



"To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation."

Volume 20 Issue 3

Published monthly by the Union of Ontario Indians - Anishinabek Nation

Single Copy: \$2.00

April 2008

IN THE NEWS



Anishinabek News available online starting in May

www.anishinabek.ca

May 29 Day of Action

OTTAWA – National Chief Phil Fontaine is calling on all Canadians to support and join First Nations in a National Day of Action May 29 to raise awareness about issues facing First Nations citizens in Canada.

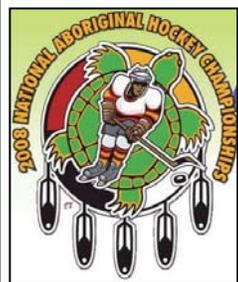
Truth takes time

OTTAWA – Critics say the federal Conservatives are taking too long to launch the truth-and-reconciliation commission on Native residential schools.

The government was to name three commissioners early this year to conduct five years of hearings, but Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl says the panel won't get off the ground until later this spring.

Citizenship law

Are we Status Indians or are we Anishinabek Nation citizens? A two-day conference in Garden River First Nation is dedicated to developing an Anishinabek Citizenship Law. See page 2.



Garden River hosts National Tournament April 27 - May 3 www.nahc2008.com

Mining sparks unity rally

NIPISSING FN – A large delegation of Anishinabek were to join an April 23 rally at the Ontario Legislature to protest the infringement of First Nation rights by the province's mining act.

Grand Council Chief John Beaucage said the imprisonment of six community members from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation – including Chief Donny Morris and four members of his council – has increased the urgency of ongoing Anishinabek/Ontario talks about land use and disposition.

"We will be continuing these discussions with the Province with a specific focus on mining and exploration," said Beaucage. "We will be working toward comprehensive changes to the Ontario Mining Act that reflect the obligation on other parties to consult with First Nations and accommodate our interests before they undertake exploration on our traditional lands."

The Chiefs of Ontario were coordinating the Queen's Park Unity Rally in which an estimated 400 First Nations marchers would parade up University Avenue and assemble on the



What all the fuss is about

Susan Nanokeesic, councillor for Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, indicates on a map the location of her community north of the area targeted for exploration activity by Platinex Inc. Five other members of KI council and a community member were sentenced to six-month jail terms for refusing to permit the mining company to explore a huge platinum deposit underneath Big Trout Lake.

– Photo by Rick Garrick

grounds of the Legislature. At press time there were reports that the list of speakers could include the KI Six, who were hoping to be released on bail pending appeal of the six-month jail terms they began serving in Thunder Bay March 27. The leaders of the Treaty 9 community had pleaded guilty to contempt of court for refusing to allow exploration activity by junior mining company Platinex Ltd. on their traditional territory 600 kilometres north of

the Lakehead.

"Our citizens do not want to block economic progress, we want to be part of it," said Beaucage. "However, the rule of law in Canada – as outlined by the Constitution and the Courts -- and Anishinabek Traditional Law indeed support our aboriginal right to protect our traditional territories, as well as our treaty rights to share in the wealth derived from them." Grand Council Chief Beaucage said that the jailing of First Nations leaders

sends a message to the world that the rights of indigenous peoples are not as valid as those of others who live in Canada.

"Mineral rights don't trump human rights," he said.

Grand Council Chief said a consultation process involving the 42 Anishinabek First Nations will provide the basis for a position paper on mining exploration to be tabled at June's annual Anishinabek Grand Council Assembly.

First Nations make good mining partners

By Heather Campbell

WAHNAPIITAE FN – Mining is the bread and butter of the Sudbury basin, and the 300 citizens of this tiny First Nation are getting in on the action.

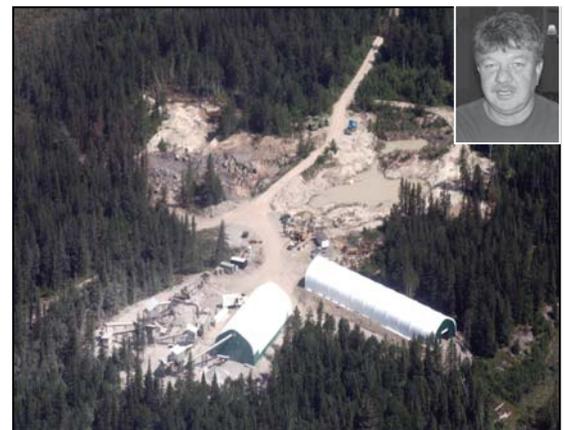
Chief Ted Roque announced April 15 that his community about 20 km. north of Sudbury is sitting on top of what may be one of the largest deposits of garnet in the world, and has signed a memorandum of understanding with a Mohawk-owned mining company to develop Canada's only Aboriginal-owned mine.

"This special relationship that we have with Mohawk Garnet not only paves the way for benefits for our community members, but also serves as a model between First Nations groups who want to work together."

Mohawk Garnet Inc. has been developing the deposit on the southeast side of Lake Wahnapiitae for over a year, and currently employs three staff from the First Nation, including geologist Hans Matthews.

CEO Ted McMurdy says that once production is up and running there will be three shifts around the clock that will require as many as 75 people to operate mining and milling facilities.

Garnet abrasive is used in surface preparation, coating removal and water-jet cutting.



Mohawk Garnet mine site; Wahnapiitae FN Chief Ted Roque.



Ministry of Government Services

Request for Proposals Anishinabek/Ontario Forestry Agreement Development Process

The Union of Ontario Indians is soliciting proposals from consulting firms, and individual professionals to provide professional negotiation services associated with the creation of a comprehensive economic based Forest Agreement between the Union of Ontario Indians and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Union of Ontario Indians reserves the right to establish the composition of their Negotiation Team. The Negotiation Team may be composed of members from different organizations.



Timeframes and Deadlines

All submissions must be received by May 9, 2008 by 4:00 p.m.

The Steering Committee will review proposals which meet the above criteria and determine successful submission by May 16, 2008.

A work plan and payment schedule must be submitted for approval by the steering committee by the successful bidder within seven (7) days of notification of a successful proposal.

Project timeline is estimated to conclude in 18 months subject to available funding.

Any or all proposals are not necessarily accepted.

All submissions must be sealed, marked confidential and addressed to:

Jason Laronde, Director Lands and Resources
P.O. Box 711
North Bay, ON
P1B 8J8



Any questions may be directed to Jason Laronde: 705-497-9127 ext. 2263 or larjas@anishinabek.ca
Full script of REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS can be view on UNION OF ONTARIO'S website home page at www.anishinabek.ca



"THOSE WHO BELONG"

E-DBENDAAGZIJIG

May 27 & 28, 2008

Garden River First Nation, Community Recreation Centre

The Union of Ontario Indians' Chiefs Committee on Governance is hosting a 2-day conference on Indian Status and Anishinabek Citizenship Law

Goal: Launch Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Law Development

- State of Status
- Open Forum: Best Practices: "How are we dealing with citizenship?"
- Plenary: Group Discussions
- Ratification: Open Discussion
- Process: Where do we go from here?



Anishinabek

Our Nation. Our Way. Your Say.

For more information or to register contact:

Esther Gilbank
P.O. Box 711, Hwy. 17 West
North Bay, ON P1B 8J8

Email: gilest@anishinabek.ca
Tel: (705) 497-9127, Ext 2275
Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200
Fax: (705) 497-9135



ANISHINABEK

In brief

Kettle Point votes on conflict

KETTLE & STONY POINT FN – This Samia-area First Nation will hold a referendum this summer asking voters if paid staff members should be allowed to serve on council.

The move follows complaints about conflict of interest involving elected officials.

Five of the nine councillors at the Kettle and Stony Point FN also work as paid administrators on behalf of the band. When a sixth councillor was recently offered the position of manager of public works, one member of the hiring committee said he'd seen enough. Ron George, former band councillor, withdrew from the hiring committee, saying council has a clear conflict.

"It's patently unfair that they're hiring themselves," says George, a lawyer who has worked as an OPP officer and served on special assignment in 2006 as a liaison between police and aboriginals in Caledonia.

Seniors hostel opens

FOREST – Seniors and disabled adults from the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation now have more housing options. In December a new housing project in the community was officially opened which will provide affordable eight one-bed hostel units for seniors and disabled adults in need of homes that offer assisted living.

The seniors complex received a \$600,000 federal contribution through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Section 95 program. CMHC's Section 95 is a unique program designed to assist First Nations in the construction, purchase and rehabilitation, and administration of affordable on-reserve rental housing.

Grant for Garden River

TORONTO – Ontario is providing more than \$43,000 for the Garden River Opportunities Program to do a feasibility study leading to the construction of a small business centre. When built, the centre would help to create jobs and boost economic development in their own community.

"I am pleased that the McGuinty government is supporting our efforts to create jobs and to grow new businesses," said Chief Lyle Sayers.

Antler River approved

TORONTO – The Ontario government is investing \$500,000 through the Aboriginal Community Capital Grants Program to help build a 5,000-square-foot community centre as part of the Antler River Seniors Complex with the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

The facility will have space for recreational activities, a meeting room, office, kitchen and general television/library room. Once completed, the centre will be open to all members of the First Nation community.

Wiky pilots housing program

OTTAWA – Ontario's first trust agreement under Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) On-Reserve Homeownership Loan Insurance Pilot was signed by the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve and CMHC, on behalf of the Government of Canada.

This agreement provides enhanced access to homeownership loan insurance to First Nation members of the Manitoulin Island First Nation.

"Our community believes that this agreement broadens our housing options. This pilot project allows qualifying Band members to apply for independent financing so that they can realize their housing goals," said Chief Robert Corbiere.

Special mention for Sgt. Bell

SAULT STE. MARIE – The local Women's Week committee selected Sgt. Karen Bell, Garden River FN as one of this year's honourees. Sgt. Bell worked with Toronto Metro and OPP Police Services and is currently the only female Detachment Commander with Anishinabek Police Services. She is a boxer and hockey player, coach, and recipient of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and Sault Ste. Marie Medal of Merit.



Sgt. Karen Bell

Anishinaabemowin Teg language conference



Scholarship winner

Anishinaabemowin Scholarship Award winner Blair Beaucage from Nbisising Secondary School on Nipissing First Nation celebrates with his Mom Glenna Beaucage, centre, and Ojibwe language teacher Muriel Sawyer after he picked up his award at the gala dinner during the 14th annual Anishinaabemowin Teg conference.

– Photos by Perry McLeod-Shabogesis



Talking history

Ojibwe Cultural Foundation Director Alan Corbiere shares his knowledge of the origin of M'Chigeeng First Nation during his Anishinaabemowin Teg workshop.



Respected teacher

Respected teacher, translator, and author Isadore Toulouse recorded highlights of the 14th annual Anishinaabemowin Teg conference. **See Page 22.**

ANISHINABEK NEWS

"To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation"

Use the Anishinabek News as a tool in the classroom to learn about Anishinabek Nation politics, education, youth, social welfare, health, art, water and land issues, as well as self-government.



Schools are encouraged look for corporate and business sponsors to cover the cost of buying subscriptions at \$25 per year. For subscription information, please call 1-800-463-6408 or e-mail anishinabeknews@elliottlakestandard.ca



ANISHINABEK NEWS

The Anishinabek News is a monthly publication of the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI). Views expressed are not necessarily the opinion or political position of the UOI.

No portion of this paper, including advertisements, artwork, photos and editorial content may be reproduced without written permission of the Anishinabek News Editor or UOI Executive.

Readers are invited to submit letters, articles, and photos for publication. Please include your name, address and telephone number on all material submitted. All submissions will be reviewed for publication based on priority of interest and edited for clarity of thought, taste, brevity and legal implications. Remuneration will be paid for submissions only if a written agreement with the Editor is made prior to publication.

NOTE: All formal comments and complaints must be addressed to Editorial Board c/o Anishinabek News.

Editor: Maurice Switzer
Assistant Editor: Marci Becking
Coordinator: Priscilla Goulais
Contributors: Jennifer Ashawasegai, Heather Campbell, Rick Garrick, Christian Hebert, Suzanne Keeptwo, Glenn Laginskie, Ben Leeson, Perry McLeod, Chad Solomon, Nathan Taylor, Deanna Theriault, Isadore Toulouse, Richard Wagamese, Sharon Weatherall, Shirley Williams
Editorial Board: Cathie Favreau
 PH: 705-497-9127 ~ 1-877-702-5200
 FX: 705-497-9135
 WEB: www.anishinabek.ca
 E-MAIL: news@anishinabek.ca
 MAIL: P.O. Box 711, Nipissing First Nation, North Bay, ON, P1B 8J8

MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

Pleasant dreams from a sleep machine

My first visit to a sleep clinic was a disaster.

It all started – like it does for members of the male species – with The Little Woman’s completely unfounded allegation that I snore.

So it came to pass that I found myself one Friday night driving out to a stark-looking single-storey building in a west-end Ottawa suburb, pyjamas and toothbrush in hand, to begin the process of finding a cure for my alleged snoring.



Maurice Switzer

A few weeks earlier my family doctor – also a woman, I might add – had referred my so-called snoring problem to a surgeon who said he could perform an Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty. I was impressed that he could perform it when I couldn’t even pronounce it. I would pay him \$1500, in exchange for which I would get a sore throat for a week and absolutely no guarantee that the procedure would put an end to any snoring that I might be committing.

My doctor had also suggested I book an appointment at a sleep clinic, which led me to that unlit parking lot in west-end Ottawa, and thence to a little white room that looked like it had been decorated by the director of One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.

