



Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois Newsletter

www.acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca

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Words of Wisdom

*When all the trees have been cut down,
When all the animals have been hunted,
When all the waters are polluted,
When all the air is unsafe to breathe,
Only then will you discover
You cannot eat money.*

Cree Prophecy

President's Report

From AAMS President - Joe Jacquard

As the newly elected president of AAMS (since June 2011) I find it a great pleasure to be writing my first President's report when all the news is excellent and the future is bright.

At the last annual general meeting major changes to the officers of the Association took place, namely: June Comeau Blinn was elected as 1st Vice President, James LeBlanc 2nd Vice President, Betty Thibault Secretary, and Michel Deveau remaining as treasurer. We also welcomed to our team, our newest elected Director, Elaine Deveau.

The summer and fall of 2011 has been busy with Association participation at the Spring Equinox in both Clare and Quinan, the June Music Festival in Quinan, and July 1st Wedgeport festivities and Tuna Tournament in August. We were well represented at the Acadian-Mi'kmaw celebration at Kedji as well as the festivities in La Have where AAMS members also joined in from Louisiana. Once again, the AAMS was the Grand Prize winner in the Clare Acadian Festival parade, and we also had an information booth during the bazaar at the University. By far though, our greatest unforgettable success to date was our booth at the Expo Commerce in Church Point in October.

Membership continues to grow at an acceptable steady pace and the Association is in a stable financial position.

We would like to thank our out-going President and Founder Paul Tufts for his faithful and immeasurable contribution to the AAMS, and are delighted to inform you that he will still be a valuable asset as he continues to serve in the capacity of AAMS Director.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The AAMS Board of Directors is very pleased to announce the creation of a **\$500.00** bursary to be awarded to a member attending University or Community College. For complete information, please see our web site at

www.acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca

Did You Know That.....

Hundreds of years ago, thousands of gannets and roseate terns nested and thrived on Gannet Rock, Strawberry Island, and many other parts of the Tusket Islands? The Mi'kmaw elders spoke of *clouds* of these birds inhabiting these islands off Southwest Nova Scotia.

The local Acadian Métis population, including Le Bas de Tousquet (Wedgeport) and Pombcoup (Pubnico), were quick to learn from their Mi'kmaw friends of an annual spring delicacy, and traveled by small boat to these nesting islands to collect the eggs for feasting at home. The Métis also learned from the Indians that this yearly cull was not a problem for the birds, because within a few weeks of losing their eggs, the nesting pairs would lay another brood. Unfortunately, colonists not familiar with the ancient knowledge of the Mi'kmaw (who practised sustainable harvesting long before there was a name for it) became greedy for this delicacy, and returned to the Islands to collect the new broods, too.

The result was a decimation of the nesting bird population within a few short years, and to this day, the Tusket Islands remain virtually void of gannet and roseate tern nests.

Anguille à Petite-Eau **(Simmered Eel)**

1 or 2	Eels	1 or 2
½ cup	Flour	125ml
2 Tbsp	Butter	30ml
	Salt and pepper	
1Tbsp	Salted herbs	15ml
1cup	Water	250ml

Skin, clean and wash the eels. Cut them into 2 " / 5cm pieces, and roll them in flour.
Place the eels and the butter in a heavy frying pan and fry until they are brown.
Season with salt, pepper and salted herbs.
Add the water to the pan, cover and simmer for 45 mins, adding more water if necessary.

Serve with boiled potatoes.

Statistics Canada Census 2006

It seems the pride of our heritage continues to grow, as a greater and greater number of us self-identify as Métis-first nation.

According to the information in the 2006 Census, there was an increase of an amazing **730 percent** of respondents in Nova Scotia who declared themselves as Métis over the numbers of the previous census. Why is this important? Because the amount of power and influence any group has in any political or societal arena is directly influence by the number of individuals in that group. If we want to be heard, we must have a loud enough voice, and if our membership numbers increase at anywhere near the rate of Acadians now officially recognizing their Métis ancestry – we cannot be ignored.

As we challenge hunting/fishing legislations here in NS as well as across Canada, we will need everyone to do their part – starting with self identifying themselves, whenever asked, as Métis. This gives the various individuals and councils who are presently before the courts the proof that Métis heritage is indeed alive and well throughout the country, and not –as some Crown Attorneys would have the Judges believe – a footnote in past Canadian history.

Did You Know That...

The Acadian manner of naming someone by their father and grandfather, ie. Joseph á Eddie á Emilien, was taken from the local Mi'kmaw tradition. This is not a French custom done in France or Quebec, nor a Métis custom elsewhere in Canada – only the Acadian Métis have carried on the practice of identifying a person by their ancestry, and it gives us further proof that we are a distinct society.

AAMS Board of Directors

Amirault, Gerald (Director):	Amirault Hill, N.S.
Chandler, Gilbert (Director):	Hectanooga, N.S.
Comeau-Blinn, June (1st Vice-President):	Concession, N.S.
Deveau, John (Director):	Belleville, N.S.
Deveau, Elaine (Director):	Grosses Coques, N.S.
Deveau, Micheal (Treasurer) :	Mavillette, N.S.
Jacquard, Joseph (President) :	Wedgeport, N.S.
LeBlanc, Donald (Director, Spiritual Advisor) :	Sainte Anne-du-Ruisseau, N.S.
LeBlanc, James (2nd Vice- president):	Yarmouth, N.S.
Lombard, Alisa (Executive Director and Advisor):	Little Brook, N.S.
Muise, Raymond (Director, Genealogy Committee)	Yarmouth, N.S.
Muise, Robert (Director):	Quinan, N.S.
Therriault, Alyre (Director, Website Co-ordinator):	Saulnierville, N.S.
Thibault, Betty (Secretary):	Church Point, N.S.
Tufts, Paul (Director, Genealogy Committee):	Hebron, N.S.

Until a more permanent address is located, the **Registered Office of the AAMS** will be situated at: Civic # 9741, Route # 1, P.O. Box 124, Saulnierville, Digby County, N. S. B0W 2Z0