

Consultation Newsletter

Wolastoqey Nation

Aug 2017
Issue 3



WNNB Update

The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (WNNB) consists of:

- Consultation Director: Shyla O'Donnell (Shyla.Odonnell@wtci-nb.ca)
- Administrative Assistant: Brett Collins (admin@wtci-nb.ca)
- Ethnohistorian: Dr. Jason Hall (Jason.Hall@wtci-nb.ca)
- GIS Technician: Thomas Herbreteau (Thomas.Herbreteau@wtci-nb.ca)
- Forestry Advisor: Angie Paul (Angie.Paul@wtci-nb.ca)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Coordinator: Deana Sappier (Deana.Sappier@wtci-nb.ca)
- HR/Finance: Sandra Polches (Sandra.Polches@wtci-nb.ca)
- Fisheries Biologist: Dr. Colin Curry (Colin.Curry@wtci-nb.ca)
- Traditional Use Study (TUS) Project Co-Manager: Natasha Sacobie (Natasha.Sacobie@wtci-nb.ca)

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Site visit to Eqpahak Island
(August 14, 2017)

From left to right: Angie Paul, Brett Collins, Natasha Sacobie, Colin Curry, Deana Sappier, Shannon Polches, Jason Hall, Austin Paul, Thomas Herbreteau and Megan Fullarton

WNNB is currently looking for a Liaison Officer who will act as liaison between Emera's proposed Atlantic Link Project and WNNB.

The Atlantic Link Project is a proposed 900 megawatt, high voltage direct current transmission line that will deliver clean energy from Atlantic Canada to southern New England. Atlantic Link (owned by Emera) proposes marine (or subsea) routing of the transmission line from Coleson Cove, NB to one of two possible landing sites on the coast of Massachusetts.

For more information, please contact your community RDCC (see page 4 for RDCC details).

The Mactaquac Project



In September 2017, there will be a fish passage meeting between the Wolastoqiyik, NB Power, Canadian Rivers Institute (CRI) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) regarding identifying *criteria* for prioritizing species for passage.

Kingclear First Nation is the lead community on the Mactaquac Project. The community is now conducting interviews with their members regarding fish prioritization. The purpose of the interviews is to obtain Wolastoqiyik input on the matter. Some of the questions include:

- What species do you think deserve prioritization?
- If there were no more wild Atlantic salmon, what is the second species that you would fish for food?
- Do you think making us choose species of fish goes against our values? Can you elaborate?
- What do you think of NB Power choosing Option 4 (Life Achievement) instead of Option 3 (River Restoration)?
- How does wild Atlantic salmon being on the verge of extinction make you feel?

The information from community members will play a key role in the fish passage decision making process. The interview information will be incorporated into WNNB's technical review of the fish passage documents and provided to the other Wolastoqey communities for their feedback prior to submission to NB Power.

The Mactaquac Project is anticipated to be registered with environmental regulators by November 2018.

WNNB has not endorsed the Dam's renovation or the concept of prioritizing species for the new fish passage. WNNB continues to tell NB Power that the Wolastoqey favour the removal of the Mactaquac Dam (Option 3), so that all fish may travel the Wolastoq freely, and that the Wolastoqey reserve their right to litigate should NB Power fail to provide adequate accommodations for the Mactaquac Dam Life Achievement project (Option 4).



Mount Carleton Snowmobile Hub

A Traditional Land Use survey is currently being conducted to help the Wolastoqey determine the impacts to inherent rights by the proposed Snowmobile Hub Project.

Anyone with past/present use in Mount Carleton Provincial Park such as medicine gathering, harvesting,

The Sisson Project (Tungsten and Molybdenum Mine)

The Sisson Project received federal approval in June 2017 (provincial approval was given in December 2015).

In August 2017, the Wolastoqey communities received a notification letter from the Government of New Brunswick (GNB) stating they offered Sisson Mines Ltd., a 20-year Industrial Lease to further facilitate its mine development on Crown land.

Additionally, Environment Canada and Climate Change (ECCC) have contacted the Wolastoqiyik on their proposed consultation plan to add the Sisson Mine Tailings Area to the *Metal Mining Effluent Regulations*. The regulation would have to be amended to add Bird Brook and a small unnamed tributary to West Branch Napadogan Brook (both waters that are frequented by fish) to designate them as a tailings area. As the water bodies contain fish, there would have to be a fish habitat compensation plan.

Noloqonokek Nature Preserve Stewardship Workshop

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick is a non-governmental, charitable, grass-roots organization with the mission to conserve ecologically significant land across the province, to steward these lands through a network of volunteer Land Stewards and community groups, and educate the public on the importance of environmental conservation and stewardship. The Nature Trust has recently conserved 170 acres of mature forest and wetland on Middle Island and have named the nature preserve after the traditional Wolastoqey name for the island, 'Noloqonokek'. 'Nolomiw' refers to upriver and 'qono' refers to a 'long period of time' therefore, 'Noloqonokek'/'Neləkwənəkek' is relating to upriver and a long period of time.

The island is home to a large population of the endangered butternut tree and endangered monarch butterflies have been found feeding on the milkweed on the island. Part of the island floods every year during the spring freshet and supports many fiddleheads.

The Nature Trust would like to organize a workshop for youth and interested members from Wolastoqey communities to become involved in the stewardship of the Noloqonokek Nature Preserve.

