



An artist's concept of the Union of Ontario Indians offices on Nipissing First Nation outside of North Bay with the addition of a new central hub connecting four office buildings facing the Four Directions. Construction of the new hub is expected to be completed in the fall of 2009. **Details on Page 2 and 3** – Courtesy Larocque Elder Architects

ANISHINABEK NEWS



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

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John Beaucage throws his hat into AFN ring

OTTAWA—Standing beside youth, Chiefs and grassroots supporters, Anishinabek Grand Council Chief John Beaucage launched his bid Feb. 3 to become the next National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

"Today, we're here to take the first step in the rebirth of the Assembly of First Nations – a New AFN," the Grand Council Chief said. "I have a vision for A New AFN where the rights-based agenda is paramount and First Nations assert a renewed jurisdiction towards self-determination, self-government and Nationhood."

Beaucage spoke of his vision "as a grass-roots movement spurred on by the youth and their call for unity, pride, and inspiration."

"The youth have spoken about the need for action – about their need for inclusion – to ascend from despair, disregard and indifference – to take their rightful place as holders of their own destiny. Above all, the youth expect fundamental change in how First Nations leaders take up their calling. With all that my spirit will muster, I accept that call in being their agent for change."

The Grand Council Chief, who is an economist by education, outlined a 10-point framework of key policy and priorities for A New AFN.

"Together, through Nation Building, we will work towards eliminating poverty, building

economies, empowering our citizens and our youth through unity with pride," said Beaucage. "A New AFN will truly support First Nations to determine who our citizens are, represent their interests wherever they live and give us all a homeland of wealth and prosperity."

Grand Council Chief Beaucage is the leader of the 42-member First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation, representing one of the largest First Nations constituencies in Canada. Beaucage was first elected as Grand Council Chief in 2004 then re-elected in 2006 by acclamation, a rare occurrence in the history of one of Canada's oldest political organizations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cecil King among achievers honoured

WINNIPEG – Wikwemikong educator Dr. Cecil King (see Page 25) will be one of 14 honourees at the March 6 national Aboriginal Achievement Awards. The 16th annual event will be co-hosted by actors Adam Beach and Tina Keeper and will be broadcast March 21 on Aboriginal and Global Television networks.



Dr. Cecil King

Hall lobbying for Reggie Leach

RIVERTON – Some residents of Reggie Leach's Manitoba hometown have mounted a campaign to have the prolific goal-scorer for the Philadelphia Flyers inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.



Reggie Leach

The group posted an on-line petition at www.PetitionOnline.com and have written the Hall of Fame selection committee to lobby for the inclusion of Leach, who scored 381 regular-season NHL goals, played on Stanley Cup and Canada Cup winning teams.

Canada criticized on Indigenous rights

GENEVA—The Government of Canada must do more to uphold the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Canada's human rights record was reviewed on Feb. 3, and 30 countries raised concerns about the rights of Indigenous peoples. Canada was called on to reconsider its opposition to the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Libraries needed for First Nations

TYENDINAGA — Only 38 per cent of First Nation communities in Ontario feature public libraries but Lt. Gov. of Ontario David C. Onley is hoping to see that change.



David C. Onley

Onley was the featured speaker for the recent launch of First Nations Public Library Week at the Tyendinaga Community Centre. Goal for the week-long event were to encourage the creation of First Nation libraries, increase the public's awareness of a library's value and its contributions to a First Nations community.

INSIDE
A special eight-page pullout section on the Beaucage campaign for National Chief.





Anishinabek Nation Political Office
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 Chief-of-Staff, Bob Goulais
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NIIGAAN ZHAAMIN — “Moving Forward, Together”

Investment in social housing a good start: Beaucage

OTTAWA – The federal budget certainly wasn't reflective of First Nations expectations, nor close to what was offered by the First Ministers at Kelowna, but the Jan. 26 budget does need to address overall economic uncertainty according to Grand Council Chief John Beaucage. He also called the government's investment in on-reserve social housing "a good start".

"A strong Canadian economy is necessary to ensure continued investment in First Nations governments and economies," said

Beaucage. "Our goal is to build self-sustainable First Nations economies as a means of eliminating poverty."

The Grand Council Chief was disappointed that the Government did not include a more significant economic stimulus package for First Nations in the budget. The Assembly of First Nations and the Chiefs of Ontario had put forward proposals for \$3 billion in additional spending for First Nations, mainly through investments in infrastructure, housing and economic development.

However, as the AFN national portfolio holder for housing, Beaucage was pleased to see a commitment of \$400 million toward on-reserve social housing.

"We cannot discount the tremendous need for social housing on-reserve. In reality, the majority of our citizens are unable to afford their own homes and have difficulty finding affordable housing," said Beaucage.

Other First Nations components in the budget include: \$305 million over two years has been ear-marked to improve health outcomes and \$20 million over two years to improve child and family services on First Nations; \$100 million over three years toward an Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) initiative, with a goal of creating 6,000 jobs; \$75 million in a two-year Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment program; and \$515 million toward "ready-to-go" community infrastructure projects, including school, water and community projects.

"I'm really pleased to see priority given to First Nations skills development," said Beaucage.



Nipissing First Nation youth representatives Zach Beaudette and Melanie Beaucage prepare for Grand Council Chief John Beaucage's announcement at the National Press Theatre in Ottawa of his campaign for the office of National Chief.

Political Digest

Leadership council approves office hub



By Bob Goulais

* The Anishinabek Nation Leadership Council has opted to take advantage of the current economic downturn – which should translate into low interest rates and cheaper building materials -- and approved construction of the \$2.9 million central hub and expansion of Anishinabek Nation Headquarters.

The impressive complex, located on Nipissing First Nation about five kilometres west of North Bay, was opened in the early 90s with construction of the fifth phase completed in 2005. The four buildings that are configured in the four directions was always meant to have a central hub to create one connected office complex.

The Leadership Council have approved the architectural plan and have instructed the architect and the UOI to put the project out to tender. Construction is scheduled to be completed in fall of 2009.

* Grand Council Chief John Beaucage held a meeting with Members of Parliament from the New Democratic Party. During the October election, the NDP swept the vast majority of seats in Northern Ontario and throughout the Lake Huron and Northern Superior regions.

It is a priority for the Union of Ontario Indians to establish a good working relationship with the NDP caucus. During the meeting, John had the pleasure of meeting MP Carol Hughes who was elected to the riding of Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing in October. Other meetings were postponed because of the Parliamentary Crisis and the proroging of Parliament that sent many MPs scrambling back to their constituencies for an early holiday break.

* The focus of December's Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs meeting was on education. Concern raised included the cap on education spending, growing inequality between First Nations education programs and mainstream standards, and the outcomes of a federal review being conducted on the INAC post-secondary programs. First Nations Chiefs are united in working towards improvements in First Nations education.

Minister Chuck Strahl attempted to re-assure the Chiefs-in-Assembly stating that programs reviews are quite common and a matter of good policy.

At issue is the fact that the INAC post-secondary program is just that, a government program. It is not a legislated program, which raises concern that the Conservative Government may reduce already inadequate funding levels. First Nations contend that post-secondary education is a treaty right and is integral to the future of Nationhood and developing a First Nations economy.

* Lake Huron Treaty Commissioner Isadore Day and Grand Council Chief John Beaucage have been in discussion with Brookfield Transmission on a joint venture to develop various energy transmission ventures including moving on an application for a Leave to Construct on the proposed North-South Transmission Line between Sudbury and Barrie.



Want to save money and help the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity?

One of the ways the charity raises money is by entering into "Affinity Programs" with corporate Canada. Affinity programs are loyalty programs where one group promises to use their product or service in exchange for a donation. Several hotel chains have chosen to work with us on this initiative. Some hotels required ID cards or corporate codes. We have hotels covering the US and Canada and some that are specific hotels.

Here is a list of Affinity Partners and how to access the savings.

Westmont properties	Special ID card required. Obtained by contacting the charity office at ansgc@anishinabek.ca or 877-702-5200 ext 2261. The list of hotels across Canada is available by email or mail.	For major conferences and assistance please contact Angela Johnston at 705-845-6457
Great Northern Conference Centre Located in SSM offering discounts for Rooms and Conferences	Hotel discount rates are applied by identifying yourself as a First Nation customer.	For assistance in acquiring discounts on rooms and conferences contact Sunny Naqvi at 705-541-0303
Holiday Inn Sudbury	Hotel discount rates are applied by identifying yourself as a First Nation customer.	For assistance in acquiring discounts on rooms and conferences contact Shirley at 705 522 3000
Days Inn	Call 1-800-329-7466 for participating hotels in Canada and the USA or visit their website at daysinn.ca . Contact the hotel of choice and give them the corporate code LKAH	For assistance with hotel rates and major conferences please contact Sheila Bellefeuille at 705-561-9629
Motel 6	Call 1-800-466-8356 for participating hotels in Canada and USA or visit their website at motel6.com . Contact the hotel of choice and give them the corporate PLUS/ID CP543271.	For assistance with hotel rates and major conferences please contact Sheila Bellefeuille at 705-561-9629



ANISHINABEK

IN BRIEF



Pikwakanagan Sarazin family canoe-builders Jacqueline and her sons Greg and Tom with their completed traditional birch bark canoe.

Algonquin donate birch bark canoe

PIKWAKANAGAN – Chief Kirby Whiteduck presented the gift of an Algonquin birch bark canoe to Parks Canada, accepted on their behalf by local MP Cheryl Gallant in a Jan. 17 ceremony. Mrs. Jacqueline Sarazin and her sons Greg, Tom, Henry, and Joe with participation of their families, summer students Shane and Kenneth and help from the Earth Walkers Group gathering spruce roots, built the canoe last summer employing traditional methods dating back thousands of years for gathering materials and construction, using birch bark, spruce root, cedar and spruce gum. The canoe can be

–By K.Y. Hanewich

Ojibwe class make beaded poppies

SUDBURY – The Ojibwe classes at R.H. Murray and Wembley Public Schools learn about their language and culture, and this past November created beadwork poppies to commemorate Remembrance Day. “This was the students’ first time beading and I am very proud of them,” said teacher Margaret Young.



Macey Pelley

Cops mentor Canadore students

NORTH BAY – Canadore College Police Foundations students will be getting a first-hand look at their future careers by working with on-the-job police officers. Insp. Claude Chum signed a memorandum of understanding on behalf of the Anishinabek Police Service. North Bay Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police are also participating in the new Mentorship Program.



Inspector Claude Chum

Redsky tries hand at acting role

SUDBURY – Evan Redsky, 18, took his singing talents into a lead role in a local high school’s production of the award-winning Broadway musical RENT. From Mississauga First Nation, Redsky moved to Sudbury to complete his Grade 12 diploma. The singer/songwriter has already released two CD’s – Actors Address and Evan, and last summer took his guitar and harmonica on the road to perform at the North American Indigenous Games in Cowichan B.C. He plans to attend Fanshawe College in London to study public relations and professional writing, but says he’d be happy to pursue a music career if it took off. For more information see Myspace.com/evanredsky.



Evan Redsky

–By Heather Campbell

Donated painting raises over \$500

WIKWEMIKONG – Adam Enosse, 22, a self-taught budding artist, donated “Hand Drum Woman” to the Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing Adult Learning Centre fundraiser. The centre raised \$519 from raffle ticket sales. Enosse is a pow-wow dancer, father of two – and one on the way – who finds time to paint in the middle of the night.



Adam Enosse

Bannock-baking queen takes throne

NORTH BAY – The 2009 Bannock-baking Queen selected in the annual competition at North Bay Indian Friendship Centre is Jackie Whaley. The event is coordinated by the centre’s Life Long Care program.



Jackie Whaley

–By Priscilla Goulais



Union of Ontario Indians staff participate in a Feb 2 grounds preparation ceremony led by Elder Gordon Waindubence.

Union of Ontario Indians to get facelift

By Marci Becking

NIPISSING FIRST NATION – The Union of Ontario Indians will be getting a facelift this spring with a hub that will connect four of the existing office buildings together.

“It in effect joins together all of the program staff and areas that we now have. There will be a fireplace in the central hub area which is also very symbolic for us as part of our Three Fires Confederacy is made up of the Pottawatomi Nation who are the fire keepers,” says Grand Council Chief John Beaucage. “This building will be a continuance of us re-forming our government. Perhaps one day this hub will for the focus of our own legislature.”

Jean Larocque, of Larocque Elder Architects, has been designing and working on the Union of Ontario Indians buildings for 18 years. He says that the heart of the buildings will finally bring the four wings together.

“The hub is a meaningful and powerful centre – a place to share, a place to bring gifts. It will connect the buildings spiritually. Everyone who works

here will enter in one door and be greeted by reception,” says Larocque.

The hub will be good for morale and safety. It’s safer for employees to come in through the same door,” says Larocque.

Construction of the hub will be respectful to Mother Earth. No blasting will be done and any bedrock that needs to be moved will be chipped away. The chipped stone will then be used in the landscaping or used in the hub itself.

The new hub will have a lift so that both floors of each building will be wheelchair accessible.

“Construction is scheduled to begin in April and will be completed in December of this year,” says Union of Ontario Indians Chief Operating Officer Gary Dokis.

Additions to the east and west buildings will also be done during this project, adding much needed office space.

The first building was the east building which was built in 1990 and staff moved up from the Toronto office in 1991 to the Highway 17 site.

‘Walking forward’

By Jennifer Milroy

NIPISSING FN – The Aboriginal Policing Bureau of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is making significant efforts to mentor Native youth.

Niigan Mosewak, which means “walking forward”, is a newly-developed program consisting of four weekend-long sessions. The participants include 20 youth ages 14-17 from First Nation communities in Ontario. Niigan Mosewak provides culturally-relevant intervention that emphasizes healthy lifestyle choices, including teachings on cultural traditions, survival skills, self-esteem and self-concept, healthy relationships, as well as coping with trauma and loss.

The program aims to provide supportive and culturally-relevant intervention to vulnerable or at-



Shawn McComb takes his turn at the big drum as a participant in the Niigan Mosewak youth program.

risk young persons. The youth participating in the program are encouraged to approach Niigan Mosewak as a unique learning opportunity focused on development and growth. It is also designed to foster positive relations between youth and police.

Sergeant George Couchie and his fellow facilitators hope to foster a skill set within participants that will enable them to be leaders within their respective communities.

“It is important as young Aboriginal people that you step up

and be role models for your communities,” Sgt. Couchie tells one group. “That is why you have been picked to come here, because we see you as a role model”.

Niigan Mosewak program was developed by Sgt. George Couchie, a citizen of Nipissing First Nation, with the assistance of Constable Athena LaCarte and Sergeant Robyn MacEachern. The program is supported by fellow OPP members, officers from First Nations Police Services, elders and community members.

Upon program completion a graduation ceremony is held, at which each youth will be presented with a certificate, a traditional gift, and a reference letter to assist with future educational and employment opportunities.

Funding has been provided by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services of the Government of Ontario, and administered through the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity of the Union of Ontario Indians.



ANISHINABEK NEWS

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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

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DEADLINE FOR MARCH

Advertising

Bookings: February 20

Final Art: March 10

News

News submissions: February 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

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MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

We are all of us 'green and dying'

Death is so – what's the word – inevitable.

But Western society has attached so many negative connotations to dying that we tend to treat our mortality as an enemy. So we say there's nothing as certain as death and taxes, and we hear clergymen officiating at funerals intone "Death where is thy sting, grave where is thy victory?"

My earliest memory of being touched by death was on a staircase in Anderson's Funeral Home in Lakefield, Ont. viewing the ritual of my grandmother's funeral taking place below. It was somewhat frightening, especially seeing Grandma lying so still and wax-like in her coffin.

Like most people, I hadn't been prepared for encountering death. I didn't begin to have some understanding until I read a poem by Dylan Thomas in which he used the phrase "green and dying" to describe the paradox of us starting to die the second we are born.

Avoiding the discussion of topics that make us nervous or afraid can backfire, and make things much worse when we have to deal with them. Having the chance to talk frankly with my late wife Mary about her imminent death initially made me feel uneasy and awkward, but eventually very comforting. If she wasn't afraid to deal with the subject, why should I be?

We had both been shocked five years earlier to hear a surgeon say that she had – at most – six months to live. But her oncology nurse asked Mary to remember how positive her outlook had been before the doctors delivered the bad news and try to focus on staying in that state of mind.

So she did.

Being strong-willed and feeling that she had lots to live for certainly helped. Mary loved her home, her devoted family and



Maurice Switzer

friends, even the stray cats we fed and found good homes for. Her yoga exercises helped her focus on wellness instead of sickness.

One of our biggest challenges was convincing those around us – especially people in the health care system – to be as positive as we were trying to be. When they talked about Mary's "terminal" illness I would correct them by saying her cancer was "inoperable". I suggested that one well-meaning social worker consider changing a business card that referred to her as an "end of life worker".

