

Listuguj Wi'gation

Vol 6, December

www.news.listuguj.ca

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



Photo by: Ann Marie Jacques

WI'GATION EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SANTA

By Ann Marie Jacques

Hi Santa! Thanks for chatting with me, I know you're incredibly busy this time of year!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Of course! I always have time for people on the Nice List!

How have you been preparing for Christmas this year?

For Christmas this year, everything is so busy right now at the North Pole. The elves are working around the clock, to make sure everything is done right. Myself, I've been busy! Mrs. Claus is keeping me fed with my cookies and milk so I can check the list, you know making sure the naughty and nice lists have been double-checked and everything is good to go!

You get to know so many children around the world! How are the children of Listuguj different than children from other parts of the world?

Children all around the world are the same, they're all special and they're all beautiful, but what makes Listuguj so special, is hearing the young ones speak their language. It's beautiful to see them practice their culture in such a small community.

You must eat a LOT of cookies on Christmas Eve! What is your favourite kind of cookie?

My favorite kind of cookie is oatmeal chocolate chip, but I love anything chocolate chip! Yesterday, Mrs. Claus made me some peanut butter chocolate chip cookies, and they were delicious. But warm chocolate chip cookies are my favorite!

What do you love most about visiting Listuguj on Christmas Eve?

What I love most about Listuguj is the love that many homes have for the young ones. I love seeing the little ones nestled away when I come in and bring the gifts. I'll catch some sleeping on the couch, trying to get a peek at me, but they always seem to be sound asleep when I arrive for the most part. Sometimes for the ones who are still awake, I'll use magical elf dust to help them fall asleep. Coming to Listuguj, it always seems like there are Northern Lights in the sky. You can just sense the love in the community.

Tell me about your reindeer. Do you have a favourite?

I love all my reindeer the same. Rudolph is special because he is the youngest one in the group, so we have to keep him in check sometimes, but Rudolph is the joyful one. We're taking care good care of, Comet, he is the oldest one of the group, but he's still a strong leader of the team, and we love him.

One last question, I know you've got work to do! What would you like to say to the children of Listuguj?

It's so nice to see you all grow up every year. Always keep in mind, to always be positive and share the love. Help another person who is in need, or who is less fortunate than yourself. Share a smile and a hug. The more of that you do, the higher up you get on my list!

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER SPOTLIGHT

DEBBIE MORRISON - JB Toys

By Ann Marie Jacques



Photo by: Debbie Morrison

Debbie Morrison is very passionate when it comes to being the Owner of JB Toys and Novelty. Even though it is still a fairly new business, being in operation since 2021, Morrison always had the dream of having her own toy store. She said, "Way back when my children were little, I wanted to have a toy store, and I actually registered 'JB Toys.'" That was over 30 years ago. I went back and added, 'and Novelty' and started from there." In the beginning, she was operating out of her back porch and eventually expanded and moved the shop downstairs to the basement.

JB Toys and Novelty consists of a number of educational toys, toys for children with special needs, and sensory toys that aren't typically sold at big box stores. Morrison sells party supplies and offers helium for balloons. There is a selection of bouncy castles available to rent, that could be used for children's birthday parties and other events. Some clothing, gifts, and candy options are also available.

Morrison is very involved with the community of Listuguj, offering donations, and collaborating with other organizations, such as CHRQ 106.9 FM and Alaqsitew Gitpu School. JB Toys and Novelty can also be found traveling on the road in a decade trailer, stopping in at Pow Wows, where she typically sponsors candy dances for children.

There are plans to expand the company even further. Morrison is currently working towards having a new building next to her store that can house children's Birthday parties and other events. The plan is for it to be an open-concept building, with a kitchenette and tables – allowing guests to bring in their own food and supplies. There would be indoor entertainment for children – bouncy castles, skateboards, plasma cars, etc. She said there is a lack of facilities for party rooms in the area, so it would be a great opportunity.

"You always have to be here on a regular basis, there is always something new. I just love doing it, it's fun for the community," said Morrison.

JB Toys and Novelty has gone on to be a very successful and popular shop in the community. People come from all over to visit. Morrison is very efficient when it comes to updating the shop's Facebook page with new inventory. It is located at 35 C Riverside West in Listuguj. Visit them today!

'Twas the Night Before Christmas in Listuguj

By Ann Marie Jacques

'Twas the night before Christmas in Listuguj, Quebec,
Children tucked in, blankets up to their necks.
Stockings were hung up inside of their homes,
Through Mi'gma'gi territory, soon Santa would roam.

I lay in my bed, too excited to dream,
Waiting on Santa and the rest of his team.
Perhaps they are tired, from the work that they do,
And stopped in for a coffee at Restigouche Drive Thru.