The event would include canoeing to the island and completing a workshop, which may include tree planting, invasive species removal and learning how to identify butternut trees and the canker that affects them.

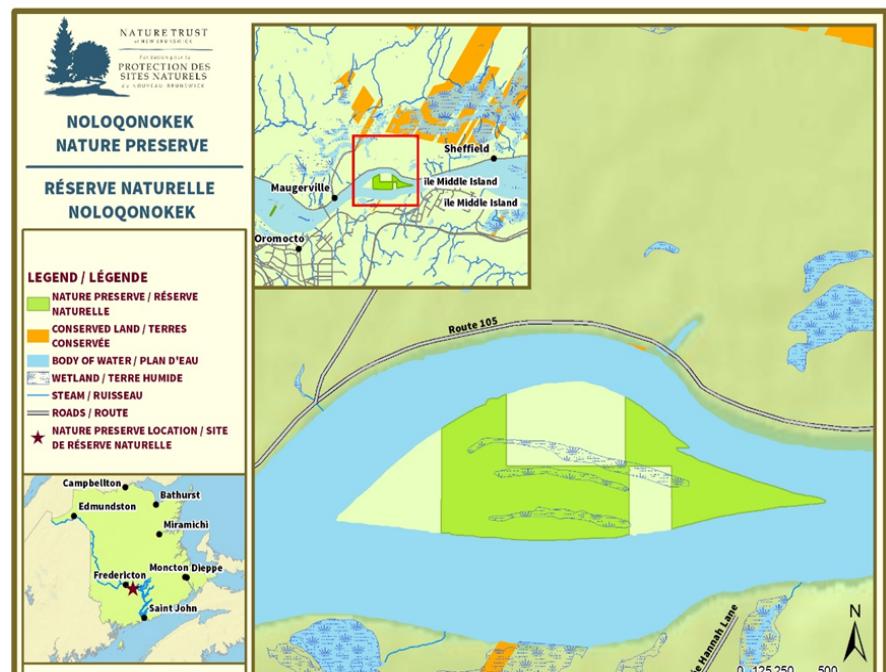
Potential dates are in August and September. Please contact Richelle Martin if you are interested (506-453-4886) or richelle.martin@ntnb.org

More information can be found on their website/social media page:

www.naturetrust.nb.ca

or

www.facebook.com/NatureTrustNB



Herbicide Spraying

In response to a community question regarding NB Power herbicide spraying, below is a response from the company:

NB Power has an integrated vegetation management program (IVMP) which is comprised of manually pruning tree branches adjacent to right-of-ways (RoWs), manually cutting or mechanically mowing trees in the RoWs, where necessary, mechanically or manually applying herbicides selectively on shorter trees and stumps to manage growth. NB Power does not apply herbicides aerially.

The goal of vegetation management on the transmission RoWs is to create RoWs with lower-growing shrubs that don't interfere with power lines, but do provide cover for wildlife and are attractive to look at. Herbicides are used to manage vegetation regrowth, and are often more effective than manual cutting in controlling the growth of hardwoods. Cutting hardwood trees leads to quick regrowth of new tree sprouts from the stump, interfering with the growth of low-lying shrubs and requiring our crews to return more often to the area for maintenance. Selective herbicide application prevents regrowth of hardwoods, and promotes the growth of lower-growing plants like grasses, shrubs, ferns and berries that do not interfere with power lines.

Community Update

Kingsclear First Nation applied for funding called *Environmental Trust Fund*, which assists for action-oriented projects with tangible, measurable results. The goal is preserve, enhance and protect the province's natural environment. Jesse Sabattis has been hired as the land based project manager for this project, and with the funding this project will be focused on ensuring future generations have resources and knowledge to protect and sustain our surrounding environment. The goal is to revitalize land based learning, provide guidance to the community on the importance of understanding traditional ecological knowledge, identifying species critical to traditional practices and that may be vulnerable to climate change, as well as furthering our understanding of the impacts of climate change on species. Jesse will be collaborating with Wulustukw Elementary School to revitalize land based learning about medicines, plants, and animals, as well as making information pamphlets about such things. So far Jesse has scouted wetlands and sensitive areas, as well as clearing trails to get kids to be able to go explore so he can teach them. Elders will also be involved in this process as teachers for our youth.

For more information, please contact Jesse at jessesabattis@kingsclear.ca or via Facebook

Interested in Environmental Field Monitoring?

The Wolastoqey Nation is looking to create a database of potential environmental field monitors, archaeological field monitors and persons interested in working in either field.

If you would like your resume to be included in the database, please send a copy of your resume to your community RDCC (see below for names). Please indicate in a general cover letter your level of experience and if you are willing to work throughout New Brunswick (or if you would like to stay within a certain region).

Contact Information:

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter and would like more information, please contact your community RDCC.

- Madawaska – Russ Letica (506-735-1744)
email: leticaruss@yahoo.com
- Tobique – Jamie Gorman (506-273-5544)
email: matewas@gmail.com
- Woodstock – Amanda McIntosh (506-325-3570) email: amanda3mcintosh@gmail.com
- Kingsclear – Keyaira Gruben (506-363-3028 ext. 143) email: keyairagruben@kingsclear.ca
- St. Mary's – Timothy Plant (506-459-2200 ext. 126) email: timothyplant@smfn.ca
- Oromocto – Fred Sabattis (506-478-4929) email: tamaqun@rogers.com

