activities are being planned and must happen later this year, principally during summer season. We presently are reuniting organization committees and addressing financial support requests to different governmental departments, of which, the Canadian Heritage department. Additional information will be published later on. In addition, special articles are being prepared in collaboration with Réjean O'Bomsawin, responsible councillor for the Odanak 350th anniversary, upon next editions of this year's W8BANAKI PILASKW.

In the meantime,
WE WISH YOU A HAPPY 350th!

Commemorative Plaque for Chief Nescambiouit

A commemorative plate will be unveiled in the first months of 2010 (date to be determined) by Parks Canada, in collaboration with the Musée des Abénakis, to preserve the memory of the man and to honor his contribution to the Nation.

NESCAMBIQUIT (1660-1727)

An eminent figure among the Abenakis, both during his lifetime and historically, Nescambiouit displayed considerable military and negotiating skills on behalf of his people during the 17th and 18th century conflicts between the French and British. His perseverance and sense of commitment to his people gave hope to the Abenakis in their struggle to maintain their autonomy and territorial integrity. As a warrior and war chief, Nescambiouit was renowned for his acts of bravery and his success on the field of battle. These qualities were recognized not only by his people who delegated him to be their representative during negotiations, but also by the King of France, who sought his influence in maintaining an alliance with the Abenakis.

In the mid-18th century the Abenaki territories encompassed what are today the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as some areas adjacent to Massachusetts and Quebec.

Nescambiouit was a member of the Pigwacket group, which lived in the eastern part of the Abenaki's territory, and whose main village was situated where Fryeburg, Maine, is today. He soon established himself as a prominent chief. In the late 1680s, his wars against the British, who were encroaching on Abenaki territory, extended his reputation far beyond the region of his birth. At the time the Abenakis had already made an alliance with the French, and some were living on the shores of the St. Lawrence River.

During the wars of the League of Augsburg (1689-1697) and of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714), in which France and Britain fought for supremacy over the North American continent, the French and Abenakis continued to fight alongside each other. It was primarily during these wars that Nescambiouit distinguished himself, by his knowledge of the terrain and of Aboriginal war techniques, and by his bravery, his fighting ability and his keen tactical and strategic sense. He was greatly feared by the British and admired by the French for his military prowess. In 1705, King Louis XIV received him at the French court and heaped honours on him, in the hope that he would influence his people to maintain their alliance with

France. It was also during this period that Nescambiouit distinguished himself as a defender of the rights of his people, representing the eastern Abenakis in talks with the British both before and after the surrender of Acadia by France, and calling for the retention of their lands by the Abenakis and of the pursuit of their subsistence activities.

Later on, disillusioned with the French and distrustful of the British, and also mindful of the advantages of possible alliances between the Abenakis and other Aboriginal groups, Nescambiouit in 1716 took up with the Fox, a group living to the west of Lake Michigan and anxious to halt the expansion of French colonization. In 1723 he returned to the East, bearing a request from the Fox for alliance with the Abenakis. He was shunned by the French, who suspected him of treason. Attentive to the welfare of his people, many of whom were living in the French colony, Nescambiouit did not return to the Fox, but went to live with the Abenakis of Saint-François (Odanak). He died, however, in the region where he was born, in 1727, after devoting most of his life to fighting for the preservation of his people's territory and autonomy.

(Source: Parks Canada)

A COLORFUL FALL

Fall 2009 has been a busy season for Environment and Land.

Firstly, Luc Gauthier Nolett began his training in Fauna management at the *École de foresterie et des technologies du bois de Duchesnay*, financed of Indian and Northern Affairs of Canada. This winter will complete the training with forestry course offer by *Centre d'enseignement et de recherche en foresterie* (CERFO) along with territorial aboriginal rights courses. Luc Gauthier Nolett is expected to graduate in fall 2010. He should complete his scholarship next fall.

Partnership is in the air in this harvest season. First, with the establishment of a partnership with St-Pierre lake ZIP comity (zone of priority intervention) that aims at completing an inventory of fishes in Odanak. In less that a day, a fish on list of at risk species of Canada as been found: the *bridle shiner* (*Notropis bifrenatus*). This discovery interested Fisheries and Oceans Canada who have contacted the office directly for more information. The finding of bridle shiner and the possible presence of fish habitat also encouraged de pursuing of partnership with the *Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risks* for next spring.

Along the same line of cooperation and sharing knowledge, we should shortly begin a partnership with the *Algonquin Anishnabeg Nation Tribal Council* in order to participate in the protection of wetlands in their area. Finally, efforts are also maintained to build a strong partnership with the St-Pierre Lake Biosphere Reserve.

