

# Listuguj Wi'gation

Vol 3, September

[www.news.listuguj.ca](http://www.news.listuguj.ca)

Listuguj, Gespe'gewa'gi, Mi'gma'gi



Photo by: Kammy Vicaire

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## Elawsingewei Gina'muo'guom Encourage, Empower, Educate

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By Ann Marie Jacques

The Elawsingewei Gina'muo'guom isn't just your typical education institution when it comes to adult learning, it's a safe haven and a place for students to learn about themselves and grow as individuals. As the name loosely translates, it's a place where lifelong learning occurs.

Bella Moffat is the Academic and Guidance Counsellor and Co-Manager of this First Nation Regional Adult Education Centre right here in our community. Moffat is the first person potential adult learners meet with to discuss the next step in their education journey. "My goal is to identify the individual's career goal or what the goals are, and it's whatever is in the best interest of the adult learner," said Moffat. Once the staff can establish the individual's goal, then they can work together to determine the best path to take for success. The staff recognizes that many of these individuals are in different stages of their lives, and once they make that first step to further their education, the staff will guide them the rest of the way.

There are various programs offered at the Elawsingewei Gina'muo'guom such as high school diploma, general development test (GDT), academic upgrading, and more. The staff at the centre understand that each adult learner is different, which is why they offer a different approach when it comes to teaching. The style of courses is switched up to keep things

interesting for the adult learners. "We try to base our courses on the needs of the adult learners," Moffat said. The courses are a mix of self-paced learning, land-based learning, Mi'gmaq learning, and theory, but also feature a lot of hands-on learning activities such as horticulture and cooking classes.

The atmosphere is very laid back and welcoming. The centre takes pride in its relationships gained with the adult learners. Each person is treated in a mature, respectful manner and their comfort is the number one priority. Moffat said she wants the adult learners to feel loved and respected when they come through the door. The staff are very eager to support and guide the adult learners throughout this stage of their life.

In addition to the relaxed, self-paced teaching structure, the centre offers various incentives and fundraising for activities, events and holidays. The centre offers transportation to the adult learners, breakfast and lunch programs, and even weekly self-care activities in the building.

The Elawsingewei Gina'muo'guom consists of a staff of eight, and the programs are run from September to June. To find out more information on the centre, contact Bella Moffat, or Administrative Technician and Co-Manager, Myrna Sook. More information can also be found on their Facebook page.

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## Back to School Safety Message

From the Listuguj Police Department

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By Chief of Police Trapper Metallic

That time of year is among us! Students have returned to school on September 6th.

The Listuguj Police Department would like to remind the public that School Zone speed limits will resume as of the morning of September 6th, 2022 in the designated locations. (Caplin Road in front of the AGS, Riverside East in front of the Education Complex, and Pacific Drive from LMDC to the Daycare).

Also, please ensure the safety of students getting on and off the bus by always obeying the signals of the School Bus. Failure to respect the school bus signals can result in public injury and an infraction ticket being issued

### Example of Infractions:

#### Speeding in a School Zone:

*[Example: if you are doing 50km/hr in a posted 30km/hr School Zone]*

Section 329 of the HSC = \$200.00 fine and 3 points from your driver's license.

#### Failure to Stop for a School bus while Red signals are activated and stop signal:

Section 460 of the HSC = \$313.00 and 9 points from your driver's license.

The LPD staff would also like to wish all the students a safe and happy return to school, we hope you have an awesome year!

We appreciate the public's co-operation, as this is for the safety of our community and children.



Photo by: Ann Marie Jacques

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## Giving Children a Head Start Since 2001

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By Ann Marie Jacques



Photo by: Ivy Grenier

Listuguj celebrates and offers many programs for the youth in the community. One of these programs is Head Start.

Head Start began back in 2001. It was initially held in what is currently the Haven House building. It eventually moved to the Education Complex until a new building became available specifically for the program in 2017.

