

NEWSLETTER



Our mission is to deliver information to our community members about events taking place throughout the community and to provide this in a way that is easy to find and digest the information important to you.

NEWS

A WEEKEND OF CULTURE, DANCE AND DRUMS

This year Acadia First Nation kicked off its' annual Powwow in Gold River on the weekend of September 9th thru September 11th. The event was blessed with gorgeous weather as the sun was out in full force. The day was as inviting as all of those in attendance.

Upon entering the Powwow grounds, it was an awesome sight to see all those in attendance gathered around the dance circle. There were plenty of vendors on sight which all offered great selections of aboriginal inspired crafts and items. Among the most inspirational items on display were hand woven baskets, each unique and requiring hours and hours of dedication and hard work before completed.



The showpiece for any powwow is the dancing circle. All of those in attendance are gathered around the circle and most of the focus is placed here. This is the place where our people are able to show their pride in our culture. Each of the dancers bring their own unique energy and light to the powwow. When the dancers are present in the dancing circle and performing in full traditional garb, you feel connected to our ancestors and are almost

transported back to a time when our traditions were strong and a daily part of our ancestor's lives.

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To bring life to the dances and the event, we have the drummers. The drummers are almost like the heart of the powwow. Their rhythmic drumming sounds loudly through the powwow grounds. Each beat pumping more and more life into the event. As the drummers keep perfect rhythm while pounding on a single drum together in unison, their songs are song loudly and from the heart. The songs seem to reach deep within' you and pull on cords which have been long dormant, sending goosebumps across your skin.

This event was surely a memorable event for anyone who was in attendance. My experience will stay with me for sometime. I feel more connected to my culture and my ancestors now because of my

attendance to the Acadia First Nation 2016 Powwow. I feel this was an enriching event and can only look forward to what the future brings for this event and our people.

Savannah "Savvy" SIMON **October 24th, 2016**

Liverpool, 10am- 12 Noon

A Charter Bus will be departing Acadia First Nation Band Office at 8:00am for Students only in grade 6- Grade 12 as well as post-secondary youth. These students are invited to travel to Liverpool NS for a Motivational Presentation by Savvy Simon



"Be an Eagle Not a Seagull"

Named one of Canadian Livings Top 40 Female Change Makers, Savvy Simon is a global Positivity Powerhouse. Creator of the #SpeakMikmaq Revolution, and Youth Leader from Mi'kmaq tribe of Elsipogtog First Nation in New Brunswick, Savvy's positive approach to culture, language and life in general has generated a following in the tens of thousands.

Transportation waivers and permission forms will be at band office with Amanda to be filled out. Students are responsible for their own transportation to Acadia Band Office and pick up by 4pm. Limited space available

Lunch will be provided by the Band @ Subway, if they do not want Subway they will bring their own lunch. No other Lunch stops.

Contact Melanie Purdy for more information @ 902-742-5599 or email @ mrobinson@acadiaband.ca or text @ 902-749-6911

WHAT DOES THE POWWOW MEAN TO US?

wanted to include something special for this issue of the newsletter. I felt it would be a great addition to the newsletter to have someone who was present throughout the event contribute to this issue. Luckily, I was able to find David Paul. David Paul was one of several members of our community that was on site to watch over the sacred fire.

Watching the sacred fire is an extremely important job as the ceremonies surrounding the sacred fire help kick-off and signal the end of the powwow. The sacred fire is kept alive throughout the duration of the powwow and is central to many of the ceremonies that occur during the powwow weekend. The fire keepers offer smudges and help guide people on how to make offerings to the sacred fire.

David Paul has written an article that outlines his experience as a fire keeper and the importance the sacred fire has to the powwow. His article is provided below.

KEEPING THE SACRED FIRE

Article Written by David Paul

Although the Gold River Mawio'mi was not as big this time around it was still successful. Sharing with us memories and experiences to take with us into our lives. We look forward to when those faithful to the Gold River Mawio'mi return to celebrate life, blessings and join in prayer for the years ahead. We look forward to the dancing, drumming and singing. As well as meeting with old friends and gaining new ones through our shared experiences.

We gather in support of the dancers and singers who are devoted to healing the sick and the suffering of the world. Certain dances, such as the jingle dress dance, are well known for their healing ability. While other dances, such as the war dances or the fancy dance, remind us of strength. Ceremonies are conducted during the

Mawio'mi to give strength and assist in our growth spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically. The sacred fire ceremony begins on Friday as people arrive and is open until the final day. A sweat lodge is constructed and sweats are conducted all day from Saturday until Sunday. This year dancers and singers offered their tobacco ties to the sacred fire in support of the people who are defending land and water in Shubenacadie.



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The sacred fire was opened with a pipe ceremony. The spirits of the four directions were called on for their help and assistance. We asked the ancestors to give strength to our dancers, to help our drummers sing from the heart and to help everyone else bring their light to the mawio'mi. The sacred fire is considered by all to be the heart of the Mawio'mi and we encourage all to take part in this ceremony. Bring your laughter, stories and prayers. It will be greatly appreciated. Each morning may begin with a sunrise ceremony where we welcome the new day and remind ourselves of our purpose and the intentions of our ceremony.

A lot of work goes into running and organizing a Mawio'mi. We also honor the ones who make it possible. The ones that spend many hours working, cooking and cleaning; before, during and after the Mawio'mi. Their hard work is much appreciated. Wela'liek (we are grateful).