At the moment, the search of subsidies for the Commune's management is still going on, that is for the construction of a gazebo and a point of view nearby the 1st marsh as well as the creation of a nature trail between March 1st and 2nd. The first steps taken with *Tourisme-Centre-du-Québec* on this matter go at a good pace.

Finally, the bird inventories were very fruitful. We have identified 144 different bird species to date, among which 5 are on the species at risks list. Bald eagle have been observed regularly, especially young ones above the river and the marshes. A juvenile bald eagle was even rescued near Managuan Street. Unfortunately, it died of an unknown neurologic problem. It must also be noted that "big brown birds of prey" which were flying over the community through the whole summer were *turkey vultures*. As its names says, they are a kind of vulture, and not eagles. Turkey vultures are scavengers and can be seen more and more in the area while golden eagles are still threatened and very rare.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you observe an animal, a plant or witness an event of interest to us on Odanak territory.

Best wishes from the entire team!

Michel Durand
Land Agent and Environmental
Projects Manager
Environment and Land Odanak

An inspiring sprinkle of rain for the Turtle Day

Saturday, October 3rd 2009, the rain did not stop curious onlookers to stop by at the first edition of the Turtle Day. Organized by Environment and Land Odanak, in partnership with the *Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'Environnement* and the *Musée des Abénakis*, the Turtle Day was celebrating and acknowledging the chance of the community to live near two healthy marshes, home to so many turtles.

Visitors could, among other activities, observe the eight turtles found in the province of Quebec, hold a giant re-eared turtle, observe exotic insects with a microscope, and get to know the St-Pierre Lake Biosphere Reserve as well as existing turtle conservation projects.

Children appreciated, most of all, the treasure hunt, turtle exhibit, necklace making and the drawing workshop. Congratulations to Jonathan O'Bomsawin, Timothy Watso and Delya Gamelin, winners of the participation prizes.

The Turtle Day was also a good time to celebrate the achievement of the turtle conservation project organized in Odanak and financed by the *Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'Environnement*. A 500 m deviation fence was actually built during the summer in Odanak along with artificial nesting sites to maintain the safe reproduction of turtles. On this occasion, a permanent sign was unveiled which emphasizes the involvement of the Fondation to the protection of Odanak's fragile environments. It was held near the pool, with invited honour guests.

Thanks to our partners of the event, Odanak Band Council, *Musée des Abénakis*, Ecomuseum ZOO of St-Anne-de-Bellevue, the *Société d'Aménagement de la baie Lavallière*,

Mouvement vert Mauricie, St-Pierre Lake Biosphere Reserve and the Canadian Forest Service who made this event a success.



Unveiling of the sign underlining the financial contribution of the *Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement* to the protection of Odanak's fragile environments.



An opportunity to get close to turtles.



Jonathan O'Bomsawin, winner of the first participation price.

(PHOTOS ANDRE GILL)

A Museum For The Community

In 2012, the *Musée des Abénakis* (Abenaki Museum) will celebrate an important anniversary: fifty years of foundation. For the occasion, we will be presenting a temporary retrospective exhibit to pay tribute to the founders, Father Rémi Dolan and the elders of Odanak, and all those who have pursued their great dream since 1962. This exhibit will allow us to bring out objects reminding us of this cultural institution, the beacon of the Abenaki Nation. It will also allow collectors to share their treasures with our visitors and the people of Odanak. We invite you to contact us if you possess objects and documents that could enhance the exhibit. These items will be borrowed for the duration of the exhibit which is about one year; after which they will be returned to you. By contributing to this project, you are generously sharing an important slice of Odanak's history with the community members and visitors. Also, this gathering of objects from the community will enable us to relive the birth of the Museum and its first exhibit that presented objects relating the history of the Abenakis of Odanak and revealing their cultural specificity. It is in the spirit of sharing that Rémi Dolan carried out the Museum project. By participating in the exhibit, you will also be showing your interest for the *Musée des Abénakis*, an important organization in the cultural, tourism and cultural development of Odanak. This organization has been yours



(PHOTO ANDRE GILL)

for almost fifty years.

The *Musée des Abénakis* received 5,000 visitors in 2009. Year after year, school groups, tourists, and people from the region discover the faithful image of a nation. Thus, the Museum contributes to promoting and publicizing Abenaki culture towards the general public, which is one of the objectives of its mission statement. But the actual role of the Museum is to engage and develop a viable and constructive dialogue between Abenaki culture and community members, and

also between Aboriginal culture and visitors.