Terminology is important when you're trying to be optimistic. So is humour.

Before her oncologist would deliver results of tests during her periodic checkups Mary would bring a smile to his face by asking if it was too optimistic of her to buy green bananas. Her good-natured approach to her very serious health situation broke the tension and noticeably relaxed even her most stern-looking caregivers.

Mary was fortunate to be in the care of some of the most capable doctors in Northern Ontario, but several times when they warned us that the end was near we politely replied that we accepted their diagnosis, but not their prognosis. Our doctors were among the best because they made their patients feel like they were being cared for. They were generous with their time, as well as their medical expertise.

And they told us that Mary's six-month forecast was based solely on statistical

evidence. Only a Higher Power knows when our time on this earth is done, we heard them say.

Our family doctor was even supportive of us working with a traditional Native healer, unlike many in her profession who scoff at all so-called "alternative medicine".

The healer lifted our spirits and helped reverse several crises. He did not proclaim to be anything more than an intermediary who could help Mary do the work she needed to do herself to fend off the ravages of her illness. He did not criticize either the uncomfortable medical treatments doctors prescribed to keep Mary's cancer at bay, or her Christian belief system.

Thanks to the best efforts of all our healers and the support of her personal network, Mary did not spend her last five years on this earth as an invalid. Her doctors all used the word "miracle" to describe this patient who traveled to her parents' birthplace in Europe three years after she was advised to "get her affairs in order."

On numerous occasions over the past five years I told family, friends and caregivers that I would know when Mary was ready to go because she would tell me. And she did.

When she passed into the Spirit World Jan. 12 Mary left a hole in many hearts, but lots of happy memories with which to fill them.

Her spirit is in a better place, and shines in the night sky with all the other stars.

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.

It takes time for eagles to learn to soar

We watched an eagle soar across a wide expanse of bush. Standing there in the trees, silenced by the majesty of that great bird, I felt honoured by the display of its strength and grace.

"That's how I want to be," I told my elder friend. We were walking on the land as we generally did whenever I visited. He'd show me things as we passed and share stories and teachings about what they represented or symbolized to our people. He was a walking, talking cultural encyclopedia.

"How exactly do you want to be?" he asked.

"Graceful," I said. "Just like that. To soar like that, easily, gracefully."

He smiled at my words and put his head down and continued walking and I followed him deeper into the bush. We walked silently for a long time and eventually he sat down on a log in a clearing and motioned for me to



Richard Wagamese

sit beside him. What he told me that day had never left me.

The eagle's grace doesn't come easily he said. When we see it hang in the sky or glide effortlessly we imagine that it must be a natural action, that the eagle is born with that particular gift. But it takes a tremendous amount of time, dedication and work to achieve it.

When you look closely at an eagle feather it's made up of thousands of tiny strands. The eagle needs to know how to control each of them. When the wind blows it needs to know how to catch it, hold it, direct the flow of it

to keep it in the air. When the air is still it needs to know how to move the air through its feathers.

As it flies the eagle needs to learn how to read the treetops or the grasses in the wind. It needs to know how to read the clouds, the feel of the air and learn to shift instantaneously to small changes. It takes a long, long time.

So when we stand on the ground and look up at an eagle soaring magnificently across the sky, it's not telling us how easy it is to be graceful. It's telling us that if we work hard and learn who we were created to be, we can learn to soar. We learn our own grace and the motion across the sky of our lives is magnificent to behold.

Richard Wagamese is Ojibway from Wabassemoong FN in Northwestern Ontario. His new novel Ragged Company and his collected memoir; One Native Life are in stores now.

MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

Real friend chose not to use embarrassing stereotype

By Tammy Moreau

I am a teacher in a First Nations school and have been for over ten years. You see, I am a transplant, the disenfranchised. And as someone recently put it, I came Home.

Home. It sounds all warm and fuzzy, doesn't it? But in my experience, it wasn't necessarily to loving, outstretched arms. To some people I wasn't "Indian

enough". I don't want to have to pull the race card, but wait... is there a reverse race card out there?

If you are a First Nations person but perhaps some of your features are a little "less Native" in appearance, then you will be able to relate to this next scenario.

I was out with a group of non-Native friends. Well they weren't quite friends yet but they would

be based on the outcome of the following test of their "friendship potential".

Critical to this story is that they weren't yet aware that I am Native.

Along stumbles a fellow Native person, drunker than a skunk, and he asks me for a smoke.

I tense up and wait to hear my companions' reference to the

drunken Indian, knowing that once I hear such a stereotypical condemnation, I can no longer include these people on my list of potential friends.

I wait, hoping there will be no passing of judgment. And then it happens, my "friend" hands him a smoke.

As the drunk shuffles away, my friend comments, to my great relief, "That guy is gonna be hung

over tomorrow." We all chuckle in agreement, because we've all been there. I was so grateful for him saying "that guy", and not "that drunken Indian".

I am happy to say that I include this white man, a man that sometimes overindulges in alcohol himself, on my list of friends.

As a matter of fact, some of my best friends are white.



All our power comes from within

By Christine McFarlane

I liken my experience at getting to know my culture, traditions and language as an awakening within.

It is an awakening that leaves me with an immense amount of pride. It is something that I will not let go of gently. I will no longer listen to those in my past who put me down for who I am and what makes me what I am -- a proud Saulteaux First Nations woman.

I remember a mere few years ago, I felt ashamed of who I was. I could not walk with my head up. I cried often, felt like my spirit was broken and could not put a smile on my face. I did not know what I could do with my life and what I could represent, and most of all I never dreamed that I would have taken the necessary steps to understand my culture, and immerse myself in learning and understanding the very people who are my community, my friends and family.

That has all changed. I went back to school and immersed myself in my studies. I started to learn about my people, their history, their struggles and their triumphs. In the past couple of years alone, I have learned the importance of having a sense of identity, having something to define you.

Specializing in Aboriginal Studies at the University of Toronto has helped me come to terms with what had happened to me, and I learned that I was not alone in my struggle to find out who I was and what I could be. This year I am taking a beginner's Ojibwe language course, courses in Aboriginal Law and Politics and Aboriginal Music. Immersing myself in these courses I feel helps me in my awakening. This became clear to me when I was sitting in my first class of the semester in Law and Politics and as part of my introduction to who I was, I said "I am Saulteaux First Nation."

A year ago, or even a few months ago, I do not think that I could have done that. The pride I feel within has grown and I am now more comfortable within my own skin. Over the course of the holidays, my niece's father told me "You have come into your own."

I feel that this statement reflects on what I would call my awakening. It helped me reflect on the journey that has become my story and my life. It helped me see what life is all about and the lessons



Christine McFarlane

that I have had to learn in order to get to where I am today. I have learned that life is about lessons, and that we are constantly in a state of learning,

no matter where we are in life, young or old.

Life's lessons bring about a mixed baggage of emotions and experiences. There are things that are hard, that test your resilience and your very being, and there are lessons that bring you a lighter heart, joy and laughter. Part of my awakening has been to notice that though I came from a very sad

beginning, I no longer have to let that define who I am, my life and the decisions I make on journey of healing. As a child I was powerless to stop what happened to me, but from that I have become a stronger person.

I have the power within to decide what my story will say about me now.

I want to make a difference, reach for the stars and show generations behind me that it is possible to overcome adversity and succeed. It all comes from within.

Christine McFarlane is a citizen of Saulteaux First Nation, Peguis, Manitoba and in her third year of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Toronto.

LETTERS

Native students making gains

New statistics show that, as well as being the fastest growing sector in Sudbury, the Aboriginal community has reached parity with the Non-Aboriginal population in the area of high school completion (24.8% vs 25.0%) and college completion rates (25.7% vs 25.3%). The Aboriginal community has a somewhat higher percentage of apprenticeship or trades certificates (12.3% vs 10.6%) but less than half the proportion of university degrees (6.5% vs 13.5%).

Someone is going to have to look at these stats and figure out what the numbers mean in how we deliver socio-economic programs. Politicians, educators and retailers must surely acknowledge the needs that here lie within and published items such as this will not get hidden on reference library shelves.

The visible minority of lost, wandering, Native souls in downtown Sudbury are not the typical Native person I know but they are the stereotypical image so many people would like to cling to in order to justify prejudice and belittlement.

Irvin Marshall
Sudbury

Against Jackfish River project

One hundred and fifty-nine years later and we still have an outstanding land claim in the Robinson-Superior area.

How will compensation be determined? Perhaps enough resources and funds that the currently proposed involvement by the Lake Nipigon First Nations with OPG in a major, environmentally-unfriendly, catastrophic, hydro electric project on the Little Jackfish River becomes unnecessary? Hydro dams are a thing of the past and Lake Nipigon is such a beautiful and pristine lake with so many other economic development possibilities.

There are so many fascinating environmentally-friendly ways of harnessing power for industry rather than damming the rivers and polluting the air. I now want solar energy for my home. I want a windmill for my home. We can save the land, air and water for the future generations.

A.M. Wawia
Red Rock FN

Post your **SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS** in the

ANISHINABEK NEWS

Births, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, and obits

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

...always remembered



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.



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!

Announcements 2" x 4.5", including photo, can be booked for \$35. Additional inches are \$10.

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.



Raise our issues everywhere: Elijah Harper

By Marci Becking

UOI Offices – Elijah Harper, who blocked the Meech Lake Accord when he was a member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, says some Native leaders didn't think he should have been participating in provincial politics.

"When I ran provincially, some Chiefs didn't think I should be involved in provincial politics," the legendary politician told a gathering of Union of Ontario Indians staff members. "Our treaties were with the federal government."

But Harper said Natives need to take advantage of every political opportunity they can.

"We can't depend on others to defend our rights. We should partici-

pate everywhere and raise our issues."

Harper, who also served as federal Member of Parliament for the Churchill riding, is a citizen of Red Sucker Lake First Nation, and a strong advocate for indigenous and human rights.

He reminded everyone that Natives weren't allowed to vote until 1960.

"Only our generation talks about voting. My parents never had the right to vote," said Harper.

He also talked about the impact on First Nations of land rights-issues.

"All we are asking for is the sharing of resources. When Canada says they don't have enough money – they do."



Elijah Harper addresses staff at Union of Ontario Indians head office at Nipissing First Nation.

Important Notice to Employers Avis important aux employeurs

Supporting Students: Serving Communities

Canada Summer Jobs is a Government of Canada initiative. It provides funding for not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers, and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees to create work experiences for students between the ages of 15 and 30.

If you are an eligible employer, we invite you to submit your application between **February 2 and February 27, 2009.**

Application forms will be available online, or at any Service Canada Centre.

Applications can be submitted online, by mail, by fax, or in person at any Service Canada Centre.

In early February, Service Canada will be hosting information sessions on Canada Summer Jobs 2009. This will be your opportunity to learn more about the initiative and the application process.

À l'écoute des étudiants, au service des collectivités

Emplois d'été Canada, une initiative du gouvernement du Canada, accorde du financement pour aider les organismes sans but lucratif, les employeurs du secteur public et les petites entreprises comptant 50 employés ou moins à créer des emplois pour les étudiants de 15 à 30 ans.

Si vous êtes un employeur et que vous répondez aux critères d'admissibilité, soumettez votre demande entre le **2 et le 27 février 2009.**

Vous pourrez vous procurer le formulaire sur notre site Web, ou dans l'un des Centres Service Canada.

Vous pourrez ensuite le soumettre en ligne, par la poste, par télécopieur ou en personne, dans l'un des Centres Service Canada.

Au début du mois de février, Service Canada organisera une série de séances d'information sur Emplois d'été Canada 2009. Ce sera l'occasion idéale d'en apprendre plus sur cette initiative et sur le processus de présentation des demandes.

For more information:

Pour de plus amples renseignements :

Click / Cliquez servicecanada.ca

Call / Composez 1-800-935-5555 (TTY / ATS : 1-800-926-9105)

Visit / Visitez a Service Canada Centre
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Service
Canada

People serving people

Au service des gens

Aboriginal Ontario

Open for Business
A Special Report on Economic Development

www.aboriginalontario.com



Travel agents get preview



By Kevin Eshkawkogan
Dawn Madahbee
TORONTO and European – Great Spirit travel experts Circle Trail in downtown Toronto. participated in late fall promotional events before over 800 European travel agents attending the Dertour Travel Academy convention.

The Great Spirit Circle Trail is owned and operated by eight First Nation communities located in the Manitoulin Island – Sagamok Region and offers accommodations and 100% authentic Aboriginal educational, interactive experiences. Dertour owns 850 travel agencies and is the leading German tour operator selling North American products. In 2005 the company's affiliated agents packaged Canadian tours for over 100,000 clients, accounting for 25% of the total German visitors to Canada that year.

College grads training to mine diamonds

By Roberta Oshkawbewisens-Martin

KIRKLAND LAKE – Aboriginal men and women from Attawapiskat, Kashechewan, Mooseonee, Cochrane and North Bay moved to Temiskaming Shores – for some a 650-kilometre journey – for six weeks to study, train and experience mining skills.

They participated in a Training in Mineral Processing course that resulted from a partnership involving Northern College, De Beers Canada, SMC(Canada), and James Bay Employment and Training. These graduates were recognized with an Honour Song and Prayer, and many gifts to take with them in their new path.

Three classes of Mineral Processing Pre-Employment Training

graduated by the end of 2008.

Student Administrative Council President Omar Jackson presented each graduate with a Northern College Ring at their graduating ceremony, and spoke of the difference they can make in their lives with the education they had received. Their training would also make a difference in their family life and their community. Each Graduating class received gifts of their success from the sponsoring partnerships.

"The College would like to see this program continue and perhaps open it up to the general public", said spokesperson Kelly Broderick.

Roberta Oshkawbewisens-Martin is Native Student Advisor, South Region, Northern College Kirkland Lake Campus.

Rainbow Lodge re-opens again

WHITEFISH RIVER FN
– The Oct. 17 grand opening for Whitefish River First Nation's Rainbow Lodge marked the beginning of a new era.



Built in 1969, Rainbow Lodge was the location for the filming of "Adventures in Rainbow Country" – a series hosted by actors such as Gordon Pinsent, Margo Kidder and Lois Maxwell. After the series ended, Rainbow Lodge became the property of Whitefish River First Nation.

After recent renovations, the lodge will now be available for meetings, gatherings, weddings.

"It also serves as a vacation spot for those who seek pristine surroundings and serenity from the daily hustle and bustle of city life," says Dennis McGregor, economic development officer for Whitefish River First Nation.

The project was funded by FedNor, Ministry of Tourism, Mniidoo Mnising and Whitefish River First Nation.

Hunting trumps meeting

By Vesna Jaksic

ATTAWAPISKAT – Last summer, after almost two decades of planning and construction, De Beers Canada Inc. finally opened the Victor diamond mine in the James Bay Lowlands in northern Ontario. One of the most time-consuming aspects of the project: the negotiations that De Beers had to conduct with the Attawapiskat First Nation, the Aboriginal community that owns the land where the mine is located.

R. Martin Bayer, one of De Beers' outside lawyers, says the company had to take some unusual factors into account during its discussions with the Attawapiskat and other Aboriginal groups near the mine site. For example, Bayer



In a teepee built by Aboriginal employees at site, guests at the official opening July 26, 2008 were treated to geese and bannock cooked the traditional way of First Nation communities on the James Bay coast close to the Victor Mine.

had to make sure that meetings didn't take place during the communities' traditional activities, such as the annual spring goose hunt.

"The point I wanted to make to our company officials is that when that happens, the commu-

nity members will just stop everything they are doing to go on the land and hunt, because they rely on the geese for food and clothing," says Bayer, who serves as chief negotiator for the Anishinabek Nation's self-government process, known as Restoration of

Jurisdiction. An attorney with the law firm of Weaver, Simmons in Sudbury, Ontario, Bayer himself was raised in M'Chigeeng First Nation. His background gives him the ability "to understand the unique aspirations and expectations of our own people."



WAR ON DRUGS

Full War on Drugs conference coverage in March issue



Algonquins of Pikwakanagan youth Brianna Amikons, Kateri Amikons, Sasha Sarazin and Sean Amikons lead 40 others in the October "Protect the Next Generation: Our Children, Our Future" community walk that brought awareness to the war on drugs initiative.

'We have same issues as others'

By Marci Becking

ALGONQUINS OF PIKWAKANAGAN FN – Community members joined together in October to bring awareness to the problem of drugs in their community.

Chief and council and community members are expressing concern that illicit drug use and trafficking are a huge concern in Pikwakanagan.

"It appears to be the opinion of the general public that hard drugs originate from this community, but we know that these drugs are being brought here and sold to our children, youth and members," said Chief Kirby Whiteduck.

A war on drugs task force was created to address these concerns through education and awareness in order to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the children and future generations to come.

The war on drugs task force, along with council and the OPP have an action plan that includes infor-

mation sessions, workshops, community walks and other initiatives.

