

# Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois (AAMS)

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## President's Report

Salut | Kwé | Greetings

We continue to be very active online, through our blog and our social media feeds as well as on the ground planning an expanded AGM.

Please see page 2 for our new press release.

We continue to use videoconferencing for our regular directors' meetings and our AGM. We have purchased a Zoom licence so we can meet with greater consistency and less hassle. Please join us online.

Please engage with us as we continue working towards goals and mission...

*"L'histoire, c'est comme une montre. Ça permet de savoir l'heure qu'il est."*

History is like a watch. It lets you know what time it is.

*~Pierre Falardeau; Scénariste, écrivain, anthropologue, réalisateur, acteur*

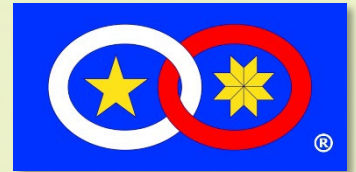


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### Congress Mondial Acadien 2024

**AUGUST 10 TO 18, 2024 | Southwest Nova Scotia**

The Congrès mondial acadien 2024 will take place in Southwest Nova Scotia, a mostly rural area with a wealth of natural and cultural resources. It is dotted with more than 40 small villages and communities, each of which expresses its Acadian culture in its own way and in its own accent.



The ocean, rivers and lakes shaped the region and contributed to the development of marine-based industries. Its highly ingenious residents use their creativity not only in their work but also to entertain themselves.

Artists representing all artforms can be found throughout these communities.



### Welcome, New Office Administrator

The Acadiens-Métis Souriquois welcomes our new Office Administrator, Janelle Robichaud!

### Who is AAMS and what do they stand for?

The Acadiens-Métis Souriquois descend from French (Acadien) and Mi'kmaq (Souriquois) people. As Acadiens-Métis Souriquois we adhere to the following:

- We unequivocally condemn racism in all its forms.
- We unequivocally condemn violence of any kind.
- We recognize, adhere to, and support all Canadian Supreme Court rulings.
- We recognize, adhere to, and support all Canadian Laws.
- We recognize, adhere to and support UNDRIP.
- We recognize, adhere to and support Object 4 - AAMS Constitution, Memorandum and Bylaws, which reads.
  - "To revive and promote relationships of mutual respect, friendship and support between the Acadian Métis People and the Mi'kmaw People, as they once were prior to effective British control of governance in mainland Nova Scotia;"
- We recognize, adhere to and support Object 5 - AAMS Constitution, Memorandum and Bylaws, which reads.
  - "To enter into agreements with the Mi'kmaw People in order to negate any perceived or actual threat, conflict or competition associated with the objects of this Society. The Society does not wish to apportion the benefits and rights that belong to the Mi'kmaw People;"

**Our hope: that all people live together in peace and harmony as was the case prior to effective British control.**

### Announcing this year's \$500.00 Bursary!

Visit the Bursary tab (<https://acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/aams-bursary.html>) on the AAMS website to apply!



## A historical, archeological, and botanical survey

By John S. Erskine

This research is quite interesting, and I have made use of the information on plants and herbs that John S. Erskine presents. The historical content is very interesting since he looks at evidence in the landscapes, he researched and what remains of the past, which tells a unique story. The perception of 'and present remains' is very compelling. Mr. Erskine lived and worked in the Annapolis Valley, especially around the Wolfville area. The study of native and non-native plants and weeds in the area, especially the non-native weeds, is unique to any or most historical studies made about Acadian early history and settlement. His premise is that certain non-native plants were brought with early settlers from Europe, certain ones by the French and Acadians and other ones by settlers, such as, the British, Scottish, and German.

Plants were brought here accidentally or purposely. Those brought on purpose or intentionally were herbs for cooking or healing, many do both, and some may have been for ornamental reasons. Perennials spread and since many of these herbs are perennials, they did do just that and have now become invasive weeds. Erskine visited old, known Acadian and French sites throughout Nova Scotia and determined which plants were probably brought by our ancestors, the French or by other sources. Herbs and weeds that heal were important. Obviously, the Acadians learned about local native plants from their friends, the Mi'kmaq and taught them to use the imported varieties as well. Certain types of Willow trees and Osier were brought to make baskets, which the Acadians taught the Mi'kmaq how to use to weave into baskets.