Above all, the Museum belongs to and exists for the Abenaki community. It is intended to be a place of meeting and exchange for elders, artisans, families, youths, and native women. It initiates structure-providing projects for the community. The Museum ensures the conservation and transmission of the Abenaki Nation's knowledge, know-how and traditions to future generations. It must be at the heart of its community, and partici-

pate in its development and activities. This is what Rémi Dolan imagined in 1962. Almost a half-century later, we pursue his vision and ensure the safeguard of the spiritual legacy that Father Dolan left to the Abenakis at his death in 1975:

"May there never be partisanship within the Museum, be it political, religious or racial. May God help us."

Rémi Dolan

It is in this gathering spirit that I invite you to submit your activity projects that will allow the *Musée des Abénakis* to invest in its environment and bring together people, generations and organizations.

The entire Museum staff joins me in wishing a very happy 2010 to all the members of the *Société historique d'Odanak* along with all the Abenakis whom I invite to become members. This is a small gesture to show your support for your cultural institution which brings you so much: free entry to the Museum, discounts at the boutique, and invitations to special events.

I'm looking forward to collaborating with you in order to carry on with the great dreams of our founders.

Wliwni

Michelle Bélanger, Executive Director

Interview with Carmen Hathaway



We interviewed Carmen Hathaway, an Abenaki artist who lives in Manitoba and was commissioned by VANOC (Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games) to create two original artworks. Her digital pieces, *Resurrection* and *Deliverance*, were purchased for exhibition at the Vancouver 2010 Venues' Aboriginal Art program.

WP: Carmen, what was your experience as an Abenaki child?

C.H.: I've been a band member of Odanak since birth. Growing up in Chateauguay, I didn't know my father's home reserve of Odanak was so close by. My parents separated when I was 10, and I had little or no contact with any of his relatives. My mother wouldn't allow me to disclose my native heritage and strictly enforced this rule.

One weekend, the most amazing looking people showed up at our house, and there, on the back patio were people in full regalia - they must have been on their way to a powwow. It was a great afternoon, an extraordinary spectrum of colour to revel in and much laughter - I don't think I ever saw my dad, George Sadoquis, so happy.

WP: How about your contacts with your father and native heritage?

C.H.: Dad used to take me to Missisquoi Bay in Vermont. For the longest time I wondered why he seemed so melancholy when we were there. My mother 'allowed' him to take us to the beach there, but there were relations there she forbade him to have any contact with. There were times he was taking me to 'the shopping center' - into the car we'd go and head over to the Caughnawaga Mohawk reserve, now properly known as Kahnawahke - he had friends there.

WP: What have you learned from your father and from people living in Odanak?

C.H.: My father was an engineer/draftsman by trade. I've inherited his propensity for finely detailed composition and rendering. My maternal grandmother also painted - there's an artistic legacy from both sides of the family.

It has taken decades, but I've been able to piece the story together. I was reunited with my dad, in the late 80's, he passed on in 1990. There was just enough time to get to understand some of what had actually transpired -- the rest I'd have to decipher myself.

In 1993, my husband, Rae & I travelled to Quebec to visit Odanak for the first time. Although I've been a band member since birth, I'm the first Sadoquis from this branch of the family to have returned since they left in the 30's. What a day this was - we met Esther Nolett, who graciously invited us into her home, as did Cecile Wawanolett and her husband Fred.

Esther told us what she knew of my grandfather, Thomas, and his dad, Thomas Sr. Not much information about my grandmother Lucinda O'Bomsawin exists - she passed away when my dad was still quite young.

Hearing Cecile speak her native tongue was pure treasure. Her mischievous sense of humor was a delight.

WP: What led you to where you are presently?

C.H.: I put myself through college in my 20's to study journalism and media communication, but didn't undertake formal art training until I was in my early 30's. I found employment as a radio broadcaster & producer, advertising sales, TV copywriter, and promotion director. I began pursuing art studies in my spare time as I realized that's where my true interest lay.

I left the communications industry to work as a floral designer for 8 years. The design, colour theory, and production skills I learned greatly influenced my artworks in a variety of media - pen & ink, oil & acrylic paints, glass beadwork, clay, wood, leather, stained glass, and digital art. In 1995, my success in entering a competition for entrepreneurial education led to my decision to devote all my energies to my art and I launched Abenaki Artworks.

I began selling my creations through a variety of retail outlets and exhibitions, I instructed art in local schools, summer camps, institutions and in my studio. One of the most significant bodies of work started to come together in 2009 when I was awarded a grant by the Manitoba Arts Council to create a new media animation project. In 'Abenaki: Weaving My Way Back', I document, through my art, my experience growing up outside my native culture, and my strong desire to reconnect with it.

