

Migwite'tm 2022

By Tanner Isaac

Community members of Listuguj reflect back to Migwite'tm 81 and what it means to them, today.

"A lot of changes happened since then, but it took a lot of fighting to get to where we are now," said Gordon Isaac Sr.

On June 11th, 1981, Listuguj was raided by hundreds of provincial police officers and fishery officers, with the goal to cease the community from practicing their right to fish. The events of the raid left Listuguj scarred; but the strength and resilience of our people showed that we fought and will continue to fight for our rights.

"We have our own laws now. I feel good because today, our people can go out there and do what they want, within our rights."

Jill Metallic and Ricky Condo recognize the impact of this traumatic event; but they know Listuguj will never back down when it comes to defending our people and our rights.

"We're always going to be taunted by some form of government. It's always going to remind the community that we have to stand up for ourselves when it comes to salmon fishing," said Jill.

"Migwite'tm taught

us to stand up for ourselves; and with the generation today, that will never happen to us again," Ricky added.

Nation Isaac, granddaughter of the late Robert 'Bugsy' Barnaby, understands the importance to provide knowledge of the events that happened in 1981. During the events of the raid, 12 men were arrested. Nation's grandfather, along with Donald Germain, were the only two who pleaded 'not guilty'.



Photo by: Ivy Grenier

"That is why we have our rights, today," Nation said.

"Migwite'tm is important because we honour those who fought for our rights; to honour anybody in the community, who had to experience the trauma of the raid. The children, the elders and everything in between."

Nation has two children of her own, now. She knows she has to educate them about



Photo by: Ivy Grenier

the significance of Migwite'tm.

"History repeats itself. If we don't remember what happened in the past, then it's going to happen again."

This year marks 41 years since the raid had happened in Listuguj. Since then, the community has continued to practice their treaty right to

scientific research. We have trap nets and smolt wheels as well. We are expanding and the youth are learning a lot, which is great!"

It is important to keep the youth educated about this event and the progression that has been made, since then. For Chris Wysote, he makes sure his daughter is learning, so she can continue educating the future generations.

"Migwite'tm to us, is giving back to our next generation, because we have to protect our rights for fishing," he says. "I teach my daughter how to fish. I'm hoping she teaches her children and also the next generation, because this needs to continue. We cannot stop here."

fish, while maintaining the conservation of the salmon within the Restigouche river.

Pamela Isaac has been through the entire process of what our community has done in order to conserve the salmon in our rivers.

"We're all proud of what has been established throughout the 40 years," she said. "We've accomplished a lot of different projects. We have rangers and

41 years has passed. The community of Listuguj has been through so much when it comes to our fishing rights. We continue to progress and build strength with every obstacle that comes our way. The events of Migwite'tm should have never happened, but we as a community make sure that this story will always be told and we will always practice our treaty rights.



Photo by: Ivy Grenier

Two Listuguj community members open up brand new restaurant, Krave Kitchen.

Eli Isaac and Chad Isaac are now co-owners of Krave Kitchen, located right off the J.C. Van Horne Bridge at the Restigouche River Experience Center. The two chefs opened up their restaurant on May 25th, 2022, and the public can't get enough.

"Technically, I started Krave Kitchen last Summer by myself as a little side business, at home. It was too hard to do it at home, so I had to shut it down," said Eli. "The idea has been around for a while. Now that I have Chad's help, it is much easier to handle."

The two started their careers in this industry washing dishes at the age of 19 for Eli, and 20 for Chad. They moved away from Listuguj for a while, in order to get the education and experience they needed.

"It's still mind blowing that we actually got here from doing dishes to now," Chad said. "I took a little break, with all the covid stuff that was going on, because it kept shutting down. I started selling cell phones for a bit; but as soon as the opportunity came around to come back to it, I was like 'alright let's do this.'"

Their determination and capabilities keep them going. They both have been practicing this career for so long; and you can see how successful they've become in it just by sitting in the beautiful restaurant and trying one of their delicious meals, like their prime rib, Korean BBQ salmon or the soup of the day.

"I knew I wanted to do this for so long and I wasn't ever planning on changing careers," Eli said. "It's always where I wanted to be," Chad adds.

In the future, Eli hopes to own a franchise within the area. Achieving this goal would create job opportunities for those who wish to follow his and Chad's footsteps. For now, the two are continuing their journeys as head chefs. Krave Kitchen is open from Wednesday to Saturday. Come on down and enjoy a meal provided by this talented duo.



Photo by: Ivy Grenier



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Listuguj Pow Wow Returns After Two Years

Despite multiple setbacks, Lita Isaac prepares to get the pow wow going this year.

“It’s kind of short notice. Normally we start planning in January; but we didn’t know if we were allowed to have the pow wow this year,” said Lita.

The pow wow is an important part of our community ever since its inception in 1992. Last year, Lita had created a safety plan in order to safely have the pow wow. To keep things safe, the event would be for one day and for community members only; but a spike in COVID-19 cases days before the event resulted in a cancellation.