A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I have lived in Lunenburg County 20 years and only this September managed to attend the Gold River Reserve Pow Wow along with a couple of other first timers. We really enjoyed ourselves. We felt welcome to be there and comfortable to participate or just observe the wonderful dancing that filled the afternoon. An unsurpassable feast capped off the afternoon and all at no charge. The commentator was excellent. He skillfully struck a balance between warm and colourful commentary, educational pieces about the performances and keeping every one organized. The drumming and singing was powerful and heartfelt. The dancers, young and mature, local and out of province was inspiring, instructive and transported me to another place and time when such a gathering would be larger and more common. The commentator said some of the dances are a prayer for healing. If the dignity, enthusiasm and remarkable regalia of the dancers is any indication, a lot of healing took place over the weekend Gold River Mawiommi Grounds.



Picture Provided by Grace McKnight

Grace McKnight

CCC, RCT-C

SALVAGING COASTAL HISTORY – LIGHTHOUSE NOW ARTICLE ON DR. MATTHEW BETTS

Dr. Matthew Betts is a part of a new working group currently working to uncover culturally significant archaeological sites along the coastlines before they are eroded due to climate change. He recently visited the Sipuke'l Art Gallery to provide an update.

As a curator at the Canadian Museum of History, he is working to preserve and document what he can before they are gone. In order to find these locations, Dr. Betts has to work closely and rely on the local residents. He has been working closely with Acadia First Nation since 2008 for assistance with the E'se'get Archaeology Project.

The project has had him on sites in and around Port Joli where his research has indicated that the Mi'kmaq who were located in the area did not travel from the coast to the interior with the seasons but rather tended to stay close to the coastline. His research is bringing light to how our ancestors lived their day to day lives here in Nova Scotia before colonization.

During his visit, organized by Sipuke'l Gallery, to the old Council Chamber of the Town Hall Arts & Cultural Centre, Emma Smith of Lighthouse Now was in attendance and wrote an article for the publication. If you would like to read more about Dr. Matthew Betts work, then you can find the article on the AFN website under the News section or subscribe to Lighthouse Now.

LUMBER YARD ROUGH LUMBER SALES UPDATE

The AFN Lumber Yard has been in business now for several weeks and business is starting to kick off. With a healthy Facebook campaign and some light advertising in the Vanguard, Lobster Bay Shopper and Clare Shopper the sales have started to come in. The lumber yard had a late start this year but despite the late start, our sales indicate that this business is starting to get its' legs.

The AFN Lumber Yard is currently offering rough cut lumber, firewood and kindling for sale. The public has shown interest in what we are offering and some details of the number of sales are starting to come in. The lumber yard has helped bring in over \$2730.00 in gross sales since it has opened open. The sales include numerous cuts of lumber and includes sales of corded and blocked firewood. Without this location, these would have been missed opportunities for Acadia First Nation.

With promising numbers like these rolling in after getting such a late start on the season, it appears that the AFN Lumber Yard has the potential to generate lots of revenue for the community. We can only speculate that with an earlier start next year that this business will only become stronger as the word gets around that we offer good quality product at prices that can't seem to be beat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY	EVENT	DETAILS/LOCATION	DATES
Acadia First Nation	Annual General Meeting	AFN Band Members are welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting with Chief and Council held at the Comfort Hotel Bayers Lake	October 15 at 1:00 pm
	Harvest Feast/Culinary Hike	The annual Harvest Feast will take place behind the Yarmouth Administrative building. Entertainment provided by David Burbine with demonstrations of drumming and dancing. This event is open to AFN band members and immediate family. Doors open at 11 am. The first ever AFN Culinary Hike will also take place on this day. Tickets are for sale at HikeNovaScotia.ca or contact us for details.	October 8
	CMHC Basic Home Maintenance Workshops	Monday, October 24, 2016 - AFN Wildcat Community Center - Wildcat (civic address 1059 Molega Rd) Tuesday, October 25, 2016 - AFN Entertainment Centre - Yarmouth (10552 Hwy#3 Yarmouth) Wednesday, October 26, 2016 - AFN Gold River Health Center - Gold River (311 Beech Hill Rd) Lunch is provided & there will be DOOR PRIZES We have a maximum of 20 seats for Yarmouth & Wildcat and roughly 10 seats in Gold River REGISTER NOW by calling Val @ 902 682-2421 or Marie @ 902 742-0257	October 24 thru October 26 9:00 A.M - 4:00 P.M
	Mi'kmawey Forestry - Forestry and You Workshops 2016	Elders are invited to have lunch and share their knowledge on Netukulimk with us from 12 – 2:30 pm. Harvesters, crafters and those interested in a career in Forestry are invited to have supper, hear about exciting opportunities and share their thoughts from 3 – 5 pm.	December 8
Yarmouth	Staying Healthy with Diabetes	Yarmouth Health Centre Blood Glucose Testing & Treating Highs & Lows Healthy Snacks & Door Prizes plus BINGO PLEASE sign up with Melanie 902-742-4337	October 6 10am-11:30am
Shelburne	Staying Healthy with Diabetes	AFN Sub Office- Shelburne Blood Glucose Testing & Treating Highs & Lows Healthy Snacks & Door Prizes plus BINGO PLEASE sign up with Melanie	October 6 1pm-2:30pm
Liverpool	Presentation by Savannah "Savvy" SIMON	A Charter Bus will be departing Acadia First Nation Band Office at 8:00am for Students only in grade 6-Grade 12 as well as post-secondary youth. These students are invited to travel to Liverpool NS for a Motivational Presentation by Savvy Simon Contact Melanie Purdy for more information @ 902-742-5599 or email @ mrobinson@acadiaband.ca or text @ 902-749-6911	October 24 10am-12 Noon

POWWOW PHOTO ALBUM

