

**Puniw** (It is Winter)  
December 2002

Brenda Commander - Tribal Chief  
Susan Young - Editor

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**Inside this issue:**

Pollution Prevention. 1  
 A Fond Farewell. . . . 1  
 Cihkte Lagiwi . . . . . 2  
 Gathering Muskrat  
 Root . . . . . 3  
 Six Legged Frog . . . . 3  
 Word Search Puzzle . 3  
 Post Hunting Season  
 Activities . . . . . 4  
 River Reclassification 4  
 Word Search Puzzle  
 Answers . . . . . 6  
 Npukhulakonok . . . . 6

**HBMI Natural Resources Department**



***Pollution Prevention - P2* by Sharri Venno**

It's a powerful tool to protect our environment. P2 follows the "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" principle. In practice P2 means changing the way we live and do business. Today most environmental protection involves treating or cleaning up the pollution we create. Take for examples smokestacks filled with scrubbers to remove toxic materials in air emissions or treatment plants for waste water from industrial and municipal sources or even (believe it or not) recycling bottles and cans. This kind of environmental protection *is not* pollution prevention. Pollution prevention means creating manufacturing processes that reduce or eliminate toxic emissions, waste water and solid waste. Pollution prevention also means reducing or eliminating the toxic emissions, waste water and solid waste that come from building houses and just everyday living.

Here are some of the P2 practices we've incorporated into our new 18 - unit residential community:

***Energy efficiency***

reduces toxic emissions from our own furnaces and/or the power plants we get our electricity from.

- The majority of homes are oriented east-west to maximize southerly exposure for passive solar gain. Windows also have been placed to maximize passive solar gain. Several homes will have large patio doors on the southerly side as well.
- Windows will be double paned, low e glazed and argon filled for maximum energy efficiency.
- All homes will be well insulated.

*Continued page 2*



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***A Fond Farewell***

As you may or may not know, Scott Krzanik, our Water Resources Specialist, has left us to return home to Western Massachusetts. We'll surely miss his contributions to the department as well as his great sense of humor.

Please join us in the Natural Resources Department in wishing Scott and his family all the best in the future.

***Apc Oc!***

## *Cikte laqiw*

*Cikte laqiw, wehwas laqiw  
Cikte psiw skitkomiq  
Psiwote wiwniw eyit wikuwosit  
Naka tena wasis elossit  
Sanke wokosu wassosis  
Sanke wakosu wassosis*

*Cikte laqiw, wehwas laqiw  
Asipuwewicik 'tuhkelakuniya  
Pitiyatesik psiw skitkomiq  
Naga aselis metentutilit  
Sesuhs nomihqosu  
Sesuhs nomihqosu*

*Cikte laqiw, wehwas laqiw  
Niskam 'qossisol sesuhsol  
Psiwote sisoq pitiyatesuwuw  
Etuci 'toposit wassosis  
Sesuhs niskam peciye  
Sesuhs niskam peciye*



## *Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from Heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia

Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God loves pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth

## *P2 (cont'd)*

- All homes will use high efficiency cold-start boilers to provide both heat and domestic water. These boilers use significantly less fuel than conventional cast-iron boilers.
- All homes will have EPA Energy Star rated appliances.

**Water efficiency** reduces the amount household waste water we generate.

- All homes will have water saving toilets, low-flow shower heads and low-flow faucets

**Resource efficiency** reduces the amount of construction or household waste we generate.

- All excavated materials will be used on site. Virtually no trees will be impacted by the project.

**Preventing Nonpoint Source Pollution** keeps soil, contaminants and excessive stormwater runoff out of our streams and river.

- Erosion control measures are part of all phases of construction.
- Storm water discharge will be reduced once the potato field these homes will be located on is mostly converted to lawn.
- Our development avoids disturbing freshwater wetlands, steeply sloping areas, and natural drainage ways to the extent possible. The new road does disturb one small area of wetland to provide a road intersection that safely enters onto Foxcroft road.

**Stay tuned. We will provide more detailed information about our P2 efforts in future editions of this newsletter.**

## Post-Hunting Season Activities by Scott Krzanik

Now that hunting season is well over with, and we are all rested up from trudging through the woods and cedar swamps, there are a few things that you can do to prepare for next year's hunting.

First, and probably most importantly, is caring for your equipment. When the season ends and we can finally put our equipment away for the next nine months, many of us don't even want to look at our hunting gear any more. This includes our firearms. Unfortunately, it is not a wise thing to do. All of the dirt, dust, leaves, dampness, and gunpowder (if you were lucky enough to shoot at anything) has built up inside the gun and will begin to cause rusting and/or pitting of the metal parts. Also, the longer this "gunk" is inside the gun, the more difficult it becomes to clean and remove it. When the action of the gun is worked, this junk will settle deeper into the hard-to-reach areas and can also cause scratches and unnecessary wear-and-tear on the firearm.