Once I am in my jammies, a humourless guy with a shaved head and a white lab coat – same shade as the walls of my cell – starts sticking connectors to my scalp, chest, wrists and ankles that he says hook 56 little thin blue wires to his monitoring equipment next door. I pray to God that my doctor hasn’t given me the wrong address and that I am not about to receive ten thousand volts of electro-shock therapy.

Igor tells me to sleep tight, shuts the door behind him, and leaves me lying wide-eyed on my narrow little bed, wired up like a ticking time bomb, staring into the lens of a security

camera pointed at me from the opposite wall.

When he opens my door eight hours later, I am in virtually the same position, afraid that any twitch will yank out one of my 56 little blue wires and spoil the results of the sleep clinic analysis. Igor disconnects me, tells me to change into my street clothes, then informs me that I didn’t have enough actual sleep to provide him with any usable data. Maybe I should schedule another appointment.

Fast forward to the present. The Little Woman says that I am no longer snoring, but I’m not sure that I ever did, and if I am the sound might be muffled by a plastic mask that covers my face and hooks me up to my C-PAP machine purring quietly beside our bed.

I was actually able to sleep my first night at the North Bay Sleep Institute, perhaps because they had a radio in the room and a picture on

the wall and a technician who didn’t have her head shaved like Igor. She told me the next morning that I had momentarily stopped breathing 44 times...

“Well, that’s no so bad,” I said.
 “...in one hour,” she added.

My dozens of nightly sleep interruptions – accompanied, according to her, by some gasps and grunts similar to snoring – resulted in a diagnosis of sleep apnea. One of the mild side-effects of this disorder is that sleepers can stop breathing for anywhere from ten to 30 seconds at a time. A more serious side-effect is never waking up.

So my Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machine has become my constant companion, quietly keeping my airways open with a steady stream of moisturized air at a reading of 2.5 something-or-others on its little dial. I feel more rested in the mornings, but going to bed wearing the equivalent of a hockey goalie mask took some getting used to.

I woke up with a start one night in a hotel room in Cobourg, all tangled up in my four-foot-long air hose and dreaming I had been attacked by a python.

I stubbornly searched for other alternatives to a relying on a piece of machinery for a good night’s sleep.

During an appointment with a traditional healer, I wondered if he could suggest any powerful herbs or medicine plants that might cure me of my insomnia once and for all.

“You oughta get one of those sleep machines,” he said. “My wife’s an awful snorer and it really works for her.”

Maurice Switzer is a citizen of the Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation. He serves as director of communications for the Union of Ontario Indians and editor of the Anishinabek News.



PUBLISHING CRITERIA

GOAL
 To publish a quality newspaper and related publications designed to foster pride and share knowledge about Anishinabek current affairs, culture, goals, and accomplishments.

OBJECTIVES
 To provide information that reflects the Creator’s four original gifts to the Anishinabek:

Respect: To welcome diversity and encourage a free exchange of opinions that may differ without being disagreeable. Fair and humorous comments are welcomed, but not ridicule or personal attacks.

Honesty: Debwewin – speaking the truth – is the cornerstone of our newspaper’s content.

Sharing: Providing opportunities for people from the four corners of the Anishinabek Nation to tell stories and record achievements, and to keep our citizens informed about activities of the Union of Ontario Indians.

Strength: To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation that celebrates our history, culture and language, promotes our land, treaty, and aboriginal rights, and supports the development of healthy and prosperous communities.

Advertising & News Deadlines

The current circulation of the Anishinabek News is 10,000 copies, with 9,000 mailed and 1,000 distributed at various events.

DEADLINE FOR MAY

Advertising

Bookings: April 20
 Final Art: May 10

News

News submissions: April 20

For more information or inquiries to the Anishinabek News related to advertising and circulation issues please call our Toll-free number: 1-800-463-6408

Home is where the duck eggs are

When I was eleven I’d moved three times in the two years I’d been with my adopted family. I’d been in three schools, lived in three houses, learned to form friendships and lose them three separate times. Finally, we settled in a rented farmhouse on three hundred acres in Bruce County in southwestern Ontario.

When spring came the land was soggy with mud. But I’d found a marsh that reached back from the old dam near the highway and flooded a low-lying section of bush.

The water was about a foot and a half deep. With my gumboots on I could wander anywhere in that bayou-like stillness. I learned to walk without disturbing the water, to sneak through the shadow silently, and that’s how I discovered the wood ducks.

They were the most beautiful creatures I had ever seen. The male was all green and purple, deep red, yellow and black. The female was a demure gray with white at her throat and bluish wings.

They had a nest in the crotch of a rotted tree stump three feet off the water. I climbed a tree about ten yards away and looked down into it. There were eight eggs there and they were as beautiful as the parents, all tan and



Richard Wagamese

cream and quiet, and as I stood in that tree watching them I almost felt I could see them move, breathe in that opaque stillness.

Something happened to me there. Braced in a tree above a flooded bush, peering through shadow and hardly breathing, I came to fully occupy the space I was in for the very first time in my life. There was no need for things and stuff, no need of other people, no need for anything but that nest of eggs, the boggy

smell of that place and the feeling that I only know today as perfection.

I went back to that tree every day to watch those eggs and wait for them to hatch. I loved the thin ‘oo-keet, oo-keet’ of the female’s voice through the trees. Oh, they knew I was there but I was quiet and non-threatening and they came to accept me. I sat in that neighboring tree and kept vigil over those eggs.

I watched those eight wood duck chicks hatch. They emerged one day in the late afternoon and I saw all of it. A day or so later I saw them drop the three feet to the water and begin to swim with their parents, as pure and natural as breathing. When I left them for the last time I didn’t feel the sense of departure I’d learned so well in my life. Instead, I felt joined to them, related, like kin.

Some things in life remain. Some things transcend the losses and leavings of our living. I found the essence of my tribal self in that tree above the nest and it never left me. When the time was right and I was ready, I emerged as a tribal person, as pure and natural as breathing.

Richard Wagamese is Ojibway from Wabassemoong First Nation in Northwestern Ontario.



MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

DALONEY & BANNOCK By Perry McLeod-Shabogesic



Apparently Ontario does recognize our rights...
... the right to remain silent, the right to an...

redroad@onlink.net

Revenge of the Condom Queen

Some kids in high school are labeled according to their social place in the world – geeks, jocks, popular, losers...I was the Condom Queen or CQ for short.

I wasn't always the Condom Queen. Up until the fall of 1989 I was usually lumped into the somewhat nerdy category. I was the editor of our yearbook and yet I was the first at a party or dance so I wasn't completely nerdy. A social nerd, if you will. No one was "popular" at my school since I only had 17 people in my graduating class...everyone knew me – and most since kindergarten.

In November of 1989 I was sat on the Student Council as Vice-President – could have run for president, but I was already a Junior Leader with the Girl Guides...and I did have actual school work to do so I thought that VP would be fine.

I was approached by a school board member, who was also our school's head custodian, about the possibility of putting in a condom machine. Not really thinking that this was a big deal, I took the idea to the next student council meeting and asked what everyone thought.

No one really blinked – everyone knew about Sexually Transmitted Diseases; and HIV and AIDS were big topics in the 1980s. I then had to attend the next school board meeting as the student council rep to bring this to the board.

I presented our request to the



Marci Becking

board – quoting statistics of the day and citing that teenage pregnancy is also an issue although our school's rate was a lot lower than most. We also discussed where the machine would be placed.

Well the motion passed that night and I think the machine was ordered the next day.

When word got out in our small town of 2,000 people that the school was getting a condom machine, there was mixed reaction – not to the school board, but to me.

Comments like "that Becking girl is going to get into trouble" or "We're going to start praying for you at our church" or "you're going to hell."

I started getting pulled out of my classes for interviews with CBC Manitoba radio and Northern Manitoba newspapers. One reporter asked me if I realized that there was only one other school in the province that had a machine. I didn't – and that information disturbed me.

Fast forward to 2008 – I am a journalist and I read a lot of news from all over the country. Today I came across the headline "Aboriginal youth start condom

petition" and memories of 1989 flooded into my head and I thought to myself that nearly 20 years have passed and the youth are still looking for protection. And now, sadly, it's needed more than ever.

The aboriginal youth group believes that young people would be more likely to use condoms and avoid HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted diseases if they could obtain condoms at school.

Well no kidding. Are the adults listening at all? Picture this: you're 16 years old and you know your local pharmacist or your friend's mom works the cash. Are you going to buy condoms? No, I don't think so.

"Get the condoms to the kids; cut out the middleman," said the PEI youth group leader Pam O'Neill. She put condoms in a drawer in her Native Council building in Charlottetown because she thought young people would be more likely to take them if they could do so confidentially.

We need to heal our youth, our communities and stop thinking that condoms "promote sex".

And as I told the "Christian lady" who informed me that I was going to hell – "I know for sure that your son and his girlfriend are having sex on a regular basis so you might as well give them condoms!"

The Condom Queen has spoken.



LETTERS



Proper share of profits now on table

Supreme court decisions on key issues by First Nations have given us hope for our future. Now there is a duty to consult when development activities are planned on our traditional lands. Developers are now very noticeable regarding such interests and are making notions of offers that were never dared before.

Notices, agreements, memorandums of understandings and a proper share of profits are becoming the fundamental lingo at table discussions with band councils and it's about time!

Again we must keep a very close watch on movements of other groups and third-party interests who are also lobbying and orchestrating ventures as individuals or as a collective group.

Economic self-sufficiency is what we all strive for and this will happen much easier if First Nations solidify tenureship on lands and resource development within our geographic area, respecting that others also have the same dreams. Far too often we have been left out which is now changing or appears that way.

Our future generations and youth depend on today's leadership and looking from the bleachers will no longer be tolerated. Crown lands and natural resources throughout our traditional and aboriginal lands is now the focal interest of the K.I. Anishinabek, who spent time in jail for their belief and value for a brighter future for the young.

The courts have a one-sided set of rules that never supported our values and visions. Industries are exempt for polluting our rivers like Hemlo did, like GECO did and what Marathon Pulp did to the peninsula harbor.

It was indeed a sad and troubled time when K.I. leaders were jailed. Very little support was noticeable when the ruling was made.

Phil Fontaine, AFN, Angus Toulouse, COO, and Stan Beardy, NAN are commended as leaders for showing up. The court decision on the K.I. leaders will have a very serious backlash for the summer of 2008.

What will it be, Minister Gravelle? Will you now visit First Nations just as frequently as you visit other communities?

*Roy Michano
Heron Bay, Ontario*

People should just get along

I've been reading the Chronicle-Journal from February 20 up to February 23, 2008 regarding the incident involving six non-aboriginal high school students from Fort Frances, Ontario and their internet video of pow-wowing with wine bottles in their hands.

I was pretty angry and really hurt over this. What are they trying to do? Show other non-aboriginal female students from other high schools to follow their footsteps?

I also saw it on CKPR television from Thunder Bay. Mr. McCabe, the high school principal, said that it was a mistake. To me, it is not a mistake. They must have planned that out a long time ago. I attend pow-wows and I never have any liquor bottles in my hands and have never been drunk at one. I've been attending pow-wows for a really long time. Alcohol is strictly forbidden at pow-wows.

A comment that was made by someone was that the aboriginal communities are over reacting. How are we supposed to react? Happy? Glad that they did that? What kind of reaction do they want? Cheerful? Happy? Glad? No. They are laughing and making fun of the aboriginal people. Traditional grounds or not traditional grounds, these people should have not made fun of the aboriginal people.

I get along with non-aboriginal people. Some are good and some turn the other cheek. I don't know why people are like that. People should get along.

Myself, I don't accept an apology from these six non-aboriginal students from Fort Frances. How many other different times have they apologized to First Nations people across Canada? Did they really mean it to the First Nations people or did they just say it to make them feel good? Too many apologies with no meaning. How can we accept an apology from them when we can't even get an apology from the Canadian government? The Canadian government didn't even apologize to the aboriginal people who attended residential schools and yet they can apologize to everyone else.

I speak with my heart because I am a warrior.

*Ron Moses
Pic River First Nation
Heron Bay, Ontario*



INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



Claims tribunal historic step for feds

On February 27, 2008, on behalf of the Anishinabek Nation, Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare and Treaty Research Legal Counsel, Eliza Montour provided testimony to the Standing Committee of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANO) on Bill C-30 Specific Claims Tribunal Act. The Anishinabek Nation had been invited by AANO, along with others, to participate in the meeting scheduled for the Ontario region.

Bill C-30 is the direct result of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's four-part plan to make major reforms to address the backlog of specific claims in Canada, Specific Claims: Justice at Last, which was announced on June 12, 2007 with National Chief Phil Fontaine, Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the then Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (INAC), Jim Prentice. The announcement made the commitment that the reforms would be jointly collaborated on by INAC and the AFN.

The joint effort culminated in task forces, working groups and drafting committees over the summer and fall months that worked together in the development of Bill C-30. Bill C-30 represents a historic step forward as it is the first time ever that the federal government has worked with First Nations in the drafting of legislation that has a direct impact on Aboriginal affairs.

On November 27, 2007, the same day the bill was introduced Minister Strahl and Fontaine also announced and signed the Political Agreement, committing the parties to working together on issues that were not included in Bill C-30, such as: the appointments to the Tribunal process, working on the additions to reserve policy, regulations, Tribunal rules and specific claims process improvement.

