



Nujignua'tegeg



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Aboriginal Day

In Listuguj, Aboriginal Day was also celebrated by the Veterans with a Flag Raising event with participation of Chief and Council.

This was the 20th year that First Nations in Canada celebrates the National Aboriginal Day. Communities across the country organize PowWow, spiritual gatherings, political and other cultural events

June 21 was chosen for Aboriginal Day because the Summer Solstice has an important cultural significance for Indigenous Peoples. Because of its astronomical significance, many cultures around the world celebrate on, or around Summer Solstice.

The Sun's movement would tell Indigenous peoples in different parts of the world, when to plant the crops that sustained them, to keep track of the seasons, to keep a calendar or move to different grounds for seasonal food and resource gathering. Ceremonial sites are built with some type of solar alignment integrated into the structures. The Sun is included into Indigenous prayers as well in many spiritual practices.

The Aymara people of Bolivia celebrate their New Year (5524) gathering on sacred sites at the sunrise to greet Father the Sun. At Stonehenge (a stone structure built over 5,000 years ago in today's United Kingdom) people gather for a Summer Solstice Festival.

GMRC Plamu Feast



Listuguj 2012

The Gespe'gewaq Mi'gmaq Resource Council, GMRC, celebration of the sunrise ceremony is gaining more popularity and this year it was held in Eel River Bar just before the Plamu Feast.



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Women's voices of Migwite'tm

This year marks 35 years since the raids in 1981. But even after all this time, there are still “as many stories as there are people who fill this room,” as Victoria LaBillois said before the Salmon Feast at the Bingo Hall on June 11. This year – just like in 1981 – women of the community stood alongside the men.

Images of men standing up to Quebec Provincial Police are close in everyone's mind, and stories of men from nearby nations coming to help are often retold with pride, but the fact that women came from other nations as well is mentioned less often. They also came to help.

Gail Metallic particularly remembers the Innu women – who came from the north shore to support the Mi'gmaq – who were “use to feeding big crowds, with very little.” She also remembers a little old lady. “My gosh — she just put everything in ship shape, and just started cooking,” Gail said.



When armed police officers blocked the bridge, a plan had already been made. Tensions were rising between the community and the Quebec Government. The Bingo Hall hadn't been built yet, but the basement of the church was a central gathering place. When the church bells rang, everyone knew their roles. No one knew what would happen, but everyone still had to eat, and the kids still had to be taken care of. Coffee could even be found at all points.

Trenea Metallic, Gail's daughter, remembers the atmosphere and some specific events. But what she definitely remembers her mother's reactions.

“Her anger sort of gave me pause,” Trenea said.

An understanding of injustice immediately gripped the entire community. Gail was visibly angry, and not afraid to show it — to her kids, or the SQ, as she drove passed them. For Trenea, this set a clear example.

“I wasn't allowed to feel ashamed,” Trenea said. “That mad was empowering ... she might have been scared, but I didn't see it. I just saw this tough chick.”

To this day Gail doesn't doubt the appropriate reaction. Neither does the rest of the community, or the generations growing up.

“As a human, you have a choice,” Gail said. “But to do what [they] did to our people. That wasn't acceptable.”

Fortunately, in 1981, very few even had time to doubt their reaction. As support continued to come in, everyone felt more

empowered. And the actions taken by everyone at that time continue to set an example.

“It awakened a lot in us, that's for sure,” Gail said. “We almost have to say, in a way – thank you. Because it awakened who we were.”

“It really galvanized, and it really defined who we are as a community,” said newly elect Chief, Darcy Gray, on Saturday morning at the Listuguj Wharf. He stood in front of a line of docked fishing boats, with the dozens of others who gathered before the Peace Walk to the the Bingo Hall for the Salmon Feast and the inauguration of the newly elected Chief and Council.

Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government

Gespe'gewa'q (THE PEOPLE OF THE LAST LAND)



I, Darcy Gray, solemnly swear that I will truthfully and faithfully respect and honor the duties, responsibility and obligations given to me by the people of Listuguj.

I swear to the upmost of my ability to maintain the laws, customs and practices of our people, the Listuguj Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi.

Signed on June 11, 2016, Darcy Gray, at Listuguj, Gespe'gewa'gi



Dillon R. Brink

PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP THROUGH UNITY AND DIVERSITY FOR PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS.

June 11 / 16



AGS Literacy Day: The Power of Reading



With the world literally at our fingertips, we sometimes forget to pick up a book and enjoy what they offer. The Alaqsit'w Gitpu School is hoping to change this with their recent Literacy Day.

The event started off with the school band playing several songs, conducted by Bill Ferguson, the 8th Grade English Immersion teacher.

Members of the band were from different grade levels, with two members graduating this year. After it concluded, Ferguson noted the importance of reading and its uses. His example was with the school band members and being able to read sheet music.

Grade 8 French Immersion students Tristen Condo-Furlotte and Embrie Isaac read a tale of how Sugarloaf Mountain was formed when a Beaver became the Mountain. "It's good for kids to learn



about stories that interests them more," Tristen said. Frederick Mundle an author from Campbellton was the special guest for Literacy Day. Mundle was awarded the WFNB Alfred G. Bailey Prize for Poetry in 2014. Mundle was invited to share his children's story "Sugarloaf Mountain: Legend of the Sweet-tooth Rascals."

"A long time ago in the 70's I had started writing children's stories and having them published in the Tribune," Mundle said. There was a publisher that was always interested in promoting local talent. I'm impressed beyond belief that such a student population, and somebody told me that in my interviewing people, there are 250 children here. That's fantastic, I love it."

As the day came to a close the activities finished and the children returned to their classrooms eagerly awaiting the weekend.

Another Step Forward

On June 22, 2016 Family and friends were invited to the 2016 Graduation Ceremony of the Alaqsit'w Giptu School. The event began with the entrance of the graduates and opening remarks from Principal Jeff Grass. Chief Darcy Gray was the Guest Speaker for the celebrations.

List of Graduating Classes

English Immersion

Barnaby, Ethan
Barnaby, Hudson Blake
Caplin, Margaret Candi
Clement, Gabriel
Dedam, Taygen Bree
Martin, Sky
Metallic, Cheyenne
Metallic, Egian
Metallic, J'égopsn
Mitchell, Curtis Logan
Mitchell, Nolan
Thusky Barnaby, Kyler Louis

French Immersion

Barnaby, Jorja Lyn
Connors, Mya Angelina
Firlotte Condo, Tristen
Isaac Basque, Keaton
Leblanc Clement, Jacob
Mercier, Brandon
Metallic, Corbin
Metallic Isaac, Aysleigh Jane
Wysote, Ivy Marie



Please send us your organization announcements & activities for next issue: deadline June 30
Visit our digital platforms and share them with your contacts.