With the coldest of weather, and the ground white with snow,
Hopefully, Santa would know where to go.
From Riverside West to Riverside East,
He must be on the bridge by now at least.

Then down the Flat there arose such a noise,
It must be Santa with presents from JB Toys.
Away to the window, I flew out of bed,
I thought it might have been the snowplow instead.

The snowflakes were big, and the moon was so bright,
It was only a snowplow, I guess I was right.
Santa should be around after a while,
Perhaps he's gassing up his sleigh at the Woodpile.

But then, I saw him, the big man in red,
"Ho ho ho! Ulnuewili!" he said.
He and the reindeer had a job to pursue,
And blasting from the sleigh was CHRQ.

With a crash and a bang, Santa was in my home,
He was eating the cookies I got from Jerome's.
I offered him a napkin, but there was really no use,
He finished it off with a drink from Ki'juice.

He went to the tree and left many great gifts,
A blanket from Welteg was on top of my list.
He smiled and waved, with his sack in tow,
He chuckled and said, "To the highway, I go!"

"Wela'lin, Santa!" I shouted with glee,
Then I saw his sleigh fly over LMDC.
With Rudolph's nose guiding, they drove out of sight,
Santa shouted, "Merry Christmas to Listuguj, and to all a good night!"

Chief's Corner

2022 is coming to an end, and while we still faced some challenges due to the pandemic, I'd like to thank everyone in the community for coming together and making this a year to remember. Seeing everyone celebrating at our Pow Wow and other events, was truly a great feeling, after not being able to get together for the past two years. Let's end the year on a strong note by spending time with our friends and family during this holiday season. On behalf of Chief and Council at Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, have a safe and happy holiday! See you in 2023!

Listuguj Post Office Appreciation

The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government would like to express gratitude and appreciation for the employees at the Post Office: Kayla Isaac, Theresa Mitchell, and Vanessa Barnaby during the busy holiday season. They've been working hard to ensure the community can send and receive their packages and mail in time for the holidays. Wela'lioq ladies!

Throughout the Year



Photo by: Ann Marie Jacques

The annual Alaqsite'w Gitpu School Pride Walk took place in June. Listuguj is proud to support the LGBTQ2S+ community!



Photo by: Ivy Grenier

After two years of having no Pow Wow due to COVID-19, this year's Pow Wow was a complete success!



Photo by: Ivy Grenier

The hilarious Don Burnstick made the community laugh at the Pow Wow this summer.



Photo by: Wayne Barnaby

2022 was the year Listuguj received a brand-new Social Services building. Now located at 2 GEF St.



Photo by: Ann Marie Jacques

In October, a Chief & Council VS. Capital and Infrastructure basketball game was had to celebrate the grand opening of the Miju'aji'j Park.



Photo by: Ann Marie Jacques

Just in time for the Holidays, turkey baskets and toys were given to community members.

Bringing the Classroom Back on the Land

By Listuguj Education, Training & Employment

Listuguj Education, Training & Employment has had a fun-filled year! We have continued to make advancements in our Outdoor Education programming and want to share an overview with you. You'll notice that we've incorporated this programming in all buildings to some capacity as we've seen how well our students learn on the land. Through each new experience, our educators were able to weave in LETE's vision of Siawinnui'sulti'gw, Siawimegitelsulti'gw aqq Siawignu'tmasulti'gw - we continue to speak our language, we continue to take pride in who we are, and we continue to learn.

Gesig

Last Winter was an exciting time at LETE! The weather can be quite harsh this time of year, so it's the perfect time to practice our survival skills. Our students learned to safely build fires with only flint, steel, a knife, and an axe as tools. To put their new skills to the test, AGS held a fire-making challenge. Classes were timed as they built a fire and boiled a pot of water. Our students also had the opportunity to snowshoe along the Gespe'ge-wa'gi trails and fish for smelts on our river.



Photo by: LETE

The Geligatmu'g Gmitginu - Wildlife Protection Officer Diploma Program started in January 2022 at the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Development Centre (LMDC). This program is in collaboration with the Collège d'Alma and Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles. Upon completing this program, our community members will be certified Wildlife Protection Officers. We appreciate your dedication to this program and your role in protecting our territory.

Near the end of winter, students at AGS learned to collect sap from maple and balsam fir trees. Balsam fir sap is analgesic and antiseptic, meaning it can limit the pain of a cut and stop the spread of bacteria if you're stuck in the woods. They used the balsam fir sap to make a salve, which can be used on scrapes, cuts and as a natural Vicks VapoRub.

