



Abegweit First Nation

Chief Brian Francis Councillor Daren Knockwood Councillor Jacob Jadis

Phone: 902-676-2353 Fax: 902-676-3206 Website: www.abegweit.ca

Main Office: 31 Kitpu Street, Scotchfort, PEI C0A 1T0

Mailing Address: PO Box 36, Mount Stewart, PEI C0A 1T0

Community

Update

November 2015

- Upcoming Comprehensive Community Plan
- Upcoming Economic Development Community Plan
- High Stakes Bingo will be held Sunday May 22 at the Eastlink Centre
- Check us out on the web for updates and news www.abegweit.ca

Community Events & Activities

Youth Christmas Party
Sunday December 6 at 2pm
Murphy's Community Centre. Contact Deana with your child's name and birthdate (902)626-6778.

Monday Afterschool Group
6-12 year olds at Mt Stewart
3-4:30pm

Friday Breakfast Group at
Morell Consolidated 8:30-9:30am

After School Youth Group with Deana
12-18 year olds
Community Resource Building (Downstairs)
Monday & Wednesday's
4:30-6pm. Light snacks provided.

*Youth Christmas Party
Sunday December 6
at 2pm Murphy's
Community Centre.*

After School Tutoring with Linda
12-18 year olds.
Community Resource Building (Downstairs)
Monday & Wednesday's
3:30-4:30pm
Thursday's

Tuesday & Thursday's
Circuit Training with Shawn
4:00pm
Abegweit Fitness Centre

Monday's 10-11:30am Nijun
Aqq Nin for parents and tots.

Food is Medicine Project

For more information contact
Kerri Wheatley
(902) 218-1291

You are Invited to Share Your Ideas about Food in Abegweit

Food is Medicine

Meet the Team



Jennifer Taylor
• Professor, Applied Human Sciences, UPEI



Chief Matilda Ramjattan
• Lennox Island First Nation



Chief Brian Francis
• Abegweit First Nation



Roseanne Sark
• Director of Health, MCPEI



Alma MacDougall
• R.N and Cultural Support Worker, MCPEI



Debbie Martin
• Assistant Professor, Health and Human Performance, Dalhousie University



William Montelpare
• Professor, Applied Human Sciences, UPEI



Colleen Walton
• Assistant Professor, Applied Human Sciences, UPEI



Kerri Wheatley
• Research Coordinator, Food is Medicine Project, UPEI and MCPEI

The goal of the project is to make good healthy food more affordable and easier to get in your community. We need to know what you want and what your community needs.

Who: We will consult with 50-70 people over the age of 18 who live in Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations.

What: Together we will discuss your thoughts, concerns and ideas about food in your community, traditional foods, and projects involving food.

When: November 2015

How: One-on-one interviews, or small group discussions

Why: To create a 3-year project designed to improve access to good healthy food in your community.

To Participate or for More Information:

Talk to your Chief or Contact a member of our research team

Kerri Wheatley,
Research Coordinator
902-218-1291

Jennifer Taylor,
UPEI Researcher 902-566-0475
Roseanne Sark, MCPEI
Representative 902-436-5101

Snacks & Door Prizes!



Education

*Visit our website to see the English Language School Board's Annual Calendar for 2015-2016
www.abegweit.ca*

We have approximately 65 students registered in 9 different Provincial schools this fall.

Nominal Roll census for K4- Grade 12 has been completed and submitted.

Post- Secondary Nominal Roll for previous year 2014-15 has also been completed and submitted.

A Compliance review also has also been completed by AANDC for our Post-Secondary program. We are proud to have received 100% in our compliance with their requests and guidelines.

A big "Thank You" to our Post-Secondary students for forwarding all their official transcripts and signed forms as requested and on time.

Homework Club is well underway in Scotchfort for

ages 12-18, three evenings a week on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30 – 6pm at the Family Resource Centre to help students complete their homework assignments or get some extra help with Linda, as needed.