Head Start features an early childhood learning curriculum and is a program for children ages three to four in the community. The staff at Head Start consists of General Manager, Tina Martin, and early childhood educators Valery Jacques-Larocque and Mallory Larocque. Here children will learn and participate in several programs with various workstations, such as story time, yoga, fine motor skills activities, outdoor play and even learning Mi'gmaq. The children learn how to maintain structure and routine, how to become independent and interact with other children in the community. Head Start consists of two groups – mornings and afternoons, and each group runs on weekdays for two hours. This type of program will also help prepare them for going to school in the future.

The program is a key point in helping to determine any learning disabilities and ensure children receive the type of assistance they need. Tina Martin said, "If we see any kind of a developmental delay, we'll be able to have them screened with the permission of parents, we can either get a speech pathologist or an occupational therapist, we can also go through Jordan's Principle."

When asked what their favourite thing about working at Head Start is, Martin said, "Watching these children learn and play, and then seeing them graduate from high school."

Valery Jacques-Larocque simply said, "Watching them grow."

Head Start has kicked off again this month, and the staff is eager to take part in the children's education journeys!



Photo by: Ivy Grenier



## Chief's Corner



September is an exciting time for our community as we prepare for back-to-school, our annual harvests, the completion of our Long-Term Care Facility, and Mi'gmaq History Month. During the Fall months, community members can expect foods from our community in distribution, as well as part of our food sovereignty initiative. This includes: tiam, jagej, and other traditional foods as we move further into season.

As the leaves change and the days get cooler, I encourage you to go out and take in the gorgeous Fall scenery that Listuguj has to offer.

## Introducing the New Music Program at Alaqsitew Gitpu School

By Ann Marie Jacques



Photo by: Ivy Grenier

Former Youth Care worker Douglas Pictou is the Performing Arts teacher at Alaqsitew Gitpu School. Last year he solely taught Mi'gmaq hand drumming to the students, and this year, he will be the music teacher from grade four to eight. Pictou has plans to update former music classes and teach them in a more modern and progressive way. Pictou said, "It's going to be more percussion-based and projective-based as opposed to music class I grew up with."

The brand-new classroom is equipped with many different instruments, like guitars, pianos, and drums, but will also have a variety of cultural instruments as well such as Mi'gmaq hand drums, and African rainmakers. The students will also get to learn digital aspects when it comes to music – such as MIDI boards and using various recording software.

Pictou explained his class will be very project based with exercises such as group rap projects, music video producing, and creating elements in sound. One project, in particular, will be having the students mute scenes in a film and have them find a piece of music that fits the tone and mood of the film. When it comes to his goal for the class Pictou said, "I want to encourage them to play music, expose them to different types of music as opposed to just being a listener. If they still want to be just a listener, at least they'll know what they're listening to."

Pictou says that he is looking forward to building relationships with students and letting them know that the classroom is a safe environment where they can come and blow off steam, feel accepted, have fun and perhaps heal themselves through music if need be.

## NR Scientific Research Members Save Life of DFO Officer

By Felix Atencio-Gonzales



Photo by: Felix Atencio-Gonzales

"The fact that you have put your own life in danger to save me is remarkable and I'm deeply touched by your actions. In doing so, you gave me the chance to continue my wonderful life and for that, I will be forever grateful. You have shown exceptional courage and strength and I'm so proud to say that you are my heroes."

These were the words from Michel Arsenault addressed to Diane Bernard and Denise Barnaby.

Emotionally and in tears, he told a small audience about the moment, three years ago, when he fell from the smolt wheel, his boot was caught in the wheel, pushed underwater by the current with his wader full of water, which it made it hard for him to lift his head. "It lasted few seconds, but it looked hours for me," said Diane Bernard, who was the first one to jump from the Scientific Research canoe to the platform of the smolt wheel and run to the other side to try to rescue Michel.

Diane's first attempt was to pull Michel out, but the water current was hard because Michel was 5'11", 190lbs, the water in his wader, and the strength of the current. On her second attempt, she got the help from Denise and together they pulled him out. When he was out of the water on the platform, Diane was still holding him so tight that Michel, recuperating and coughing to expel water from his lungs, told her "Let me go".