It is very important that all of your firearms are thoroughly cleaned and inspected regularly. If you are not comfortable doing this yourself, take them to a reputable gunsmith to get the job done. *Just make sure it happens.* Firearms are too expensive and potentially dangerous if not properly cared for. Don't just run a cleaning patch down the barrel and call the gun clean. It should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a year and minimally cleaned shortly after each use. Even if you didn't fire the gun, clean it anyway, since moisture and dirt still finds its way into the barrel and action

from use during all kinds of weather.

Wash and dry all of your hunting clothes so they don't get musty smelling from being exposed to the elements for two or three months. It's also a good time to take inventory of your ammunition. Go out and check the accuracy of your guns and practice shooting from now until hunting season. Re-stock your ammo with the same type you practice with. Sharpen your knives and repair holes in your clothing or other broken items so you don't get a surprise the next time you try to use something at a critical moment. Don't forget your stands and decoys, they need your attention too. Make a list of things you need or would like to have for next season (and ask for the stuff for Christmas, your birthday or other special occasion).



Now's a good time to go out and scout locations for ground blinds or tree stands for next year instead of waiting until the trees begin leafing out again. It's also a good time to find other hunting spots and begin to secure permission to access private land. Landowners appreciate the thoughtfulness of hunters who prepare early for their activities rather than rushing them at the last minute. You can probably start a strong and lasting relationship with landowners well before hunting season begins.

Good luck next hunting season and enjoy the upcoming fishing opportunities.

## River Reclassification by Sharri Venno

You may have heard that our Water Resources Program participated in this year's State water reclassification process. Maine's Water Classification System establishes water quality goals for the State. These goals are reached by designating uses for streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and marine waters and establishing water quality criteria to support those uses. Uses include activities such as fishing, recreation, industrial processing and cooling, and aquatic habitat. Criteria include standards such as minimum dissolved oxygen and maximum bacteria levels. Class AA is the highest classification and is applied to waters that are "outstanding natural resources." Class C is the lowest classification allowing a lower water quality.

*Continued page 5*

## Gathering Muskrat Root



Close up of Muskrat root just before being harvested

On Thursday, October 31, 2002 Elder Charles Solomon of Kingsclear First Nation, led another expedition to gather muskrat root. He was joined by a few friends from both sides of the border along with Imelda Perley, HBMI Language Coordinator, Scott Krzanik and Sue Young from the Natural Resources Department, Brian Reynolds Education Director and Heidi Kelley Enrollment Clerk.

The ground was beginning to freeze but we were still able to dig the roots. The roots were much larger in diameter than those picked last year and in a short time we gathered plenty of root. The roots have been cleaned, are presently drying and will soon be ready for the elders and others in the community just in time for the cold and flu season which is just around the corner. If you get a chance to come to the Natural Resources Department in the near future you will be greeted by the wonderful smell of the drying roots. If you'd like more information on the uses of muskrat root, please contact Imelda Perley at ext. 213



From Left, Sarah Lovejoy, Elder Charles Solomon, Scott Krzanik, and Sue Young harvesting the muskrat root in Mars Hill (photo by Heidi Kelley)

## 6 legged Frog

Tribal member Tina Beaver brought this 6 legged frog in to the Natural Resources Department after her son found it near their home at Conroy Lake.



The frog had normal front legs and 4 hind legs with 3 legs on one side. Each of the legs seemed to function and the frog got along just fine. It was not clear if the additional legs were a natural mutation or a result of environmental pollutants.

After reporting the frog to numerous state agencies and taking many pictures of the frog, it was released to live out it's life.

## Word Search Puzzle

A	S	F	G	Y	T	I	N	K	P	D	S
I	B	H	M	K	I	D	S	L	H	M	N
C	C	S	M	O	C	C	A	S	I	N	S
E	M	N	K	V	C	X	F	A	D	L	E
F	R	O	S	T	O	T	I	O	E	M	H
I	T	W	I	N	T	E	R	D	S	L	J
S	I	S	M	K	O	D	E	A	I	R	F
H	H	T	A	E	R	W	E	T	C	L	P
I	B	O	I	R	U	I	B	N	I	K	A
N	U	R	A	U	R	O	R	A	C	D	S
G	C	M	O	F	H	G	V	S	L	E	D
S	K	D	B	H	I	O	N	O	E	L	D

AURORA  
BUCK  
FIRE  
FROST  
FUR  
HIDES

ICE FISHING  
ICICLE  
MOCCASINS  
NOEL  
SANTA  
SLED

SNOWBALL  
SNOWSTORM  
TRACKS  
WINTER  
WREATH

## ***River Reclassification (cont'd)***

Reclassification provides a way “for the State to continually move forward in the improvement and protection of water quality” by upgrading - when appropriate - water bodies from a lower classification to a higher classification. This process rarely results in downgrading water classification. Maine’s law protects its waters from uses that will lower existing water quality. We collect water quality data on a number of the streams that flow into the Meduxnekeag River. Our data show these streams meet the State’s “A” Classification. However, currently they are given a lower “B” Classification. During public meetings hosted by Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), we recommended the State upgrade these streams from “B” to “A” to accurately reflect the quality of their water.