Siggw

In the Spring, our students began testing out their new maple syrup evaporator. In June, they prepared 2oz and 8oz bottles of maple syrup to sell at the AGS Maker's Market. This was a great example of how to incorporate traditional Mi'gmaq knowledge into a science and technology lesson. Students went out on the land, identified the maple trees, worked together to collect the sap and then used their math skills to measure its sugar content and evaporate it into syrup. This was an experience they are sure to remember.



Photo by: LETE

In early April, adult learners at the Elawsingewei Gina'muo'guom (FNRAEC) went on a medicine walk in our woods. They worked together to build a fire and cook lusginign outdoors. It is important to LETE that learners of all ages have access to these valuable teachings. We try to incorporate them into Adult Education as often as possible.

Spring is also the perfect time to begin planting seeds. Our Outdoor Education program was gifted tobacco plant clippings from a community member. Students learned to dry, harvest, and plant the seeds. We greatly appreciate and encourage our community's involvement in our students' education.

Once the snow melted, our students went out to sustainably pick fiddleheads. This vegetable, rich in potassium, iron, antioxidants, and omega-3 fatty acids, is an important food source for our community. Students know to always keep a few behind in each cluster to promote future growth.



Photo by: LETE

Nipg

Summer at LETE is typically slower, but this year our staff dedicated even more of their time to preparing for the new school year. Our Outdoor Education program trained two groups of AGS staff over the summer. They participated in talking circles and sweat lodges. They each made balsam fir salves and a ji'gmaqn, an instrument made of black ash that is played by tapping them against one's knee. They also explored our local wooded areas and learned about archery. This was an enriching experience for everyone involved. By the end of their training, each group gained a better appreciation for the land and each other.



Photo by: LETE

Middle School aged students had an opportunity to participate in a STEAM Summer Camp. It was developed to give our students practical hands-on experience in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). Students picked sweetgrass for Gordon Sparks, a local Mi'gmaq artist, to be used in an art project he's creating for the school. They created a variety of handcrafted items, customized them using a laser cutter and engraver, and sold them at the Listuguj Powwow. Students also learned to fly drones as well as use underwater drones.

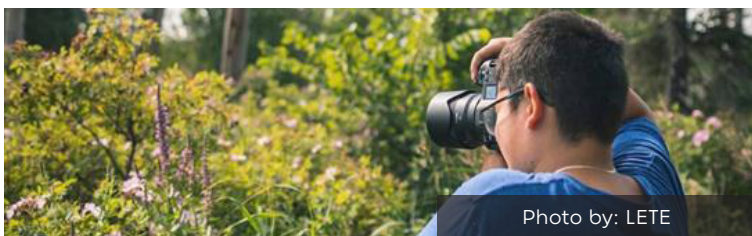


Photo by: LETE

At the end of Summer, all LETE staff were invited to participate in two and a half days of Treaty Education professional development. These PD days allowed our staff to experience and embrace our approach to Mi'gmaq education. Our staff learned about eel-spearing and their habitats, talking circles and ceremony protocols, building a sweat lodge, and understanding two-spiritedness and identity. After this experience, our staff felt proud of their Mi'gmaq identity, thankful for their relationships with one another and motivated to share these teachings as part of their work.



Photo by: LETE

Toqwa'q

Our Nipugtugewei Kindergarten program kicked off the school year in their very own base camp. This space was designed for students to seamlessly shift from indoor to outdoor learning. Brenda and Joyce Germain have made incredible advancements in this program and have dreamt of this building for years.

AGS students continued to prep their moose hide from last fall to make a drum from the school. They used tools made from leg bones, draw knives and homemade wooden tools. They experienced just how much work goes into harvesting a moose seeing as they just completed another successful harvest. For the fifth year, Derek Barnaby from our Enhancement Team organized a moose harvest for our SSHS students. The students were shown how to track moose tracks, call a moose, and follow a blood trail to the moose. They also learned the importance of having a ceremony with the moose, which was performed by one of our students. Thank you to community hunter and elder Ronnie Martin and Felix Atencio-Gonzales for joining us this year!