"In terms of social problems, we're no different than any other community in Renfrew County," said Whiteduck. "We all share the same issues – drugs, alcohol, theft and vandalism. However, Pikwakanagan is unique given our culture, heritage and identity was significantly impacted once the Algonquins settled onto a piece of reservation land that was created in 1873.

"We have struggled to revive our culture, language and heritage and now we must protect it again so it can be passed down to future generations. We cannot allow that process to be endangered by harsh substance abuse.

We need to ensure that our children and all community members have a safe and secure environment where they can thrive as Algonquin People," said Whiteduck.



Alderville Crime Stoppers

Chief J. R. Marsden believes Alderville First Nation is the first Anishinabek community to partner with the Crime Stoppers program. Chief Marsden (top left) joined community youth with one of the new signs promoting the fact that the First Nation has joined the crime prevention program. "This is what the war on drugs is all about...protecting our young ones," says Chief Marsden. "We have two large signs and some smaller ones to put up around the community and a posting in the newsletter which advises community members to please call Crime Stoppers if they notice any suspicious characters or activities."

'Sherry' – still functioning despite addict's challenges

My name is "Sherry". I'm Ojibwe. I'm 29 and I have two kids. I'm currently attending University, majoring in education, and I'm a drug addict.

I'm addicted to heroin, morphine and OxyContin. I have been able to decrease my use to a low level of maintenance I don't use to get high anymore.

I am a very functioning addict. I have learned to take care of myself. I eat every day and sleep every day.

I'm infected with both HIV and Hepatitis C. I'm always encouraging others to not share paraphernalia of any sort.

The needle exchange programs run almost every day where I live; recently one of the hospitals has even joined in by leaving packages for clients.

I think it is really important to protect yourself – and respect yourself. I would never want anyone to go through what I've gone through.

This is my life story – so far.

I was born to alcoholic parents. I live with the effects of fetal alcohol. I was given up for adoption shortly after I was born. I spent the next year and half in foster care.

My childhood was very difficult. Living with fetal alcohol meant that I struggled in elementary school. I didn't understand what was going on around me and I had no friends. This led to my low self-esteem problems. That in return led to my over-eating and my obesity. I was always picked on at school and then finally ran away at 16 years old.

I came to Toronto at 16 years old and lived on the streets. I finally felt like I belonged somewhere. I dabbled in and out of prostitution for the first year. I had also become pregnant with my first child that year. My adopted parents welcomed me home just before giving birth to my now 11-year-old. I raised her for the first year at my parents' home. I left her at my parents when she was a year old and I then I returned to Toronto.

I lived on and off the streets of Toronto while going to a normal mainstream high school and would prostitute myself at night. I eventually graduated high school the winter of 2000. I also gave birth to my second child two weeks after exams. She will be 9 years this month. Things were looking better. I was accepted into college for the fall and I was also fighting for custody of my eldest child.

She moved in with me the next year. I continued to go to school and raise my girls in a native complex building. That's when I became an alcoholic. I lost my girls a few times due to having a very abusive partner. The longest time I lost them was for nine months. Upon regaining custody of them again, I lost them only a short time later.

I was charged with arson and attempted murder – someone set my apartment on fire and I got the blame. I pleaded to a lesser charge of arson and disregard for human life and served six months probation.

When I was sentenced I gave my second child up for adoption. She had just turned three years old. My eldest daughter stayed with my adoptive mother's house. Giving up my girls was the hardest thing I think I ever had to do. I started to use cocaine to cope with my loss.

My cocaine use became very severe and hard core. I was sniffing up to eight grams a day. I popped six to eight ecstasy pills a day. I entered my very first rehab at 23 years old. I lasted only a couple of weeks. I stayed clean and sober for a couple of months and then broke down and started smoking crack-cocaine. It didn't really appeal to me at first; it lasted only a short time. I came across a needle. I tried it and, well, here I am today.

I first started to inject just crack and cocaine. That slowly went into experimenting with heroin and morphine. It wasn't long before I became a hard-core opiate user. I supported my habit by prostituting myself, selling myself for \$40 at times, just to get a hit. Since my health and safety didn't matter to me at the time, I became HIV positive in 2005 by injection drug use.

I am very fortunate that my use has not affected my studies at University. Like I said, I'm a functioning addict.

I have been trying to get off the drugs completely. My reality is I am an addict. I have hurt those around me that I love. My biggest hurt I have given to them was the news that I am HIV positive. It was so preventable. I needed to know about all the needle exchange programs that were there. I needed to know the risks I was putting myself in. Now, at times I don't even know how long I have.

I have an excellent support system and harm reduction has really helped me achieve my goals. I've come a long way – and I would not have been able to do that without my using harm-reduction methods.

MNO-BMAADZIWIN/HEALTH



Apology political – but good

By Christine McFarlane
 TORONTO – The goal of the “Towards Reconciliation: Residential Schools and the Role of Public Apology” conference at the University of Toronto in October was to open a dialogue and explore the role of public apologies within the context of the apology made by Prime Minister Stephen Harper about Canada’s Indian Residential School policy.

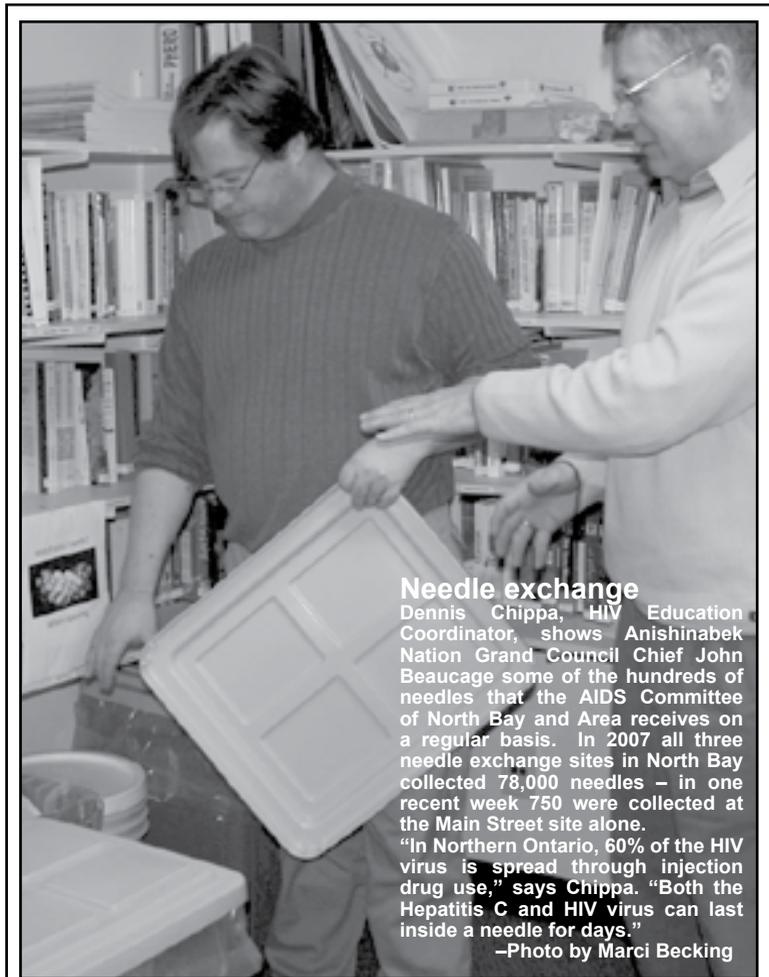
Author Lee Maracle, a writer in residence at First Nations House, saw the apology as a political action, but “It was so important for those people who needed to hear it.”

“Reconciliation needs to come from both ends, with the government recognizing their need for First Nations people to reconcile with them and the need for the government to reconcile themselves to this history.”

Andrew Wesley, co-chair of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples and a survivor of the residential school system, said the apology rekindled memories of his experience. When he heard the word “sorry”, “the little boy in me cried and I learned to forgive.”

Panelists talked about the importance of telling our stories and moving forward as Native people and non-Native people alike. They also said that the history of the residential school system does not end with an apology, and that not only does a day need to be set aside to remember the children who did not survive, but we need to recognize that it is a start to be at an event like this and be speaking.

It is through our stories, we are being heard.



Needle exchange

Dennis Chippa, HIV Education Coordinator, shows Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage some of the hundreds of needles that the AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area receives on a regular basis. In 2007 all three needle exchange sites in North Bay collected 78,000 needles – in one recent week 750 were collected at the Main Street site alone. “In Northern Ontario, 60% of the HIV virus is spread through injection drug use,” says Chippa. “Both the Hepatitis C and HIV virus can last inside a needle for days.”
 –Photo by Marci Becking



FLAME of HOPE 2009

20th Annual Golf Classic for Diabetes

We invite you to find a cure for Diabetes - to fund research, education and advocacy by becoming a sponsor through the Flame of Hope Golf Classic event in the London area to be held at:

Sunningdale Golf and Country Club
 Wednesday, August 12th, 2009

"Over \$500,000 raised in 20 years"

Flame of Hope Canadian Diabetes Association
 442 Adelaide St. N., London, ON, N6B 3H8
 (Charitable #1183 0744 Rr001)
 Fax: 519-660-8992



Moss bag maker

North East LHIN

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) are a key component of Ontario’s plan to make the health care system more patient-centered and responsive to local health care needs. LHINs respond to local population needs by planning, coordinating, integrating and funding the delivery of health services in each of the 14 LHIN geographic regions.

The **North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN)**, located in North Bay, is one of 14 in Ontario and the second largest in the province, covering an area of 400,000 square kilometres. LHINs are responsible for the funding of Health Service Providers (HSPs) that include community health centres, community mental health and addiction services, community support services, hospitals, long-term care homes, and the Community Care Access Centres. If you wish to receive more information about the Board of Directors, please see the NE LHIN web site: www.nelhin.on.ca.

Part-time Board Directors

The Government of Ontario seeks candidates to be Directors for the NE LHIN in the Nipissing Planning Area. As a member of the North East LHIN Board of Directors, you will be responsible for directing the affairs of the LHIN in accordance with applicable legislation, constituting documents, approved strategic and business plans and government policies established and communicated by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. Significant experience on a Board of Directors in the public domain, a good understanding of health care administration and knowledge and experience in financial/accountability administration would be considered as assets. Directors are appointed by Order-In-Council for a term of up to three years and are subject to renewal.

Application forms must be addressed to: **Please Quote This Number PAS-0903, Public Appointments Secretariat, Room 2440, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, ON M7A 1A1.**

Application forms must be received by **Friday, February 13, 2009**. Downloadable application forms are available at www.pas.gov.on.ca. Alternatively, you can apply online. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

BIIDAABAN HEALING LODGE Program Dates

Anger Management

Feb. 16-25/09 • June 8-17/09

Sept. 21-30/09 • December 7-16/09

Grief & Abandonment

March 22-April 1/09

July 13-22/09 • Oct. 19-28/09

Sexual Abuse Survivor’s

May 4-13/09 • Nov. 16-25/09

Community Wellness Conference

Oct. 6-9/09

Biidaaban Healing Lodge, P.O. Box 219, Hwy. 627
 Pic River First Nation via Heron Bay, ON P0T 1R0

Via: Heron Bay, ON P0T 1R0

Ph: 807-229-3592 Fax 807-229-0308

Toll Free: 1-888-432-7102

Mental health

AUDECK OMNI KANING FN – Kinoondidaa’gaming Treatment Home “A place for talking” will be hosting their first mental health conference in Sudbury March 23-26 at the Holiday Inn.



“A Place for Talking Conference” will focus on mental health issues that affect high-risk adolescents and will be geared towards educators, Social Service Workers, Child and Youth Workers, community health care providers, political leaders, courts and Corrections and Child Welfare Personnel.

Kinoondidaa’gaming Treatment Home manager Anne-Marie Corbiere says that the conference will promote education and awareness to assist both Native and Non-Native organizations with the many challenges that are now becoming trends with youth including drug use, gang violence and disregard for authority.



NAADMAADWIN TEK/SOCIAL SERVICES

Great lessons from a granny



BY HOLLY BRODHAGEN
askholly@gmail.com

The beginning of a new year brings on reflection of the year or years that have gone by. Generally I review those moments that have meant something to me, such as learning a new skill, meeting new people, spending time with family or going on an adventure. This year my memories are filled with a moment that I intend to share with my children over the years, and I share it with you with the hopes you also find inspiration.

My family spent Christmas Eve at the home of my husband's grandparents. It was a nice evening of visiting. At one point I found myself sitting quietly with my grandmother-in-law, Neen, as I rocked my youngest baby asleep. She told me stories of the first Christmas with her new husband, about her work at a local diner and the boss that helped them purchase new furniture. They were wonderful stories about everyday things.

But it was the moments that she spoke of her children and grandchildren that were truly wonderful. As important as her stories were the expression on her face and the emotions in her voice. She told me that the love for a child is different than the love for a husband or parent. She also said that each child is precious for their own reasons (she should know since she had seven of them). She spoke of her desire to care for her family and ensure their happiness and comfort, her great regret being that – as she ages and her health fails – she must rely on others to do this work.

Each day during the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, I thought of those peaceful moments spent with that wonderful lady. For many reasons, I feel that I walked away with a new understanding of the world around me. Not just about Christmas and family, love and giving, but about all the little things that make up my life.

I have met or heard of extraordinary people and even ordinary people who have done extraordinary things but I never paid much attention to ordinary people who do ordinary things in ordinary ways. We are surrounded by these people. They are our parents, siblings, relatives, neighbours and strangers. They are the people who teach us the little lessons that help make us who we are.

On a snowy Christmas Eve, Neen taught me that the greatest lessons are the ones you never know you're receiving from people who never knew they were teaching you.

Shelters offer safe haven

By Adrienne Pelletier

UOI OFFICES – Women and children who are experiencing family violence can reach out to a local women's shelter to seek counselling. A local shelter can assist with safety planning and provide you with a list of documents that you can try and gather prior to your decision to leave a violent situation. Many shelters have a crisis line to assist victims of family violence.

For those of you who have access to the web you can obtain a list of shelters through the following website: www.shelternet.ca. Once you're on the site you can access a specific shelter's online resources and obtain their contact information, crisis lines, etc. Also, you can check the front pages of your local phone book that provides a list of emergency numbers other than 911, such as; assaulted women's help line, women's shelters, child abuse protection services, sexual assault victims and distress centres.

Community members can help by not ignoring family violence in their neighbourhood

by calling police when they witness or hear violence going on.

Some on-reserve shelters in UOI communities are:

Anishinaabe Kwewag Gamig Inc. - Alderville First Nation
Crisis line 1-800-388-5171
E-mail: akgec@eagle.ca

Beendigen Inc. - Fort William First Nation
Crisis line 1-888-200-9997
www.beendigen.com

Mississauga Women's Shelter - Mississauga First Nation
Crisis line 1-800-461-2232

Ojibway Family Resource Centre - Nipissing First Nation
Crisis line 1-800-387-2465
E-mail: ofrc@nfn.ca

South West Regional Healing Lodge (Kiikeewanniikaan)

Traditional Family Healing Lodge - Munsee-Delaware Nation
Crisis line 1-800-328-2616
www.swrhl.ca

Adrienne Pelletier, director of social services with the Union of Ontario Indians, can be reached toll-free at 1-877-702-5200 or by e-mail at peladr@anishinabek.ca.



The Kinoondidaa'Gamig group home in Aundeck Omni Kaning celebrated the receipt of a \$25,000 grant from the Royal Bank of Canada on September 26. Cutting the ribbon to the new youth rec centre funded by the grant are (from left) AOK Chief Pat Madahbee, RBC representative Harry Wilmont, Kinoondidaa'Gamig youth outreach worker Kendra Madahbee and RBC Aboriginal account manager for Northeastern Ontario Pat Cunningham.

– Photo by Lindsay Kelly

RBC donation provides rec room

By Lindsay Kelly

Manitoulin Expositor

AUNDECK OMNI KANING— Less than four months after its grand opening, Kinoondidaa'Gamig group home has received a pleasant surprise – a \$25,000 grant that has funded a youth recreation room, the hiring of a youth outreach worker and the expansion of programming, all to benefit youth within the community.

The new programming is all part of the staff's efforts to create a positive collaboration between the group home in Aundeck Omni Kaning and the community.

The group home, which has the capacity to house five youth referred by the Children's Aid Society, opened in June after years in the planning. But with an unfinished basement and a lack of space for kids to hang out, it was missing something.

A grant from the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) changed all that. Facilitated by Les Couchie of the Union of Ontario Indians' Seventh Generation Charity Fund and Gail Longley, the RBC's corporate donations manager, Kinoondidaa'Gamig received \$25,000 in grant money, which has made the renovations possible.

"This money allowed us to open up this side of the building into a rec room for the kids," Kinoondidaa'Gamig manager Anne-Marie Corbiere explained. "It allows us to bring in community kids as well, so there's the societal interaction with the group home kids and the kids from the community. We're really trying to establish a working relationship."