Some of these imported plants are still used today. Some examples: Valerian, infused as tea and used to induce calm and sleep; Common Motherwort, used for heart conditions, asthma, insomnia and rabies; Yarrow, a cure all, mostly to improve digestion; Chicory, for flavoring in coffee, as a digestive aid; Tansy, a laxative and worm-remover; Bouncing Bet or Soapwort, crushed roots create a lather, used to wash clothes; European Hawthorn was used to make a hedge, the sharp thorns would dissuade cattle from straying; Plantain, for cuts, scrapes, burns, wounds, eczema, rashes.

I personally use Plantain to make a salve for dry skin and to relieve itching from mosquito bites. I pick and clean the leaves, let them wilt or dry a bit, immerse them in olive oil for a few weeks, 5 – 6 or more, after they have turned the light green olive oil a much darker green, I drain it into another mason jar, or any clean jar, for using in the salve and discard the now gooey green leaves in the compost. The reason I use olive oil is that it does not go rancid quickly.

The recipe: 1 cup plantain infused oil, ½ cup coconut oil, ½ cup beeswax, put these 3 ingredients in a mason jar, in a pot of water on the stove, stir to melt and blend together, then take out of the pot, let it all cool a bit, 20 min. to ½ hour, add a few drops of essential oil to make it smell better, lavender, peppermint, then add liquid vitamin E oil (to help preserve it); makes 2 cups. Pour into smaller containers to make it portable. This can make other salves, from Calendula petals and wild rose petals, also used for dry skin.

If you are bitten by a bug, find some plantain, preferably clean, crush it or chew it well, and use it as a poultice directly on the bite, relieves the itch almost right away.

*(Submitted by Jocelyne Comeau, AAMS Director and amateur salve maker)*

## AAMS Dues Reminder

Thank you to all those who have paid their 2023 dues.

The twenty-five-dollar yearly dues can be paid by check or money order to:  
AAMS Treasurer, PO Box 25 Mavillette, N.S. B0W 2H0.

Dues payments can also be made by e-transfer: [aams.office@gmail.com](mailto:aams.office@gmail.com)  
No Password Required.

## AAMS Office

Office administrator - email  
[aams.office@gmail.com](mailto:aams.office@gmail.com) or phone  
**(902) 746-3652**. You can also  
drop in at the **Clare Cultural Hub  
Building**, Civic 795 highway1,  
Comeauville, N.S.

Please call ahead of your visit to  
the office.

## Quote

Mother Earth is our pharmacy, our kitchen, our university, and she provides us with everything.

- Willie Pine, Traditional Ecological Knowledge Elder







### Joe Copee's Dog named Duc.

An Acadian legend which relates the rescue of a man and his wife and his three children and a dog named Duc has come down through the writings of the late Reverend W. B. Bezanson.

Picture: Kasiablanka, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons. French Pointing Dog - Gascogne Type Braque Français, de Grande Taille

The legend concerns Duc, a dog owned by Joe Copee, a Micmac Indian who lived at Indian Orchard at the head of the tide or near the farm now owned by John Devenny of Windsor Forks. The Indian had rescued the dog from the ill-fated French fleet of the Duc d'Anville which was forced into Chebucto Harbour (Halifax) in the fall of 1746. The dog was appropriately named Duc and taken back to the Indian camp at the Pisiquid River. Near Joe Copee's camp at the fording place in the river there was a family named Labrador and Duc soon became fast friends with the three children in the family.

The Labrador family lived on a point of land which was almost surrounded by the river. One winter's day the tide rose to an unusual height and the water and ice completely surrounded the Labrador Farm. It was soon realized that the point of land was in danger of breaking from the shore and drifting out on the turn of the tide. The inhabitants of the area collected nearby but no one wished to risk taking a canoe into the dangerous tidal waters.

At length, Joe instructed Duc to swim across the icy water to the stranded family. The dog soon returned with the youngest child tied to his back. Duc returned twice more and the two other children were carried across the channel in the same manner. Joe Copee then dispatched Duc with one end of a rope and when the dog arrived on the opposite shore, Paul Labrador tied the rope to a toboggan and his wife was pulled across to safety. In a similar manner Paul Labrador was brought ashore. The news of the rescue of the Labrador family by Joe Copee's dog, Duc, became well known throughout the Acadian country and the legend has been told and retold many times.

Reference:

Duncanson, J. (1983). Township of Falmouth Nova Scotia. Chapter VII. Joe Copee's Dog Named Duc. (p. 45). Mika Publishing Company.

*Note: The excerpt from Duncanson's book has been re-printed on the AAMS website and newsletter with the gracious permission of the West Hants Historical Society.*



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