Today, I'm very proud to be representing our Abenaki nation at the Vancouver 2010 Venues' Aboriginal Art program.

WP: Thanks for your time Carmen, do you have any online links to share with us?

C.H.: Some links to the project and other ones described in this article are on the home page of my website: www.AbenakiArtworks.mb.ca

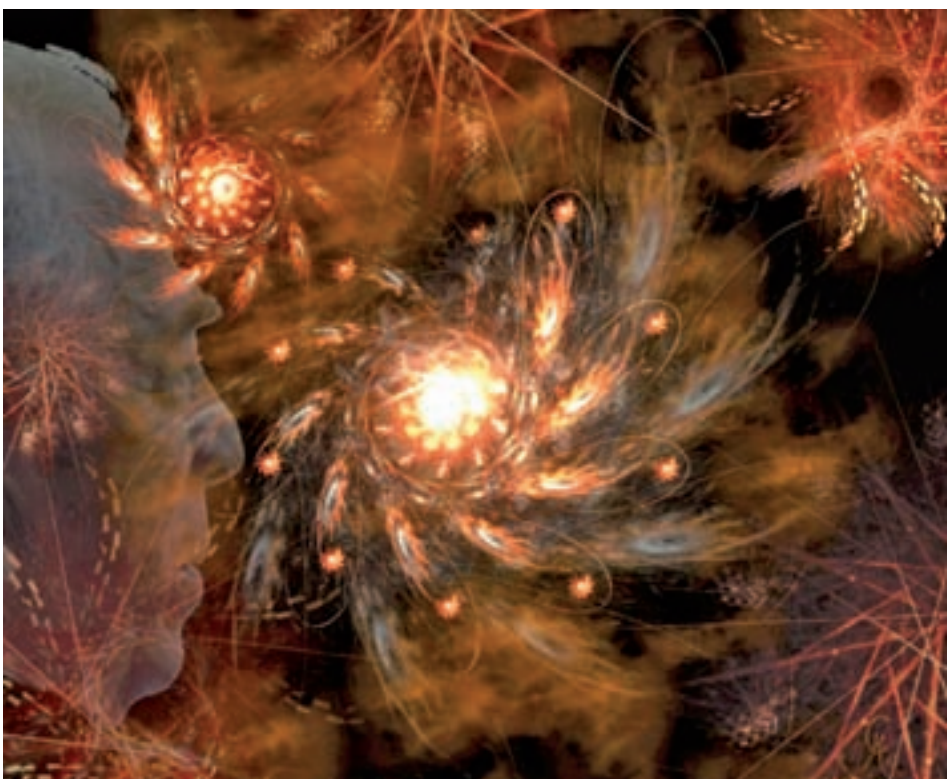
Thank you, and my Odanak community for giving me this opportunity to share my story, especially meaningful as I've been receiving Wabanaki Pilaskw for some time and am honored to be invited to be part of it.

Special thanks to Councillor Jacques Watso, who initiated contact with Carmen Hathaway.

All pictures courtesy of Carmen Hathaway



The Gathering, digital media – I created this piece as a reflection of my experience of the 2006 National Aboriginal Arts Administrators and Funders Gathering held June 8 to 11 2009 in Sept-Îles, Quebec.



Legacy, digital media – A loving tribute to my Abenaki father, George Sadoquis.

To Your Health!

Another year is over. We feel almost sad. When a new year is beginning, it is also the occasion for a couple ones to dress an assessment.

When I look at my agenda, I can see what have been done all over the year and I also can see what is left to achieve.

Over the past two years, we worked hard to establish a services connection between our Health Center and the Centre de Santé et des services sociaux de Bécancour-Nicolet-Yamaska. We concluded a collaboration partnership last November and now have to actualize this agreement. Being covered by this agreement, we can mention: the parental and infantile treatments, scholarship health, vaccination, and health-care for elder people or people losing their autonomy.

We still want to offer through our practice quality and professional services to people.

The vaccination campaign against pandemic AH1N1 virus has proceeded well and in good control. The population has been vaccinated in a proportion rising 80 percent. You still must wash your hands often enough!

Diabetes is still worrying us. Diabetes also is a global pandemic, that is why the diabetes program will be carried over in 2010. This will depend, of course, upon the financial support accorded by Health Canada for this program.

Keep you good habits: eat well and exercise regularly! It certainly can't be bad for you!

Take care of yourself and I wish you a happy year!