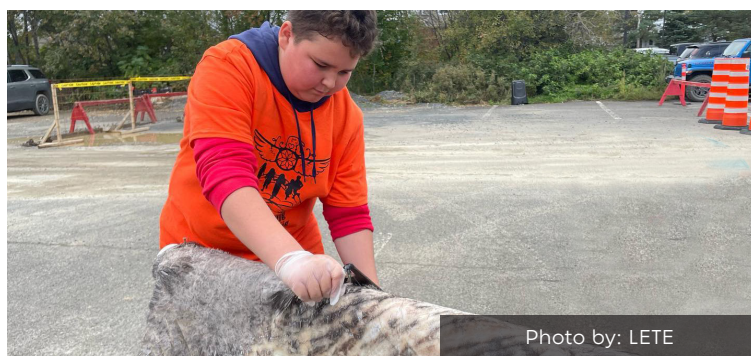


Photo by: LETE

Our students got to try bass fishing this Fall as part of Outdoor Education. Our Adult Mi'gmaq Immersion classes also tried fishing trout. Rod fishing is a valuable skill to learn if you want to diversify your food sources throughout the year.

Our Adult Mi'gmaq Immersion classes received a sand bread demonstration by Betty-Jane Ward. This is a different method of cooking lusginign where it is placed in the sand and under fire.

Following the school's successful moose harvest, community member Alex Gray came to teach our students about the cardiovascular system of moose and humans. The following day, they used this knowledge to dissect their moose's heart and lungs and learn even more.



Photo by: LETE

Stay tuned for more teachings and activities coming in the New Year! We post regularly on www.lete.listuguj.ca/updates.

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **Almost one third** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.



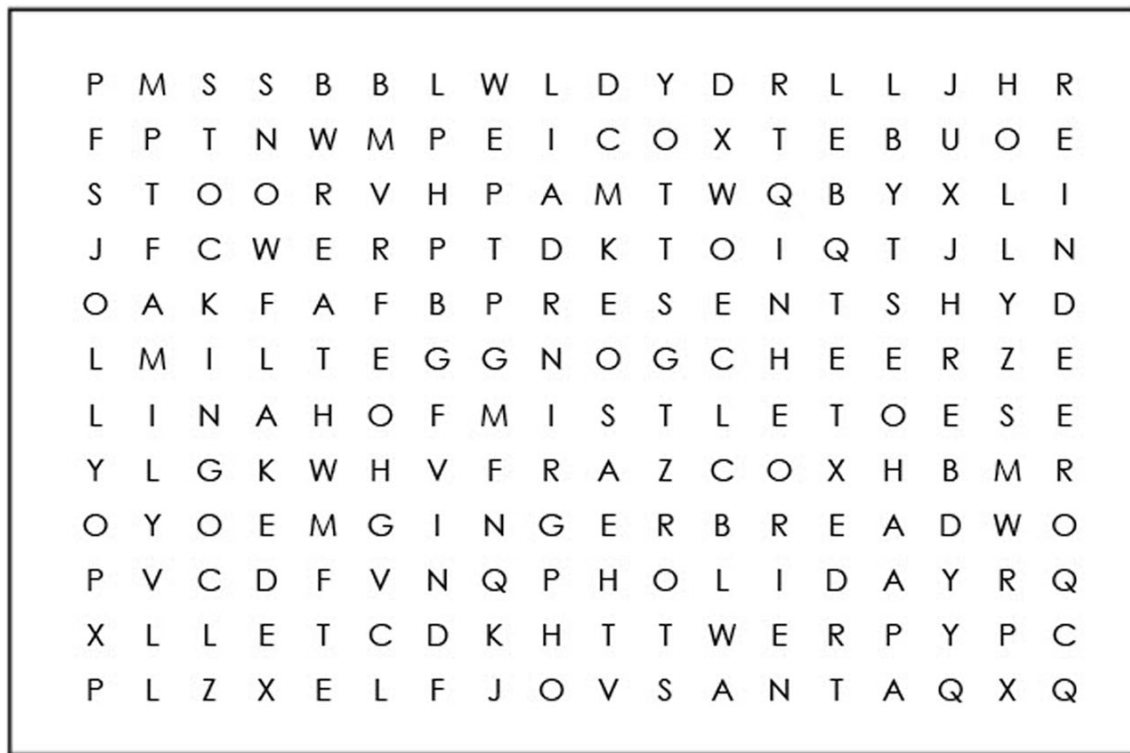
Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



**First Nations'
Emergency Services Society**
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

LISTUGUJ HOLIDAY WORDSEARCH



CHEER
EGGNOG
ELF
FAMILY
GINGERBREAD

HOLIDAY
HOLLY
JOLLY
MISTLETOE
PRESENTS

REINDEER
SANTA
SNOWFLAKE
STOCKING
WREATH

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

	Chief Scott Martin	Councillor Ali Barnaby	Councillor Annette Barnaby	Councillor Erwin Molley	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 Swason
Chief and Council Attendance													
Required Attendance	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Attended	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Absence With Excuse (E)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Absence Without Excuse (A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Listuguj
MI'GMAQ GOVERNMENT

For community inquiries contact: feedback@listuguj.ca