“It’s understandable but it was a big disappointment. You lead up to organizing and building everyone’s spirits up; and all of a sudden, it’s cancelled.”

COVID-19 wasn’t the only thing holding Lita and the pow wow committee back. The burning of the St. Anne’s Church had crucially affected the pow wow committee, as their headquarters was in the basement of the church.

“Our biggest setback would have to be losing 90% of our stuff, after 30 years of collecting and receiving donations.”

Nonetheless, Lita and the committee are optimistic. They work with what they got and continue getting the job done.

“We don’t have an office; but at the same time, we have the most beautiful office. We are outside at the pow wow grounds, under the fire keeper shelter.”

Lita also reflects on all the support they receive, as well as the dedication of her committee; which is something that has been built up over the years with each pow wow getting better and better, with community support.

“The pow wow committee is very grateful how chief and council, the community of Listuguj

and surrounding areas continuously support our efforts to organize the Listuguj pow wow. I’m so proud of the pow wow committee’s perseverance throughout the years.”

After all the pow wow committee has been through within the past 2 years, they are excited and ready to bring back this important cultural event to Listuguj.

“We are getting things lined up,” said Lita. “Our head dancers are Listuguj’s very own Craig Isaac and Mary Jo Isaac. We got the Moosetown Singers from up north to be our host drum. Our MC is going to be Trevor Gould from Nova Scotia. Kristen Barnaby is in charge of the arena, while Joshua Dedam is in charge of all the drums. I’m excited. We’re all excited.”

The Listuguj pow wow will be held on August 6th and 7th, 2022. Be sure to stop by and enjoy the experience of all the dancing, drumming, singing and all the vendors that are selling their crafts; or sit at the sacred fire to say a prayer.



Photo by: Ivy Grenier

“Get your newspaper! Get your newspaper!”

By Killa Atencio

Those were the words shouted by the eight-year-old boy selling newspapers on the streets of Lima, Peru. From 5 am to noon every day, the young boy would sell newspapers for pennies to help support his parents and siblings at home before going to school for the rest of the afternoon. At that young age, even if he didn't write it, he did his best to sell and promote the newspaper.

Today, he does the same, only now he's in Listuguj, and the newspaper is the Wi'gatign. That eight-year-old boy grew up to be my father, Felix Atencio-Gonzales.

My dad left his home country of Peru at the age of nineteen and lived and travelled all over the Americas to spread awareness and find allies in the fight for Indigenous rights. He did this through speaking to people, visiting different First Nation communities, making friends, and through journalism and writing.

Before meeting my mother and moving to Listuguj, the community that he now calls home, he attended several journalism classes at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) after asking the instructor if he could sit in for free. He had a passion for storytelling and was determined to learn, regardless of his circumstances. Later on, he attended the University of Montreal's night classes for journalism after working days in a factory. He didn't have the money for textbooks, but he had a good memory in his favour.

My dad settled in Listuguj in the early 90s to raise me in the community. When he first arrived with his journalism experience, he was eager to help out with the first run of the community's newsletter, the Wi'gatign, with Charlene Wysote. Two issues of about sixteen pages each. He was paid to work for two weeks, but he would put in around three weeks of work to create the issue. The second time the Wi'gatign was around, my dad was the creator.



From collecting stories and announcements from community members, finding or taking photos, writing captions, advertising, layout, editing and distribution, he took great pride in creating something that community members would enjoy reading, a publication that reflected the life and reality of Listugujewa'q. He remembers when community members would call to ask him to take their picture for the paper, people were so excited about it. There were also some stressful moments. Before we could send digital files, he had to race to Miramichi to get the issue to the printers before the submission deadline. Luckily, sometime later, he became the first to send the PDF files electronically, which helped ease some of that stress.

My father has worked and written for many news and media outlets throughout the years, including La Presse, Radio Canada, CBC, and APTN. Still, I know that working for and producing the Listuguj Wi'gatign has been one of his greatest accomplishments and passions. It is reflected in people's reactions to the publications; some community members read and collect all of the issues; others have gotten emotional over some of the stories of our Elders. While the purpose of the Wi'gatign has been to give to the community, I know that my father has received many gifts and teachings that he's grateful for.

Council Attendance 2020 - 2022

Chief and Council Attendance	Chief Darcy Gray	Councillor Ali Barnaby	Councillor Annette Barnaby	Councillor Brian Caplin Jr.	Councillor Chad Gedeon	Councillor Gordon Isaac Jr.	Councillor Cathy Martin, Dr	Councillor George Martin	Councillor Sky Metallic	Councillor Wendell Metallic	Councillor Alexander Morrison	Councillor Kevin Methot	Councillor Sheila Swasson
Required Attendance	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
Total Attended	41	41	34	32	38	41	18	30	43	40	37	41	38
Absence With Excuse (E)	2	2	5	4	5	0	2	5	0	2	6	2	5
Absence Without Excuse (A)	0	0	4	7	0	2	23	8	0	1	0	0	0