Our Youth Worker, Tyler Murphy, has his after school group at Mount Stewart Consolidated School every Monday from 3pm-4:30pm for ages 6 – 12 to enable our youth to get help with homework and have some fun activities.

We have been providing Parent Information Sessions in our communities in regard to the newly approved Information Sharing Agreement, which we recently signed with the PEI English Language

School Board School Board. This allows us to better follow the progress of our students, and therefore, put supports in place sooner in areas where they may be having difficulties. These sessions will continue until all parents of school age children have been informed.

Our Post-secondary students are busy in their first semester of studies and UPEI by Sherri Russell, Aboriginal Academic Advisor. She is there to assist them in any way she can.

We enjoyed a visit at our office of approximately 20 Little Goblins from the Scotchfort Early Learning Centre who came to our Office for Hallowe'en treats. They were well enjoyed and they enjoyed their ride on the bus!

Our Youth Worker, Tyler Murphy, has his after school group at Mount Stewart Consolidated School every Monday from 3pm-4:30pm for ages 6 – 12 to enable our youth to get help with homework and have some fun activities.

Administration

Requesting ALL dogs in our communities be tied up or restrained.

Dog Owner Responsibility and Community Member Safety: We are concerned for the safety and well-being of all community members and are requesting that ALL dogs in our communities be tied up or restrained. If any incidents occur, it will be responsibility of the dog owner to deal with the outcome. Out of respect and safety of other community members, we hope that everyone abides

by this request. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Community Christmas Bonus will be direct deposited on December 8th. If your banking info has changed, contact Mary Ellen at (902)676-2353 ext 104.

Administration Offices will be closed December 17th until Monday January 4th for Christmas holidays.

North American Indigenous Games 2017 will be held in Toronto. Visit www.naigcouncil.com or 1 800-453-7239 for more information.

We are asking all members on and off reserve to please contact Mary Ellen Knockwood at maryellen@abegweit.ca or call (902)676-2353 ext 104 with *updated phone, email and mailing address* to ensure communication gets through.

Natural Resources

Commercial Fishery

Planning sessions will soon be started for the 2016 season. The following plans are active and will be revised annually,

- Harvest
- Training
- Work
- Asset Replacement
- Human Resource
- Vessel Repair
- Financial

The Fishery Committee consists of 9 positions and people are needed to fill a few vacant spots. Please notify fisheries if you want to join the committee.

Fisher training in MED and 1st aid will occur in February. We will contact fishers if they need updated training.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration

The stream enhancement program will again focus its attention again on the Midgell River system for 2016. A long term plan is being developed to assist the returns of spawning Salmon and Trout to this water shed. Planning is partnered with Province, DFO, Morell River Management, MCPEI and Abegweit. Funding is being sought again from the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk and the Atlantic Salmon Federation.

AICFI – Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fishery Initiative

The AICFI program is set to expire at the end of 2015 fiscal year. Long term business plans, with financials, and long term asset replacement plans have been developed. These plans are to detail how the Band's Fishery is to be self-sustaining upon completion of the AICFI program. These annual plans will be reviewed each year.

Forestry Crew

A forestry plan is being developed for the long term viability of the co-managed agreement with the Province for 900 acres we currently utilize. A professional forester will help us identify the current wood specie and project future reforestation on these lands.

Resource Director. The MCPEI's AAROM program and the BDT aquaculture specialist will provide valuable advice based on their previous experience in hatchery development and operations.

Abegweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery

October and November are extremely busy months at the hatchery. Activities center round the releasing of as many fish as possible into rivers so that tanks in the hatchery can be cleaned and made ready for incoming broodstock. Broodstock collection is also an important activity and once they have been collected from Island streams they are spawned in the hatchery. The spawning of the broodstock fish and their return to the wild afterwards is also done in November.

October 9th to October 30th – Trout fry that had spent the summer in the hatchery were delivered to the watersheds that they came from last fall while they were still eggs inside their mother.