The new rec room, officially dubbed the RBC room, incorporates a television, video games and an area that offers additional services that don't exist in the community for youth to relax in, as well as an exercise room," she said.

The new funds will purchase bicycles and camping equipment and will allow youth and their families to participate in a more well-rounded approach to the group home setting.

Former AOK Chief Pat Madahbee, who was on hand for the grand opening, was delighted with the turn of events. "Instead of buying brand new, we got really good used equipment, which saved us a lot and allowed us to stretch our funds. A mere thank you isn't enough," he said. "It's so significant in terms of the staff being able to have new, innovative programs they can do with the families. You

can't put a value on that."

The funds have allowed the home to hire Kendra Madahbee as the new youth outreach worker for the RBC program room. RBC representatives Pat Cunningham and Harry Wilmont travelled to AOK to tour the building. Wilmont said the donation was "a small, small way" in which RBC can help youth, and believes Kinoondidaa'Gamig will be a positive example to other First Nations across the province and country.

Other activities being implemented include a hoop dance workshop, a first aid for youth workshop, a swimming night and trips to watch the Manitoulin junior hockey team.

"There is a place for every person in this world of ours, and I hope this is one small way to help you on your path," said Harry Wilmont. "And to the youth: follow your dreams."

Websites of interest

http://www.connectability.ca/connectability/library/startpage_wikwemikong.html

Community Living Wikwemikong Anishinabek is located on reserve and is one of the few group homes that caters specifically to persons with developmental disabilities in a group home setting. They also have a day program for residents and those living in the community.

http://www.connectability.ca/connectability/pages/wikwemikong_tipsheets/community_wheel.pdf

This link talks about how communities can develop their own services for persons with developmental disabilities.



ANISHINABEMOWIN/LANGUAGE

Taking a look at personal pronouns

Personal singular Pronouns:
 Niin I, or me 1st speaker
 Giin you addressee
 Wiin he/she mentioned conversation

Personal Plurals Pronouns:
 Niinwi(nd) we (excluding)
 Giinwi(nd) we (including)
 Giinwaa You plural
 Wiinwaa They

Thus in the same format: Prefixes occur

a)The “n” is used for possessive forms for mine or my for the personal prefixes

b)The “g” is used for yours but

has suffixes to indicate that it is different.

c)The (w) is used for “his or hers” and has suffixes to indicate that it is different and that the (w) is silent in the eastern Ojibway dialect.

Plurals:
 1-p Niinwi(nd) “n” is used for the 1st personal plural excluding (only you & I)

2-1 Giinwi(nd) “g” is used for the 1st personal plural including (all of us)

2p. Giinwaa “g” is used for the 2nd personal plural (more than

one)
 3p. Wiinwaa “w” is used for the 3rd personal plural for “they”.

Format:
 1-niin I, me/my, mine First person singular

2-giin you/your Second person singular

3-wiin he/she/it (an.) her/him/his Third person singular

1p. niinwi(nd) w e / u s / o u r / (excl.) First person plural (excl.)

2-1giinwi(nd) w e / u s / o u r (Incl.) First person plural



Shirley Williams

(incl.)
 3-p wiinwaa They/them pl.

Third personal plural

In this lesson we are going to concentrate on: 1-my, 2-your, 3-his/hers, 1p. our and 3rd -4th theirs.

For example:

Mishoomis is a root word

To say “N-mishoomis” the “n”

before indicates it is to mean “My grandfather”

In the following are:
 N-mishoomis My grandfather
 G-mishoomis Your grandfather

(w)mishoomisan His/her grandfather

n-mishoomisinaa Our grandfather

G-mishoomisinaaOur grandfather

G-mishoomiswaan Their grandfather

Here the “n” is hyphenated it

shows its possession for this

lesson only however when it is

written, the hyphenation will

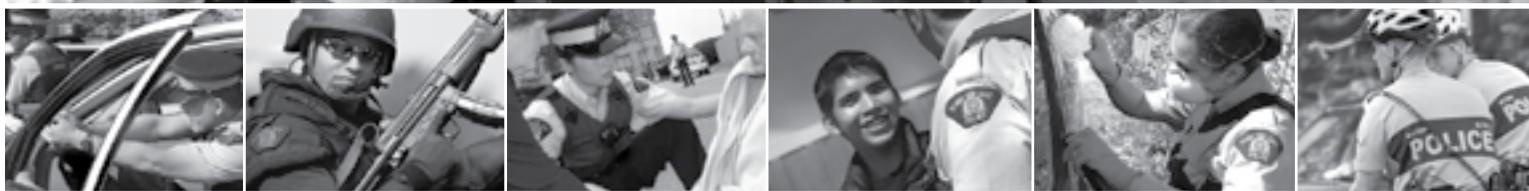
not be shown but written as “Nmishomis.”

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1-877-RCMP-GRC (1-877-726-7472)



Ojibwe day planner

By Raven Murphy

PETERBOROUGH—I am a final-year student Trent University and have been taking Ojibwe courses with Shirley Williams for three years. As part of my course work, I have created an Ojibwe Day Planner titled Giisooog Mzinigan 2009.

This day planner is positioned as a fundraising initiative for future Ojibwe language and cultural programs.

As I am a volunteer teacher at North Shore Public School in Keene, Ontario – where First Nations students attend from the Hiawatha First Nation—I will be joining the Grade 7 & 8 Ojibwe language students in selling these day planners to fund their school trip to Manitoulin Island this summer.

This day planner consists of 44 pages of bilingual information, including the Seven Grandfather Teachings and the Ojibwe Morning Prayer, and is priced at only \$15.

For more information, contact Raven at (705) 228-1041, or by e-mail at outstandingbalance4u@sympatico.ca

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SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009

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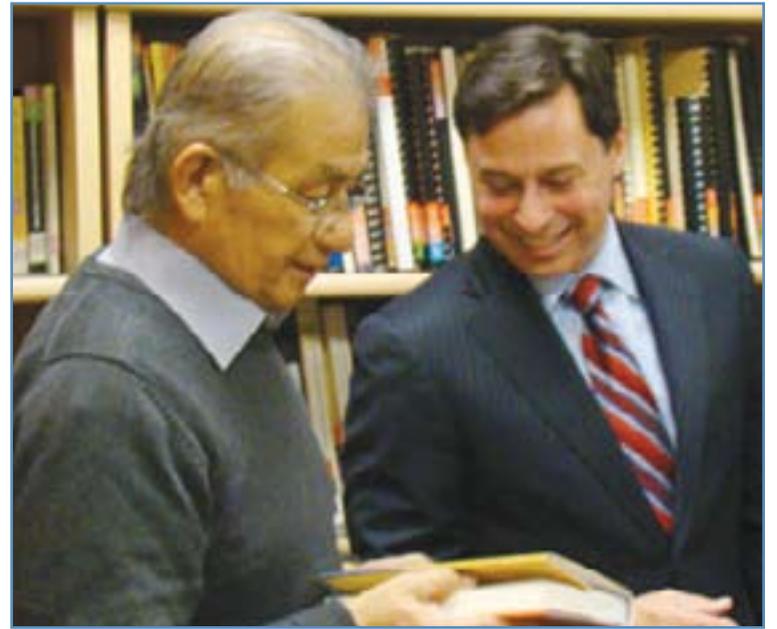
TORONTO – First Nation activist Sam George, whose 10-year fight for justice resulted in an inquiry into the death of his brother Dudley at Ipperwash, has been invested into the Order of Ontario.

George received the province's highest honour Nov. 21 from the Hon. David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, in a special ceremony in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite.

"Sam George was steadfast in his quest for justice for his brother and his community," said the Lieutenant Governor. "He is an inspiration to all Ontarians."

"I am moved to be presented with this honour," said Sam George. "My goal, however, was never accolades. It was to respect and honour the memory of my brother."

"Sam George did not seek revenge – he sought justice. Sam is a man of peace, a shining exam-



Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid (right) dedicated the ministry's new resource library to Maynard "Sam" George on Nov. 19, 2008. George, whose brother Dudley died tragically during a First Nations protest at Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995, has been a tireless advocate for truth and justice for First Nations people.

ple for us all," said his nominator Wayne Samuelson, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour. "Debewin is the Ojibway word for truth. It means the truth is supposed to heal us all. That's what Sam set out to do."

George, 56, Kettle and Stony

Point First Nation, has been diagnosed with pancreatic and lung cancer, and doctors say he might not live to see the 14th anniversary of his brother Dudley, who was killed by an Ontario Provincial Police sniper Sept. 5, 1996 at Ipperwash Provincial Park.

CALENDAR



March 9-11–The Assembly of First Nations hosts the **International Trade and Economic Summit** at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Information on INTES link at www.afn.ca.

March 13–Entry deadline for a **poetry contest** being staged by the Aboriginal Youth Achieve-

ment and Recognition Awards program. Information at www.nwoawards.ca.

March 23-26–Educators are especially invited to attend a **mental health conference** focusing on issues affecting high-risk adolescents at the Holiday inn in Sudbury. Information at anne-marie.corbiere@persona.ca.

May 31–Nomination deadline for CMHC's Excellence in Education Award. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's **Excellence in Education Award** honours secondary and post-secondary educators who have encouraged students in the development of sustainable communities by integrating sustainable concepts in housing an community development into their curriculum. Go to www.cmhc.ca (keywords: Excellence in Education).

Role model deadline approaches

OTTAWA– The National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) is once again searching for Canada's best and brightest First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth for nomination to the 2009-2010 National Aboriginal Role Model Program. The program aims to highlight the accomplishments of Aboriginal youth aged 13 to 30.

Deadline for nominations is 11:59 p.m. EST, Friday, Mar 20. Nomination forms can be found online at www.naho.ca/rolemodel, or by calling 1-877-602-4445. More information on the NARMP is available at <http://www.naho.ca/rolemodel>. Posters and trading cards of the role models are sent to Aboriginal schools across Canada, and the honourees visit Aboriginal communities throughout the year, attending community celebrations and visiting schools to talk about their experiences.



Robert Animikii Horton, Rainy River First Nation – one of 12 National Aboriginal Role Models for 2008-09, is congratulated by the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, at an awards ceremony on National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2008 at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. –Photo by Fred Cattroll, courtesy National Aboriginal Health Organization.

Indigenous Women's Symposium

WII-MNAAADENMONG EZHI-NDWENDAANGOZIIYANG
 WII-GINAAWENMONGIDWAA BINOOJIIYAG MIINWAA GDA-KIIMNAA

Book launch featuring the scholarship of Indigenous women
Workshops and Presentations
Vendors

Youth Workshops Saturday and Sunday
Performances by Indigenous Youth
Kageto Dinner Friday Night

Trent University, Peterborough Ontario

"HONOURING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CHILDREN AND THE LAND"

Keynote Speakers
 Maria Campbell
 Patricia Monture
 March 6-8, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: WOMENS@SYMPOSIUM@TRENTU.CA OR VISIT US AT WWW.TRENTU.CA/ACADEMIC/NATIVESTUDIES/WOMENS@SYMPOSIUM.HTM

ANISHINABEK NEWS ONLINE
WWW.ANISHINABEK.CA



GIIWEDNONG/IN THE NORTH



Maheengun Shawanda with sons Miishi and Noodin.

Our Yukon Trip Journal February 6 -14, 2009

Day 1: February 6

This is my brother and my story about our adventure to the Yukon. About 30 years ago our Grandma and Dad use to live in the Yukon. Noodin has been up here 2 times already and this is my first time. We are excited to learn and go on a trip with our Dad and Grandma.

DAY 4: February 9

We did better today adjusting to the time—woke up around 6:00 am breakfast, then meeting the Champaigne:Aishihik First Nation. Dad presented his Cultural Camp program and hopes to share ideas from the people here. We met a lady hunter who hunts bison. She shared stories of how the community still has their community harvest in March and August.



DAY 5: February 10

Today, Dad and the two of us boys went to Muktuk Kennels, home of Frank Turner and his world famous dog team. We arrived just as they were putting the harnesses on the 6 dog teams. There were 7 dogs per team. This is the busiest time of year for their business. They were going out for day trips with several of the guides. Next it was our turn to help with some of the chores. Manuela asked is we would help with walking the puppies. Miishi would get tackled by the puppies and then they would try and get his gloves.

Day 6: February 11

Today we helped with the chores around the kennel. Part of what we helped with was feeding the dogs. There are 127 dogs that need to eat. We also learned how to break all of the meat up and mix it up with the dog food. We got to train 2 of the new dogs that have never run before. Both of us took turns pushing each other on the sled so we had a chance to drive the sled.



Day 7: February 12

We visited Equinox Ice Towers located at the world famous Takhini hot springs. We got to use some equipment we have never used before like crampons and ice axes. Both are very sharp and dangerous. They are used so you can ice climb. Once we started to climb it was SCARY, Noodin almost lost his ice axe at the top.

Adventures from Yukon Quest 2009

By Maheengun Shawanda

This week I'm in the Yukon with two of my sons— Miishi, 9 and Noodin, 11 and my mom. We are up here for the annual international dog sled race which leaves White Horse, Yukon to Fairbanks, Alaska. The Yukon Quest Trail (1600) follows historic Gold Rush and mail delivery dogsledding routes from the turn of the 20th century.

Yukon Quest dog teams compete over two weeks with mushers guiding their 14 canine athletes across frozen rivers and lakes and over mountain summits in the heart of the Arctic winter through some of the most pristine wilderness remaining in North America.

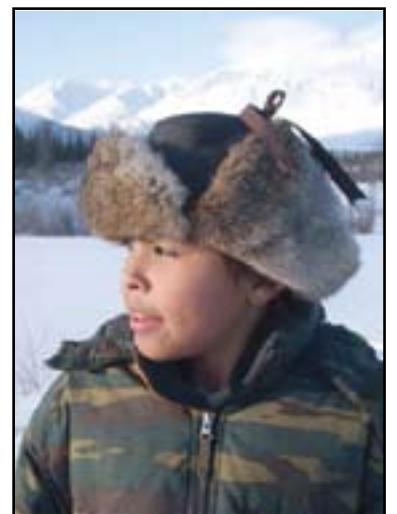
The Aboriginal people here are as unique and diverse anywhere we have travelled. They are kind and generous. We have already been invited to their annual community bison hunt in March. They also run some great programs and looking for help with establishing their language initiative. There may be an opportunity for a youth cultural exchange in the future.

Maheengun Shawanda, Odawa-Cree, Wikwemikong, is the owner of Great Lakes Cultural Camps.



Day 9: February 14

The Yukon Quest is a 1500 km. It is known as the "toughest race on earth". It was neat to see all of the mushers we met at "meet the mushers" and see the ready to go on the quest. Around race time we found a good spot to watch the dog teams. While the dog teams were waiting for the race to begin, the dogs were jumping around and barking and ready to go. One of the dogs jumped out of his shoes (dog race booties).



What is a Great Lakes Cultural Camp Adventure?

We are a group of wilderness adventure specialists with a common interest in exploring all aspects of our great outdoors. Our primary focus is on canoe adventure expeditions from half to five day trips. We also coordinate and guide a variety of other outdoor adventures from moving water (white water), snowshoeing and winter camping to First Nation Cultural Guided Experiences and high challenging outdoor activities.

We will custom fit any adventures to meet your own personal needs including cultural dance performance, tipi camping, group size, location, time, private instruction and unique personal requests. You can be back at the end of the day for supper or 10 nights out – it's your choice! Make your experience one to remember. We look forward to meeting you and sharing our rich First Nation history and culture with you.

Workshops and Training

As a First Nations family of professional trainers, we have had the privilege of serving First Nations in both Canada and the United States in the area such as Family development, Preservation of Culture, First Nations Education and Youth Leadership Development.

Our programs are motivational in nature and are delivered in high energy focusing on personal responsibility, celebration of one's self and the gifts we carry; and the importance of not being afraid to take healthy risks and try new things in life. Activities for our programs are practiced in keeping to the "Seven Grandfather Teachings".

Visit www.culturalcamps.com for more information.



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Ryerson University, located in the heart of downtown Toronto, is known for innovative programs built on the integration of theoretical and practically oriented learning. More than 95 undergraduate and graduate programs are distinguished by a professionally focused curriculum and strong emphasis on excellence in teaching, research and creative activities. Ryerson is also a leader in adult learning, with the largest university-based continuing education school in Canada.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

TENURE-STREAM POSITION

The Department of Politics and Public Administration (www.ryerson.ca/politics) is housed in the Faculty of Arts, an integral and thriving contributor to humanities and social science education across the University.

Applications are invited for one tenure-stream position at the rank of Assistant Professor, commencing August 1, 2009, subject to budgetary approval. In addition to demonstrating an active research agenda with the promise of scholarly productivity, and excellence in undergraduate teaching, the successful candidate will assume primary responsibility for the administration of a unique partnership between the Department of Politics and Public Administration and the First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI), through which Ryerson's undergraduate program in Public Administration and Governance is delivered to Aboriginal administrators in many locations throughout Ontario.

