

Kluscap's Cave—inside and out



THIS ISSUE

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Ask **Heather Green** about Kluscap's Cave and prepare yourself to be transported to another time and place...a place where giants roamed the earth with powers that make today's super heroes look weak by comparison. What is this fourth-year history major at CBU doing? Heather is working on an internship research project for UINR with our partners Parks Canada and Cape Breton University.

Heather's research of literature on Kluscap brought her to manuscripts from the early 1850s in which missionary Silas T. Rand's first written account of Mi'kmaq creation legends appears. She followed the thread of history to more contemporary accounts of Kluscap and his relationship between the Mi'kmaq people and the land. Heather explains, "We are looking at the overall cultural landscape of Kluscap's Cave and what makes this area significant to the Mi'kmaq and how it encapsulates Mi'kmaq world-view.

"This is a project that means something to a lot of people. For me it has led to a new respect for the landscape, an understanding of how the traditional use of the land was reflected in Kluscap's legends and influenced how people hunt, fish, gather and migrate."

Kluscap's Cave is located at Cape Dauphin on Kluscap (Kelly's) Mountain. The trail to the "Fairy Hole" is not difficult for the average hiker, but there are challenges including a 100 foot descent to the mountain stream. Follow the trail to the stream and follow the stream to the shore. When you get to the beach you can see Bird Islands and Kluscap's Cave. The cave is difficult to get into, so unless you are a seasoned climber you might prefer to sit outside on the rocks and have a picnic. If you do decide to scale the slippery rocks to the cave's opening—be careful.

If you have any Kluscap stories you'd like to share, drop us a line at info@uinr.ca

Kluscap was sent by the Creator as a friend for the Mi'kmaq people. He lived at Cape Dauphin and one day two women laughed at him from the shore. Kluscap jumped from his canoe breaking it into two pieces, known today as Bird Islands. He turned the two women to stone, the stone pillars now guarding his cave.

The cave was Kluscap's last home on earth before he left to the sky world. He lived there with his Grandmother, The Bear Woman, and a young man, Pine Marten.

Kluscap's many skills included his ability to disguise himself so that he could involve himself in a situation in order to teach a lesson in morals or values.



NEWS

WWW

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UINR and Environment Canada are presenting a free workshop on Proposal Writing and Fundraising at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre on Wednesday, March 23. Register by March 14 by email: serena@uinr.ca... Listen to a podcast interview with Annie Johnson talking about Malagawatch erosion at: stories.nsclimate.ca... Check out a short video featuring UINR's efforts on watershed management at: youtube.com/rbcbluewaterproject#p/u/7/sUaAr2E7-RU or click the link at uinr.ca home page.... UINR recently extended its supervisor role with NewPage's private land silviculture program. UINR Forestry staff has been responsible for overseeing the private land program in Cape Breton and Victoria Counties for a number of years and agreed to supervise the program for all four Cape Breton counties... Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative will release its process plan "The Spirit of the Lakes Speaks" on May 11. CEPI will also participate in the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy when it holds its Water Governance Workshops in Membertou... UINR is the proud owner of a smolt wheel! The salmon measuring device will be used to gather scientific data to help in planning and management of the salmon population... UINR is now testing drinking water quality in Malagawatch. Seven to ten wells are tested regularly... Unama'KIDS are developing a puppet show on the American Marten. They are making the puppets, researching the endangered marten and writing a script to perform in classrooms throughout Unama'ki....

Here's where we keep you up-to-date on new stuff online at uinr.ca

If you haven't visited us on the web yet, take a look and see what a great resource uinr.ca is. There are videos, reports and every issue of our magazine UINR Marten.

Our 2009-2010 Annual Report is now online and looks back at our major activities in the last year and financial statements for the period. If you didn't get a copy of our 2011 calendar that features Mi'kmaq medicinal plants, you can download a copy.

If you have not yet checked out our UINR Facebook page, be sure to the next time you are updating your status! It's a great way to keep informed about activities at UINR. If you are a Twitter user be sure to follow us for up-to-minute news and resources.



UINR held an Open House in Membertou to share ideas on what is harming the Membertou Brook, reservoir and other streams in the community. We were seeking ideas that people might have to help solve the problem. As you can see from the turnout in the photo below, there were lots of great ideas shared between youth, Elders and other community members.