The primary objective of Bill C-30 is to establish a Specific Claims Tribunal that will have the authority to make independent and binding decisions on First Nation specific claims. Currently, there

is a backlog of 900 specific claims, approximately 90 of those being Anishinabek Nation claims. According to Bill C-30 the Tribunal will be formed from Superior Court Judges. Bill C-30 provides the Tribunal the authority to determine its general rules, the management of its internal affairs and its rules for governing its practice and procedures.

Bill C-30 provides the rules by which a First Nation can file a claim with the Tribunal, such as: when the claim can be filed, the process for hearings claims, the definition of a claim and the rules for resolution.

Deputy Grand Chief Hare and Montour's testimony expressed the Anishinabek Nation's support for Bill C-30 as well as advocated for amendments. Although Bill C-30 is a positive step forward there are certain amendments required to aid in the facilitation of true reconciliation and the just settlement of outstanding claims. Hare and Montour presented AANO with nine recommendations. Those recommendations included: the Tribunal be formed from a mixture of Superior Court Judges, legally-trained people and lay-people with subject matter expertise, rather than just judges; and two, hearings be heard and decided by a three person panel rather than only one per section 6 (2) of the bill.

AANO during their study have heard from a variety of First Nation representatives and interested parties, which has culminated in a variety of recommendations.

The last day for witness testimony was April 16. It is likely AANO will begin clause-by-clause review once the House resumes April 28, 2008. AANO will report back to the House, including amendments, if any, to Bill C-30 for Third Reading. After Third Reading Bill C-30 will be voted on and if it passes the House it will be referred to the Senate for review. The process will repeat: after the Senate has completed its review, if it decides to pass Bill C-30, Bill C-30 will receive Royal Assent and will come into force as law.



Eliza Montour



Grand Council Chief John Beaucage and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Chuck Strahl, continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues concerning the Anishinabek Nation.

Tories hit land claim target

By Bill Curry
The Globe and Mail

OTTAWA – The Conservative government resolved a record number of native land-claim disputes this year in a bid to improve relations with Canada's aboriginals and spur economic development on reserves.

Former Indian Affairs minister Jim Prentice caused a stir in his department last year when he quietly ordered public servants to conclude at least 50 specific land-claim disputes for the fiscal year ending March 31.

Meeting that target was left to his successor, Chuck Strahl, who confirmed that 54 claims have been resolved, of which 37 involved financial settlements.

"It was a big, all-out effort to do that," said Mr. Strahl, who took over the department last August.

The 34-year historical record of the specific claims process shows the ambitiousness of the target. On average, only 14 claims are concluded each year.

The average annual amount paid out in settlements is \$63.7-million.

The most productive year previously on record was 1993-1994, when the government paid out 30 specific claims settlements at a total cost of \$263-million. The final tab for this year's record number of settlements will be about \$70-million, Mr. Strahl said, which is only slightly higher than an average year. Mr. Strahl acknowledges that the department likely went after some of the simplest disputes to

meet the demands of their political bosses.

"You want to do the low-hanging fruit first, that's for sure," he said. "I certainly gave no instruction that way, but it wouldn't surprise me."

Sources told The Globe and Mail that some native leaders expressed concern to Mr. Prentice that the bureaucracy would stop negotiating while the federal government established a new specific claims tribunal. To assuage those concerns, Mr. Prentice made the 50-claim promise.

The bill establishing the tribunal, C-30, was introduced last November and is still in the House of Commons. The new tribunal would have the power to make \$250-million in settlement payments a year for 10 years with the aim of reducing the backlog of nearly 800 claims. Mr. Strahl expressed frustration that the bill has yet to become law, given that it has broad support.

"I am starting to get concerned about it. It's always possible an election could interrupt the process," he said.

There are two main types of land claims. Specific claims involve native communities arguing that their land or money has been stolen or misused. Common examples include reserve land used for highways or rail lines without compensation. From 1927 to 1951, it was illegal for lawyers to take on native clients for claims against the Crown.

The second type, called comprehensive claims, are usually larger and more expensive. These claims resolve land disputes with natives who never signed treaties.

Garden River card may hit U.S. snag

By Michael Purvis
Sault Star

SAULT STE. MARIE – Garden River First Nation says it plans to have its own secure identification cards in place by the time strict U.S. passport requirements kick in at the border next year.

However, Kelly Klundt, a spokesperson for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, says there may be a snag unless Garden River plans to work on its card with the Canadian government. She said Customs has offered to work with U.S. tribes on

enhanced tribal documents, but is unable to do the same with Canadian First Nations.

With the biometric card, Garden River aims to assuage security concerns in the United States while asserting the First Nation's independence from the Canadian government and without allowing longstanding treaty rights to be trampled, said Garden River Coun. Blaine Belleau.

"We're looking at our history imbedded in this process, long before Canada was Canada, long

before Ontario was Ontario, long before Michigan was Michigan," said Belleau.

Klundt said First Nations have two options:

"They either need to go to their Canadian government to look at options, or they can present an INAC card."



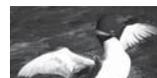
STAFF

Allan Dokis
Director
dokall@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2251

Alicia McLeod
Treaty Research Coordinator
mclali@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2264

Cheryl Recollet
Geospatial Project Manager
recche@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2253

Melissa Stevens
Treaty Research Clerk
stemel@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2237



MISSION

The Union of Ontario Indians Intergovernmental Affairs Department is committed to the protection of aboriginal and treaty rights, ensuring access to land and resources, and supporting the political goals, values and aspirations of the Anishinabek Nation.

LANDS AND RESOURCES



Christian Hebert and cousin Ian Remillard, 12, pick up hundreds of Tim Horton's cups in Sturgeon Falls.

Lake Michigan here we come!

By Josephine Mandamin

Word is being put out for Waterwalk Supporters to complete the circumference of Lake Michigan. As many of you are well aware, in 2004 the Waterwalkers blazed through the state of Michigan following the tracks of our ancestors and walked around the upper half of the shore of Lake Michigan. Once the lower half is completed, then the Waterwalkers can say we have walked around all the Great Lakes.

Challenges are met with great honor especially when we know it is for a deep purpose; - the betterment of all, especially our Mother Earth. The Water Walk's mission to raise awareness about humanity's need for water has not been heard south of Lake Michigan. It is important to keep our waters clean to ensure the everlasting use for our grandchildren and their grandchildren. Our water is not for sale. This message will be carried this spring.

The Lake Michigan Waterwalk 2008 will start at Manistee, Michigan on Saturday, April 26, 2008. At sunrise, the plan is to offer Feast Foods to the Water, Pipe and Tobacco and then start walking after the petitioned water and pail has been filled. Then we're off to Ludington and on the Muskegan. Our next stops will be Holland, Benton Harbor, Michigan City and Chicago. Our greatest challenge will be Chicago. We hope not to get blown away by this windy city!!

After a long break from Chicago, our next stop will be Waukegan and Milwaukee. It is our hope to pass through Wisconsin in four or five days. Our home stretch will be Escanaba or Hannaville, again, as our last journey.

It is with great anticipation to end the Lake Michigan Walk by May 6th or 7th. So all you Michigan folks, Illinois, and Wisconsin folks, get your walking shoes shined up. We are coming!!

Don't roll up the rim to litter!

By Christian Hebert

STURGEON FALLS – Spring is here and you know what that means: R-r-r-roll up the rim to litter!

I was out for a long walk, enjoying the mild weather when I noticed them: on every corner, sewer grate and ledge on almost every building. But the one that disturbed me the most was the one nestled in a nice little creek bed, just waiting to trickle into the river after the thaw: Timmy-cups!

The annual Roll-up-the-rim-to-win promotion has been going on for some time and has been an extremely successful marketing tool for Tim Hortons, netting them millions in sales during a traditionally slow economic time of the year. The company sells almost twice as much coffee as it does when the promotion is not running.

Bikes, cars, free donuts are there for the taking! It all sounds great, with no apparent downside, other than a bit too much caffeine for some frequent customers.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of visible fallout from the popular Tim's tradition.

It would seem that the disappointment of rolling up a "Sorry, Try Again" message creates such profound dismay that a lot of unhappy losers simply drop their empty cups in disgust...or place them on ledges....or toss them into a frozen creek bed. You get the picture.

The end result is the same: dozens of empty Tim Donut Inc. cups, with rims conspicuously rolled up,

polluting our environment, creating eyesores and branding the company as a major contributor to litter in our town.

Now I'm not one for complaining about a problem without providing a possible solution. As a matter of fact, I have two: one for Tim Donut and one for its disappointed customers.

I realize that television commercials displaying r-r-roll-up losers throwing out empty cups would not be in Tims best interests, but how about a massive in-shop campaign, coaxing customers to responsibly dispose of their non-winning cups, wrappers and bags?

Every franchise location might invest in additional garbage containers during the popular promotion – and leave them out if they're being filled. Tims could use the same advertising approaches to promote clean streets that they use to promote the soup of the day or donut flavour of the month -- posters, placards, signs above the washroom urinals.

As for you individual Tim's addicts, after you roll up your rim and lose, how about looking for the nearest waste basket to toss your first cup, while you drown your sorrows with a second?

Christian Hebert is a citizen of Dokis First Nation. Not a coffee drinker, he lives with his partner and son in Sturgeon Falls.

Manitoba women getting into the act

The Anishinabe Ikwew Ga Naa Wendamin Nibi 2008 "Women's Water Walk to Protect Our Waters 2008" will begin on May 4th and end with a feast on May 18th.

According to Barb Cameron and Adrienne Atkinson, "Our traditional teachings tell us that Anishinabequay was given the great responsibility of taking care of and protecting the sacred nibi (water) which is the life blood of our Mother Earth. As we look at our rivers and lakes we hear the spirit of the water calling out to us urging us to help her heal so our children seven generations from now will have clean, pure water to drink."

The organizers are looking for support and participation. For further information please contact either: Barb Cameron - barb_cameron@yahoo.com Adrienne Atkinson atkinson@ginew.ca (204)427-2384(w) or (204)427-3672(h) or (204)209-0091(cell).

New water policy analyst for UOI

Anni, Boozhoo, Hello Everyone:

My name is Rhonda Gagnon, and I am from Dokis First Nation. I have three wonderful children and a very supportive husband. On our spare time, we love going to our camp in Temagami, and visiting our family members in Sturgeon Falls and Dokis Bay.



Rhonda Gagnon

Recently, I have been granted the opportunity to become the Water Resources Policy Analyst for the Union of Ontario Indians. To tell you a little about myself, I am a graduate from Nipissing University majoring in Environmental Science and Physical Geography. I have also obtained a college diploma from the Environmental Protection and Compliance program at Canadore College. From the education and work experience, I have gained vast knowledge in the environmental sector.

I look forward to working in partnership with first nation communities, government agencies, First Nation organizations, associations and businesses in implementing the Great Lakes Charter Annex Memorandum of Understanding. My additional roles will be to develop, implement and maintain the water policy analysis component to the Lands and Resources Department. I look forward to working with all of you on a wide variety of water resource issues.

If you have, any questions feel free to contact me. Miigwetch!

LANDS STAFF

Jason Laronde
Lands & Resources Director
Nadine Roach
Forestry Coordinator
Barb Naveau
Forestry Assistant
Rhonda Gagnon
Water Resources Policy Analyst
Anyra Assance
AORMC Coordinator

CONTACT

Union of Ontario Indians
P.O. Box 711
North Bay, ON P1B 8J8
PH: 705-497-9127
TOLL FREE: 1-877-702-5200
FAX: 705-497-9135
WEB: www.anishinabek.ca

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH: WWW.ECOKIDS.CA

DOHM-NUK/LET'S PLAY!

Miller pleads for water

By Elizabeth Yates

BRANTFORD – The Junos turned political when Mohawk rocker Derek Miller used his second win as a platform to plead for clean drinking water for family and friends on the Six Nations reserve.



Derek Miller

The blues-rocker won best aboriginal recording for his latest disc, *The Dirty Looks*, at a ceremony April 5 in Calgary.

"We're dealing with water that's completely contaminated," Miller said Monday in a telephone interview from his home in Toronto. "And this is happening right here, in your backyard."

"There are Third World conditions in reserves all over Canada. Up to this point, we haven't been getting the media coverage we need to shed light on this."

Rabbit & Bear Paws



© ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. CHAD SOLOMON AND LITTLE SPIRIT BEAR PRODUCTIONS. 2008.

Casino Rama
half page colour





View from the Indian Maiden, a 70-passenger icebreaker that transports Christian Island residents the four kilometers to government docks at Cedar Point, just west of Penetanguishene.



Some winters heavy ice buildup on Georgian Bay prevents the operation of the ferry service relied on by Christian Island residents, and a lot of effort is required to keep ferry docking stations clear of ice.



Passengers like Ted Marsden pay \$5 for each one-way trip.

Winters fly past

Christian Islanders get hovercraft option to cross ice

By Sharon Weatherall

BEAUSOLEIL FIRST NATION – Winters can seem unusually long for the residents of Christian Island, whose ability to connect to the Georgian Bay mainland about four kilometers south depends largely on the weather.

But citizens of Beausoleil First Nation will be literally flying over any obstacles, thanks to the recent approval of \$500,000 in funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to facilitate the purchase of a \$500,000 state-of-the-art hovercraft.

Now when ice buildup prohibits operation of the regular ferry service, the VanGuard18 will kick into operation, delivering passengers during regular daily runs – traveling at 60 km per hour – cutting the length of the ferry trip in half between Christian Island and the federal government docks at Cedar Point – just west of Penetanguishene.

