



## Forest Kindergarten: natural learning

The importance of Language and Culture is urged wherever it can be seen or heard. Whether it's the Mi'gmaq Word of the Day, language classes at the Education Directorate or the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Development Center.

Several years ago, the Mi'gmaq Immersion Program was initiated at the Alaqsitew Gitpu School. It has grown to include the Forest Kindergarten program, which has also grown exponentially since its inception three years ago.

Forest Kindergartens have been described as "kindergartens without ceilings or walls." This concept originated in Germany in 1958, and has since been used all over the world – from Europe to South Korea, and now Listuguj

Joyce Germain has been teaching the Mi'gmaq Immersion Forest Kindergarten program since the beginning. It is one of few Forest Kindergarten programs in Canada, and has seen a lot of changes.

"It was just a trial," she said. "We noticed that it was running smoothly - and that the kids were benefitting from the program."

During the first year, the outings with students could happen 2 days in a week. The next year it increased to 3 days. This year, students can now go out and learn every day of the week.

"I decided to continue to work with

the kids daily, rather than just a few days a week," Germain said.

She quickly noticed the benefits the program has on the youth. The children's enthusiasm for learning, and the behavioral differences, simply from changing the setting from indoor to outdoor.

"There's a lot of other benefits," she said. "The Scandinavian countries, when they started the outdoor program, one of the investigations and findings that they found is that the children got sick less often."

Richard Louv – author of *The Last Child in the Woods* (2005) – coined the term "nature deficit disorder." He describes the disorder as the human costs of alienation from nature. Louv concludes that direct exposure to nature is essential for a child's physical and emotional health, and that it's vital for healthy childhood development.

Germain noticed that the kids developed better stamina, and that they learned to investigate. She described the program as a "inquiry based learning system."

"Whatever they do outside, they learn from it – they're the ones that look for what they want to learn," she said. "They feel a sense of ownership to what they're learning and once a child feels



Forest Kindergarten students getting ready to go out on the Gespegewa'gi Recreational Trails.

that way, they're proud."

Germain is always looking for ways to incorporate the core education subjects.

"They learn through natural play – if I were to notice that there are rocks, or that they're counting sticks, I would try to encourage them" she said. "That is how I incorporate math into the outdoor program. I incorporate all four subject areas – math, language arts, science and social studies."

The program has been so successful that others are taking notice. The First Nations Education Council were filming a documentary in Listuguj about it early this year. Germain and her colleagues have also been asked to build a curriculum to help train other First Nations communities on how to begin and grow their own outdoor programs.



Listuguj



Listuguj channel

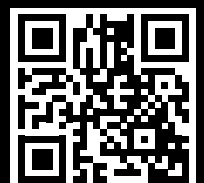


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# Lobster Fishing Plan



The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) wants Listuguj to reduce its efforts in the lobster fishery this year.

The “Effort Based Management” system used by DFO has been in place for nearly ten years, but it’s the first time it’s being applied to Listuguj.

According to the plan, because of Listuguj efforts in previous years, it is being asked to reduce its effort this year. The science, and reasoning for this is unclear.

“We feel that the community wasn’t sufficiently consulted on this ‘Effort Based Management System,’ and the data that they’re using to support this ... is very outdated,” said Kirt Dedam, the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy Coordinator. “Also, the system that they’re proposing really doesn’t meet Listuguj’s needs, or customs,

or our rights.”

“So, because of this problematic process DFO has, we’ve decided that we need to get organized and develop our own Lisutugj lobster fishing plan,” said Dedam.

Two community meetings and five workshops have been organized over the last two months.

“We’re hoping to establish a fishing plan that’s representative of the community, and their wants and needs for this fishery,” said Dedam.

The attendance has been good, Dedam said. They’ve received a lot of feedback.

“The community feels that this could have a negative impact on our right to fish for food, social, ceremonial purposes. It could have a negative impact on our right to fish for livelihood, and also, it could have an impact on our right to manage the fishery,” he said.

There’s also been a lot of feedback about the food fishery in particular. The food fishery season is in the fall, as oppose to the commercial fishing season in the spring.

“What we’re hearing is, ‘We want more access to the fishery. We want more people, more community members, involved in the fishery,’” Dedam said.