UINR's **Angela Morris** with **Chief Leroy Denny** present our **Sespite'tmnej-Let's Protect Eel Habitat** poster to representatives from **Eskasoni's Health Centre and High School**.

Above left to right: Reanne Jeddore—student, Chief Leroy Denny, Angela Morris, Sharon Rudderham, Health Centre Director, Newell Johnson— Vice-Principal, A.J. Marshall—student.



UINR and Union of Nova Scotia Indians have established a committee to help create best management practices for establishing residences in Malagawatch that respect the sacredness, traditional knowledge and value of the community. Committee members include Malagawatch residents, Band Council and Grand Council members, Elders, community resource individuals and youth from the five Mi'kmaq communities. Funding for this was provided by the Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program.

Photo above : Malagawatch residents identifying well locations, dumping areas and outhouses. Left to right: Bertram Bernard, Carol Ann Paul, Stephen Dennis, Quentin Doucette.

Emily Martin is proud of her involvement in one of several successful moose harvests with youth from Membertou. She shared this great experience with hunters **Blake Christmas** and **Joey Sylvester**.



Welcome UINR's new Finance Officer **Billy Taylor** who is managing our day-to-day financial operations. Billy joins us after working the past five years at Supreme Tank. Many readers may know Billy as the store manager at Atlantic Recreation and Marine. "I am really looking forward to working at UINR and expanding my horizons. After working so long in the retail world, it is really different to be working in the not-for-profit sector."

billy@uinr.ca

ppjila'si

Welcome

from **Lisa Young**
UINR's Executive Director

At UINR, natural resources mean more to us than just the things that we can hold in our hands. What we hold in our hearts and minds is of equal importance—our language, traditions, culture and history. That's why we are so interested in protecting Malagawatch, one of the most important meeting places of our people. Our work on Malagawatch is not just in the stone and construction to preserve the site, but also in our dedication to learning how our people used it throughout history, sharing that cultural information and working towards having it dedicated as an historic site.

Kluskap's Cave is another site that is steeped in Mi'kmaq custom. While that site is not yet threatened, the prospect of rising sea levels and coastal erosion is a concern. We are working with our partners at Cape Breton University and Parks Canada to find out everything we can on the cave. We look forward to sharing more of that information with you in the coming months.

lisa@uinr.ca

Scholarship Time!

If you or anyone you know is looking for some assistance to cover their education costs, UINR and our partners at Georgia Pacific and NewPage, are offering a number of scholarships for Mi'kmaq students in Unama'ki. Visit Opportunities at: uinr.ca for details.

Deadline: Friday, June 24, 2011

Salmon Workshop to gather

A special workshop on plamu (Atlantic salmon) in Cape Breton is being held in Sydney on March 7 and 8, 2011. UINR and the Cape Breton Collaborative Salmon Initiative (CSI) are bringing together interested people, both Mi'kmaq and non-native, from around the Island to find ways to work together towards the common goals of increasing the plamu/salmon population and the health of their environment.

The workshop will focus on gathering traditional knowledge from Elders and other resource users in the community. The workshop on March 7 takes place from 6:00–9:00 pm with dinner followed by presentations and discussion. The second day will focus on participants sharing traditional knowledge.

Lisa Young, UINR's Executive Director, explains, "We believe that it is important to bring everyone together to improve the understanding between cultures and to illustrate that we all have the same goals—the protection and improvement of salmon habitat in our rivers. A traditional talking circle will end the workshop, giving the participants an opportunity to express their opinions and contribute to the education process."

The workshop will introduce a new CSI document: "*Stewardship Framework for the Monitoring, Assessment and Enhancement of Plamu/Atlantic Salmon Populations and Their Habitat in Unama'ki Cape Breton.*" It outlines a five-year plan to address CSI's stewardship goals.

Plamu/salmon are important in the history and culture of both Mi'kmaq and non-native peoples and everyone shares a concern on the species' declining populations. Fisheries and Oceans Canada identified 44 rivers that currently support or have been known in the past to support plamu/ salmon populations. Other rivers that drain into the ocean could potentially support populations. Scientific and anecdotal reports indicate that most plamu/salmon populations here are in decline or are at low population size.

Of the six rivers in Cape Breton that are regularly assessed, only three are above or near to their spawning requirement. All harvest of plamu/ salmon in eastern Cape Breton have been closed and recreational retention fisheries are only allowed in some rivers in western Cape Breton.

The future of the resource is uncertain, especially in the face of continuing environmental pressure from land use practices and water management.

