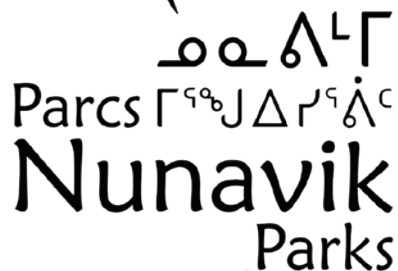


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News from the land



Parcs
Nunavik
Parks

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The mission of Nunavik Parks is to protect the land for future generations while fostering the interconnection between the land, the people, cultures, and types of knowledge. To achieve its mission, Nunavik Parks relies on local, traditional, and scientific knowledge, while promoting access to the land for all.



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Parc national Ulittaniujalik

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The recorder is equipped with two microphones for stereo recording.

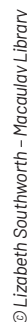
Charlie Munick and Isabeau Pratte from Nunavik Parks installing a recorder in Ulittaniujalik Park.

© Isabeau Pratte - Parcs Nunavik/Nunavik Parks

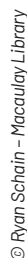
Marianne Ricard from the Protected Areas Division installing a recorder in a tundra area.

Aḍ-ʿġ'q'g'f'g'j'c | Conservation Stories 2024-2025

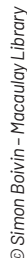
Typical birds
inhabiting
the boreal region



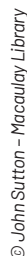
Short-eared owl



Wilson's warbler



Blackpoll warbler



Rusty blackbird



Solitary sandpiper

◁C▷ℙ▷ $\dot{\cup}^{\mathfrak{c}}$ ℕ $\sigma^{\mathfrak{c}}$ $\mathfrak{b}$

Piece by piece

Parc national des Pingualuit / Tursujuq



©Putulik Nuktie Tooktoo - Parcs Nunavik/Nunavik Parks



After the first row of blocks is placed in a circle, it is cut at an angle lengthwise, so that the blocks are assembled in a spiral.

Putulik Nuktie Tooktoo and Joshua Sala starting to build an igloo in Isuani near the village of Umiujag.



© Christian Bettez - Parcs Nunavik/Nunavik Parks

Putulik Nuktie Tooktoo and Joshua Sala, park wardens at Parc national Tursujuq, travelled to Kangiqsuaq in winter 2024 to take part in a knowledge-sharing workshop on igloo building. They met with the Pingualuit Park team and knowledge holder Aquuja Qisiq. They practiced igloo building and returned to Umiujaq ready to share their knowledge. The goal is to continue practicing and sharing igloo building every winter, because it's a useful cultural and survival skill. ■



In winter, an igloo or *illuvigaq* (snow house) could be built quickly (in just a few hours for experienced builders) using snow. The round structure of the igloo offers an aerodynamic shape that can withstand icy winds. Snow provides optimum thermal and acoustic insulation and is available all winter long. With the addition of animal skins on the interior floor, the indoor temperature could exceed 0 °C.

FOLCS NUNAVIK/NUNAVIK FILMS

- [illegible]

- **Sinittavik:** Temporary igloo used during travel. It is built for two to four people and has a maximum diameter of 3 m.
- **Iluvigaq:** Permanent igloo for housing. It is used in winter camps, designed to accommodate a family and has a diameter of 3.5 m. These igloos have two smaller domes serving respectively as a porch and a pantry. The igloos can be linked directly through the main space or through the porches.
- **Qaggig:** Large ceremonial igloo. It is designed for games, and for rituals carried out by the shaman. It is about 6 m in diameter.



Nearing the top, the blocks get smaller. Placing the final blocks requires more precision.

*Building of a snow house, Small
Whale River, Quebec, 1873.*



A photograph of two men standing in a snowy, mountainous landscape. They are both wearing winter jackets, pants, and boots. The man on the left is wearing a dark jacket and camouflage pants, while the man on the right is wearing a camouflage jacket and dark pants. They are standing in front of a large, white, snow-covered structure that resembles an igloo. The background shows snow-covered mountains and a clear blue sky.

9



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Rebirth of a boat

Building replicates of Maasiu's qajaq

Parc national des Pingualuit



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*The qajaq receiving a warm welcome for
her christening at sea.*

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

One of the replicas will remain at the skeleton stage so that we can appreciate its structure and the work involved in building a qajaq.

replicas began. During the three-week construction period, many young students and their classes came to see the *qajaq* being built. Some of the Elders also came along to share their *qajait* experiences and stories, giving rise to some wonderful moments of exchange.

On the morning of October 4, in front of a large crowd, the *qajaq* was launched on the waters of Kangiqsujuaq Bay. As a symbolic act, Maasiu's great-grandson was the first to paddle it. For several hours, numerous Kangisujamiut (members of the Kangiqsujuaq community) took turns in the cockpit of the *qajaq* for a short test run on the bay. On the beach, the emotion was palpable alongside the numerous laughter. The morning ended leaving everyone with lasting memories.

Mission accomplished for the Parc national des Pingualuit, which has preserved part of Kangiqsujuaq's cultural heritage while showcasing it in the community. ■





Parc national Tursujug

During summer 2024, the Nunavik Parks team spent five days and four nights in Parc national Tursujuq with eight young people from the community of Umiujaq. Everything came together to make this a memorable experience. The objective was to collect and learn about insects as part of a new



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Excursion to cuesta camp, always with the butterfly nets.