Inconvenience and seasonal restrictions that have plagued members for decades will no longer be a problem. While ferry passengers enjoyed uninterrupted service this past winter due to the thin ice, last year the ferry service was down for two months.

Boats have always provided a necessary source of transportation but during the past 20 years close to 700 island residents have relied on two faithful ferries to convey them on the 20-minute journey across the water. While the ice breaker Indian Maiden is capable of carrying up to 70 passengers and can forge its own path to keep a route open for several daily trips back and forth to the mainland, it is much smaller than the ‘Sandy Graham’ a 100-passenger ferry also capable of transporting up to 28 cars, trucks and supply vehicles during the rest of the year.

Three captains and 15 crew members work three shifts alternating on the two vessels to provide the only public transport service to Beausoleil First Nation. They make eleven round trips daily (6:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.) through the week, ten on Saturday (7:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.) and nine on Sundays (7:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.). The cost is minimal at \$5 per passenger (over 7 years of age) one way and \$20 round trip for vehicles owned by members, \$40 for non-members.

The new 18-passenger hovercraft is an “up-scaled” form of transportation technology that will provide not only safe passage but a more comfortable ride. It is not capable of carrying

vehicles. The 36-by-14.5-foot unit will be delivered in late May by a Kenora company which manufactures hovercraft products for residential, commercial and industrial use around the world.

Beausoleil purchased the largest passenger model available but before the unit arrives it requires a \$300,000 hangar to be constructed using funding approved by Indian Affairs over and above the cost of the hovercraft. The hovercraft will have to be officially registered, and a naming contest will be held among Beausoleil FN citizens.

“We are researching now the size, type and location of the hangar,” says Chief Rodney Monague. “It will go somewhere close to the water so we can operate the craft straight from the hangar. Included in the price of the hovercraft was the training of personnel – the operators, who will fly it and a person who will service it and do the maintenance work. A flight instructor and two service personnel will come with the craft when it is delivered. Once the initial flight training is complete our operators will work on obtaining their required flight hours. The certification that our operators already have is sufficient to operate the craft.”

Two operators will be appointed through BFN management to train six operators and six service people for a total of two crew members each on three shifts which operate the new

transportation system. Training will continue to take place this spring and summer. Chief Monague says driving the vehicle on water will actually be more difficult than driving it on ice in winter.

“We always try to train as many people as possible due to the fact that our ferry system is a central service and we need people on standby to cover in case of illness etc.,” he said. “We are very excited about the new hovercraft and most of our people have expressed a positive response about it. They know we are trying to make transportation in the winter safer.”

Chief Monague says the new hovercraft will replace the use of “scoots” – fan-powered runabout-sized boats-- in the winter which were “a hard ride”. Since ferry operation is the only practical way to get across the water when it shuts down in winter, island residents without snowmobiles are faced with additional expense and scoots remain the only alternative transportation.

“The scoots are very hard on our elders so the hovercraft will be easier, more convenient and comfortable for them,” says the Chief.

Chief Monague says the community is investigating other options to exploit the hovercraft’s year-round capability, including the possibility of using it to transport high school students on a daily basis, instead of requiring them to board on the mainland for a couple of months each winter.



The VanGuard 18, a 36-foot-long hovercraft seating 18 passengers, will ensure comfortable year-round travel for the 700 residents of Christian Island.



RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION

Education Working Group shifts focus to ratification

By Dave Shawana
EWG Coordinator

Members of the Education Working Group (EWG) and the Anishinabek Nation negotiation team met in North Bay, March 4-6, 2008, to finalize provisions of the draft Education Final Agreement. The Education Final Agreement is the legal document that represents the self-government negotiations between the Anishinabek Nation and Canada, for jurisdiction and control over primary, elementary, and secondary education within Anishinabek territory.

The meeting marked the end of Education Working Group's mandate to provide a grassroots' perspective in the development of an education system that will better meet the needs of Anishinabe students within the Anishinabek Nation.

Since 2003, the EWG has been engaged in developing the Anishinabek Education System (AES) and providing guidance to the education negotiations team. The AES proposal includes a central governing or administrative body and education standards that



The Education Working Group and education negotiators plan to visit First Nation communities and several urban centres to get the message out to Anishinabek about the Final Agreement with respect to the Exercise of Education Jurisdiction. Back from left: Fran Couchie, Director of Education, Nipissing; Rachel Taggart, Director of Education Services, Red Rock; Angela Collar, Education Coordinator, Munsee Delaware Nation; Myrtle Swanson, Councillor with Education Portfolio, Michipicoten; Almira Michano, Pic River; Dave Shawana, EWG Coordinator, UOI; Mike Esquega, Councillor with Education Portfolio, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek; Front row left: Beverly Bressette, Principal Assistant, Kettle and Stony Point; Connie Morningstar, Education Social Counsellor, Mississauga #8; Mary Laronde, Communications Coordinator, UOI; Art Michano, Councillor, Pic River; and Merle Pegahmagabow, Head Negotiator on Education.

will promote Anishinabe history, culture and language, not only in First Nation schools, but in provincial schools as well. The elements of the AES developed by the EWG provided the basis for negotiation of the Education

Final Agreement and the financial requirements to be included in the Fiscal Transfer Agreement (FTA).

The EWG will now focus on an information campaign and strategy to inform Anishinabek Nation citizens in preparation for

ratification of the Education Final Agreement. During the campaign, members of the EWG and the Anishinabek Nation negotiation team will offer community and regional information sessions across the Anishinabek Nation

territory.

This information campaign will support the ratification process for the Education Final Agreement. The ratification process, which is scheduled to begin as soon as this coming summer, will end with the actual ratification vote in the spring of 2009.

A methodology for implementation of the ratification process has been developed and includes training sessions for the EWG members to better equip them with the facilitation skills to implement the campaign.

The Union of Ontario Indians and the Education Negotiations Team would like to commend those EWG members who have participated over the years and provided their expertise in developing the Anishinabek Education System.

The concept of the EWG was to ensure that the education self-government negotiation process was grassroots-driven and by all accounts, the EWG experience been both empowering and successful.

Candid interviews about First Nation constitutions

During the recent North Bay constitution development workshop, Mike Restoule, Special Projects Coordinator, had the opportunity to interview two well-known First Nation leaders about their thoughts on First Nation constitutions.

Councillor Greg Sarazin – Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

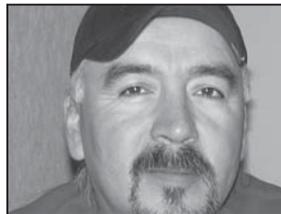
Gregory Sarazin is a citizen of Pikwakanagan First Nation. He is a former chief of his First Nation and currently a Councillor. He holds the portfolios of Land Claim Negotiations, Economic Development and Finance, and Personnel. Sarazin is the Chief Negotiator for the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Land Claim.

Mike Restoule: In your own words, what is a constitution?

Greg Sarazin: The way I see it, a constitution is a document that sets out the who, what, when, where, and how of a Nation. It is a document that regulates its affairs. It is the ultimate expression of the sovereignty of the First Nation. It clarifies and sets out how the First Nation governs itself.

MR: Why do you think it's important for Pikwakanagan to develop a constitution?

GS: Because we need to clearly define who we are and who we will continue to be in this changing world. Under the Indian Act, we are declining and will continue to decline. Our constitution will ensure that the citizenship is going to survive. It needs to be a clear set of rules so that everyone knows that the Algonquin nation governs itself. Confusion over how things are going to be done only leads to strife and that is counter-productive to Pikwakanagan First



Greg Sarazin

Nation and its people.

MR: After you complete the writing of the initial draft of your First Nation's constitution, what steps do think Pikwakanagan will need to do next?

GS: First, we need to draft the kind of constitution that the people and our leadership are willing to move forward with. Next, consult with our membership as to the intent, purpose and vision and the details in that draft constitution to determine whether we are on the right track for what the people want and to gain input into those issues. Then, we will need to do a re-draft of the constitution and a second round of consultations to check in case we missed something or for further input. The outcome of that will tell if we are complete or more consultations are necessary.

MR: What do you think the Union of Ontario Indians can do to assist your community to finalize the constitution?

GS: One of the needs is money. The First Nations are cash poor. We need a process to engage the community and this will require a sustained effort over a period of time. This will require a sustained focus and a funded process, including facilitation, in



Chief Ted Roque

order for it to succeed. We will require secretarial and administrative support to track all the input and do the re-drafting and keep the draft document current. We will need funding for that and the Union of Ontario Indians should try to secure those resources for us. We don't have the funding for legal expenses to do this. We need the assistance of a legal representative who is familiar with Pikwakanagan First Nation, otherwise there will be some disconnect with our community and our constitution. I think it is very timely for us to develop this document today and it's very important to our survival as a First Nation and as Anishinabek people.

Chief Ted Roque – Wahnapiatae First Nation

Ted Roque is the Chief at Wahnapiatae First Nation and has been Chief for 11 years.

Mike Restoule: In your own words, what is a constitution?

Ted Roque: It is a document that outlines who are as a people and it lays out the rules and customs that we agree to live by. More important, it identifies us as a nation.

MR: Why do you think it's important

for Wahnapiatae First Nation to develop a constitution?

TR: There are a lot of reasons: to build and maintain a relationship on a government-to-government basis with the federal government; to build economic initiatives that require security and to put a set of rules in place that everyone can recognize; and to help achieve self-government and self-sufficiency.

MR: After you complete the writing of the first draft of your community's constitution at this workshop, what will need to be done next?

TR: We will need to go back to the community to get the input of the members. We will first need to set up a committee of members to take this on. We would then discuss with the community as to how we can improve on the draft constitution. It's important for the membership to be involved. This draft that will be done here today will only be a starting point. There's a lot more work that will need to be done from here forward. It will be the committee's responsibility to explain the community input process.

MR: What do you think the Union of Ontario Indians can do to help your community to finalize your constitution?

Roque: I think the UOI has technical people available who can give us advice and help to re-draft the constitution before it goes to the people. If the UOI has a process of its own, perhaps we can partner with the UOI in that process. Some sections of the First Nations constitutions will likely be the same. The UOI can assist us in those ways.

RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION



Fort William workshop participants, back left: Crystal Dickson (Kiashe Zaaging Anishinaabek); Chief Xavier Thompson (Pays Plat); Edward King, Mike Esquega, and Bart Hardy (Binjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek); Raymond Goodchild (Pays Plat); and Howard Twance (Pic Mobert). Seated: Judy Millard, Tim Hardy and Mike Restoule, (UOI); and Chief Jeff Desmoulins (Pic Mobert). In front: Frank Achneepineskum (Pays Plat).

Constitution workshops a big hit

ROJ Staff

With majestic Mount McKay in full view from the Fort William community centre, representatives from four First Nations worked diligently to come up with an initial draft constitution for their First Nations. The constitution-writing workshop was hosted by the Restoration of Jurisdiction project of the Union of Ontario Indians. The project is mandated

components that the group might consider including in their draft constitutions. A very special thank you goes out to Judy Millard from UOI's Fort William office who graciously agreed to do all of the typing and formatting of the four draft constitutions. The participants were happy to have completed an initial draft constitution to take home with them.

The discussions were lively

development in self-government. At the end of the workshop, the participants were provided with an electronic copy of their draft constitutions on a compact disc to take home.

In North Bay, on March 4, 5 and 6, 2008, five First Nations sent delegates to the constitution-writing workshop held at the Best Western Hotel. Former Chief and current Councillor, Greg Sarazin, Councillors Jim Meness and Karen Levesque, and staffer, Jan Leroux represented the Algonquins of Piwakanagan. Former Chiefs James Wabigwan and Julian Bissailon, along with Mary Ann Giguere and Patricia Giguere, filled the bill for Thessalon First Nation. Chief Wilmer Noganosh of Magnetawan First Nation, Chief Fidele Jokinen of Mississauga #8 First Nation, and Chief Ted Roque of Wahnapiatae First Nation brought their experience and knowledge to the workshop on behalf of their respective communities. A big chi-miigwetch goes out to Jason Restoule for his typing and formatting expertise to create electronic copies of the draft constitutions that were created.

The group was small and dynamic and livened the discussions with eagerness and insight. In the end, they came away with a draft constitution for their respective communities to build upon. The group made suggestions on future workshops before they left for home. Some said that more workshops are necessary and others suggested funding and facilitation for the community constitution committees with quarterly workshops with specific committees. All in all, the workshops were a great success. To date, there are thirty-one First Nations in the Anishinabek territory involved in some form of constitution development in anticipation of self-government.



North Bay workshop participants from left, Greg Sarazin (Algonquins of Piwakanagan), Chief Ted Roque (Wahnapiatae); James Wabigwan, Julian Bissailon, Mary Ann Giguere and Patricia Giguere (Thessalon).

assist First Nations with the development of their respective community constitutions.

Chief Jeff Desmoulins along with Band Manager Howard Twance, attended on behalf of Pic Mobert First Nation. Chief Xavier Thompson and Councillors Frank Achneepineskum and Raymond Goodchild represented Pays Plat First Nation. Binjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation sent their councillors, Mike Esquega, Edward King and Bart Hardy to the event. Band researcher, Crystal Dickson represented Kiashe Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation.