Lisa continues, "A stewardship strategy must recognize the treaty and aboriginal rights of the Mi'kmaq as well as the economic importance of the recreational fishery. Our strategy focuses on sustainability: how to conserve or enhance salmon populations while meeting the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability is particularly important given that all planning and recovery initiatives will require the support and participation of community groups and the general public of Cape Breton Island."

Consideration of watershed characteristics and the impacts of human activities on reproduction, survival and growth in aquatic environments is an important component in conservation or recovery initiatives.

Direction is provided on two aspects of habitat conservation: its protection and its restoration.

The strategy gives direction on where groups can access information to assist in their activities, including measuring the quality of the existing habitat, and ways in which habitat protection and restoration activities can be determined and prioritized.

Lisa concludes, "Our ultimate goal is to provide direction and support to community groups who want to conserve, rebuild or restore salmon populations in Unama'ki/Cape Breton rivers for the benefit of everyone."

lisa@uinr.ca



CSI Cape Breton was formed to allow Mi'kmaq and non-native users, assisted and supported by provincial and federal government agencies, to collectively address issues for the benefit of all users of the plamu/salmon resource.

The exchange of knowledge and information at CSI meetings led to the development of a stewardship strategy for the Cape Breton/ Unama'ki salmon/plamu resource.

In CSI's first workshop in 2006, certain issues were of special interest:

- data collection
- collation of existing data
- habitat protection/restoration
- introduction of exotic species
- involvement of youth in salmon conservation issues,
- engaging the general public in these issues
- a better understanding of the factors limiting salmon survival and looking at salmon rivers from a larger ecological perspective.



Outlook for 2011 fishery

Shrimp A Science Advisory meeting was held in mid-December and all indications are that a 10% reduction in Total Allowable Catch (TAC) will be requested for 2011. Advice from science evaluation and industry will determine the 2011 overall TAC. Science recommended a 10% reduction and the shrimp fishing communities of Unama'ki encouraged industry representatives to follow that advice.

Snow Crab Area 23/24 biomass has peaked and indications for the 2011 TAC will not be known until the spring Science meeting. All Unama'ki communities caught their quotas last year. Not all non-native license holders caught their quota because some license holders went over, so the overall TAC was reached and the fishery was shut down for the year. Industry recommended the fishery start on April 1 for 2011. DFO will review this request. Science recommends a slight decrease or maintaining status quo this year. Industry will make recommendations which will be considered by DFO prior to the beginning of the season.

Area 19's 2010 quota was caught within two weeks. Indications are that a 10–15% increase will be supported by science and this advice will be reviewed and a management meeting in early March will determine what the TAC will be, based on the science and industry recommendations.

Indications are that the prices for snow crab will be higher than the last few years in the Southern Gulf and Maritimes Region.

Scallops The spring survey will determine the TAC for the 2011 scallop quota. The interim quotas for SPA 1A is 100 tonnes, SPA 1B is 100 tonnes, SPA 3 is 50 tonnes and SPA 4 is 140 tonnes.

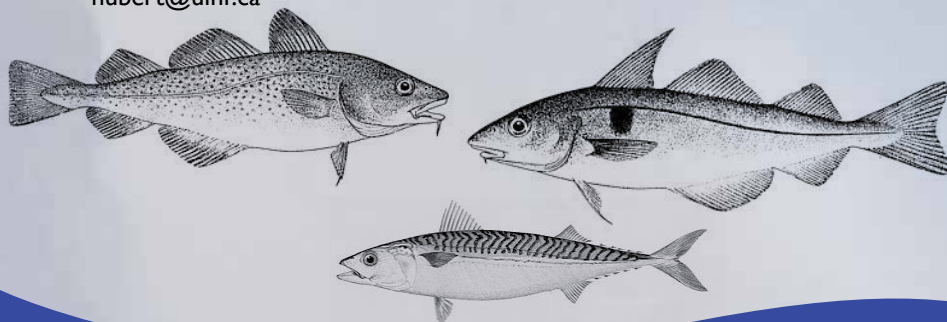
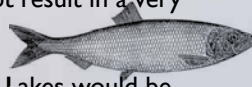
Lobster All areas enjoyed a slight increase in catch in 2010 but unfortunately, prices remained low. Prices are starting to slowly rise. Combined with increased operational costs, this did not result in a very profitable year for most areas.