To be considered, candidates should have a doctorate with a focus on: Aboriginal studies, governance, policy or law; Canadian or Comparative Politics; or Public Administration. ABDs will be considered if completion of the doctorate occurs prior to December 31, 2009. Applications from candidates with a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of Aboriginal culture, policy, administration, and governmental relations are particularly encouraged.

Applicants should submit a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, a recent, article-length writing sample, a 1- to 2-page research plan, a 1- to 2-page statement of teaching philosophy, results of teaching surveys (or equivalent evidence), evidence of administrative ability, and three reference letters, by February 27, 2009, to: Dr. Neil Thomlinson, Chair, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Ryerson University, 350 Victoria Street, JOR728, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 2K3. Please note that faxed and e-mailed applications will not be accepted.

Ryerson University has an employment equity program and encourages applications from all qualified individuals, including Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities and women. Members of designated groups are encouraged to self-identify. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority.

Contact us about COMPLIMENTARY Subscriptions or Advertisements 1-877-702-5200

New staff at the UOI

My name is Sarah Gammon and I am a citizen of Dokis First Nation.

I am pleased to be joining the staff of the legal department as the Legal Administrative Assistant for the Union of Ontario Indians.

I graduated from the Paralegal/Law Clerk program from Canadian Career College.

I then continued with my education and recently became a licensed Paralegal through the Law Society of Upper Canada.

As the Legal Administrative Clerk my responsibilities will be to provide staff within the legal department access to support and secretarial services as well as to assist in the day-to-day office and file management.



Sarah Gammon

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ontario.ca/careers



Suzanne McKenzie

Hi! My name is Suzanne McKenzie, (Sue). I am a member of the Temagami First Nation. I am excited to begin my position as Health Administrative Assistant. I bring 20 years experience working in the health administration field in several previous capacities for my community.

I look forward to new challenges and the opportunity to learn. I enjoy spending time with my 3 grandchildren and being on Lake Temagami.

Ranger honoured



A veteran Canadian Ranger from Constance Lake has been awarded one of Canada's highest honours for his "exceptional service" with the Canadian Forces. Sgt. Albert Sutherland has been appointed a member of the Order of Military Merit and will be invested into the order by Governor-General Michaëlle Jean in a ceremony to be held at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. *— By Sgt. Peter Moon*

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The Ontario Native Education Counselling Association is now accepting applications for the 2009 Native Counsellor Training Program – Accredited by the Ministry of Education.

You can earn a certificate over the course of three summer sessions held each July.

PROGRAM LENGTH: 5 week sessions over 3 years in July and the first week in August.
LOCATION: Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario
DATES: July 6 to August 7, 2009.
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: June 12, 2009

For more information please contact the ONECA office at:
Ontario Native Education Counselling Association.
38 Reserve Road, P. O. Box 220,
Naughton, Ontario P0M 2M0
(705) 692-2999 or Fax (705) 692-9988
Email: oneca@oneca.com website www.oneca.com



Norman Moonias, Anishnawbe Trapper, his Toboggan and his Dog Team, 1998, Wood, 17x72x9 cm – Thunder Bay Art Permanent Collection

Final Review

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN INSPECTION FRENCH/SEVERN FOREST 2009-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

We Need Your Input

The **Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)**, **Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.** and the **Local Citizen Committee (LCC)**, as part of the ongoing forest management planning process, would like to invite you to inspect the approved (2009 – 2019) Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the French/Severn Forest.

Your input is needed to ensure the FMP reflects balanced, well-informed and fair decisions for the French/Severn Forest.

The approved FMP includes information on:

- The long-term management direction of the forest;
- The planned operations for harvest, renewal and tending and access roads for the first five-year term (2009 – 2019);
- The proposed areas of operation for the second five-year term (2009 – 2019);
- The corridors for primary and branch roads for the ten-year term (2009 – 2019); and,
- The major changes made after consultation of the draft FMP.

How to Get Involved

The approved FMP will be available for public inspection during normal office hours for 30 days (**January 5, 2009 to February 5, 2009**) at the following locations:

- Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. office, 72 Church Street, Parry Sound, P2A 1Y9. Contact: Barry Davidson at 705-746-6832, ext. 24;
- MNR Parry Sound District office, 7 Bay Street, Parry Sound, ON. Contact: Joe Johnson at 705-773-4238;
- MNR Regional office, 300 Water Street, Peterborough, ON. Contact: Roger Davison at 705-755-3219.

Arrangements can be made to view the FMP at a location in Toronto by calling this number: 1-800-667-1940.

The information and maps will also be available for public review on the MNR public website at ontario.ca/forestplans during the 30 day inspection period.

An appointment with the MNR District Manager or with a planning team member during non-business hours may be made by calling 705-746-4201.

Copies of the approved FMP summary and values maps may be obtained by contacting the MNR Parry Sound District or the Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. office.

Can't Make It?

The planning team members, the MNR District Manager and the LCC are available at any time during the planning process to meet with you and discuss your interests, issues or concerns.

During the 30-day inspection period, a written request can be made to the Director of Environmental Assessment Approvals Branch, Ministry of the Environment, for an individual environmental assessment of specific forest management activities in the FMP as described in the *Forest Management Planning Manual* (2004). A response to a request for an individual environmental assessment will normally be provided after the completion of the 30-day inspection period.

The planning team for the forest management plan consisted of the following people:

- Joe Johnson**, MNR, Chair
- Maxine Davidson**, Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc., Project Manager
- Barry Davidson**, Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc., Plan Author
- Michael Henry**, Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc., Operations Forester/Operations Planning
- Dave Deugo**, MNR, Area Forester
- Jan McDonnell**, MNR, Area Wildlife Biologist
- Laura Heidman**, MNR, Resource Liaison Specialist
- Dave Miles**, MNR, GIS Officer
- Kim Benner**, MNR, District Planner
- Gord Martin**, MNR, Area Lands Technician
- John McNutt**, Tembec Industries Inc., Forest Industry Representative
- Vern Fallows**, Parry Sound District Local Citizens Committee
- Wayne Pamajewon**, Aboriginal Representative Shawanaga First Nation
- Wanda Noganosh**, Aboriginal Representative Magnetawan First Nation

For further information, please contact:

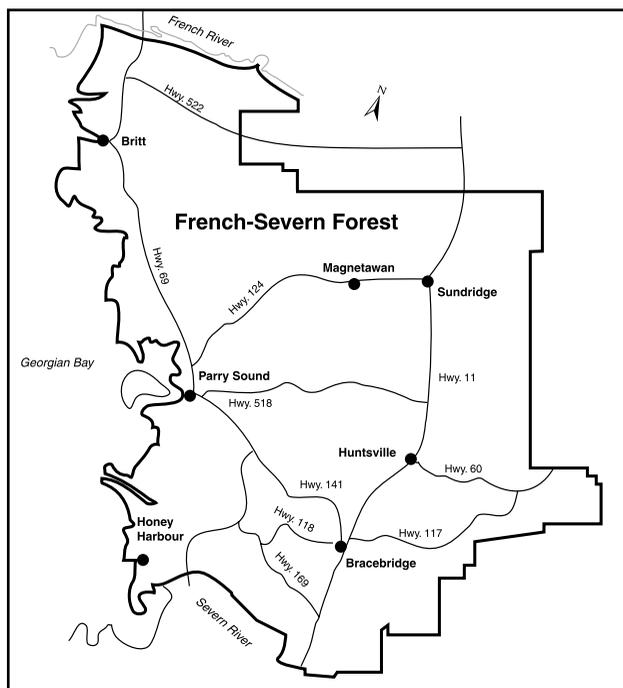
Joe Johnson, R.P.F.
Ministry of Natural Resources
7 Bay Street
Parry Sound, ON P2A 1S4
Tel.: 705-773-4238

Barry Davidson, R.P.F.
Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.
72 Church Street
Parry Sound, ON P2A 1Y9
Tel.: 705-746-6832, ext. 24

Vern Fallows
LCC Chair
1419 South Ril Lake Rd., RR #1
Baysville, ON P0B 1A0
Tel.: 705-767-2325

Following the inspection period, the approved ten-year term FMP will be available for viewing at the Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. office, the MNR Parry Sound District office, and the MNR Southern Region office. Arrangements can be made to view the FMP at a location in Toronto by calling this number: 1-800-667-1940.

MNR is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Anne Collins at 705-646-5553.



ART

Carver depicted Anishinabek life

By Alastair C. MacKay

THUNDER BAY – How does a culture know its past?

Mostly because someone took the time to write it down or paint it.

Aboriginal culture also ingrained itself through verbal communication: stories told and passed on through generations, and in the case of artists such as Norman Moonias and Allen Sapp, through wood carvings and acrylic painting.

Wood Carvings by Norman Moonias and Allen Sapp: *The Quiet Life* are being exhibited at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery until March 1st.

Moonias was born in 1922 close to Lansdowne House. He carried on his father's role of a trapper, hunter and fisherman. After being introduced to wood sculpture Norman began carving in earnest in 1985.

Each piece is a visual slice of the Anishinabek lifestyle common in the 1930's through the 1950's – as he saw it.

They are, much as the day-in-the-life paintings of the Sweetgrass Reserve (and others) in Saskatchewan done by Allen Sapp, a means of cultural survival; a statement to surviving generations about the nature and quality of life lived and endured by ancestors.

While more modern visual art can be complicated and demanding, Moonias is the essence of simplicity. The observer easily feels the power and beauty of the physical environment: the need for warm clothing; the importance of patience in the hunter; the physical endurance necessary; the creativity of the hunting, gathering, and protecting of those things captured; the role of provider for family; the importance of preparation and the maintaining of necessary tools of the trade, and much more.

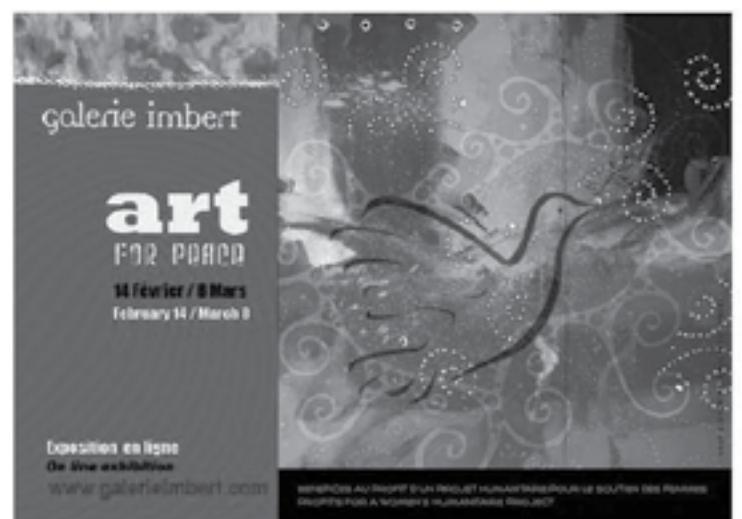
Moonias gives us a life representation far from the streets of Winnipeg or Thunder Bay.

And Sapp takes us into the wide open spaces of northern Saskatchewan, where fence building is critical, good shelter is a requirement, skills such as making clothing from the hunter's catch is a matter of survival, and harvest is a time for reaping from the land the sustenance of life itself.

Alastair C MacKay is Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Thunder Bay Art gallery. For more information call 807 577 6427, and visit the Art Gallery website www.theag.ca

Call for Native Artists ART FOR PEACE

February 14 - March 8, 2009



Sponsor of this event: Prof. Emerita, Dr. Bogomila Welsh-Ostrowska, Chevalier des Ordres Palmes Académiques [1994].

We are asking artists to contemplate on the theme of peace, universal love and nonviolence and the betterment for women.

Women as givers of life, are often the first victims of violence. Be it in their homes, in society or in their country in the midst of war, they often need protection and support. It is for these heartfelt reasons that we have decided to donate the profits of this exhibit to a women's project (decision of our sponsor) whose vision corresponds to our broader theme. (posted on our site in February).

For the participating artists we have requested a donation of a uniform format of 20x20 cm on paper (if sold, if not sold the painting remains the property of the artist). Each piece of work will be sold at the same price and our gallery proposes to organize the logistics of the exhibit. For those artists and other interested participants, we will provide a network on our web site indicating dates and places of performances or events.

We hope that you will join us in our effort to promote peace in the world by making this exhibit an event to remember. The web and artistic expression are natural tools to spread the word and we are inviting you to share our wish and enthusiasm to encourage peace in the world through art.

Info: <http://www.galerieimbert.com>

Kathleen Imbert, owner of the Galerie Imbert in Aix en Provence, France and member of Wikwemikong First Nation is organizing this on-line exhibit

LANDS AND RESOURCES

Traditional teaching: 'Use only what you need'

*The importance
of water
conservation in
your home*



By Rhonda Gagnon

Did you know that residential water consumption is increasing at a faster rate than the rate of population growth?

Did you know that your household bathroom uses approximately 65 percent of water used in your home?

Did you know that there are water shortages, even though it may seem we have a lot of water in Canada?

Many people believe that Canada has an abundant supply of fresh water, but the fact is that this is simply not true. As water shortages become more realistic, we need and must take action to conserve water in our homes. Conserving water will not only help slow the decline of our water levels in the lakes, reservoirs and wells. It will also help us learn about respect, and H2O conservation.

Here are some useful tips to minimize your bathroom water use in your home.

- Cut your shower time; take a 10 minute shower instead of 20 minutes.
- Check your toilets and faucets regularly for any leaks, as they can waste up to 200 litres per day.
- Check your toilet handles, if your toilet handle sticks or is letting the water run, it needs to be replaced or adjusted.
- Change you out of date toilets. Toilets prior to the 1980's use approximately 15-20 litres of water per flush.
- Install Low – Flow Shower heads, this saves half the amount of water
- Get in the habit of turning off the water while brushing your teeth (fill a cup for rinsing), shaving (fill the bottom of the sink to rinse) or washing your hands and face (shut off water while you lather).
- Insulate all hot water pipes to reduce the delays while waiting for hot water.

By following these helpful tips, you are not only saving water, you are also saving \$ and developing new habitats. You are also teaching the future generations that water is a precious resource that is needed for survival, and that it should be respected and used only when needed.

Forestry Agreement key messages

Representatives of the Anishinabek Nation and the Ministry of Natural Resources continue to make progress towards the negotiation of a Forestry Agreement. The negotiators have agreed upon the five main topics for negotiation which are:

Communications/Consultation and Engagement with Industry
Economic Benefits/Resource Revenue Sharing
Involvement in Forest Management
Involvement in Forest Policy and Programs
Relationship Building

They remain committed to work together to achieve a final agreement and will begin with building a better relationship.

UOI taking the lead on consulting

January 30, 2009

Dear Anishinabek Nation Chiefs:

We have received direction from you to conduct community engagement sessions on changes to the Ontario Mining Act, and opportunities in Energy.

We are not taking a lead on developing policy, or engaging in business aspects in these areas. Nor are we doing these consultations on behalf of either the Government of Ontario, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM), the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, nor the Ontario Power Authority (OPA).

With regard to the consultations on Energy Opportunities, these sessions do include participation from the OPA, government and special interest groups. This is done to provide you with the most up-to-date information and expertise to guide your deliberations.

However, these sessions are not OPA's consultations. The final report and recommendations will not go directly into the OPA's con-



Byron Leclair, Pic River FN, participates in January's Thunder Bay consultation in Anishinabek Nation workshop series entitled 'Perspectives on the Energy Sector'. – Photo by Greg Plain

sultation record but will be provided directly to the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. It continues to be our position that we will determine our own needs and aspirations surrounding energy

opportunities. We acknowledge the full scope of the opportunities available to us in energy.

It is for that reason we opted to consult with our own communities and citizens in this matter and not leave this up to the OPA and the Government.

With regard to the engagement session on changes to the Ontario Mining Act, our Chiefs were not satisfied with the level of consultation from the MNDM. In response, our staff along with the Deputy Grand Council Chief undertook a difficult engagement process, and as directed, we were to have our recommendations and final report to the Grand Council Chief and Minister of MNDM by January 15, 2009. You will be receiving this report very soon if you haven't already.

**Grand Council Chief
John Beaucauge**

STAY CLEAR STAY SAFE

Recreational activities near hydro stations and dams are dangerous

Stay clear of hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Hydro stations operate year-round and affect water flows and ice conditions. Water that looks safe can become treacherous in minutes. Ice that forms near, or even several kilometers away can be dangerous. Obey all warnings, signs, booms and buoys. If you see water levels changing, move a safe distance away immediately.