Tracey O'Donnell and Mike Restoule facilitated the discussions at the workshop and covered a range of

and fun. Participants willingly and enthusiastically responded with positive feedback about the workshop. Crystal Dickson of Kiashe Zaaging said, "I feel honoured to be a part of moving my First Nation forward. Thank you so much for providing the information and tools I need for developing this document." Edward King from Binjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek stated, "These kinds of workshops need to be held at least one or more times per year, with all First Nations, to learn and get more experience in constitutions." Councillor Michael Esquega suggested that the First Nations should be provided laptop computers to accomplish such an important phase of their

ROJ BRIEFS

Ratification criteria unworkable?

The Anishinabek Nation education negotiation team continues to wait for Canada to name someone to work on the Implementation Plan (IP) with the Anishinabek Nation's representative, Fiscal Policy Analyst, Andrew Arnott. The Chief Federal Negotiator, Darrell Paul, informed the Anishinabek Nation negotiations team in March that Patricia Stirbys has been assigned as the federal negotiator for the Fiscal Transfer Agreement (FTA). Regarding set-backs, Paul suggested that the ratification timeline be lessened to eight months instead of twelve to meet Canada's mandate deadline.

Canada tabled draft wording for Section 25 on Ratification. Canada's position is that the First Nation constitutions must be ratified at the same time as the agreements because the constitutions require the same thresholds as the ratification of the Final Agreement. Paul indicated that this is federal practice.

Canada's position on ratification is that a minimum of 25% plus one of all eligible voters must vote "yes" to ratify and that they must also represent a majority of those participating in the ratification vote. Also, a minimum of 12 First Nations must ratify with the majority of the ratifying First Nations having an on-reserve school. Further, the ratifying First Nations must represent all of the Regions and be contiguous across Anishinabek territory.

The Anishinabek team said the formula presented by Canada would not work, given real-life examples of voter turnout on First Nations. Paul said Canada is not flexible at all on the draft wording for part 25 on ratification. The only flexibility would be in the definition of "eligible voter." Canada will cover the costs of a joint Ratification Committee to oversee the ratification process and the costs of the process itself, at an agreed to level of funding.

The definition of "member" is still a major outstanding issue. The Anishinabek team tabled wording that would provide some certainty to community members who are not designated as "status Indians" in the future will not learn about the importance of a clean environment

Governance progress report

The Anishinabek Nation and Canada continue to negotiate the Governance Final Agreement. In January at Nipissing First Nation, the Anishinabek Nation tabled language regarding International Legal Obligations and Access to Information and Privacy. The table also discussed how to proceed with a gender-based analysis of the draft Governance Final Agreement. Preliminary discussions included a consultation process with community members. Capacity development requirements for the governance agreement were discussed and a preliminary list of workshops was forwarded to the capacity development committee for consideration.

In February, the Governance Main Table invited Allan Dokis, Director of Intergovernmental Relations at the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) to discuss how to proceed with the inter-governmental relations clauses in the Governance Final Agreement. The governance table continued to work on harmonization of the governance and education agreements.

The engagement of Ontario in the governance negotiations was also discussed as was the establishment of a Governance Working Group (GWG) and its activities for this fiscal year.

Fort William First Nation hosted the governance negotiations on March 18 and 19, 2008 at the community centre. Chief Harold Pelletier welcomed the main table to the community. The Anishinabek Nation tabled language on the Canadian Human Rights clauses. Canada provided a response to the delegation clauses tabled by the Anishinabek Nation last November. The developments and success at the recent Chi-Naaknigewin Maawanjiidiwin - Nation Building Conference on the draft Anishinabek Nation constitution and draft appeal and redress system was shared with Canada.

ROJ STAFF

Jamie Restoule
Self-Government Project Manager

EDUCATION NEGOTIATIONS

Merle Pegahmagahbow Head Negotiator
Tracey O'Donnell, Legal Counsel
Bernadette Marasco, Administrative Assistant

GOVERNANCE NEGOTIATIONS

R. Martin Bayer, Chief Negotiator
Fred Bellefeuille, Legal Counsel
Adrienne Pelletier, Administrative Assistant

RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION

Andrew Arnott, Fiscal Relations Analyst
Ester Gilbank, Chiefs Committee Coordinator
Mike Restoule, Special Projects Coordinator

Terry Restoule
Capacity Development Coordinator
Dave Shawana
Education Working Group Coordinator
Mary Laronde
Communications Coordinator
Jason Restoule
Communications Liaison Officer

COMMUNITY FACILITATORS

Tim Hardy, Northern Superior
Valarie McGregor
Lake Huron/Northern Superior
Doreen Trudeau, Lake Huron/Southeast

CONTACT

Ph: (705) 497-9127 or 1-877-702-5200
web: www.anishinabek.ca/ROJ



MNO-BMAADZIWIN/HEALTH

Entire communities need to enlist in Fetal Alcohol fight

By Deanna Therriault

THUNDER BAY— Statistics tell us that alcohol consumption is the most common form of substance abuse among indigenous women; 61% of native women drink regularly. It's also important to note that 77% of all women in Canada say they have consumed alcohol in the past year.

Unpublished 1985 data identified a significant number of Canadian indigenous children suffering from the effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: 25 out of 1000 compared to the national average of 11 children out of every 1000 tested.

Statistics are sometimes hard to swallow, and definitely hard to digest. Given the popular, negative stereotypes involving Anishinaabe peoples and alcohol, we have received a substantial amount of negative attention regarding FAS and FASD. There is a misguided reaction to blame, or feel ashamed. But the reality is that without the information and numbers we would have little on which to identify the needs of our people, or the knowledge of the tools necessary to forge a path to understanding and ultimately coping with these disorders.

Whatever the statistics show about how many Native women drink alcohol, there is one medical fact that is irrefutable – it only takes one drink for a pregnant mother to jeopardize her unborn child's health.

We cannot determine the specific reason behind one's

decision to drink. The causes and effects are as varied as we are a people, and it should be understood that alcoholism, like any addiction, is a symptom of a bigger problem, and deserves no judgment. But all women need to understand that whether they are residential school survivors, or living in an abusive relationshipor just like to have a beer after Bingo, maternal alcohol consumption can lead to disorders like FAS/FASD.

It is not okay to have "just a couple of drinks" while pregnant. Any amount of alcohol during pregnancy can result in irreversible, life-long challenges for our children, challenges that often go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. A lot of people, including those living with FAS/FASD, are not entirely sure what it is. People affected by this disorder often walk, took and appear "normal."

They sometimes display typical adolescent behaviours like stubbornness, belligerence and impulsivity. Because they don't show any obvious physical symptoms from maternal alcohol consumption, these behaviours are often overlooked, or attributed to hyperactivity or short attention spans.

FAS/FASD is a form of brain damage that for the most part affects an individual's thought processes and ability to comprehend certain concepts. Children and adults with FAS/FASD may have difficulty making



sound decisions, or staving off peer pressure.

People with FAS/FASD are therefore too often misunderstood. We can and should be providing learning tools within our communities. Knowledge and understanding are vital to supporting children who have the disorder.

Where can families and communities get this important information?

Given the lack of public health education resources available to First Nations people – particularly those living on-reserve – there are several options open to interested community members. They can always contact regional public health authorities to see what is available.

Organizations like the Union of Ontario Indians offer comprehensive FAS/FASD programming – including informative workshops, print resources, etc. – that are

available to any of the 42 First Nation member communities of the Anishinabek Nation across Ontario.

Gradually more light is being shed on the issue, and resources are becoming more accessible. Community-based workshops to learn about FAS and its effects are a great start. Awareness sessions in community centres provide participants resource materials and the chance to discuss an issue that has often been a taboo topic.

The fact remains that we do not have enough resources available in the region to create sufficient awareness about FAS/FASD. Funding is not being provided in an area that requires a great deal more attention. Today for instance, within the City of Thunder Bay there are a few resources available at the local Indian Friendship Centre, and the Fort William First Nation band office promotes the Anishinabek Nation's FAS education program.

There are also Anishinaabe Mushkiki and the Child Advocacy offices.

But there is no diagnosis or testing provided in Thunder Bay, nor are there specialists to assist caregivers and those living with FAS with the coping tools and knowledge they need to make life easier. Children with FAS/FASD are not provided the necessary learning-assisted programming in school that specifically address their needs. These much-needed facilities and programs exist in the larger city centres south of here.

As a first step, it is imperative to foster awareness of the issue here to identify the needs of indigenous children, and often their parents, who suffer the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome/fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. We need FAS/FASD facilities, testing/diagnosis, augmented learning programs, etc. here – where we live.

An area that requires particular attention is the diagnosis of children involved in the Native family services system. Child welfare workers with agencies like Dilico and Tikinagan tell us that a lack of resources and awareness result in many children with FAS/FASD going undiagnosed. Too many of our children and their parents get labeled as "problem" clients when they actually have learning disabilities or impulsivity issues associated with FAS/FASD that some professionals know little to nothing about.

Subsequently, traditional Child Welfare approaches like parenting classes, prescribing medication for attention deficit disorder, or even institutionalization are doomed to failure because FAS/FASD is not curable, although it is manageable.

But it is not just the role of the agencies to fix the problems – it is a community health issue.

Ontario Indians overweight

OTTAWA – Off-reserve Aboriginal people aged 19 to 50 living in Ontario and the Western provinces in 2004 were two and a half times more likely to be obese or overweight, compared with their non-Aboriginal contemporaries, according to a new study.

The study, published in January in Health Reports, found that this difference primarily reflected higher rates of obesity and overweight among Aboriginal women, particularly those aged 19 to 30.

Rates of overweight/obesity among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men were statistically similar. However, Aboriginal women were more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be obese.

Biidabaan Healing Centre 4x4.5

Dot Beaucage-Kennedy announcement 4x4.5



MNO-BMAADZIWIN/HEALTH

First aid for mind

By Marci Becking

SERPENT RIVER FN – One person in three will experience some form of mental health problem at some point in their life.

Mnaamodzawin Health Services has looked at the statistics and has done something about it. They now have eight new Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainers thanks to a training session held in Wikwemikong, facilitated by Allison Hall, Mental Health Clinician and Sheri Wabanosse.

MHFA is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Just as physical first aid is administered to an injured person before medical treatment can be obtained, MHFA is given until appropriate treatment is found or until the crisis is resolved.

Douglas Graham, Executive Director of Mnaamodzawin Health Services says that many new projects will strengthen our communities and make them healthier.



Mary Jo Wabano, Joanne Roy and Dorothy Kennedy in a breakout session.

“All of the trainers have carried out training in the communities on Manitoulin Island,” says Graham about the project, “I have three certified trainers at Mnaamodzawin Health Services and they have trained other participants from the island First Nations plus other communities in the District. Aundeck Omni Kaning has a certified worker and Wikwemikong and M’Chigeeng have a couple of workers as well but not fully certified yet.”

Mental Health First Aid doesn’t teach people how to be therapists. It teaches people to recognize the signs and

symptoms of mental health problems, provide initial help and guide a person towards appropriate professional help.

Graham also says that participants gave very high evaluation of the MHFA workshop.

“We are continually building self-care and building strength in capacity building. We need to move forward and heal our communities,” says Graham.

Communities that come under the umbrella of Mnaamodzawin Health are Zhiibaahaasing, Aundeck Omni Kaning, Whitefish River, Shesheganing and Sheguandah First Nations.

Video ‘demystifies’ cancer

SUDBURY – A moving ceremony March 27 marked the first screening of a cancer awareness video “In Our Own Words: The Cancer Journey”.

The video is the direct result of a collaborative effort led by the Shkagamik-kwe Aboriginal Health Access Centre. In 2006, the project received a \$225,200 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to produce the video, which helps demystify cancer treatment and promote cancer prevention and early detection for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

“This initiative represents an important bridge between mainstream cancer care and the Aboriginal community,” said MPP Rick Bartolucci. “In increasing the understanding of cancer treatment within the Aboriginal community, promoting healthy lifestyles and highlighting the need for early detection, I believe this video will have a positive impact on Aboriginal communities in Northeastern Ontario and across



the province.”

Using the voices of Aboriginal cancer survivors and their family members, the goal of the video is to increase access to holistic cancer information, promote screening as a form of prevention and to encourage Aboriginal people to seek early treatment. In addition, mainstream medical personnel will also gain an understanding of the Aboriginal worldview of cancer management.

The key impact of the video will be to positively influence treatment and survivorship decisions, earlier detection of cancer, identify the wholistic strengths of the community and address language and cultural barriers in the description of treatment modalities.

50 Carleton
Place
4x7

Permanency for kids in foster care

GARDEN RIVER FN – Every child of aboriginal ancestry has an aboriginal community, an aboriginal extended family and clan of origin.

The goal of a National Forum on Permanency Planning for Aboriginal Children in Care will be to develop a permanency plan that will consult and accommodate the child’s community and extended family in each apprehended aboriginal child’s case.

Denielle Boissoneau-Thunderchild, Anishnabe-Nehiyew, citizen of Garden River, will be leading the national forum – hosted by Shingwauk Education Trust and co-sponsored by its home Family Service Agency, Nog Da Win Da Min – for Aboriginal Family Service Agencies this summer in Garden River.

The forum will allow aboriginal agencies to share their collective wisdom, experience, successes and challenges, with a view to informing a national strategy on permanency planning for aboriginal children in care.

“It’s not an adoption forum,” says Boissoneau-Thunderchild, “This forum is designed to look at the range of permanency planning available for Aboriginal children in care.”

Permanency planning is the process of identifying a “forever home”, in the best interests of the

child(ren) in care. For aboriginal peoples, a “forever home” may include shared caregiving among extended family, and therefore, may include multiple homes.