This effort has unfortunately created some misunderstanding and concern among some members of the watershed community: Here’s what Chief Brenda Commander had to say at a MDEP public information meeting requested by the Southern Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District on the proposed reclassification of tributary streams in the Meduxnekeag Watershed:

*“We have heard many rumors regarding what people think our Tribe is trying to accomplish by recommending that DEP reclassify some of the streams in the Meduxnekeag Watershed. I want to take this opportunity to set the record straight. The reason we are recommending that DEP reclassify some streams from B to A is because our water quality data show those streams meet the higher classification. We are not driving reclassification but simply participating in what is a state-wide process.”*

*The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is not trying to put farmers out of business by recommending a change in water quality classification. We also own potato fields close to the Meduxnekeag. We lease them now and want to farm ourselves in the future. It was and continues to be our understanding that stream reclassification has no effect on the farming community. Rather than trying to put people out of business, we are working cooperatively with the Conservation District on several projects that can help the farming community improve their farming practices and water quality. As a federally recognized Indian Tribe, we have access to federal and other funding specifically available to Tribes that we can bring to this effort.*

*Furthermore, we are not trying to put A.E. Staley or Houlton Water Company’s wastewater treatment plant out of business either. Again, our recommendations for reclassification do not affect either discharger. We are happy to see the efforts made by A.E. Staley to improve the treatment of their wastewater over the years and have developed an open and cooperative relationship with them. Regarding Houlton Water Company, we are a major customer of theirs purchasing electricity and drinking water. And we send wastewater from our housing to their treatment plant. However, we also live downstream from their discharge. It is in our best interest that Houlton Water Company not only stays in business but also provides the best possible treatment to their discharge. We work cooperatively with Houlton Water Company jointly monitoring water quality above and below their discharge. We hope also to be able to bring any resources we can to the process of improving their wastewater treatment.*

*If any of you have any further concerns or questions please contact Sharri Venno, our Environmental Planner at the Band office. Thank you for your time.”*

If you have any questions about the Band’s recommended river reclassification you can also give Sharri Venno a call at 532-4273 ext. 215.

# Npukhulakonok

*Me and My Drum*

Ckuwi ntiyukuk pa rum pum pum  
 Piley kincemoss sakiyan pa rum pa pum pum  
 Psiw oc Keluwak Kmilanen pa rum pa pum pum  
 ‘Ciw pili kincemoss pa rum pa pum pum, rum pa pum pum

Kulasihkul pa rum pa pum pum,  
 npukhulakonok, npukhlakonok

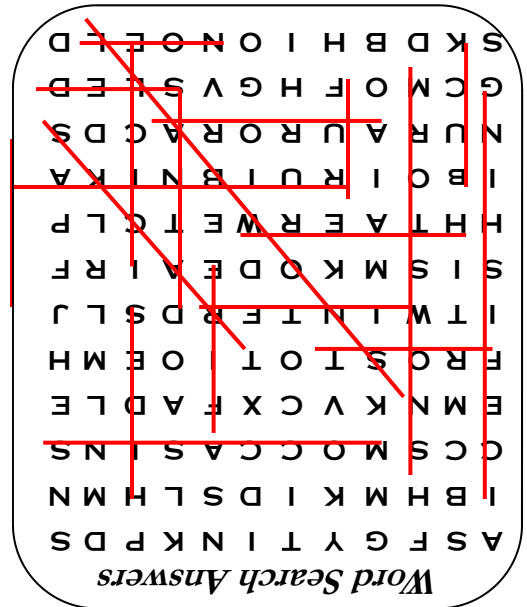


Wasis sesuhs pa rum pa pum pum  
 Nil ona nkotamaki wasis pa rum pa pum pum  
 Ktultemul oc npukhulaklonok pa rum pa pum pum  
 Kil opocil kincemoss pa rum pa pum pum rum pa pum  
 pum rum pa pum pum



On Nsiktelomutakun pa rum pa pum pum  
 npukhulakonok, npukhlakonok

*Sung to the tune of the "Little Drummer Boy"*



## HBMI Natural Resources Department

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