



Nujignua'tegeg

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A Positive Campaign

Darcy Gray has been elected Chief of Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation following the results of the June 4th election. Six new Councillors have been elected. 56 people ran for the one of the 12 seats.

Voting was held at the Alaqsit'e'w Gitpu School on June 4th at 9 a.m. The unofficial results were first posted by the LMG near 11 p.m that evening.

Cathy A. Martin, and John Murvin received among the highest votes, with over 500 each. Listuguj has a voting population of approximately 3,200 people.

Signs began popping up around the community shortly after the nominations in April. However, the signs were temporarily covered – some with the number “21” – in honor of the late Chief of Police Henry Vicaire, who passed away unexpectedly on May 13th.

“During the difficult times our community did as it always has and was there to support one

another,” said Chief Gray. “The demonstration of respect brings with it a sense of connectedness that makes us who we are as Listugujewaq.”

Several community members noted a new mood throughout the entire election in general. Aside from a lack of campaigning tactics like hosting election parties, some candidates felt an overall positive approach was taken this year.

“There’s no more mudslinging going on,” said Lloyd Alcon, at AGS Sunday night, after being elected to Council for his first time. “It’s actually been nice. A lot of positive statements going around, and people promoting each other.”

“What stood out was the level of respect shown by the community members and candidates throughout the campaign,” said Gray, the day after being elected. “There’s a sense of people wanting to work together for the betterment of the community.”



Majority of candidates covered their banners for most of the campaign in honor of the late Chief of Police Henry Vicaire, as well to Mr Raynard Arsenault and Nelson Wysote who also passed in the month of May.

ELECTION RESULTS

Chief: Darcy Gray, 741

Chief Councillor, Cathy A. Martin, 558

John Murvin 508

Sheila Swasson 486

Lloyd LN Alcon 472

Gordon Isaac 450

Sky Metallic 443

Lorna Sook 415

Calvin Barnaby Sr. 386

Wendell Metallic 385

Chris Wysote 384

Annette Barnaby 383

Kevin Methot 372



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Mi'gwhite'tm



On his first fishing day, Christopher Wilmot caught one salmon. He picked up his net and then continued his day, fishing for lobster in the Miguasha area. “As a kid I learnt to fish with my father” he said. During the fishing season Christopher will repeat his routine without fear of losing his boat, his net or being charged for fishing illegally. Christopher, born in 1989, belongs to a new generation of fishermen, but he knows about the QPP and DFO raid in Listuguj.

Many people in Listuguj remember the raids. “They came three times,” recalls Rene “Cool” Martin. “The first time they came to order late Chief Alphonse Metallic - to stop us from fishing. The second time around 500 police came in, together with DFO, helicopters and boats to take our fishing gear.” The third time, Rene was driving in the community near 5 a.m. He saw the police squad on the bridge. “I blew the horn to wake up people. We organized and we drove them out.”

During these confrontations people were beaten, arrested, and equipment was destroyed or taken away. Rene was handcuffed and taken to New Carlisle’s jail with other Mi’gmaq. One of the charges was to resist authority. In fact, Rene and Listuguj resisted and Christopher Wilmot is grateful. “If nobody stood up we would not have this opportunity to fish today,” Wilmot said.

Resistance is nothing new to Indigenous Peoples and the Mi’gmaq were defending their Aboriginal rights against the diktat of Quebec government. “I remember when I was a kid, non-natives used to come to Listuguj to sell us salmon because we were not allowed to fish. So we had to buy. When we did the same – selling salmon to non-natives – the government didn’t like it.” affirms Gordon Isaac Sr. “There was a time when there were traps from Listuguj to near Maria, on both sides of the Bay. Natives and non-natives had traps, but when the government stopped the commercialization of fish, we continued fishing.”

It was during these times that Quebec set restrictive measures to dissuade Mi’gmaq from fishing. “We were fishing at night and

nobody could smoke because the light of the cigarette would indicate our position to wardens patrolling the river and they would shoot bullets at us and come to destroy our nets” recalls Gordon who was charged 14 times for illegal fishing, fishing with a net, and fishing at night. “I beat all these charges because they don’t have the proof that I don’t have the right” he said proudly. These acts of resistance were strengthening in an unsuspected way. With unemployment rates high many people had to work in the USA often as ironworkers building skyscrapers and bridges. “We saw there how native people were fighting for their rights too and we got information, motivated and politicized” affirms Gordon.

In fact the 60’s and 70’s, the years preceding the raid, North America was witnessing the emergence of the “Red Power”, the militancy for Indigenous rights. When Listuguj was attacked, Native people from different nations showed support and even made the trip here. “They give us confidence to fight, to resist, to put barricades and to be prepared” said Gordon.

“The lesson I learn from the raid of 1981 is to keep fishing, keep resisting because we have the right to fish,” said Rene. In fact, the long years of denying Mi’gmaq Aboriginal rights or Treaty Rights were challenged successfully many times at different levels in provincial, Canadian and international justice systems. In 1999, the Supreme Court’s Marshall decision recognized the traditional role of fishing in Mi’gmaq culture, and a right to sustain as well as earn a moderate living.



Today Listuguj manages a community owned fleet of fishing vessels creating jobs for natives and non-natives in the industry and generating millions in revenues. “Two things happens since 1981” said Dr. Fred Metallic, Listuguj Natural Resources Director. “We strengthened our cultural revitalization and we got the recognitions of our political rights. Canada

can’t discretionary interpret Indigenous rights and it can’t trample our rights without being accountable. Today we manage 10-12 vessels, with millions of pounds of fish allocations. We have in place a Rangers Program to prevent exploitation or outside interference.”