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collaboration between Nunavik Parks and the
Montréal Insectarium. The Insectarium already
runs the Nunavik Sentinels project every summer in
communities throughout the region. Welcoming the
Insectarium into the park with the Nunavik Sentinels
was a way of introducing youth to the science of



$\Delta \Gamma^{\mu} \Delta^{\nu} J^{\rho} N^{\sigma}$ $\Delta^{\mu} \Gamma^{\nu} J^{\rho} \Delta^{\sigma}$ $\Delta N_{\mu} \Delta_{\nu} \Delta^{\rho} N^{\sigma}$ $\Delta \Gamma \Delta^{\mu} J^{\nu}$.

Group photo before heading back to Umiujaq.

[illegible][illegible]

insects—entomology—while being outdoors and connecting with the land and people.

Youths enthusiastically chased bumblebees and butterflies, took part in excursions, learned to make bannock, and in the process, all went beyond their personal limits. Once again, nature has proved to those who immerse themselves in it that it can be a formidable teacher and a source of comfort.

$\Delta^{\circ} \text{LFG}^{\circ} \text{a} \text{e} \sigma^{\circ} \text{b} \quad \text{b}^{\circ} \text{b} \text{L} \Delta^{\circ} \text{a} \text{e} \sigma^{\circ} \text{b} \quad \text{L}^{\circ} \text{b} \text{J} \Delta^{\circ} \text{a} \text{e} \sigma^{\circ} \text{b} \text{J}^{\circ} \text{a} \text{e} \sigma^{\circ} \text{b} \quad \text{L}^{\circ} \text{e} \text{L}^{\circ} \text{e} \sigma^{\circ} \text{b}.$

Any time off is a good time to play volleyball.



“

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Once again, nature has proved to those who immerse themselves in it that it can be a formidable teacher and a source of comfort.”

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Practising the art of insect collection—pinning a butterfly.

The experience will be repeated in summer 2025 with young people from Whapmagoostui and Kuujuaaraapik. Nunavik Parks hope to continue this collaboration and bring more youth to the other parks in the years to come.

Nunavik Parks would like to dedicate this text to Quentin Tooktoo, whose passion and beautiful soul will always be remembered. ■



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[illegible]

The skin is first removed from its fur and fleshed on each side. Sarah Pasha said, "in the past, they would use the tibia bone of the caribou to do this step." Then, the skin is washed and let dry. Once fully dried, it becomes almost translucent. Lard is then applied on the skin on both sides before folding it. The bundle of folded and larded skin is left to rest for a few days. After two or three days, the dry skin covered in lard is washed again in a mixture of warm water, melted lard, fabric softener, and soap.

“UŁCŁ ΔϑρρΔ^ςαα^ςβ
ΔρL^bd^c.

*This is how we find our
mental sanity.”*

"Back in the day, the brain of the caribou was used to help soften the skin. Now we use softener, soap, and lard; it is easier than using brain." —Sarah Pasha.

The next step in the process is stretching. The skin begins to take on an opaque color as the collagen fibers slowly unravel and bonds are created between them, contributing to the final suppleness of the material. Once the skin is soft, supple, and dry, it is a beautiful cream colour. At this point, it is hard to believe this was once wrapped around a caribou.

The skin is sewn along its contour with the outer part on the inside so it can be smoked using *puvaq*—dry and dead wood. Tamarack (*pingik*) or spruce tree (*napartuk*) can be used for smoking the skin, the former giving a darker colour and the latter a lighter tone. The longer the skin is smoked, the darker it gets; it can take between 30 minutes and 2 hours to achieve the desired colour.

[illegible]

We used a mix of pingik and napartuk to smoke the skin.



Branching out

Parc national Kuururjuag

[illegible]

The effects of global warming are being felt more and more, and in Nunavik much more than elsewhere. Here, balances are fragile. Nature has evolved to withstand the harsh northern climate, and a variation of just a few degrees has cascading consequences for the entire ecosystem. Since 2017, Nunavik Parks team have been studying the impact of these changes on the vegetation of Parc national Kuururjuaq. The dwarf birch (*avaalaqiaq*), one of the species actually benefiting from a warming climate, is gradually expanding its distribution to the detriment of other Arctic species. This phenomenon is known as the greening of the tundra. This greening can have an impact on species such as caribou, whose food resources are being altered. In a context where Nunavik's herds are at their lowest numbers, this change in vegetation could have consequences for their recovery. That's why Nunavik

Parks and its partners are developing tools to better understand this phenomenon. ■



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Dwarf birch

D.O.T.



Tungngasugitsi Pingualunni!

conveyor.

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The development of these resources would not have been possible without the collaboration of Eyetsiaq Simigak, Lucassie Echalook, Pitsiulak Pinguatuk, Minnie Etidloie, Qiallak Qumaaluk, Lukasi Nappaaluk, Eyuka Pinguatuk, and Juupi Arnaituk, and the valuable participation of Mary A. Pilurtoot, Maali Tukirqi, Lydia Kiatainaq, Pasha Arngak, and Juupi Koneak. ■

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Parc national Tursujuq



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