A permanency plan would include a spectrum of options, including temporary or permanent foster care, customary care, custom adoption and adoption by court order. Permanency planning ought to be approached from the vantage point of protecting the best plan possible for each child.

“One of the most devastating legacy issues facing our peoples is the state of aboriginal children in care, which arises as a result of the Crown’s assimilation plan to

facilitate the breaking apart and breaking down of the aboriginal clan system,” says Boissoneau-Thunderchild.

“We do not know how many aboriginal children are in care,” says Boissoneau-Thunderchild.

Existing provincial/territorial data collection systems vary and there is no national database on children in care. In any event, this issue rightfully belongs to the aboriginal community and it is for the aboriginal community to say how and what data relating to their children will be collected and maintained.

For more information on this summer’s forum, please contact Denielle at Thunderchild@shaw.



Denielle Boissoneau-Thunderchild with daughter Ameerah Honey Bee – Photo by Kasey Johnston



ZHOONYAAKEWIN/BUSINESS

On-reserve Motocross park has customers, needs investors

By Rick Garrick

SAUGEEN – While Jason Roote’s on-reserve motocross park has attracted an increasing customer base over the past three seasons, he realizes he needs some advice about on-reserve sponsorship issues in order to continue expanding his business.

“I’m looking for someone who can give me legal advice,” says the owner of RPM Moto X Park, explaining that he is having problems attracting sponsors and partners from the motocross industry, such as Honda, because of the complicated legal issues involved with investing in on-reserve businesses. “I’m one of two on-reserve tracks in Canada — we’re the odd guys out. We don’t get much help from the sponsors.”

The Saugeen First Nation citizen and former U.S. Marine, who got hooked on desert motocross racing in Baja California during his days off from patrol duties along the Mexican border, needs sponsors or investors because he needs to put in water and hydro lines to provide better services to his customers, who usually number over a thousand for the big events.



Jason Roote, right, and members of Wyotech test team during American Motorcycle Association supercross race at Daytona Speedway. The Saugeen citizen completed a maintenance course at Wyotech.

“I’m dealing with a large number of people,” Roote says. “My last event brought in 1,500 people.”

Roote attracts a wide range of clientele to his park, from the Sunday rider to the racing teams that bring in their equipment on 18 wheel trucks, and averages about 50 to 100 people per week.

Roote already has a large

event planned for July, which will bring in up to 2,500 people, and he is also leasing his track to the Honda Red Riders of Canada for two weeks in June and another three in August.

“My park is being used on a very high level,” Roote says. “I’m pretty much on the top level of motocross in Ontario.”

Roote opened RPM Moto X

Park in 2005 after learning the ropes from local track operator Carol Bestedo through an HRDC employment placement program he enrolled in after returning back home after a nine-year stint in the U.S. Marines.

“He’s the pioneer of motocross racing in Canada,” Roote says, adding that after he completed the program, he went to work

with the band council in 2003 before beginning work in 2004 on developing the park, which is situated on about 500 acres of on-reserve property that his grandfather originally planned to farm. “Basically, I graded the track, did the flagging, and learned the office side of the business. I learned the whole business.”

During his first season in 2005, Roote lined up some CMX Racing events for the park, including a couple of CMX Fall Series events and a CMX Provincial Series event on the July 1 weekend.

He has since invested about \$30,000 in the park, which includes about 22 kilometres of hare scrambler trails and 30 kilometres of ATV trails in addition to the 1.8 kilometre main motocross track, the 65 to 85 cc expert super-cross track and the 50 cc mini track for youth.

“They go pretty fast,” Roote says about the youth, explaining that he is always rebuilding his tracks and needs a new bulldozer to replace the old one he has been using since he began constructing the park. “I need tools to keep building my track.”

Roote can be contacted at rppmotorx@yahoo.com.

ANISHINABEK NEWS Announcements

Births, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, and obits



Fox - Joe and Mary Fox of North Bay would like to introduce their new son, Christopher Joseph, who came into the world on March 3, 2008 in Sudbury. Christopher weighed in at 8lbs even. Big sister Suzie is very excited. Proud grandparents are Margaret and James Fox of Wiky and Sally Smith of Garson. The family would like to thank Dr. Green at the North Bay General Hospital - Maclaren site.

Class of '08



Congratulations to Mary Smith of North Bay who just completed the Anishinabek Governance and Management program at the Anishinabek Educational Institute - Nipissing Campus. Mary will be continuing her studies at Nipissing University in the fall where she will be enrolled in the Regional Planning and International Development Geography program. Your family is very proud of you!



Fox-Smith - Sally Smith of Garson along with Margaret and James Fox of Wiky would like to announce the marriage of their children, Mary Jane Smith to Joseph James Fox. The ceremony took place on Saturday, June 2, 2007 at Trinity United Church in North Bay.

Celebrating 50 years!

Ken and Dorothy Fisher are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this July and wish for friends and family to come celebrate with them on their farm on Green Acres Road on July 16th.



Carol Ella Brown



Carol Ella Brown passed into the spirit world last Tuesday in her 96th year. Carol had a great love for her children George (Sally), Beth (Carl) and Dorothy (Ken). She will be missed by her five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations be made to the lung association.

Announcements this size, including photo, can be booked for \$50. Additional inches are \$15.

Send text and photos to the Anishinabek News c/o Elliot Lake Standard, 14 Hillside Drive South, Elliot Lake, Ontario, P5A 1M6 or email anishinabeknews@elliottlakestandard.ca. All ads must be pre-paid by cheque, money order or credit card. For payment information and advertising deadlines, call 1-800-463-6408 or 1-705-848-7195.



DNAKMIGZIWIN/SPORTS



Stan Jonathan (right) poses with the Six Nations All-Stars, winners of the boys' bantam "D" title at the 37th Little NHL hockey tournament held in Sault Ste. Marie.

Jonathan fought loneliness to make his mark in hockey

By Ben Leeson

SAULT STE MARIE - If young players at this year's Little Native Hockey League tournament weren't sure who celebrity guest Stan Jonathan was, they might want to check with Pierre Bouchard.

The year was 1978. Jonathan and his Boston Bruins were facing the Montreal Canadiens in the fourth game of the Stanley Cup finals.

Montreal head coach Scotty Bowman, ever looking for an edge, put Bouchard on the ice along with fellow Habs' tough guys Gilles Lupien and Rick Chartraw. Boston coach Don Cherry matched them with Terry O'Reilly, John Wensink and a rugged winger from Oshweken named Stan Jonathan.

Moments later, Jonathan and Bouchard were going toe-to-toe, with the Montreal slugger getting the early shots in. But Jonathan, the smaller player at five-foot-eight and 175 pounds, was blessed with dynamite hands and a granite chin.

So Bouchard found out. Within seconds, the feared Canadian crumpled to the ice, bleeding from his nose and mouth.

Montreal went on to win the series, but Jonathan had cemented his reputation as one of the toughest players of his day.

And, some hockey pundits believe, of all time.

"Oh, I think I'd do all right today," Jonathan, now 52, said with a chuckle.

"And I don't think I'd mind the money, either."

And he just might be able to make it, too. More than just a prize fighter on skates, Jonathan could also put the puck in the net. During that 1978 campaign, he scored 27 goals. Two years later, after

battling his way back from injury, he notched another 21.

But the game has changed a lot, too," Jonathan said. "In Boston we had a small rink, and we'd forecheck, get right on top of guys.

"Now it's more wide-open, and the guys are all a lot bigger."

But while Big, Bad Bruins might be a thing of the past, Jonathan's legacy has remained. He hopes his career can be an inspiration to young First Nations players.

"That's what I want kids to recognize now is that they can fulfill their dreams," Jonathan said.

The sixth of 14 children, Jonathan was one of few Native players playing the professional game in his day.

Many of his peers, whether talented or not, never ventured far from their reserves, often remote and economically-depressed communities.

As a result, Jonathan said, they missed out on opportunities. But

in 1972 he made the most of his own, leaving home to play for the Peterborough Petes of the Ontario Hockey Association.

"It was really lonely at first," Jonathan said. "But after the first few weeks, you get used to it."

Jonathan's example, along with those of more recent Native NHLers including Jonathan Cheechoo and Chris Simon, is opening the eyes of First Nations children to the opportunities that exist for them in sport.

"There's a lot of talent there,"

Jonathan said.

Jonathan also appeared at the Little NHL tournament five years ago, when it was held in Thunder Bay.

"The year it started was the year I went to play junior B for Waterford," said Jonathan, who moved back home to Six Nations from Boston in 1985. "But my kids played in it, and my grandchildren are playing in it this year.

"It's a lot of fun. At first the kids are like, 'Who is he?' But then they get their eyes opened up."

Little NHL big undertaking for Batchewana

By Ben Leeson

SAULT STE. MARIE - Even before the first score was posted or the first goal was tallied, the 37th annual Little Native Hockey League tournament was all about the numbers.

Four days. Five arenas. More than 100 teams. Eight divisions. Over 1,500 players and coaches. And hundreds more spectators from some 30 First Nations communities across Ontario.

The tournament's name is a misnomer. Aside from some of the participants, there very little that's little about the Little NHL.

"It's an extremely big project," said Little NHL president Marvin Assinewai, of Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation. "It takes a lot of dedication to pull it together."

It also took a lot of work by staff and volunteers from host Batchewana First Nation and Sault Ste. Marie to put on the four-day event, running March 10-13.

But a happy by-product of that effort was the economic boon

to those communities. Another was the opportunity to put those communities on display for participants who haven't visited since Batchewana last hosted the event in 2005.

"It's nice to have it back," said Trevor Sayers, the tournament committee's contact for the host community.

"It's a great way for our First Nations to showcase their talent. And it's a way for us to showcase ourselves to the other communities, to show how far we've progressed.

"We went through a little rough spell there, but we're coming out of it now."

Sayers and his fellow organizers were on hand to watch each of the tournament's teams -- tykes, midgets and all ages in between -- parade onto the ice wearing team colours at the year-old Steelback Centre for opening ceremonies March 10.

The Ted Nolan Foundation, founded by New York Islanders head coach and Garden River

resident Ted Nolan, was a supporter of this year's tournament.

The foundation, which raises money to provide bursaries for First Nations women via the Rose Nolan Foundation, provided signed NHL memorabilia for auction at the tournament. It also supplied free pizzas to each team.

By the time those teams left the Sault, championships were awarded in boys tyke, novice, atom, peewee, bantam, midget and girls bantam and midget divisions.

Angus Toulouse, Assembly of First Nations regional chief for Ontario, also attended the opening ceremonies. Toulouse, a citizen of Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation, was a participant in the very first event, held in Little Current on Manitoulin Island.

"It's all about participation, for boys and girls to come together," said Toulouse. "They take part in hockey, but there's also the social side. They make new friends and learn about team

play. I look forward to it and I know they enjoy it.

"As a former player, it's near to my heart."

Aamjiwanaang, near Samia, will host next year's tournament.

"We're giving them a little break in the rotation," said Ron Simon, who accepted an Eagle staff at the end of the event on behalf of Aamjiwanaang. "The Sault and Batchewana always put on such a great event. They take such good care of us.

"They've treated us so good, we want them to come down there so we can return the favour."

In the spirit of co-operation between widespread communities, the organizing committee started in 2007 to bring those communities in on the Little NHL rule-making process.

"We had all the First Nations send in their concerns, to get involved," Assinewai said. "We want it to be more the communities' rules than just Little NHL rules. This is the whole community's tournament"



NGAMWINAN/HONOUR SONGS



Tom Maracle, National Manager, Aboriginal Marketing and Community Relations for Xerox Canada, presents award to Chief Tom Bressette.

Financial leadership

MONTREAL – Chief Thomas M. Bressette of the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point is one of the recipients of a major award for financial policy leadership. Chief Bressette was one of two recipients of the AFOA/Xerox Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership awards at the 8th annual national conference of the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada in February.

The national category award is presented to Chief Bressette for his commitment and perseverance in financial policy leadership that spans community and regional to national over the past 20 years. At the community level, he and council created and implemented financial management bylaw, policies and standards to guide the establishment of a Financial Management Board and community investment strategies aimed wealth creation – a reverse from the deficit situation he inherited when first elected as chief.

Chief Bressette has served community and region as Southwest Regional Chief and Executive Board member for the Union of Ontario Indians as well as Ontario Regional Vice Chief for the Assembly of First Nations.



Anishinabek Nation Credit Union board member James Maness, Aamjiwnaang, and ANCU general manager Allan Moffatt with Innovation Award presented by provincial credit union association.

Credit Union innovative

TORONTO – The Anishinabek Nation Credit Union has been in business for less than seven years, but the little office on Garden River First Nation is attracting lots of attention.

On April 4 ANCU general manager Allan Moffatt was on hand at a gala celebration to receive an Innovation Award for smaller credit unions from Credit Union Central of Ontario.

The award is intended to recognize smaller credit unions (those under \$25 million in assets) that have accomplished a goal through an innovative program or approach. Over the last year, Anishinabek Nation Credit Union has redesigned its website and marketing materials to better position itself in the always-competitive financial services marketplace.

“The marketing move seems to have worked with some product lines experiencing significant deposit growth,” Moffatt said. “Slow growth over the past few years was hampering the credit union and I am very proud of the Board and staff.”

10TH ANNUAL CASINO RAMA/SCOTIABANK ANISHINABEK EVENING OF EXCELLENCE

June 11, 2008

Silvernighingale Ballroom – Casino Rama

Scotiabank Student Excellence awards will be increased to four scholarships this year.