This happened in spring May 19, when the current of the Restigouche river is fast and carrying all kinds of debris. DFO wanted to thank them before, but the pandemic prevented doing it.

Yesterday was the day when Diane, Denis, and Michel, their families, DFO representatives, and the Listuguj Scientific Research team were together to celebrate the act of heroism of helping a colleague of 23 years, in danger on the salmon river.



Photo by: Felix Atencio-Gonzales



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# Brandon Mitchell

## Combining Culture & Creativity

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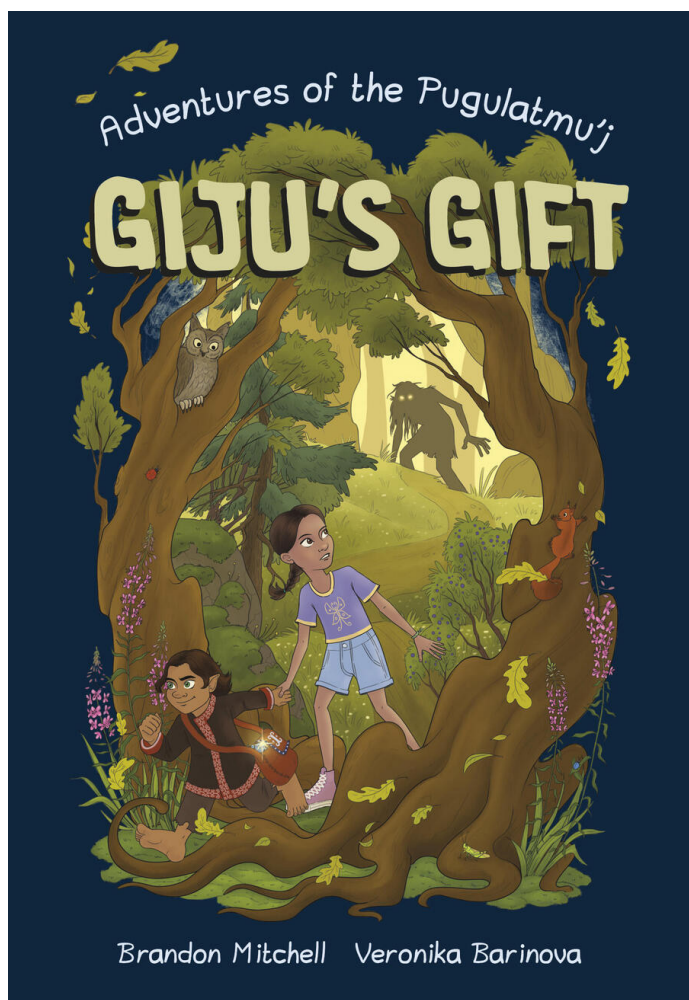
By Ann Marie Jacques

Many of you may know Brandon Mitchell from his time working at Alaqsite'w Gitpu School as the art and technology teacher, since then he has gone on to be a very successful creative writer and illustrator.

At a young age, Mitchell always had a passion for drawing and art.

Mitchell said, "I was into comic books, cartoons, movies, and video games but instead of re-drawing my favourite characters, I would try and make my own. It was only in grade 11 when I had an opportunity to flesh out my ideas in writing. We had an open assignment to write on any topic we wanted, and I asked if I could write about these characters I created. From there, I was hooked on seeing where my characters took me."

Mitchell then enrolled and obtained a diploma from an Animation and Design program at NBCC in Miramichi. "I learned not just HOW to draw, but HOW to tell a story with images," Mitchell said. Mitchell went on to earn a Bachelor of Integrated Science and a Master of Adult Education from UNB. Mitchell began working at AGS, and with inspiration from his students, he eventually founded Birch Bark Comics, and from here, a comic book story called Sacred Circles was created. This story was based on local legends with a contemporary twist.



"One of the things I didn't grow up with was Native characters being the main characters in the stories I read. That's what inspired me the most in creating these stories," said Mitchell.