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MISSION

The mission of the Lands and Resources department is to foster a better quality of life by ensuring access to natural resources in support of the goals, principles and values of the Anishinabek Nation.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



Makuxi children at Uiramutã, Raposa Serra do Sol, Brazil

Brazilian Indians celebrating ruling on land rights case

RIO DE JANEIRO—Indians across Brazil were celebrating on Dec. 11th as the majority of judges in the Supreme Court ruled to uphold indigenous land rights in a key case. Indian representatives have called the decision, made on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a “great victory”.

The ruling concerns the indigenous territory Raposa-Serra do Sol (‘Land of the Fox and Mountain of the Sun’) in the Amazon state of Roraima. A small group of powerful farmers, who want the Indians’ land and are supported by local politicians, had petitioned the Supreme Court to overturn the Brazilian government’s legal recognition of the territory. President Lula signed the territory into law in 2005.

Eight out of eleven Supreme Court judges affirmed the Indians’ rights to the land, saying it had been demarcated according to the constitution. They affirmed the importance of maintaining indigenous territories as single, continuous areas and stated that territories on Brazil’s borders do not pose a risk to national sovereignty.

The five tribes of Raposa-Serra do Sol had struggled for thirty years to reclaim their ancestral land. The group of farmers refused to leave the area when it was demarcated as an indigenous territory, and since the demarcation they have been waging a campaign of violence against the Indians in order to resist being removed from the land.

Shocking footage taken in May this year shows gunmen hired by one of the farmers attacking a Makuxi Indian community, throwing homemade bombs and firing assault rifles. Ten Indians were wounded in the attack.

CHIEF'S CORNER

Chief: Irene Kells

First Nation: Zhiibaahasing

Anishinabek Name: Manwajiget “One that see things in a good way”

Clan: Bear

Political Career/Ambition: Elected in 1991, still there, our community was known as Cockburn Islands and has been called Zhiibaahasing since 1994. Our community had been dormant for many years. No hydro or proper road in the community. We started to rebuild in 1991.

Vision for Community: Our vision for the future generations is to be safe healthy, emotionally and mentally and most important, spiritually. To accomplish this we need to continue to use our traditional teachings and build a good economic base.

Community Accomplishments/Challenges: We made our community clean and beautiful and in the centre of our community we have a 25-foot peace pipe and a 25-foot dream catcher, new pow-wow grounds and a sacred fire place for our ceremonies.

On a personal note (hobbies, interests, and family, what influenced your career in politics):

I like to go to ceremonies with my family, I am involved in community fundraising, volunteer at any time required, participating in volleyball or any recreation in our community.



Chief Irene Kells



Maori flag gets okay

AUCKLAND, NZ – A Maori flag could be flying on the Auckland Harbour Bridge for next year's Waitangi Day.

Prime Minister John Key said he would approve the flying of a Maori flag on the bridge, but believed wide consultation needed to be carried out with iwi before deciding on an appropriate flag.

"I think New Zealanders have a sense of pride that we as a country are doing well in race relations and this is just another step forward," Key said.

Senator supports Pottawatomi

By Randy Boswell

Canwest News Service

WASHINGTON—An unrelenting U.S. senator who champions native rights has re-launched his long-running campaign to win compensation for a Canadian aboriginal group whose ancestors were forced from their American homeland south of the Great Lakes nearly 200 years ago.

Daniel Inouye, who represents Hawaii in the U.S. Senate, has reintroduced a bill to grant the Pottawatomi Nation of Canada — its 6,000 members are now scattered among 30 native communities in Ontario — a \$1.8-million payout in recognition of the “forced removal” of their ancestors in the early 1800s from tribal lands in the U.S.

“The Pottawatomi Nation in Canada has sought justice for over 150 years,” Inouye said in January as he presented his latest petition to Congress on behalf of the Ontario First Nation. “Our government made so many years ago.”

Added Inouye: “It will not correct all the wrongs of the past, but it is a demonstration that this government is willing to admit when it has left unfulfilled an obligation and that the United States is willing to do what we can to see that justice — so long de-

layed — is not now denied.”

Inouye’s efforts on behalf of the Pottawatomi people of Canada began in the late 1980s following a meeting with then-Canadian ambassador to the U.S. Derek Burney.

In February 2007, when Inouye last urged the U.S. Senate to back his bill, Pottawatomi Chief Ed Williams described the senator as a “fantastic guy” and a “real champion for aboriginal people.”

Williams and others from the Moose Deer Point First Nation near Parry Sound, Ont., trace their ancestry to the U.S. But their forebears were among those who refused to migrate to reserves in the U.S. southwest when they were forced from their traditional tribal lands in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana.

The Pottawatomi were pressured in the 1830s to relocate at gunpoint by the U.S. army under the infamous “Indian Removal” policies of then-president Andrew Jackson.

Some of the Pottawatomi refugees ended up blending with other related First Nations such as the Ojibway and Ottawa, but one group in Canada received land on the eastern shore of Georgian Bay and formed the Moose Deer Point community.

GIS course at Canadore College

Overview

A GIS (Geographical Information system) is a data management system where data is spatially located with quantitative and qualitative attributes of an object. Data is queried, analyzed and applied. GIS is a burgeoning field and is part of a skill set for countless occupations in both front line and management positions in areas such as resource and urban planning, tourism, transportation, emergency, law enforcement, land use, business and social/ health services.

This two day course will provide an understanding of what GIS can do and how it is currently being used. You will learn the basic functions of GIS and gain an understanding of its power and how it can be utilized within your organization and specific department. This is an interactive hands on course that we are sure you will find very interesting and useful.

Learning Objectives

- * Explain what GIS is and its capabilities.
- * Create GIS maps in ArcMap.
- * Access and query a GIS database
- * Knowledge of geographic data, how it's made and where to get it.
- * Knowledge of what spatial analysis is and how to solve geographic problems using ArcGIS analysis tools.

Duration 2 Days

Cost \$500 + gst

Location Canadore College

Dates Courses currently being scheduled for Feb and March 2009

Call the Industry Liaison office before February 20 to register at 474-7600 ext. 5671

Audience

This course has been designed for those who are new to GIS and ArcGIS, infrequent users and anyone wanting a better understanding of what GIS can do for them.

Recommendations

Students should be familiar with Windows- based software, basic file management and browsing.

Other geomatics courses and certificates are available. Programs in all areas of study can be tailored to meet your specific needs. For more information contact.

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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.

RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION



Assistant Negotiator for Canada Marsha Moshinsky works on phrasing in the Final Agreement with the Anishinabek Nation Head Governance Negotiator Martin Bayer.

Governance table debates jurisdiction over 'territory'

By Christian Hebert

The Governance Negotiation Table met for the final time before the New Year in Wasauksing First Nation on December 16-17.

While the focus was to 'clean-up' and approve several portions of the Final Agreement on Governance, the session became a forum on the difference in positions on the definition of "Territory".

One key proponent of the Anishinabek Nation viewpoint is that the agreement should restore jurisdiction to the First Nations over areas that were voluntarily surrendered for a specific purpose, but have not yet been formally restored to them, citing the case of Kettle and Stony Point as an example.

A large section of the First Nation's lands was procured by the government on a temporary basis for military reasons, but have yet to be returned to the First Nation.

Liz Morin, Canada's chief negotiator, countered by iterating that the Governance agreement could not deal with jurisdiction over non-reserve lands, as they do not yet fall under the Indian Act.

This prompted Martin Bayer, chief negotiator for the Anishinabek Nation, to stress that Canada

has to "get away from the idea of reserves and from the Indian Act".

Unfortunately, Canada will only negotiate the items covered under the Indian Act when it comes to recognizing jurisdiction for the first drafting of the Final Agreement.

Other matters brought to air included the issue of continued eligibility for federal programs by the Participating First Nations and their citizens. This was agreed upon by both parties, providing the program in question was not already covered in the Final Agreement.

There was also the issue of Canada subcontracting its services, using post-secondary education as an example, to an outside source and concern that the source would fall outside of the provisions of the Final Agreement or perhaps even having difficulty with that source. Canada acknowledged that possibility and will examine the issue more closely.

The negotiations maintained a positive approach from both sides and much was accomplished on the actual document itself, including a final approval and closure of Chapter 8: Access to Information and Privacy.



The last Constitution Development Workshop for 2008 was conducted at Orillia. Alderville, Sagamok, Dokis, Wasauksing, Algonquins of Pikwaknagan, Beausoleil, and Nipissing First Nations participated.

Constitution development project focuses on communities

The Constitution Development Project was formed in 2004 following a Grand Council Resolution to use constitutions as building blocks for the Nation building initiative.

The purpose of the project is three-fold: to conduct research and consultation regarding constitution development in the Anishinabek Nation; to assist First Nations to establish their community constitutions; and to develop a draft constitution for the Anishinabek Nation.

In the past months, three constitution development workshops were held on a regional basis to assist a full sixteen First Nations to formulate an initial draft of their community's constitution.

A conference entitled "Chi-Naaknigewin Maawaanjidiwin" was held in Sault Ste. Marie to discuss the draft Anishinabek Nation Constitution and the Anishinabek Nation Appeals System.

The Constitution Development Project has also held ongoing meetings and public consul-

tation sessions at various times and with several First Nation Constitution Committees to assist them to further their work on their draft constitutions in the past year.

The Project also submits a great number of information updates regarding constitution development to the Anishinabek News in participation with the communications strategy encompassing the Governance negotiations process.

The Constitutional Development Project continues to focus on First Nation communities in 2009.

Four regional First Nation Constitution Workshops being scheduled to assist First Nation Constitution Committees in finalizing their draft constitutions and to plan and prepare for community consultation and ratification of their constitutions.

On the Anishinabek Nation level, a follow-up conference on the Anishinabek Nation Constitution is planned for March in Sault Ste. Marie.



Anishinabek

KINA ANISHINABEK

BI-ZHAAYOK MIINWA

ANISHINAABE CHI-NAAKNIGEWIN MAAWANJIDWIN

COME OUT TO A CONFERENCE REGARDING THE
ANISHINABEK NATION CONSTITUTION

March 3, 4 & 5, 2009

ALGOMA'S WATER TOWER INN
360 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
1-800-461-0800

The second 3-day Nation Building Conference about establishing the Anishinabek Nation Constitution

Chiefs, Councillors, First Nation Managers, Constitution Committee Members, Interested First Nation Citizens, Elders, Women and Youth Groups are invited to take part in these exciting group sessions to discuss:

- The purpose of establishing a constitution for the Anishinabek Nation
- The culture, language and rights of Anishinabek Citizens
- The structure of the Anishinabek Nation Government
- Coordinated elections across the Anishinabek Nation
- Jurisdiction and Law Making, Rules of Assembly
- Many other related topics

*There is no cost to register for this conference.
Lunch and refreshments will be provided over the 3 days.*

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, February 25, 2009

For more information contact:
Lorie Young, Union of Ontario Indians, P. O. Box 711, North Bay, ON P1B 8J8
Tel: (705) 497-9127 ~ Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200 ~ Fax: (705) 497-9185 ~ Email: youlor@anishinabek.ca

RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION



Citizenship discussions ongoing

Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare joined Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on Citizenship Jeannette Corbiere Lavell for the Northern Superior Region consultations. At the Thunder Bay Friendship Centre, Elder Paul Indian, shown left, helped the Commissioner with the discussions. Shown in background is Jason Restoule who provided administrative support and recorded participants comments.

Vision for negotiations

By Christian Hebert

The Anishinaabe Anokiiwin Aanokiiitoojig, or Chiefs Committee on Governance (CCoG), provides a forum that links the political vision of the leaders of the Anishinabek Nation with the progress of self-government negotiations.

On an ongoing basis, the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs Committee provides guidance, leadership and direction to the self-governance negotiations in both Education and Governance and any sector to come.

The committee also seeks the advice and direction of First Nations and Anishinabek Nation members on self-governance negotiation issues as well as reports on progress of negotiations to respective regions and individual First Nations communities.

Finally, the Chiefs Committee on Governance recommends ways of implementing direction and addressing feedback received from regions, First Nations, and Anishinabek Nation members to the negotiation tables.

Last year, the Chiefs Committee identified priority initiatives that are either underway or that need to be undertaken collectively across the Anishinabek Nation.

Some of these initiatives include an Anishinabek Nation Economic Strategy including a 'Costing out a Nation' study; Citizenship and Matrimonial Real Property law-making, along with

appeals and redress systems; and a viable, synchronized election process.

The Committee also provoked action on Constitutional Developments at both the First Nation and Anishinabek Nation levels of government, with plans to develop the structure and authority of a central Government that incorporates a traditional First Nation model or *Dodem* system.

Finally, the Chiefs Committee introduced direct issues into the Self-Government Negotiations with Canada in areas such as Leadership selection, Language and Culture, First Nation Citizenship, a Strategic Communications Council, Management and Operation of Governments at both levels.

Due to the wide range of issues that revolve around the Anishinabek Nation comprehensive negotiations process, much research and examination is required in the year to come.

A list of items will need to be thoroughly reviewed to glean information to build on other comprehensive sectors for future initiatives.

The Chiefs Committee on Governance will monitor the 2008 Implementation report, initiatives, and activities such as the Education and Governance Final Agreements and other First Nation organization activities both regionally and internationally.

Capacity Development workshops innovative in 2009

In 2002, the Chiefs Committee on Governance instructed the Restoration of Jurisdiction's Education and Governance Negotiation teams to look at the issue of Capacity Development within Anishinabek Nation First Nation communities and the Anishinabek Nation as a whole.

The Chiefs Committee directed the issue be addressed presently, as the conclusion of negotiations of the Governance and Education Final Agreements will result in a need for greater capacity, as the First Nation communities and Anishinabek Nation government duties and responsibilities will increase.

The building-from-within process is the main goal of the Capacity Development project.

Several regional workshops were held in 2008 within the Anishinabek Nation territory, with each workshop dealing exclusively with one identified key area of Capacity Development. 'Drafting Membership Codes, Boards & Committees, Dealing with Difficult People, Policy Development, and Band Custom Elections' were delivered as individual workshops in the First Nation communities.

The New Year includes three workshops, as 'Human Resource Management, Contracting & Tendering, and Reading an Analysis of Financial Information' will be held at the Holiday Inn in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario on February 24-26.

As part of an innovative plan, the three workshops will run simultaneously and the participants will have an opportunity to attend two of the three sessions. Each workshop will be one and a half days in length and each will be delivered twice.

These Capacity Development workshops are an important step in the development of increased capacity levels within First Nation communities, but while these workshops are viewed as catalysts for future development, they are only one step in the ongoing challenge of capacity building and that much work must still be done to be ready for implementation of the Final Agreements.

Upcoming Restoration of Jurisdiction Capacity Development Workshops

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Workshop Facilitators:
Tracey O'Donnell & Austin Acton

READING AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION
Workshop Facilitator:
Kenton Eggleston

CONTRACTING AND TENDERING
Workshop Facilitator:
Sharon Wabegijig

February 24, 25 & 26, 2009
Holiday Inn, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

These workshops will run concurrently, and each will be delivered twice over the three days.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend 2 out of the above 3 workshops.

For more information contact:
Terry Restoule,
Capacity Development Coordinator
Union of Ontario Indians
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Phone: (705) 497-9127 Ext: 2279
Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200
Fax: (705) 497-9135
Email: rester@anishinabek.ca

Who Should Participate?

- Leadership
- Membership Clerks
- Band Managers
- Department Directors
- Board and Committee Members
- Directors of Operations
- Teachers
- Education Councillors
- First Nation Citizens

There is no cost to participate in these workshops
Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Accommodations and travel are the responsibility of the individual workshop participants.

Restoration of Jurisdiction





Chiefs Committee on Governance

Third in a four-part series: Economic and community development

Stories by Rick Garrick

Power project for Pic River

Pic River First Nation began its path to economic success in 1987 when former Chief Roy Michano decided that instead of just reviewing proposals for the nearby Black River Hydro generating station, his community would put in its own bid.

"Roy Michano had the foresight to realize that this was a project that would last for over 50 years," says Byron LeClair, Pic River's economic development officer. "It was a vision that was first proposed by Roy and adopted by the community."

LeClair explains that all of Pic River's projects are first presented to the community for their understanding and support before any development takes place.

"So that lets the grass roots members of the community be familiar about what we're doing," LeClair says.

Pic River first signed on as a partner in the 13.5 MW run-of-the-river Wawatay Generating Station on the Black River, which was completed in 1992 at a cost of about \$24 million and now generates about \$4 million per year in revenue.

Since then, the community of about 964 on and off-reserve citizens has partnered in the 5 MW Twin Falls Generating Station on the Kigiano River and the 25 MW Umbata Falls Generating Station on the White River.

LeClair adds that because the Umbata Falls project is located on the White River, which flows through Pukaskwa National Park and may affect some of the resources used by the community, the band consulted with community Elders before proceeding.

"We presented the Umbata Falls project to the Elders Committee," LeClair says, noting that the community's support has solidified their partnerships. "We have a mandate from the community, it's not just the council talking in a vacuum."