Your application must include a letter of support from your community education counsellor, your latest academic marks, brief history of academic achievements and any volunteer work you have performed.

The awards will be judged by a panel of community Education Counsellors.

Additional information is available at www.anishinabek.ca

Nominations will be closed as of May 15/2008.

Tickets to the event are just \$ 25 each, plan now to be a part of our 10th anniversary celebrations.



To nominate someone please contact:
Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity
Les Couchie, PH: 877 702 5200 or 705 497 9127
EMAIL: ansgc@anishinabek.ca

EDUCATION *Kinoomaagewin*



A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANISHINABEK NEWS
April 2008

Indians don't go to university

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY – Ruby Farrell (Slipperjack) spoke about the day she was told that Indians don't go to university during her presentation at the March 12-14 Lakehead University Elders Conference.

"Indian girls don't go to university," Farrell says, remembering what the Indian Affairs counsellor replied when she told him that she wanted to go to university after finishing high school. "'There's a position as a secretary in Indian Affairs opening right now.' So I became a secretary."

Farrell has since pursued a career as professor of Indigenous Studies at Lakehead University, earned a Ph.D. in Educational Studies from Western University, and written six books, five of which have been published: Honour the Sun, Silent Words, Weesquachak and the Lost Ones, Little Voice, and Weesquachak. Her sixth work, Dog Tracks, will be published this July by Fifth House Publications.

Three other Aboriginal Lakehead University professors, Dolores Wawia, Peggy Smith and Dennis McPherson, also spoke during the Elders Conference, which was attended by about 30 Elders from communities across northern Ontario, including Nipissing in the east to Shoal Lake #39 in the west.

Farrell explained during her Education and Career session that she began writing stories when she went to the Shingwauk Residential School in Sault Ste. Marie, but she would always burn them when she went back home for the summer with her parents on Whitewater Lake, which is



Ruby Farrell (Slipperjack) signs one of her books for a fan after her Education and Career talk on the final day of the Lakehead University Elders Conference.

located north of Collins.

"I began writing at Shingwauk because I was lonely," Farrell says, noting that any mail from home that was written in syllabics was thrown out by the school officials before it reached the students. "I started writing my stories and making illustrations."

Farrell adds that her mother would never allow any English to be spoken throughout the summer -- although she would often find a rock in the bush to sit on while reading a book -- and that they would spend the whole summer in the bush without any contact with the community of Collins.

"No English allowed," Farrell says. "She made sure we didn't

forget the language."

While out in the bush, her mother would also tell Farrell and her siblings stories about her family's experiences on Whitewater Lake.

"The whole lake is full of the history of our family," Farrell says. "Every rock, every island holds the history of our family -- because that is how we keep these stories."

Farrell began her session by talking about a recent return trip to her family trampoline on Whitewater Lake.

"All that was left was the overlapping corners of the trapper's shack," she says. "And the old huge boulder that I thought

was so high was only this (waste) high."

Farrell also showed a number of photographs from when she was growing up in Collins.

"Hey, that island looks familiar," she says. "As it turns out, that is exactly the place, see the sloping rock, the cabin my dad built is right here. We used to walk down there and chop the ice in the water hole. That's where our woodpile used to be, and that's where we pulled our canoe up. This is our cabin, I was seven years old when our school was finished and I didn't have a word of English. There's the moosehide after my mom finished dressing it, it had to be freeze dried. And

that's me, that was the oldest photo I could find, I was about nine to 10 years old."

Farrell explained that she burned her stories after returning home for the summer because she didn't want to recall the feelings that she had while writing them during the school year at Shingwauk.

Fortunately, Farrell eventually stopped burning her stories when she and her family moved to Saskatchewan, which eventually led to her decision to send them off to a publisher after being encouraged to "put on an ending" on "just my pile of papers."

"I had no place to burn my papers," she says.

ANCU
10.25 x 2



ESHKINIIGIJ/YOUTH



Adam McQuabbie, Dmitri Ashawasegai and Michael Ashawasegai play an Honour Song for students recognized in the Evening of Applause.

Symposium focuses on Native culture

By Chelsey Romain

TIMMINS – It was a day of learning. The focus wasn't on math or English, but what students can achieve when they learn more about their cultural background.

More than 400 students from the Northeastern District Catholic School Board and the District School Board Ontario North East travelled from as far as Hearst and New Liskeard to Northern College's Porcupine campus for the 2008 Aboriginal Youth Symposium.

With a theme focusing on Aboriginal success stories, both school boards brought Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students together from Grades 7-12 to teach them a collaborative lesson.

"We have examples of non-traditional success stories," said DSBONE superintendent of schools Steve Pladzyk. "We have a comedian, a hip-hop group, a mayor.

"With an Aboriginal student population of at least 15 per cent in the region, Pladzyk said it was also important that non-Aboriginal students learned about the interesting aspects of a different culture.

"I think cross-culture learning is part of people being good citizens," he said.

Cochrane Mayor Lawrence Martin, a keynote speaker, is the first Aboriginal mayor in the province and in 1994, he won the first Aboriginal Juno Award for best Aboriginal music.

Students making a difference

By Jennifer Ashawasegai

NORTH BAY – Three Anishinabe Youth were among those honoured this year for being "Students Who Make a Difference."

The 20th Annual Evening of Applause hosted by the North Bay and District Multi-Cultural Centre recognized 17-year-old Dmitri Ashawasegai from Henvey Inlet First Nation, for the respect he demonstrates for others, as well as his culture.

Dmitri's nomination by Parry Sound High School mentioned his role as Drum Chief with the school Drum, B'maadezejig Dewaygunwaa, and that he has mentored other students to drum, both Native and non-Native. Dmitri makes time to speak with other youth about identity, racism, drug and alcohol abuse as well as heighten HIV/AIDS awareness.

Another 17-year-old, Amy Lariviere, from Nipissing First Nation was recognized by N'bisiing Secondary for her positive attitude and her

willingness to help others as well as her willingness to listen to others. Staff and students alike at N'bisiing Secondary School have also recognized Amy's leadership qualities. Amy also volunteers her time at school to help organize school trips and other activities.

The third Anishinabe youth, also from Nipissing First Nation, is Quin Commanda who attends Ecole Publique Heritage.

Students were nominated by staff and students at their schools for making a difference in the school as well as helping other students.

The Evening of Applause was held at St. Joseph's Scollard Hall in North Bay in March in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

B'maadezejig Dewaygunwaa, the People's Drum from Parry Sound High School performed an honour song for the students.

Wikwemikong
Board of Education
4x8.75

NAAF
6x6



KINOOMAAGEWIN/EDUCATION

Orillia campus to offer new aboriginal programs

By Nathan Taylor

ORILLIA – Judy Ellis and Annette Sarazin will be pleased to know aboriginal studies and learning programs will be coming to Lakehead University's Orillia campus. Ellis, a counsellor at Opeongo High School, and Sarazin, a post-secondary counsellor with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, came to Orillia from Golden Lake to attend the University Community Colloquium.

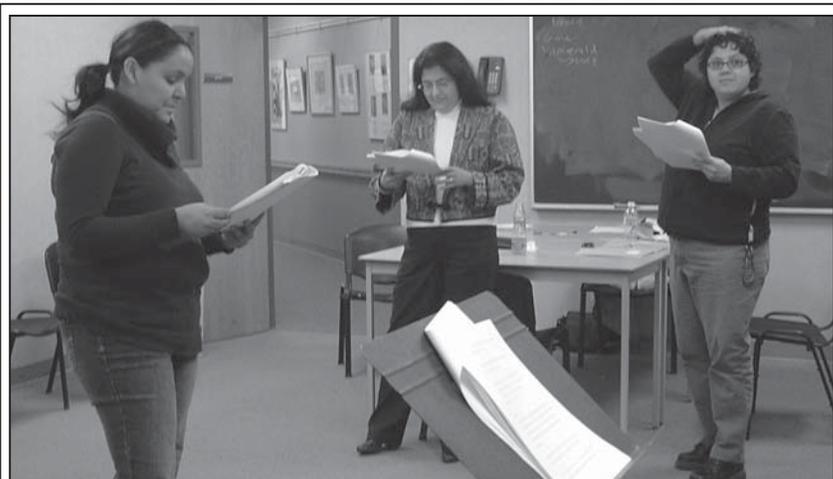
The conference was aimed at gathering public input on the academic plan at the permanent Orillia campus, which would be more desirable than the Thunder Bay campus to the aboriginal students, Ellis said, noting Thunder Bay is about a 16-hour drive from Golden Lake.

The two would like to see programs related to social work, teaching and native languages.

"Part of our mandate and chief and council's mandate is to sustain our culture," Sarazin said.

"Aboriginal education is now the Ministry of Education's push," Ellis added. Lakehead University has offered aboriginal programming since its inception, and a commitment to Aboriginal Peoples is noted in its mission statement, said Kim Fedderson, dean of the Orillia campus.

An indigenous learning program is currently offered here.



Shingwauk Players cast members Gail Pitawanakwat, Alanna Jones and Mona Jones rehearse for their upcoming performance of the original play *The Pencil Box*.

Shingwauk cast tackles new play

SAULT STE MARIE – A dedicated group of Algoma University students will debut an original play at the end of April.

The *Pencil Box* is loosely based on the true story of a woman from the United States. Thomas Gower and John-Paul Chalykoff of the Shingwauk Players co-wrote the script to have an Aboriginal perspective, while Tammy Sanderson provided the story and was instrumental in the writing process.

"It's very exciting to be able to bring an original work to the stage," says Gower, who co-founded the Shingwauk Players three years ago and is the group's current coordinator. "Most of the details have been created from the real life experiences of other people and those of us who were involved with the writing of the story and the script."

"I can't believe how the story came together so quickly," adds Chalykoff.

The plot of *The Pencil Box* revolves around an adult woman named Nancy who must confront her childhood past. The younger Nancy was taken under the care of an old Native woman named Gina who became her guardian after her parents abandoned her. Nancy goes on to develop obsessive habits as a result of abuse from Emerald, Gina's son.

Through dream sequences Nancy wrestles with the events of her tumultuous childhood, but in time she finds the courage to forgive her parents and Emerald and she also finds love from an unlikely person. Through it all she finds peace from the

titular pencil box given to her by her biological mother as a way to connect with her past.

The play was developed to take into account the building design of Shingwauk Theatre at Algoma U, site of the former Shingwauk Residential School. The play is set in the time period of the Residential Schools legacy, although the story is not specifically about the residential school experience.

The Shingwauk Players theatre group began three years ago as a way for students from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal backgrounds to exercise their talents both on and off the stage. Previous plays produced by the group are *The Bootlegger Blues* by Drew Hayden Taylor and *Windmill Baby* by Australian playwright David Milroy.

"We're a diverse group," says Gower. "Some of us would like to one day work in the entertainment business, while others are just looking to pass their exams. Either way, everyone who has been involved has shown tremendous dedication."

The cast for this year's production of *The Pencil Box* is comprised of John-Paul Chalykoff, Thomas Gower, Mona Jones, Gail Pitawanakwat, Cheryl Suggashie and features a special cameo appearance by Nathan Muto. The play will be performed at Algoma U's Shingwauk Theatre on April 24th, 25th and 26th of 2008.

For further information, please contact Thomas Gower via email at tgower@students.auc.ca.

ONECA
4x4.5

ONECA
schedule
4x4.5

ONECA
30th Anniversary
6x4



Native Studies Page - colour



Native Studies Page - colour



ANISHINABEMOWIN/LANGUAGES

Sucker Broth

Chicken soup of its day



Shirley Williams

Mii ko maanda pii, gii-giigoonyag gaa-biindigeokozhewaad ziiibing, gaming miinwaa ziiibiinsing wii-boonimowaad. Giw ntam gaa-biingegij gii-aawag giigoonsag, mii dash miinwaa namebineyag shka-biigskaad mkom. Mii dash miinwaa gnoozhag.

This is the time for fish to come in to the rivers, lakes, and streams to spawn. It is usually the smelts, then suckers that come in after the ice breaks. After that the pike come in!

Aapji go naa gii-nishin ko maanda pii megwaa naanmidina giinsa-bboongakpa. Anishinaabeg go ko gii-maawnjiidiwag ziiibing wii-gii-giigoonkewaad zhiwe ziiibing wii-maawnjinaawaad giigoonsan ngendookik. Niibino bemaadzijig gii-mshkodekewag wii-zhidtoowad niibiishaabookewaad epiidji dbakak miinwaa ne niibino maawnji' aawaad giigoonsan.

This used to be a wonderful time about 50 years ago. Anishnaabeg would gather along the rivers to collect smelts by the buckets. Many people would be making fires, people would be making tea during the night and catching as many smelts as one could.

Ngoding gchi-giimaang gii-giishinonawaan giigoonsag miinwaa giyaawaa' aan niibino gchi-daabaanan giinokaazinaawaan mijim wii-yaawaang miinwaa wii-gtigewaad wii-mino-giing mijim gtiigaaning. Anishinaabeg dash gii-ni shkidchgewag ensa ngodbogan. Jibwaa zhiwebak maanda, gii-bi zhidchigewag go maanda wii-zagkinaawaad giigoonyan wii-wiisniwaad. Pii namebineyag gii-biindigewaad, gii-ke jidibnaa' aan mii dash miinwaa gii-gwiishtemozowaad.

At one time the government MNR bought the smelts; they would buy them by the truckload for food and fertilizing. So many Anishinaabeg would come to earn money at this time of the year. But most importantly before this came along, many people used to gather to catch the fish for food. When the suckers came in they would catch those and smoke them or dry them.

