

2013 REPORT

In January I formed a committee to work with White Point on a project to showcase Mikmaq culture and traditions . The project was called Ancient Mikmaq Culture Reemerges. On our Committee we had former Mayor John Leefe ,Eric Lebelle , Donna Hatt , and from our Band Donna Whynot, Lisa Francis , Todd Labardor and Melanie Robinson. We run this two day event June 21 and 22 at White Point. Live at Five was there to do their show on the 21 and showcased our event. This event had over one hundred people registered and we feel it was a big success. White Point has been a huge partner in helping us get our foot in the door with tourism. During this event we had videos made to use for projects down the road. This project took months of preparing and doing proposals to get the money we needed to put it on, also Acadia First Nation helped us with our budget.

During February I took one of our crafters Cherry Whynot and we did medicine bags with the highschool students.

The highschool has a Mikmaq class and I always get together with them to do projects.

I worked with the Region of Queens to put together a program for a summer student for the Visitor's center in Liverpool. I put together a series of workshops that one of our band members could do with tourists during the summer. It was very successful and helped to showcase our culture during the summer with the people visiting our area.

During the summer I also am asked by some groups like boy scouts and others and do some work with them. This year was asked to their scout camp at lake Muh a Muh and did crafts and talks about our culture and traditions. As always I go to the cultural day at Port Royal to do crafts with the tourists young and old but mostly children. Once a year this park showcases our culture and traditions by having a special day for our culture.

I am now working on a project with Keji Park, this is very exciting as we have so much history in the park. We have received word that our proposal for funding has been granted , which will give us funds to do a 12 week project during the summer where we will do a Mi'kmaq experience one day a week for the 12 weeks. I have a committee of people from tourism and the region of queens as well as Rachael Pictou , Donna Whynot, Cathy Leblanc and myself and a representative from Keji. This is a very exciting project and we are hoping to add to the visitors at the park by doing a lot of promotion in the tourism market. We will also be doing a one day event in October of 2014 , in celebration of Mi'kmaq month which will be held during the Hunter's moon. We will use a sub-committee from the larger committee to do this project.

Liverpool is putting on The Christmas on the Mersey this year Dec 6, 7, and 8. Acadia First Nation has been asked to participate. We will be part of Dec. 6 events , where I will have three canoes coming across the Mersey River from the parking lot area to Lanes wharf, I will have drummers their drumming them in then one of them will

lite a fire and we will sing a blessing. The choir with one of our band member will do silent night in Mi'kmaq. A lot of people are very interested in our part of this Christmas event, just have to hope for great weather. I will also use one of our band members to be part of the storytelling on Dec. 8 at the Rossignol Centre.

So with the projects on the go and tourism meetings with Destination Southwest Nova and the Biosphere tourism committee and Tians conference coming up I should be quite busy.