Expanding zones, or looking at licenses in other zones have been raised as potential ways to achieve these goals.

Last year, nearly 8,000 lbs of lobster was donated back to the community, over the season’s 3-week period.

“That lobster was consumed every single day by community members,” Dedam said. “From what we can tell, the communities needs are only increasing, as the community grows and continues to prosper, so do our needs.”

## Trapper Metallic appointed new Chief of Police



Trapper Metallic being sworn in as the new Chief of Police for the Listuguj Police Department on Feb. 6.

Trapper Metallic is the new Chief of Police for the Listuguj Police Department (LPD). He was appointed on Feb. 6.

“This is a position I was never really considering this early in my career,” he said in an interview with the Nujignautegeg.

With the unexpected passing of former Chief of Police Henry Vicaire, the position opened up internally.

Metallic has been with the LPD for the majority of his career, starting when he was 17 years-old.

For a brief period, he tried post-secondary school, but realized it wasn’t for him. He started volunteering again with the LPD. When the opportunity came up to train with RCMP, he took it. Once he graduated from that, he came back to Listuguj as a full fledged police officer, and has been here ever since.

“I’ve had the opportunity to experience various positions within this organization, from the operational standpoint, to the administration organization,” he said.

He went from a Patrol Officer, to a Sergeant, to an Investigator. He was in that role for nearly two years, before submitting his name for consideration as the Chief of

Police.

“I definitely was reluctant and waited until the 11th hour really to submit my name,” he said. “I felt that the Chief of Police position – it encompasses so many things for the community, for the detachment – on all different levels. It’s a position that’s a hefty one to fill.”

After process concluded, Trapper was chosen to succeed Vicaire.

“It’s just humbling to succeed such a good man,” he said.

“It’s been an emotional journey for me due to all the personal relationships ... I was very, very close to [Vicaire],” he said. “A lot of teachings I learned from him. I’m very humbled to be designated as the Chief of Police for this community ... I’m looking forward to whatever this position’s challenges throws at me, we’ll take it head on.”



# Community Market

The Farmers market gives an opportunity for anyone looking to sell their products on a large open style market. Hand made crafts, food, fundraising. The Market hosts many varieties of vendors from cooking spices, hand made dish rags, rustic branch dreamcatchers, collectables antiques, scented soy candle to soft fleece blankets and much more. The Market is held roughly once a month and attracts vendors from all over the surrounding area.



# 100 YEARS OF LOSS

The Residential School System in Canada

EDUCATION PROGRAM



## 100 Years of Loss exhibit coming to SSHS

This exhibition of archival photographs, documents, and artwork presents the history and legacy of Canada's Residential School System. From the early 1830s to 1996, thousands of First Nation, Inuit, and Métis children were forced to attend residential schools in an attempt to assimilate them into the dominant culture. Over 150,000 children, some as young as four years old, attended the government-funded and church-run residential schools – these children were removed from their families and communities and many suffered emotional, physical, and sexual abuses. It is estimated that there are 80,000 residential school Survivors alive today.

The 100 Years of Loss exhibit will be here April. More information to be posted at a later date. For more information you can contact Bobbi Madahbee at the Education Complex.



The Listuguj Haven House has hosted a day of activities for the women on International Womens Day. They had art therapy, spiritual/energy healing, hair care, nail care, and massage therapy. Haven House workers presented the guests with a sweater, reading "Be Bold For Change."



The LMG Chipper received a new machine, after the previous one went down in the Fall. It will be run for sample every day. The second-hand machine will allow for work to be done around the clock.

## Events & Notices

### • Economic Development Day

WHERE: Elder's Lodge

WHEN: March 16, 10:00 a.m.

### • Mawiomi Cafe

WHERE: Elder's Lodge

WHEN: March 20th, 3:00 p.m.

### • Jobs

Job listings can be found at [listuguj.ca/jobs](http://listuguj.ca/jobs)  
Positing can also be found online at Listuguj Human Resources Facebook page.

### • Community Market

WHEN: Saturday, March 25

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Bingo Hall

Please send us your organization announcements & activities for next issue: deadline March 24  
Check us out online, and help us out by sharing our work!