Deny O'Bomsawin
Director of Health Services
Odanak Health Center



In the habitual order: Angelica Duane, Dolorès Contré Migwans, Annette Nolett, Minister Pierre Corbeil, Lise Bibeau.

The Collective des Vannières d'Odanak wish to thank Minister Corbeil

By Dolorès Contré Migwans
Coordinator
The 13 Moons of the Ohtehra Garden

After confirmation of a 5 000 \$ financial aid intended to support the realization of the *13 lunes du Jardin Ohtehra* project, here is a word of thanks addressed to the Minister responsible for the Aboriginal affairs of Québec, Pierre Corbeil, from the *Collective des vannières d'Odanak* (Collective of Odanak women that are basket makers):

The Collective des vannières d'Odanak W8BANAKI ABAZNODAKASKWAK would like to gracefully share a word of thanks for your generosity and support over our international project The 13 Moons of the Ohtehra Garden.

We keep an excellent souvenir of your visit in our community and are pleased that you appreciated our chicouté.

Can Munido Mgsi, the Eagle Spirit, protect you and continue to inspire you!

Peace and friendship in the Great Circle of Unity, KIJE-MIIGWECHT!



(PHOTO GUILLAUME CLICHE)

In the photo : Jacques T. Watso, Concillor, Deny O'Bomsawin, Director, Odanak Health Center, Nicole O'Bomsawin, Concillor, Danielle Gamelin, Executive Director, CSSSBNY, Jean-Pierre Fraser, Director, Services for persons with diminished autonomy, CSSSBNY.

Health Services Integration: Population of Odanak, Pierreville and Surrounding Areas



Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Bécancour-Nicolet-Yamaska

This initiative was made possible with the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF). This project aims, among other things, to increase accessibility, continuity and quality of services offered to the Odanak, Pierreville and surrounding areas population.

In terms of attended results following the application of this partnership agreement, parties agree to put in place various collaboration protocols in matters of public health, prevention and promotion in school health, parental and infantile health and at the level of services and health care offered to elder people.

The Odanak Band Council and the direction members of the Centre de santé et des services sociaux de Bécancour-Nicolet-Yamaska want to inform the Odanak, Pierreville and surrounding areas population of the signature of a partnership agreement aimed in the objective of integrating the offered health services.

The parties recognize the importance of this agreement signature and are engaging to deploy further required resources for achieving the objectives associated with this project.

Odanak Health Center
105, Sibosis Street
Odanak (Québec)

The 13 Moons of the Ohtehra Garden AN EXPERTISE EXCHANGE BETWEEN ABORIGINAL ARTISTS



This artistic project is, in first hand, the result of a collaboration agreement between aboriginal artists, the Botanic Garden of Montréal and the Jardins Fruitières of Laquenexy. It will consist of an exposition of 13 artwork pieces, each of them respectively representing the 13 Moons of the Ohtehra Garden. The launching of this exposition is scheduled for 2010 over an exterior natural course fitted in the renowned luxuriant gardens of this French city.

A total of twelve artworks representing as many moons will take form under the expert fingers of Odanak basket makers. Initiated by Dolorès Contré Migwans, of Anishnaabeh (Ojibway) origin, the 13 Moons project was inspired by a concept she worked on years ago,

over the same theme. Illustrations were redrawn and constructed in a tridimensional way by the collective W8BANAKI ABAZNODAKASKWAK, the Abenaki women that are basket makers. They demonstrated much creativity by using and mixing natural fibers like black ash splints and birch bark with recycled or synthetic materials.

Mr. Jean-Paul Lamirande also gave a hand to the group by confecting wood frames who were serving as a support for the art works.

The expert art workers, who are applying the skills and techniques transmitted through generations are: Lise Bibeau, Angelica Duane, Wanda Julian, Annette Nolett, Diane Nolett and Dolorès Wawanolett.

THE 13th MOON REALIZED IN COLLABORATION WITH LAURENT WEISS

The confecting of the 13th moon will be the culminating point of this project realized in collaboration with Laurent Weiss, a French basket maker of a great reputation. This collaboration is announcing itself like an interesting challenge, probably as much technical than symbolic, because the objective will reside in modeling an artwork that is referencing to traditional Native culture and to the First Nations actual situation at the same time. The greatest challenge will be to conciliate aboriginal and european techniques in a unique basket confecting approach, from the opinion of Dolorès Contré Migwans. "We don't know yet what will be the exact result" as she says, "but one thing is sure: the symbolism of an artistic collaboration between many nations, just like we are presently doing, will certainly give an interesting point of view to this exterior Laquenexy exposition" she mentions, proud to coordinate an international project in which a major part of the work will be done in Odanak.