Pic River's run-of-the-river generating station designs have also garnered praise from the David Suzuki Foundation for minimizing environmental impact while generating revenue for the community's needs, such as a women's crisis centre, high-speed Internet access, family housing and elementary school resources.

"We'd be in dire straights if we didn't have these projects," says Chief Art Fisher. "We haven't had



Construction at Umbata Falls Generating Station in 2007.

any of the cash flow issues."

Fisher does not expect any change to the community's focus while he is chief, noting that he has been on the council for the past 20 years.

"I can't see us going any other way, at least economically," he says.

LeClair adds that Pic River's on-reserve community of about 480 citizens has "as close to a zero unemployment rate as you can find."

With a solid economic base derived from the generating stations and the community's forestry initiatives, which averaged \$300,000 of annual sales in the mid to late 1980's and now averages about \$5.0 million per year, LeClair is looking for the community to diversify by encouraging small business development.

"We're looking at other opportunities to employ our members," LeClair says. "We're going to focus on the eco-tourism opportunities in our area."

In order to help community members get started, LeClair is starting up a small business lending circle so people will be encouraged through support from their own community.

LeClair is also looking at developing the Pic River Arts Cooperative to support local artists to market their products online.

Byron LeClair was nominated for a national award recognizing economic development across

the country by the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers. Byron was nominated in community development category, placing second behind Kamloops First Nation.

LeClair explains that since Michano first started following the path to economic success in the 1980's, the community has focused on keeping politics and administration separate.

"Administration is administration, politics is politics," he says. "We tend to keep them separate."

LeClair adds that the community has a strategic plan in place that specifies the direction any economic development must take.

"I get my direction from the strategic plan," he says. "It's hard to argue with a program that has delivered near zero unemployment."

In addition to encouraging small business development among the community members, Pic River is also aiming to develop a number of wind power generating stations to increase the amount of power they are selling to electrical energy markets.

"In total, our projects displace about 200,000 tonnes of CO₂," LeClair says. "We generate enough power to meet the residential needs of 35,000 homes. And we plan to grow. With the support of Ontario and Canada, there are still more projects out there and we will explore them all."

Economic development key to self-government

Self-sufficiency will require acting together on the recommendations outlined in the Anishinabek Nation Economic Strategy: "Our Economic Blueprint."

The recommendations set out a process through which the communities, regions and the Anishinabek Nation as a whole can further develop their economic capacity, effectively plan for long term economic development, and then successfully engage in economic development opportunities.

This blueprint and its recommendations are intended to be adapted and applied by the communities as needed to address their distinct needs and circumstances.

- Provide local training (capacity) in financial and quality management

- The Anishinabek Nation and the First Nations would be in agreement to make economic development a priority with an unified strategy

- Build on existing First Nation economic foundations and successes

- Develop a communication strategy to consistently promote the Anishinabek Nation Economic Blueprint both internally within the Anishinabek Nation and externally.

Step One – Build local capacity in financial and quality management

- Seek International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Certification to demonstrate good governance

- Establish and report on Community Scorecard

- Foster a successful business environment across the Anishinabek Nation

- Establish an Anishinabek Nation Economic Secretariat

- Develop economic institutional capacity throughout the Anishinabek Nation

- The Anishinabek Nation Chiefs' Council on the Economy will be mandated to develop positions and undertake lobbying efforts to stimulate the Anishinabek economy.

Step Two – Preparing for Economic Development



"Our Economic Blueprint" was launched in April 2008.

Determine the level of planning needed at each level of the organization and determine how to link with community plans and strategies.

- Utilize Anishinabek traditional territorial lands for economic purposes

- Develop and Implement Anishinabek tax policies

- Carry out feasibility, market studies prior to investment

- Develop and utilize tools to access capital

- Develop an Investment Policies Plan to participate in the regional, Anishinabek Nation and global economy

Step Three – Pursuing Economic Development

- First Nations should seek out business opportunities throughout the Anishinabek Nation territory

- Take advantage of the Federal Aboriginal Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Businesses.

- Not many First Nations take advantage of the Federal Government Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal businesses program, although First Nations have quality goods and services for sale.

Community and strategic planning: a must

Planning and consulting with our First Nation citizens is an important part in developing a solution-based community strategic plan.

This involves support and participation from Chief and Council in addressing their community's growth today and for the future.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Supply continues to grow



UCCM Castle Building Material Supply, with sales boasting over \$3 million annually, is located in M'Chigeeng First Nation.

The United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin's venture into the lumber store business continues to pay off.

"Our sales are now over \$3 million a year," says Charles Beaudin, manager of the U.C.C.M. Castle Building Supply store in M'Chigeeng First Nation. "We're getting more of the non-native market."

Although U.C.C.M. Castle Building was originally set up as a means to keep First Nations housing-construction money on-reserve, it has since broadened its market to include about 60 per cent non-native customers.

"A lot of the bands contract out their housing now," Beaudin says. "We're trying to give the contractors good deals to bring them in."

M'Chigeeng Chief Isadora Bebamash adds that she supports the U.C.C.M. Castle Building when shopping for building supplies and encourages other U.C.C.M. community members to do so as well.

"I always try to purchase from our communities," Bebamash says. "I think it's important that we support each other."

M'Chigeeng, Wikwemikong and Aundeck Omni Kanning did just that over the past year, purchasing building materials for about 100 new housing units from U.C.C.M. Castle Building, which led to higher than normal employment levels in the store over the winter.

"This winter we employed seven staff, including myself, one

bookkeeper, three sales people, one yard person, and one driver," Beaudin says. "Business picked up this winter because of the construction; they kept on building all winter long."

U.C.C.M. Castle Building began operations in 1987 with a 3,000 square foot store and 3,600 square foot warehouse; since then it has grown from mainly "a learning experience for staff" over the first five years to a profitable venture over the past seven years, including a 4,000 square foot expansion to the store and the addition of a 6,000 square foot warehouse in 2002.

"We're getting more seasonal products in stock," Beaudin says. "We have new products all the time."

Beaudin has even brought in some of the more popular products promoted by Mike Holmes on his nationally televised program, *Holmes on Homes*.

"Everybody knows him," Beaudin says.

U.C.C.M. Castle Building mainly carries True Value hardware and Castle building materials, ranging from concrete blocks to kitchen cabinets to hardwood flooring, and Beaudin has tried over the years to keep his pricing at comparable levels as found off the island, a strategy which has kept the business growing while two of the seven other lumber stores on Manitoulin Island have gone out of business.

Since the business became profitable, Beaudin has invested some of the profits into new

equipment, such as a five-ton truck, two new one-ton trucks, and a three-quarter ton truck.

"We replaced our old trucks," Beaudin says. "We kept our driver on all year this winter."

Beaudin takes his direction from a board made up of members from each of the U.C.C.M. communities, structured in a partnership format similar to the Casino Rama board.

"It's like the Casino Rama structure," Beaudin says. "It protects the communities from liabilities."

Bebamash adds that her community is looking into a number of new economic development opportunities which would potentially bring more business into U.C.C.M. Castle Building, such as building a hotel or a grocery store in the community.

A wind mill project on the bluff overlooking the entrance to M'Chigeeng is also under consideration.

"But that is really a long-term project," Bebamash says. "They're targeting two at the most and possibly expanding to two more on the lower bluff on the bay."

Bebamash adds that while the community is planning to invest in a number of business opportunities, they avoid pursuing business opportunities which community members are already looking into or operating.

"If a band member is looking into a venture, the Chief and Council will not pursue it," Bebamash says.

Fort Willam commercial complex underway

Fort William First Nation is looking forward to continued economic development for the community through the template developed with their commercial office building assets.

"The Anemki Mountain project is a very successful project to date," says Ian Bannon, general manager of Anemki Mountain Corporation, which was developed to manage the community's first commercial office complex, a 30,000 square-foot office building built in 1994 to house Indian and Northern Affairs and a number of other tenants. "That building's long term goal is almost at its completion where revenues generated can be re-invested back to the community."

While the community of about 800 on-reserve and about 1,000 off-reserve band members have developed over 150,000 square feet of commercial space in five different buildings in the community, including the FWFN Administration Office, the Wasaya Airways building, the Dilico building, the Community Cen-

tre and the recently constructed Youth Centre, they have also invested in a two-rink arena.

Chief Harry Pelletier, who was the arena manager when the rinks were built, the first in 2000 and the second in 2002, remembers how the community's pride in the arena and the second-floor gymnasium grew over time.

"The gymnasium sort of encompassed a visiting room for the Elders," Pelletier says. "They would come in the morning and do their workouts. In the afternoons, the youth would come and use the weights."

Although the community signed a 10-year agreement with the AAA Kings from Thunder Bay after the second arena was built, Pelletier encouraged a feeling of ownership among the community by organizing a community skate as the first event in the new complex.

"The very first skate in our rink was for our community youth," Pelletier says. "They took pride in the rink. Even though we have to rent it to pay our loans,

our children still have their community time set aside in the facility."

As more buildings were built by the community, Anemki Mountain Corporation began providing property management services for all the buildings in addition to the INAC building.

"Anemki provides these services on behalf of the First Nation," Bannon says, noting that most of the buildings were developed in partnership with their primary tenants with the outcome of Fort William First Nation maintaining ownership. "Although developed in partnership, the complexes are Fort William assets. Upon fulfilling all obligations, Fort William will again re-invest revenues back to the community."

Fort William has also developed a partnership with Bowater to develop a sawmill on the Railway Taking Lands that were expropriated by the federal government in 1905 and currently under an ATR process to be returned to the community.

"The sawmill employs about 60 Anishinabek employees out of a workforce of about 200," Pelletier says, noting that the main goal behind all of the projects was to provide both long and short-term employment to band members. "The initial strategy was to create employment - skilled employment. That's why we own our own heavy equipment. Now we have the skilled labourers to operate that equipment."

A number of community members have also built up their construction skills, including four young iron workers who now work on construction sites across the country, through an initiative that encouraged the construction companies working on the projects to hire a number of employees from the community in order to build up a skilled labour workforce.

"We have four youth from the community who are working out of town," Pelletier says. "They started working here on the buildings in the community and continue to work across Canada."



Chief Harry Pelletier

Other community members have also been given the opportunity to build their own businesses through funding support from the Casino Rama funds.

"Just to name a few, we have fishermen and construction people operating their own successful businesses in our community," Pelletier says.

A number of youth have also been given the opportunity to build their work experience and skill levels while working at the arena complex.

"It integrates our youth in the workforce and prepares them for on or off-reserve employment," Pelletier says.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Long Lake Subway first of new initiatives

Since winning NADF's Development Corporation of the Year award last fall, Long Lake #58 is looking to expand beyond their recently opened on-reserve Subway restaurant.

"We're looking to see how we can expand our business opportunities and employment opportunities," says Wayne Kaboni, Long Lake #58's General Store manager. "We opened the Subway in September, and we opened a laundromat beside the Subway early this winter."

Long Lake's Azaadi Wag Development Corporation expanded the General Store last year to accommodate the new Subway restaurant, which currently employs nine full and part-time staff, and laundromat.

"We employ about 20 full and part-time staff in these businesses," Kaboni says, noting that Azaadi Wag Development Corporation was originally started as a means to provide employment and training opportunities for the community. "Our Subway manager went to Connecticut for management training for one week. I went for two weeks of training as the franchisee."

The General Store began operations in 1994, with about \$3.9 million in gross revenue last year, and the community expects that the Subway restaurant, the first Subway franchise to be owned and operated by a First Nation

development corporation, will also be a success due to its location right on Hwy. 11 just west of Long Lac.

"We get lots of people that are going by," says former Chief Veronica Waboose. "And our students are always there."

While the General Store is a money-making enterprise, it also provides financial support for social, spiritual, cultural, economic, educational and recreational endeavours in the community, including the construction of the Community Health Centre in 2005.

Newly elected Chief Allen Towegishig is planning to continue the economic path forged by the past chief and councils.

"The past chief and councils had a lot of ideas on how to go about economic development," Towegishig says. "My goal is to get these projects going."

In addition to the Subway and laundromat, Long Lake #58 is looking into the development of a bulk food distribution business to serve the remote fly-in communities within its local area, and once that is successful, the other northern Ontario fly-in communities.

The plan involves ordering food staples from southern Ontario suppliers and processors and then packaging them into smaller quantities at a packaging centre in Long Lake #58 for shipping via plane to the neighbouring fly-in



Patrons visit Long Lake #58's on-reserve Subway restaurant.

communities of Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie, which all belong to the same tribal council as Long Lake #58, where they would be packaged again for sale to individuals and families.

"The challenge is trying to find out what these products will weigh," Kaboni says, "so we can figure out what the shipping is before we ship it to the communities."

Kaboni explains that food staples are currently handled up to five times before they reach the fly-in communities, with each step of the process adding to the cost and the likelihood of damaged goods.

"Two litres of milk costs \$7.00 in Eabametoong," Kaboni says. "One of the biggest challenges is the cost of freight."

Kaboni adds that Long Lake #58's convenient location along the railway and Hwy. 11 and near an airport which handles air traffic from the fly-in communities gives Long Lake #58 an advantage in pursuing the bulk food distribution business.

Long Lake #58 has also developed a couple of other businesses over the years, including a log salvaging business on Long Lake and a rock quarry.

"We have the rights to harvest the sunken logs from Long Lake," Kaboni says, adding that the prod-

uct from the rock quarry is listed by the Ministry of Transportation and also used by CN for their rail line. "The goal is to develop community businesses that provide opportunities for jobs."

Towegishig adds that he wants to give the Elders more of a say in what happens in the community.

"They want the youth to finish school, get jobs and stay home," Kaboni says. "Three years ago we did a survey — that's what they want, go to school and get an education."

Towegishig and Kaboni also said that Long Lake #58 is currently looking into developing a potential hydroelectric opportunity in the area.

Waubetek Business Development Co. seeks ISO designation

ISO designation is the next step on Waubetek Business Development Corporation's path to success.

"We want to have recognition with the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) in terms of our management and leadership as an Aboriginal Financial Institution," says Waubetek general manager Dawn Madahbee. "As an Aboriginal organization, we know the needs of our people and we know the needs of our communities. We know and understand our clients' needs better than conventional financial agencies."

Since being established in 1989 by a group of community leaders to create businesses and jobs within the Aboriginal community, Waubetek has invested almost \$28 million in 742 Aboriginal businesses.

"We have a 95 per cent business success rate," Madahbee says. "Ninety-five per cent of the businesses we have invested in are still in business."

Madahbee explains that when Waubetek was established, many communities had 40 to 60 per cent unemployment rates and there was little financial support available for Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

"There were very few Aboriginal businesses around at that time," Madahbee says, noting that the efforts of the leaders who joined together to develop a feasibility study and an investment plan for Waubetek have paid off. "In the past 20 years, we haven't really looked back."

In addition to investing in Aboriginal businesses, Waubetek has also invested in building capacity in the business development field.

"We have 100 per cent Aboriginal staff, board and

management," Madahbee says. "We've trained a lot of people over the years."

Waubetek has also developed a number of economic strategies, such as the First Nation Economic Leakage Strategy and the Great Spirit Circle Trail, and promoted the successes of many of its clients during the annual Waubetek Business Awards Galas and in its quarterly newsletter, Waubetek News.

The First Nation Economic Leakage Strategy was developed to show how much of the money coming into First Nation communities is actually spent in neighbouring communities and businesses.

"In northeastern Ontario, millions of dollars are spent by Aboriginal people in the big regional centres," Madahbee says. "We have a lot of economic influence that we don't exercise."

Waubetek has also worked with eight First Nations and a number of businesses in the Manitoulin Island area to develop the Great Spirit Circle Trail, which is regarded by the Canadian Tourism Commission as one of the top Aboriginal tourism initiatives in Canada.

Madahbee also described the successes of three entrepreneurs, Spirit Magazine's Harmony Rice and Anishnaabe Speech & Language Service's Monica Nahwegahbow, who were recognized this past November during the 2007 Waubetek Business Awards Gala, and First Nation Insurance Restoration's Michael Saucier, who was featured on the front page of the Winter 2008 Waubetek News.

"Harmony Rice has developed a national magazine that focuses on the youth and their success stories across

the country," Madahbee says. "Monica Nahwegahbow has combined her knowledge of the Anishinabek language and speech pathology to help students with their speech problems."

"A lot of his (Michael Saucier's) business is off-reserve — he is able to compete in the mainstream with his business. He is creating a number of jobs in the construction field and is creating spin-off jobs as well."

While Waubetek has had much success in helping its clients achieve success over the years, it still refocuses its strategy each year during discussions with community leaders and economic development officers.

Madahbee also participated in the recent development of the Anishinabek Nation Economic Blueprint.

"There are a lot of ideas in that blueprint for First Nations interested in making economic development a priority," Madahbee says. "We really need to have First Nations take a lead role in economic development so that communities can generate their own revenues along with helping our entrepreneurs."