Herring Any information on herring in the Bras d'Or Lakes would be appreciated, so that we can pass the information along to DFO for future research and studies on whether herring are coming back to numbers once seen in the Lakes.

Mackerel An unusual trend continued this year with mackerel not coming close to the Cape Breton shores. Many attribute this to warm waters close to shore changing the mackerel's migration habits. It has been five years since commercial quantities have been available for fishermen.

Groundfish Area 5ZE (Georges Bank) experienced a cut in quotas this year because of the reduction in cod numbers. Cod is a major bycatch and when fishing for other species, such as haddock, bycatch is inevitable. Precautions are taken to reduce bycatch and increase cod numbers.

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Work underway to protect Malagawatch

With \$500,000.00 in emergency funding approved by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to protect Mi'kmaq culturally significant lands in Malagawatch, Cape Breton, plans are underway to complete the work over the next couple of months.

Annie Johnson explains, "UINR is pleased to be presented the opportunity to work with our communities to address the important issue of erosion in Malagawatch. Working together with Wagmatcook First Nation, the Unama'ki Chiefs and Public Works and Government Services Canada, we are confident that the necessary work will be completed in the time we have allotted and we will be able to mitigate the serious erosion problems we are experiencing there."

Wagmatcook is working with Dillon Consulting and Public Works on engineering and professional support for the project, expected to be underway within a month. In addition to overseeing the project, the five Unama'ki Chiefs will review the final tender/bid recommendations and award the contract to the successful bidder.

Annie explains, "UINR will continue to ensure that the site's archaeological and historical evidence is secured and we will coordinate meetings between our partners to make sure that the project is completed respectfully and on schedule. We are working with the archaeologist at Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiations Office—Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative to ensure that the project is done properly." Historical and archaeological evidence indicate that Malagawatch and the surrounding areas have been used and occupied by Mi'kmaq ancestors for thousands of years.

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Every Spring, as soon as the snow is gone... **grass fires begin.**

People believe that burning grass is a good thing...
but it is destructive and dangerous.

Grass fires don't control weeds...
they make weeds worse by clearing the ground so weed seeds germinate.

Grass fires don't improve your lawn...
they reduce your grass by half.

Grass fires don't make your lawn look greener...
it just looks that way because the ground is black.

Grass fires are bad for our natural resources...
they kill important habitats for birds and small animals.

Grass fires are bad for the soil...
nutrients go up in smoke.

Grass fires are bad for the environment...
they release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Grass fires kill people and destroy property...
DON'T BURN GRASS!



DON'T BURN GRASS!

it's all about the people Angela Morris

A normal day for Angela could have her attending a meeting in the morning, dissecting eels in the afternoon and consulting with student groups in the evening. Never a dull moment for UINR's Research Assistant, Angela Morris!

In 1999, Angela was one of the first graduates from the newly-built Eskasoni High School, and she went on to continue her studies at Cape Breton University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2006.

Right after high school Angela worked as a summer student at UINR and Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission. This is where she got her feet wet working as a lab technician and assisting the biologists on a wide-range of projects.

Nowadays, Angela is involved in many projects at UINR. She represents UINR at meetings of the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative and attends training workshops and conferences relating to Species at Risk and invasive species. Over the years, she has become expert on the American Eel and spends many hours in the lab processing eels. This month she even spent some time on the ice spearing specimens for her research. She is also involved with the Malagawatch Environmental Best Management Practices Planning Committee.

Gaspereau are another species that Angela works with every year. She processes samples in the lab, helping in the development of a management plan for the local fishery. Most recently Angela assisted in developing the series of booklets "Sespite'mnej" (Let's be concerned) for the protection of eel habitat, setting up workshops and community meetings for all five bands and making presentations to students.

When not working, Angie loves spending time with her two young children Bethaney and Morris, and fiancé, Dion Denny. When she's not connecting with her friends on Facebook, you can probably find her out shopping or at a movie and whenever there's a quiet moment, reading.

"The most rewarding aspect of my work is the friendly, family-like atmosphere here at UINR. I enjoy my work and it feels nice being part of a great team."

angela@uinr.ca



Ten questions

Chose an animal native to Unama'ki.

The American Eel. Since working with eels in the Bras d'Or Lakes, I have developed a new respect and understanding for this culturally significant species.

Favourite season?

Summer.

What is the best part of your work?

Teaching students the importance of taking care of the Bras d'Or Lakes and how our actions affect the land and marine species.