Gii-gchi-zhidjigem go maanda wii-zhiwebak. Pii giigoonh debinonin miinwaa dash niwaabang gii-ni bebezhiogoogaabiwag wii-pkazhaawe' waad, giishkwekinaawaad miinwaa ziitaagenowaawaad. Gii-giishkonaawaan bebegii weweni wii-goojinowaad wii-giishtemozowaad piish gojininowaad.

It was quite a process to do this. When the fish were caught the next day there would be an assembly line with people gutting fish, taking heads off and salting them. The fish were cut in such a way that they could laid on a rack and hung up on rafters.

Namebineyag aapji kanaaziwag mondiwaa, gaa dash wiigo gii-aaniwemaasii' aan, gii-mshkikiwaan giigoon nabob giinokaazinaawaa gwaya aakoziid. Mii go naa naasaab baakaakwen-naboob noogwa ezhinokaazong. Giish pin gwaya aakoziid, mii go giigoon nboob gaa-nokaazong.

The suckers are very boney to eat however the sucker heads were useful for broth for medicine, or soups for sickness. It was like the chicken soup of the past! If one was sick, one got sucker broth to get well.

Kwezensag miinwaa gwiizensag gii-kwaanezkewag miinwaa ngaashoog gii-goonawaan giigoonyan wii-giishtemozowiindwaa. Oosag gewiinwaa gii-daataashkgasewag wii-nokaazwaaad msaan wii-bodwewaad wii-giishtemaazowaad wii-baasiindwaa giigoonyag miinwaa dash wii-zagkinindwaa mijim wii-giishtaawsing mijim miinwaa bboong.

Young girls and boys collected wood chips and the mothers lay the fish on the rafters to be smoked. Fathers would chop wood for smoke to dry the fish and store it for the summer or winter for food

Bedpan story brings down the house

By Isadore Toulouse

SAULT STE MARIE, Mich. – Another great time was had by all at the Anishinaabemowin-Teg 14th annual language conference. The theme – “Naadimoowaadaa eshkiniigij wii-anishinaabemowaad” – “Let us help the youth regain the language” – was echoed during the conference by presenters and keynote speakers.

Some highlights: Scholarship awards were a big hit. Hearing the little children say their speeches in Ojibwe with help from their teacher made the evening even greater. These Grade One's are well on their way to keeping the language alive and well at the Bedahbin School in Sagamok.

Money raised from the silent auction and quilt raffles offsets some of the cost for this evening.

A special mention needs to be made to the families of the memorials who have made financial contributions towards the scholarships: the Olive McGregor family through Dawn Madahbee, the Florence Osawamick/Lilly Bourgeois families, Reta Bomberry family, Shirley Shilling family through Casino Rama, the Ellen Migwans family, the Bertha Trudeau family through Marjorie Trudeau, the Leo Day family through Gerard Sagassige, and the Victor Keshigo family through his wife Patricia, and everyone else who made contributions.

Each morning was brought in with the Sunrise Ceremony conducted by Ron Yellowman and Martina Osawamick. Every morning there were a number of participants making their offerings for the day and showing the culture is alive even in a Casino setting.

One of my favourite workshops was hosted by youth presenters Joni Shawana and Nathan Big Canoe. They were instrumental in creating an active presentation where participants had the opportunity to practice simple commands and vocabulary through games and interaction with one another. Miigwech Joni and Nathan for your assistance in keeping our delegates on their toes.

Another workshop was presented by Helen Roy a.k.a. “DIVA” and Dave. Helen has a great sense of humour in the language. Her singing has taken her to many parts of the Ojibwe-speaking communities where she is able to find other means to help keep the language alive and well through her singing. Miigwech Helen for stepping up to the plate when a presenter was needed at the last minute.

Puckwis, Rhonda and Anne from Curve Lake FN did a fabulous job of keeping their workshop participants entertained with their knowledge of language retention, revitalization and development within their community.

Ed Taylor and Reta Sands from



Dr. Annalind Wakegijig

Bkejiwanong – Walpole Island FN – focused their workshop on the songs they have created in the language. Most evenings during the conference you could see Ed Taylor in the lobby/walkway with his guitar singing his tunes to the public. This was wonderful to see. Check out their gathering this coming summer in Walpole Island. Miigwech Ed, miinwaa Reta.

The Thursday night Hoedown was another fun time. I want to thank Doris Boissoneau for taking the initiative to volunteer as a great Master of Ceremonies. We have had many requests for fiddle and square dancing music. I guess next year we will work on getting some toe-stomping musicians to keep everyone entertained for the Thursday night event. And I will most certainly be up there with my toe-stomping cowboy boots and, as Zoey would say: “Bizhiki-gwiizens wiikwaan” (Cowboy hat).

Mention needs to be made for the artisans who demonstrated their crafts during the conference. Lilian Webkamigad, Myna and Theodore Toulouse and Irene Mekedebin took the time to share their knowledge in keeping the traditional art of our people alive.

On a more serious note, we had three wonderful keynote addresses, the first from Naomi Recollet, a 4th year student at Carlton University currently finishing her final year in Philosophy. Ms. Recollet talked about the importance of preserving the language and the ways in which we must prioritize what is needed to be done to save it.

Nathan Big Canoe from the Chippewas of Georgina Island – a 2nd year student at Seneca College in Toronto -- talked about the elders and the knowledge they retain, yet continue to take the language with them to the Spirit World. We must find ways to get this to the youth of today. Both of these youth inspired many of the delegates with their knowledge of where the current situation is with our language.

The banquet keynote address was another great one by Dr. Annalind Wakegijig from Wiky, currently living in Sault Ste. Marie. She talked about her trials and tribulations in speaking the language and the career she chose to follow, and had the delegates in tears of laughter as she told about the time she was contemplating a career change.

One story involved an elderly lady laying on her hospital bed screaming for assistance when Dr. Wakegijig arrived on the scene.

“Goopdiswag,” she kept saying. Dr. Annalind thought, “Oh what the heck”, and asked “Aaniish ezhiwebziyin?” (What is the matter with you?).

The patient replied “Goopdiswag” as she was holding her stomach, and added “Nwii-miizii gsha”. (She wanted to make a bowel movement and did not want to do it in the bedpan!) Those in the audience who understood the doctor burst out with laughter at her account of the episode.

Becoming a doctor requires hard work and focus, she told her audience, and thanked her family for teaching

her to have good work ethics! Her family and all of the Wikwemikong community are proud of her achievements and wish her well in her career. Miigwech Dr. Annalind for your words of wisdom.

The annual general membership meeting is always another highlight of the conference. Thanks to Delores Trudeau and her sister Violet Toulouse for sitting at the membership table all weekend recording memberships for the organization. During the AGM a new slate of board members are elected, and a new slate of Elders Senate and youth reps are elected to help run the organization. Special mention needs to be made of our continued supporter Will Morin who was the electoral officer during the annual general meeting.

We must not forget all the vendors who take the time to create the various resources available to the delegates during the conference. Without them the conference would not be a success. Over \$4000 was made which will help offset many of the major expenses incurred during the four days at the Kewadin Hotel and Convention Centre.

If you have other suggestions and ideas for the 15th Annual language conference scheduled for March 26, 27, 28, and 29th of 2009, please forward them to the conference planning committee or to me personally and I will make sure we will see what we can do to accommodate your request. Send them to izzytoul@hotmail.com

I would also like to take the time to thank the various groups that made financial contributions to help make our 14th annual conference a success. They are the Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Miigwech for your continued support.

Also, plans will begin immediately for the 2009 conference scheduled for March 26, 27, 28, 29 at the Vegas Kewadin Hotel and Convention Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. So book your hotel room now to avoid disappointment.

EZHOOSGAGED/ARTS



Loons mean tranquility

Glenn Laginskie, an Algonquin artist living in eastern Ontario, plans on transferring this loons image – which symbolizes tranquility for him -- onto t-shirts. Since relocating back home from Toronto, Glenn says he has turned his attention to beadwork, which he calls “a very therapeutic healing technique.” He says an Elder has taught him that the path to wisdom involves making mistakes. He may be contacted at Algonquin Arts and Crafts, P.O. Box 77, Whitney, ON – K0J 2M0; Telephone (613) – 637-2920.

Bell gets doctorate

SUDBURY – World-renowned Anishinaabe artist Leland Bell will be receiving an honorary degree from Laurentian University.

Bell, born on Manitoulin Island and of Odawa, Ojibwa and Potawatami descent, will be receiving an honorary doctorate of letters June 5 during the university’s 2008 spring convocation series.



Leland Bell

Couchie on BRAVO

TORONTO – Nipissing First Nation artist Sean Couchie will be the subject of a profile broadcast on BRAVO television May 8.

The program is featured in Season II of the series From the Spirit, and will air beginning at 7 pm., Thursday, May 8.



Sean Couchie

Rice makes list

WASAUKSING FN – Publisher Harmony Rice, 29, has been named to Chatelaine’s list of 80 influential women marking the magazine’s 80th year of publication.

Rice, a Pottawatomi/Cayuga writer, performer and multimedia artist from Wasauksing First Nation on Georgian Bay, is the publisher of SPIRIT Magazine, an identity, arts and culture-based magazine.



Harmony Rice

Death of a Chief: Julius Caesar with a First Nations twist

By Suzanne Keptwo

OTTAWA – Peter Hinton, artistic director of the National Arts Centre English Theatre, may have received some flack for his all-Canadian content last season. It seems his long-term subscribers were disappointed due to a lack of classical theatre.

So Hinton’s current season 2007/08 aims to please with a line up of standard plays of the English tradition – which naturally includes a dose of William Shakespeare. But Hinton previously pledged to incorporate one all-Aboriginal content piece per season – as this is our country’s national theatre venue. So, in collaboration with Native Earth Performing Arts (Toronto) the N.A.C. has presented the world premiere of a First Nations adaptation of Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar (1599) re-entitled Death of a Chief.

“Can we gain what was lost, what was stolen...or will it [Death of a Chief] simply

illuminate the emptiness that can never be filled?” queries one of the plebeians, in the rare bit of contemporary dialogue inserted at the onset of the performance.

The question weighs heavily and sets the tragic, yet truthful, telescopic view of the political and psychological chaos too often found in First Nations communities.

Reflective of Native culture with the inclusion of some Ojibwe, Kuna, and Haisla language, as well as the use of traditional singing and the playing of a hand drum, the script is still Shakespearean.

The political climate is set in a period of Roman history 45 years before Christ. In spite of the visual design and flavour of the play, it’s up to the audience to make the often difficult transition from a Roman context to an Aboriginal one. The Aboriginal content – so to speak – is frustratingly oppressed by the text itself. Can we not speak clearly and directly to our audience to express our



Waawaate Fobister, Grassy Narrows FN in Shakespeare-inspired ‘Death of a Chief’. – Photo by Andree Lanthier

own experience? Or is the use of Elizabethan language indicative of a larger picture suggested – that we have assimilated ideologies to such a degree that we now speak in a forked tongue amongst ourselves?

Principal roles are daringly cast as women. Monica Mojica (Kuna & Rappahannock ancestry) plays a matriarchal Julius Caesar,

representing Ancient Tradition and Wisdom. But the imposed – and flawed - patriarchal system of our current reserves is threatened by the traditionalists. Cassius, portrayed by the brilliant Michelle St. John (of CBC’s Where the Spirit Lives fame) and Brutus, played by Métis newcomer, Keith Barker, plot to assassinate the “chief” before her rekindled popularity sway the populace from the so-called democratic political powers. Jealousy, fear, and divided loyalties fuel the conspirators, yet ultimately lead to their own demise. Suicide, in Roman times, was considered a noble act of honour, whereas suicide in Aboriginal communities is indicative of nothing but despair.

Three years in the making, Death of a Chief is the showpiece highlighting 25 years of Native Earth Performing Arts. Whether the artistic director of the Toronto-based theatre company

chose to embrace the olde English for artistic, political or linguistic reasons, this blending of two worlds is ultimately unsatisfying.

An Aboriginal context within a silver-tongued classic from the most prolific playwright in world history may indeed cross the history of time and culture in its depiction of the human condition. But sharing the theme of backstabbing political pursuits, internal fighting and self-serving leadership, is not enough to make this ambitious union work.

And this is an important statement needing to be appreciated – and understood- by a much wider audience than the theatre elite. If anything, Death of a Chief reminds us that, although tragically murdered by her own kind, the spirit of Caesar (i.e. Ancient Tradition and Wisdom) lives on.

Suzanne Keptwo is a freelance writer living in the Outaouais.

Indian Art/Crafts 10.25x2



20th Anniversary ANISHINABEK NEWS



"To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation."

Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Forest City National Golf Club

16540 Robin's Hill Road

London, Ontario

**CALL TOLL FREE 1-877-702-5200 ext.
2288 to book your team. Men's, Women's,
mixed (two men, two women), and Men's
Senior 50+ categories.**



**Early Bird Registration (deadline
May 14th) \$750 per team. After
May 14th, fee is \$800 per team.
Limit 36 Teams**

Tournament Fee includes: complimentary gifts and prizes for all golfers, practice range, barbecue lunch, steak supper, cart, round of golf, men's and women's longest drive, closest to the pin/rope, GPS scoring also an evening of Country & Western entertainment at the Golf Club.

*Cheques must be made payable to Union of Ontario Indians,
P.O. Box 711, North Bay, Ontario P1B 8J8*