Mitchell also had the opportunity to write six Indigenous-themed stories focusing on health-related issues with Indigenous Story Studio, with stories such as River Run – which focuses on smoking prevention, and Tomorrow's Hope about First Nation suicide prevention. He has been a part of numerous creative writing and art projects such as, the National Best-selling graphic novel anthology series This Place: 150 Years Retold, Migwite'tmeg: We Remember It – a story of the 1981 salmon raids in Listuguj, and the traditional Mi'gmaq story, Adventures of the Pugulatmu'j: Giju's Gift.

Mitchell and his wife Natasha Martin now live in Fredericton, but there are a lot of things to miss about Listuguj. "I miss my family, the river, and the beautiful mountains," said Mitchell.

As of right now, Mitchell is currently working on the second adventure of the Pugulatmu'j, and he's also illustrating a picture book for Ksalsuti Wellness Resources Inc. You can find his books and work on Amazon, Chapters, Portage and Main Press, and at a Pow Wow near you.



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# Local Business Owner Spotlight

## Lloyd Alcon

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By Ann Marie Jacques

Lloyd Alcon has had many impressive job titles under his belt, but now he's focusing on his businesses. He is the owner of LCA Rentals and Outdoor Services, LCA Solutions Inc., and is the Chief Executive Officer/Part Owner of Initiative Concrete Inc.

Alcon says LCA Rentals and Outdoor services began in 2019 when he purchased a tractor and started doing small maintenance jobs in the area. Alcon always knew he'd like to do this kind of work eventually, but when COVID-19 hit, with the bridge being closed, these kinds of services became a big demand. Alcon said, "We weren't able to access certain services, and equipment rentals was one of them. I saw an opportunity and rolled with it." Alcon continued to purchase more equipment and hired employees to work for his business. LCA Rentals and Outdoor Services is now a successful construction and landscaping equipment and machinery rental business.

LCA Rentals and Outdoor Services offer a wide variety of services such as construction equipment and machinery rentals, land maintenance, new driveways, larger landscaping projects such as retaining walls and drainage, and much more. The company has completed many projects in the area like various renovations and new house excavations. One thing

Alcon highlighted is how proud he is to be able to give back to the community of Listuguj. He said, "We're able to donate a lot back to the community. I have the equipment, so if somebody needs something within the community and it's not a big project, I can give it to them." One particular project done by LCA Rentals and Outdoor Services is the community garden.

After this business was underway, Alcon partnered with Grant-Mann Solid Concrete Ent. and started his most recent business, Initiative Concrete Inc. which is a ready-mix concrete company – the two companies complement each other and continue to do so.

Since 2017, Alcon also owns LCA Solutions Inc. which is a private consulting firm that specializes in public security.

Alcon says that he would eventually like to expand his businesses and hire more full-time employees. He is currently working on getting his contractor's license and getting certified in Quebec to work off the reserve. Alcon laughed and said, "This is still pretty new to me, and I don't think I'll be starting any new businesses any time soon."



Photo by: Ivy Grenier

**For community inquiries contact:**  
[feedback@listuguj.ca](mailto:feedback@listuguj.ca)

If you have MOVED within the last two years, please update your mailing address with the Deputy Electoral Officer, Christine (Tina) Barnaby, to ensure that you receive all material relating to the upcoming "Election 2022".

Please email [tinabarnaby@listuguj.ca](mailto:tinabarnaby@listuguj.ca), for identification purposes state your full name along with your DOB (emails must be received from the individual directly).

# Back to School Word Search



Algebra  
Apple  
Books  
Cafeteria  
Calculator  
Detention  
Education

Geography  
Homework  
Language  
Library  
Lunch  
Pencil  
Principal

Quiz  
Recess  
Ruler  
Science  
Study  
Teacher

## Waste Collection Calendar September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Legend
				1	2	3	Compost (Green)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Compost (Yellow)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Compost (Orange)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	General Waste
25	26	27	28	29	30		Recycling