Choose a quality you admire in others.

Patience.

Favourite beach?

Inverness Beach.

Last thing you read?

"Room" by Emma Donoghue.

What's for supper tonight?

Spare ribs, potatoes, carrots, turnips and cabbage.

What is your favourite website?

Facebook.

What did you do in the last week to help the environment?

I use environmentally friendly products and encourage my family to do the same.

Chocolate or chips?

Chips.



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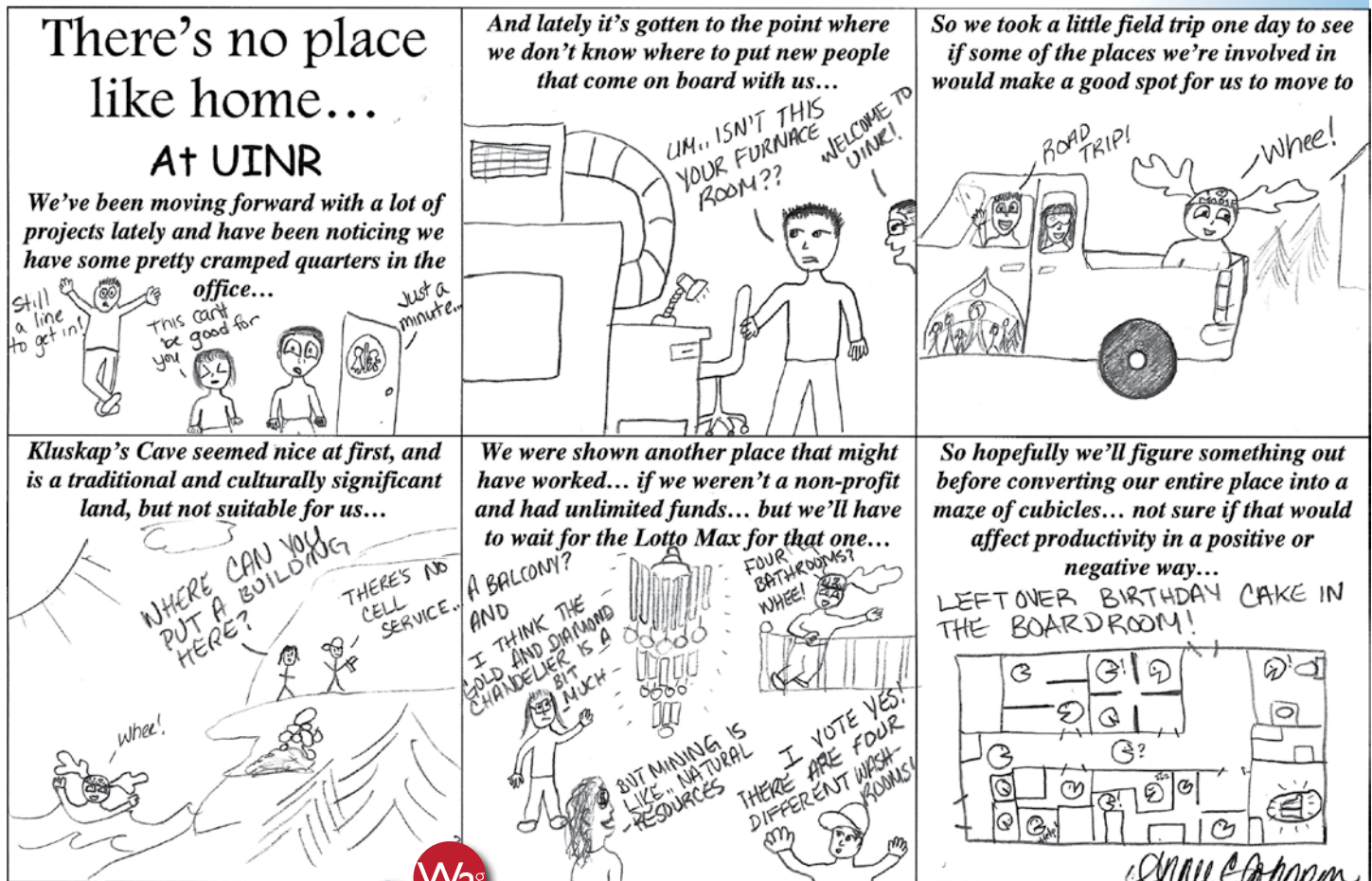
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