

Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois Newsletter

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President's Report

By Joseph Jacquard, AAMS President

I sincerely hope this message finds you in good health and spirits. The association's finances are in very good order and membership continues to grow at an amazing rate – additionally, the genealogical committee also reports another very busy year. 2013 was an extremely busy year for AAMS, so for reasons of brevity I will list the years activities in point form:

- AAMS website facelift- a fresh new look and easier to navigate with many pictures.
- Check the AAMS website at: www.acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca
- Three directors participated in a food handler's course.
- An evening in co-operation with Nocturne a la Baie.
- Participated in the Senate Committee Investigation on Métis identity in Canada.
- Miss Métis World contestant Bailie Redfern sponsorship.
- Demonstrated at "Idle No More" with First Nations in Yarmouth, Bear River and Halifax in Nova Scotia.
- Earth Day; Planted a sugar maple tree at Maple Grove school.
- AAMS Directors' presentations as honorary guests at Maple Grove school graduation.
- Two floats at the Wedgeport, Nova Scotia, parade (1st place trophy).
- Team of oxen pulling a hay cart at Weymouth, Nova Scotia, parade, (2nd place).
- Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, parade participation with tractor pulling hay cart and dump cart.
- Clare, Nova Scotia, parade float (1st place in organization category).
- June 21st Aboriginal Day celebrations at Rendez-vous de la Baie, Church Point, Nova Scotia.
- Donation to the Mainland Moose Sex Project; Nature Conservancy of Canada.
- Attendance at meetings by Dept. of Natural Resources, ref. N.S. protected lands.
- Major sponsor for Joline Boudreau; "Miss Maritimes International Pageant".
- Participated in Clare Craft Splash at Rendez-vous de la Baie.
- Participated in "Save the Acadian Language Day".
- Federal Grant application for Elders mentoring youth.
- Celebrated "Thanks Mother Earth Day" with singing and drumming in Meteghan, Nova Scotia.
- AAMS logo registered as an official trade mark.
- Two \$500.00 bursaries given to post-secondary students.
- Participated at the Acadian/Mi'kmaw Festival in LaHave. Nova Scotia.
- Wedgeport Tuna Museum Walk/Run T-shirt sponsorship.
- Release of Moses, a live trapped, rare white raccoon.

Please read this list carefully, as you may not be aware of many of the activities we actively participate in. The outlook for 2014 looks to be even busier, and I invite all AAMS members to participate in supporting our association, be it by attending events, sharing information with friends, following AAMS on Facebook, inviting people to verify their ancestry, and/or participating as a volunteer. You will get so much more out of this association by attending our events and celebrations. If you have any questions on the above events please do not hesitate to contact me at: draams@eastlink.ca

Yours in Acadian-Metis fellowship,

Joseph Jacquard
AAMS President

Congratulations To...

Congratulations are sent out to **Lisette d'Eon** (Pubnico, N. S.) and **Ghislain Doucet** (Yarmouth, N.S.) for each having won a **\$500.00 AAMS bursary** towards their post-secondary education.

<<<Students, send in your applications for one of the two 2014 AAMS \$500.00 bursaries.

These bursaries are available to University and Community College AAMS member students.

See the AAMS web site for details.>>>

On the subject of bursaries, over sixty thousand dollars in student bursaries have been awarded to AAMS post-secondary students from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (recently renamed Indspire). Please see www.indspire.ca for bursary applications and past recipients.

Congratulations also to **Tessa Boudreau** who is now a full time student at University of Ottawa in Medicine. The University holds two positions in reserve at the Dept. of Medicine for prospective Indian, Métis and Inuit students. Tessa, as an AAMS member, was able to gain entry via this option. Her proud father Dr. Anthony Boudreau says that Tessa is doing fine and loving it.

Special congratulations: April 2013 was an exciting time for proud AAMS member **Joline Boudreau**. AAMS was one of Joline's major sponsors for the Miss Nova Scotia/Miss Maritimes International pageant held in Moncton N.B. Joline won the prestigious title of Miss Maritimes International and Miss Friendship and continues to be an outspoken ambassador for AAMS. Congratulations Joline.

Pictured below is Joline with the AAMS Wedgeport first place parade entry.



From Time To Time, A Spirit Animal Appears...

In November 2013, our very own President, Joseph Jacquard, live trapped a rare all white raccoon in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia. Aboriginal people consider this raccoon a spirit animal who comes to give a message from the Creator, thus Joseph decided to name it Moses - with the simple message for all Métis to remain humble. This white raccoon is not considered a true albino due to a lack of pink eyes and having a black nose.

The release of Moses took place at point of capture in Yarmouth County with fifteen people in attendance at the brief ceremony. It was wonderful to see Moses become very calm and serene during the Seven Directions Prayer skillfully given by Bob Frelick and the Honour Song (in Mi'kmaw) by Al Comeau.

It has been learned that the mother of Moses, also white, had a litter of seven, four of which are all white. The odds of a mother raccoon having one all white sibling is one in 650,000. Three white siblings in a litter is one in ten million while four is just unheard of.



Watch carefully as you walk in the woods, you never know what you'll see.

The **AAMS Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for Saturday, March 22nd at Evelina's in Little Brook, Digby County, Nova Scotia. More details will follow soon!