October 9th to November 13th - Fish release of larger 2-year old trout for fishing derbies into ponds. Some of the larger fish were tagged so that they can be tracked. Tagging was done by Atlantic Veterinary College students and the PEI Freshwater Fisheries Biologist.

October 19th to November 6th - Broodstock collecting for Brook trout and Atlantic salmon was carried out in the Dunk/Wilmot, Trout River, Brudenell, West and Morell Rivers.

November 9th – Atlantic salmon spawning was completed with the assistance of Chief Brian Francis and Minister Robert Mitchell of Communities, Land & Environment. Staff from watershed groups (Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation, Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association, Pisquid River Enhancement Association) also pitched in with the work.

Approximately 1000,000 Atlantic salmon eggs were spawned and put into incubators. Recently the Abegweit Conservation Society has received approval for funding to expand the Plamu Nitap (Salmon Friend) program into more schools.

Schools 2015: Morell, Cardigan, Southern Kings, Eliot River, Bloomfield, Souris, Englewood, Pierre Chiasson

New Schools 2016: John J. Sark Memorial, Summerside Intermediate, Mt. Stewart Consolidated, Queen Elizabeth Elementary, Abegweit Aboriginal Youth Environmental Services

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(902)676-2353

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(902)676-3206

E-MAIL:
reception@abegweit.ca

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.abegweit.ca

MCPEI Employment Services

Adult Education

Classes have resumed and we have 5 participants in the GED program and 5 participants working to obtain their academic credits. If you are interested in the GED program or if you have credits to complete please contact Linda Fraser (902 676-2043), next semester starts in January.

Words of Wisdom

This project is funded in partnership with New Horizons for Seniors Program (Employment and

Social Development Canada) and MCPEI- Employment Services

The goal of the project is to provide opportunities for mentoring, support and intergenerational learning. This will be achieved by bringing Elders and Youth together to share, learn and document stories and legends. Dion Bernard has been hired to organize and video events and teachings. Elder Francis Jadis will be his mentor and support person on the project. Ron Zakar, MCPEI

Coordinator, Special Projects and Brent Chaisson, Community Child & Youth Care Worker, Mi'kmaq Family Pride Program will provide technical support to Dion.

Aboriginal Mentorship Program MOU signed by MCPEI and the Province of PEI

On November 16th, the Government of PEI and MCPEI signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU establishes a Mentorship Program for post-secondary Aboriginal students.

Early Years Centre

There have been a number of changes at the centre this Fall. Michelle Marshall has gone on maternity leave with her 2nd child,

Ezra. Roxanne Gallant has been hired to cover her Maternity Leave. She is working with the infants. Tania Knockwood has completed her full certification as an Early Learning Educator and is back to work. She is working with the Toddlers this year. Heather Phalen is working with the 3-4 year old group. All groups are full, and we, unfortunately, have a waiting list.

This year, at Halloween, we visited the Band Office, The Gas Bar, the GED program and the Wellness Centre. Thank you all for your generosity. We will be taking a trip to Charlottetown again this year for the National Child's Day Parade

on November 20th. We love representing our First Nation Community at this National event.

The children thoroughly enjoy visiting other places, learning new things, and travelling on the school bus. Thank you Chief Brian, Danny Levi and all parents for supporting us so well.

We have a few visitors who contribute to our program weekly; The Music Man, Bricks 4 Kids, Wild Child Program [a group who helps the children appreciate and experience the great outdoors], and we had a conservation group come in for 1 day to show many animals and discuss wildlife.

We will be closed for Christmas break from December 17 - January 4.

Our Christmas concert will be December 14th, at 11AM, followed by a light lunch. All are welcome.

We would like to remind you that if you are finished with children's items and are ready to let them go, please consider our centre before you throw them. We may be able to use them.

Our wish list is: some logs from cut trees, some piles of earth, a Teepee, and a shed for storage.

We are wondering if there are any people who might have some Aboriginal Art that you would like to loan or donate to the centre.

As the weather turns cooler, children will need to dress a little more warmly to enjoy the outdoors.