Nowadays, the Restigouche River is known as one of the best-managed salmon rivers in the country and agreements signed with Quebec are based on the Listuguj fisherman Management Plan.

Elder Gordon Isaac adds, “Now we have our own Laws and our own wardens. Now we negotiate and sign agreements with governments, and they don’t dictate to us anymore. Now we can fish peacefully without feeling illegal and with no worries about what is going to happen to us, or to our equipment.”

Gordon doesn’t fish anymore. Today he stops at the wharf and talks to the fisherman. “Some of them keep the spirit of sharing and they give me a few salmon for my winter,” he said.

Striped bass Monitoring Program



GMRC will be implementing a striped bass monitoring program at the start of the salmon fishing season and will run throughout the fall. The goals of the program are to provide an indication of their presence in our river and also to give us insight as to what they are feeding on.

Community members of Listuguj have expressed concern over the increasing presence of striped bass in our river. Currently it is unknown if they are a threat to the salmon stock. Which is why this year GMRC has added the collection of stomach contents to the monitoring program. Stomach contents will be gathered by GMRC staff and then sent away for analysis. This will tell us if they are feeding on salmon smolts or not.

Last year was the first year of the monitoring program and many community members participated. We want to remind people that GMRC does not want your striped bass, we just want to know about it.

Participation in this program is voluntary, and names collected will be entered in a draw. If you catch a striped bass either by net or by fishing rod please let us know by calling [418-788-3017](tel:418-788-3017) or by email at jmurvin@gmrc.ca, thank you.

Plamu Feast Event

The GMRC is organizing its yearly public celebration on Tuesday, June 21st. All events occur at the Heritage Gardens, Ugpig'anjig First Nation (Eel River Bar)

5:00am	Sunrise Ceremony
11:00am	Welcoming Remarks
11:20am	Guest Speaker: Alfred "Sonny" Narvie
12:00pm	Feast begins

Keeping busy...



Rene "Cool" Martin is a very active man. He took almost three months to build a 30 foot stripped cedar canoe with his son in law Philippe Bernard. Rene gained a respected reputation for making birch bark canoes and this was his first cedar stripped canoe. It impressed people on its way to the river.



After launching the canoe, Rene went trout fishing. After a good afternoon on the shore of the Matapedia River, Rene went back home with two buckets of fiddleheads, but no trout. "Next time I will get them" he said. Rene has always had plans to stay busy and now he is working at the Kedgwick Lodge as one the Mi'gmaq guides for salmon fishing.



Frank Caplin is giving the last touches to the fishing boat he build all by himself. There's another one on the plans.

Painting: A healing journey



When your work is displayed around the continent, attracting the attention of famous artists, and selling within 30 seconds of being posted on social media, some people could probably call you an “artist.” But Tracey Metallic-Barnaby is still getting use to the title.

She’s only been painting for a year, but her work has clearly been resonating with others. She has shipped her work to Alaska, her prints caught the eye of a television set designer while on display in Thunder Bay, and her work has recently been commissioned to be installed in a new health center in Michigan.

All the recognition has definitely been exciting. But it’s all secondary. “I’ll never give painting up,” Tracey said. “It’s way too therapeutic for me.”

Tracey says she’s always been crafty, but she gave up drawing when her daughter was born. She was 18 at the time. She then raised two more children, until she was 31 and decided she needed to go back to school.

Three degrees later, after years of running two separate households in Listuguj and Fredericton, she had a career in social work. This training would prove to be helpful.

Several deaths in the family were tough on Tracey. “I just kind of shoved everything aside and didn’t deal with it,” she said. “That’s kind of when my depression started.”

Eventually a relatively small set back ended up being the “straw that broke the camel’s back.” She took time off work.

“I decided I need to practice what I preach,” she said. “I taught a lot of classes in healing and self discovery [and] I can’t teach these classes if I’m going through this myself.”

Not long before, Tracey had begun painting. A co-worker asked her to make something for his new house. Even though the thought of painting made her “a little jittery and nervous,” she did it, and other requests soon followed.

Not only were people enjoying her work, but it was good for her too. “It’s a healing journey for me — that’s what it is,” she said. “When I pick up that brush and put that paint on that canvas, I’m lost. I get lost in my paintings, and it’s such a therapy for me.”

And once she started, she had to keep going. “I wanted to push myself a little further,” she said. “Then I started doing more native designs.”

While she feels she still has a lot to learn and continues to explore new techniques, she tries to not be too hard on herself. She reminds herself that it’s good to have your own style.

“I often don’t ask for an opinion on my work, because it’s something that came from my heart, and my past experiences, and all the pain I’ve suffered throughout the years. I try to put that in my paintings, to become more resilient,” she said. “I want to show people that — you know what, despite where you are in your life, whether it’s good, it’s bad, you have a story to tell.”

35th Commemoration of Mi’gweite’tm

10:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks from Chief (at wharf)
10:15 a.m.	Honour Song by Spirit Bear (at wharf)
10:30 a.m.	Peace walk to Moffat’s Landing
11:15 a.m.	Testimonials from Community members
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (Salmon & fiddleheads)
1:00 p.m.	Presentation of medals to Listuguj Police
1:30 p.m.	Inauguration Commission of Oaths
4:30 p.m.	Performance by Melissa Girvan
5:30 p.m.	Performance by City Natives

Live streaming; CHRQ will broadcast

Happy 18th
Birthday going out
to Kali Gabrielle
Barnaby on June 7.
Love from her
Mom, Step-Dad
Ricky and Oakley!



Please send us your organization announcements & activities for next issue: deadline June 17
Visit our digital platforms and share them with your contacts.