Madahbee emphasizes that it is important for communities to support entrepreneurs and make economic tools available in order to encourage more business development, generate revenue for the community, build community pride, create more jobs, and bring an awareness to people that they can start up their own businesses.

"Waubetek means The Future, in Anishinabemowin," Madahbee says. "We are always looking ahead to build a solid base for our future generations. We're investing in the natural gifts, skills and talents of our people."

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Blueprint implementation in 2009

Grand Council Chief John Beaucage holds the Anishinabek Nation Economic Blueprint in his hand at the April 2008 launch in Parry Sound. "I will not let this sit on the shelf," said Beaucage to then Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Michael Bryant. The Union of Ontario Indians will be heading up implementation this year.

Economic blueprint recommendations

1. Utilize the First Nation Progression Model as developed by the Membertou First Nation as a guide in preparing for economic development.

Step One – Building local capacity in financial and quality management

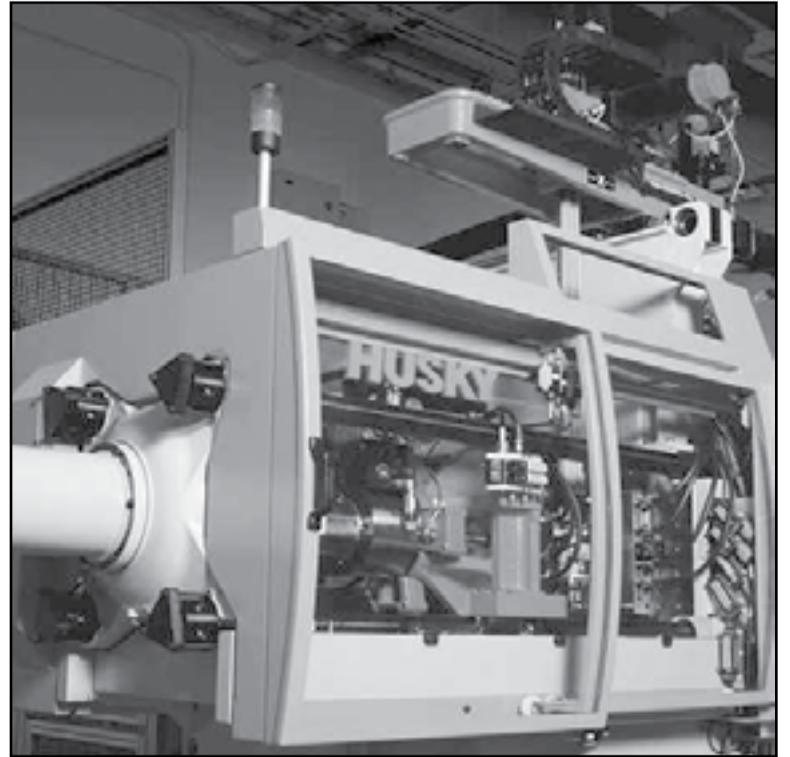
2. All members of the Anishinabek Nation need to make economic development a priority.
3. Build on existing First Nation economic foundations and successes.
4. Develop a communication strategy to consistently promote the Anishinabek Nation Economic Blueprint both internally within the Anishinabek Nation and externally.
5. Seek ISO Certification to demonstrate good governance.
6. Establish and report on Community Scorecard.
7. Foster a successful business environment amongst all Anishinabek people.
8. Establish an Anishinabek Nation Economic Secretariat.
9. Develop economic institutional capacity throughout the Anishinabek Nation.
10. The Anishinabek Nation Chiefs' Council on the Economy will be mandated to develop positions and undertake lobbying efforts to stimulate the Anishinabek economy.

Step Two – Preparing for Economic Development

11. Develop and implement an Economic Development Strategy in each Anishinabek First Nation community.
12. Develop and implement Anishinabek Human Resource Strategy.
13. Develop and implement Land Use Plans to foster new development.
14. Utilize Anishinabek traditional territorial lands for economic purposes.
15. Develop and implement Anishinabek tax policies.
16. Carry out feasibility, market studies prior to investment.
17. Develop and utilize tools to access capital.
18. Develop investment policies.
19. Plan to participate in the regional, Anishinabek Nation and global economy.

Step Three – Pursuing Economic Development

20. First Nations should seek out business opportunities throughout the Anishinabek Nation territory. To complete these steps, the Union of Ontario Indians will dedicate some Human Resources for the Implementation of the Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Blueprint project. The enhanced Human Resource complement will focus on developing implementation plans for the Economic Blueprint and seek out, and apply for funding opportunities to carry out the recommendations. In addition, information will be collected and distributed to the appropriate Economic Development Officer within Anishinabek First Nation communities.



Husky Hylelectric injection molding machine.

Moose Deer Point invests in plastic plant

Moose Deer Point First Nation is investing millions of dollars into its two main industries, Niigon Technologies Ltd. and Moose Deer Point Marina.

"Storage has been a big issue with the Niigon building," says Chief Barron King. "The staff couldn't stockpile product due to limited space. We're working on the foundation of a warehouse right now. They had to do some blasting and site preparation — the warehouse should be completed by June."

The community of about 460 registered band members has also invested in a backup power generation system for the state-of-the-art world class 48,000 square foot injection molding plastics plant, due to down-time problems stemming from power brownouts.

"Even a one-second power loss shuts the machines down," King says. "The down time is preventing Niigon from both servicing existing customers and from taking advantage of any new business opportunities."

Once the warehouse and back-up generator projects are completed, King expects Niigon to increase its efficiency and eventually begin producing profits by the end of the fiscal year.

In addition, plans call for Niigon to eventually replace its Husky Hylelectric injection molding machines with more efficient Husky models to increase production.

"Rather than having more machines, we will have better quality, larger machines that will handle bigger quantities of product," King says.

A joint venture between Moose Deer Point, Husky Injection Molding System Ltd. and the Schad Foundation with financial contributions from the provincial and federal governments, Niigon is solely owned by Moose Deer Point and currently operates seven Husky machines 24 hours a day seven days a week with a staff of 15 full-time employees, including 12 community members.

The venture grew out of a strong relationship between former chief Ed Williams and Husky president Robert Schad, who was a long-time user of the Moose Deer Point Marina during his regular vacations in the area.

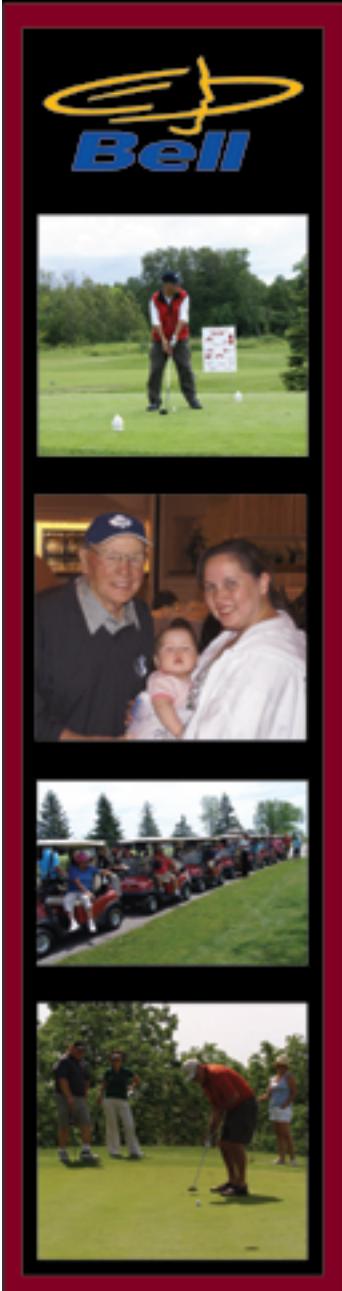
Schad provided Niigon's first four Husky machines as a gift, and the Schad Foundation made a \$5 million charitable donation towards the initial construction costs.

The \$12 million plant was built in 2001 in an environmentally friendly and energy efficient manner in an abandoned gravel pit, with natural lighting and ventilation, roof mounted photovoltaic cells, radiant floor heating and no air conditioning.

"We have customers in Canada, the United States and Israel," King says, listing a small plastic gear, a small greenhouse tomato plant clip and Dial shampoo bottles as among their main contracts. "The factory will provide opportunities and prosperity for the community. The goal is to improve the quality of life in the community, it's all part of being a sustainable community. Once Niigon is making profits, it will all go back into the community."

King adds that investments are also planned for the Moose Deer Point Marina, which was established in 1969 and has grown to be one of the largest marinas on Georgian Bay.





Bell Canada 11th Annual

Anishinabek Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament

Hawk Ridge Golf and Country Club, Orillia, Ontario
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2009

The Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity is accepting registrations for the 11th Annual Veterans Memorial Tournament. Due to its popularity it is 95% sold out. Don't delay there are only a few remaining foursomes available on a first come basis.

This years guests tentatively include: actors Graham Greene, Eric Schweig, NHLers Johnny Bower, Bobby Baun, Dave Hutchison, Bob Probert, Larry Keenan and Wayne King.

This year we are offering a \$5000 Sony Package as the big prize available to all golfers.

REGISTRATION ~ \$200 each and \$800 for a foursome.

Business can still purchase "hole" sponsorships which include a golfers registration for \$500.

To register or find out more about this great event contact the charity office at 877-702-5200 or 705-497-9127 ext. 2261 or by email ansgc@anishinabek.ca



11th Annual Casino Rama

Anishinabek Evening of Excellence

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Casino Rama, Silvernightingale Ballroom

Starts at 6 p.m. with dinner, followed by award presentations

The Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Awards. If you know of someone who has dedicated their lives to community and/or personal achievement please take the time to nominate them for a Lifetime Achievement Award. There are many unsung heroes out there who need and deserve to be recognized. We also accept posthumous nominations.

You can nominate someone by going on-line and download the form or call the charity office at 877 702 5200 ext 2261 or call 705 497 9127 ext 2261 or email ansgc@anishinabek.ca to have a copy mailed to you. Your nomination must include a recent photo (email a jpg file preferred) and letter of support from your First Nation.

Deadline for nominations is March 31st, 2009



EDUCATION *Kinoomaagewin*



A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANISHINABEK NEWS
January/February 2009



Beverly Sabourin, vice-prest, Aboriginal Initiatives, at work in her office at Lakehead University.

From Pic Mobert traplines to mentoring post-graduates

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY—Beverly Sabourin is helping lead the development of Lakehead University's Nanibijou Project, a new transition/mentoring program designed to encourage Aboriginal graduates to pursue post-graduate studies at the masters or doctoral level.

"We have about 48 Aboriginal students in post-graduate studies," says Sabourin, whose job title is Vice-prest, Aboriginal Initiatives. "We want to increase our Aboriginal graduates (going) into post-graduate studies."

The Nanibijou project is being developed to provide an environment where Aboriginal graduate students will flourish, featuring a series of modules implemented by faculty and staff and devoted to such topics as advanced study and research skills, confidence building, career planning, time management, mentoring younger undergraduate students, expressive writing skills, thesis/dissertation development, and thesis-writing retreats.

The first phase of the project includes gathering information from current Aboriginal students, undergraduates, the Aboriginal community, the Lakehead University Native Students Association and Elders.

"We will be looking at how other universities provide post-graduate studies," Sabourin says. "We will be holding focus groups."

Sabourin returned to Thunder Bay last year to accept the vice-prest position after working at a number of post-secondary institutions across the country, including the city's Confederation College, the University of Alberta and Red River College, and obtaining her Bachelors and Masters of Education at McGill University.

Brought up in Pic Mobert First Nation by her

mother and grandparents, Sabourin cherishes the traditional lifestyle she and her family lived on the land.

"My grandfather was a trapper-hunter," she says. "My grandmother made tikanagans (cradleboards). We ate a lot of wild game -- beaver, partridge, moose, rabbit and fish. It was a pretty traditional way of being raised."

Her mother then moved the family to Schreiber and then Thunder Bay during Sabourin's high school years so that she would have the best possible chance of success.

"She wanted me to continue to get an education," Sabourin recalls. "It was difficult. I didn't feel that I belonged there. It took a while to feel comfortable and have that sense of self-esteem."

Fortunately, Sabourin found a friend in another First Nation student who had lived in Thunder Bay most of her life; they helped support each other throughout the high school years.

After high school, Sabourin began working as an Aboriginal student support worker in the 1970's at numerous locations in Thunder Bay, including Lakehead University, and has continued in that field ever since.

"When I came back to Lakehead, a lot had been developed," Sabourin says, noting the Aboriginal Management Council, the Aboriginal Management Council Elders Council, the Aboriginal Awareness Centre, the Department of Aboriginal Education, the Indigenous Learning department, the Cancer Research Chair Indigenous Education, and the Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment.

Sabourin has developed a number of other projects since returning, including the Follow Your Dream video, featuring a number of successful Aboriginal Lakehead University students.

Language tells us who we are, says lifetime achiever

By Marci Becking

SASKATOON – Dr. Cecil King will be receiving a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for education excellence in March and he says it all started with learning Ojibwe in the school yard.

"In my household, I was raised speaking English. My grandmother was a teacher and believed that I would need English to get along in the world," says King. "I learned Ojibwe from my peers at Buzwah School (in Wikwemikong) on the playground. Kohkwehns, a local Elder in Buzwah and a very traditional person – taught me many traditional things such as medicines. I learned many Ojibwe expressions from her when we would go together to pick medicines, berries or other things which she wanted to teach me."

"I have taught the importance of understanding the First Nations view of the world passed down through the language. We cannot know the world of our ancestors without knowing the language because the worldview is embedded in our language. For example, we divide the world into animate and inanimate things and the way we speak of those things is reflected in the grammar of the language.

"We learn from the language that we are the most dependent of all Creation. Our view of our place in the universe is not the same as the Judeo-Christian view which puts 'Human beings' next to God. Our language contains the teachings of our culture. When we have to describe our teachings in English we are limited to the words that are available in English. In many cases English is inadequate. We need our languages to tell us who we are. Therefore, it is our belief when a language dies, so does the culture."

Dr. King is now a resident Elder at the University of Saskatchewan and has continued to teach Saulteaux/Ojibwe language and Saulteaux History and Culture at the First Nations University.

"I have spent the last thirty years teaching at the universities in Saskatchewan," he recalls. "When I came to Saskatchewan it was to learn in an environment which did not exist in Ontario at the time. Here was recognition of the need for First Nations people to control their own education."

"This is really the culmination of my teaching career. To be able to work with the people who will be taking over the development of First Nations education in positions of authority with qualifications equal to those from mainstream society is incredibly rewarding. We are finally in a position to use the educational system to accomplish what we need to do to preserve our languages, cultures and histories."



Dr. Cecil King

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KINOOMAAGEWIN/EDUCATION



Fashionable career

Tracy Toulouse, left, Sagamok Anishnawbek FN, is a fashion designer who participated in December's Unique and Extraordinary Careers of Indigenous Peoples conference at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

– Photo by Suzanne Keptwo



Nbisiing entrepreneurs

Members of the Spirit Creations class at Nbisiing Secondary School on Nipissing First Nation have been awarded the 2008 Young Heritage Leaders Award by Ontario Heritage Trust. The students have learned how to bead and sew hides, create moccasins, mukluks, handbags, and jewelry. They have designed ribbon shirts for the school's boys' drum group, ribbon dresses and yokes for the girls' drum group and produced custom orders for community members. In the summer of 2008, Spirit Creations participated at the National Aboriginal "Circle of Trade" sponsored by the Assembly of First Nations in Quebec City and took the opportunity to promote their products at the national level. Products are also promoted at pow-wows, craft fairs and community events. This program has been funded by the Province of Ontario, Youth Partnerships/Entrepreneurship Branch, and the Ministry of Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Spirit Creations participants from left: Justin Spence, Ericka Penesse, Mercedes Boyer, teacher Judy Manitowabi, Laura Mallinson, Eric Lariviere, Tamara Penasse, and Tracey Larochelle.

Resource centre reaching out

By Marilyn Warren

BELLEVILLE – The Aboriginal Resource Centre was established at Loyalist College in Belleville to ensure appropriate support for Native students on campus. It also acts as a liaison between College administration, Native communities and government agencies. Waukomaun Pawis is from Wauksing First Nation, near Parry Sound, and works for the College Centre as the First Generation/Aboriginal Outreach Officer. His role is to visit communities and



Waukomaun Pawis

high schools across Ontario to promote post-secondary education with a specific focus on Loyalist College.

"The ultimate goal is to provide Aboriginal peoples with information regarding post-secondary education to help guide them on their path through life," explained Waukomaun.



25th Annual Ontario Native Education Counselling Association

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Adult Learning Open Houses

Tuesday, February 17th, 2009

Canadore College - Mattawa
- F.J. McElligott High School
6:00 pm - 370 Pine Street
Mattawa

Thursday, March 26th, 2009

Canadore College -
Parry Sound Campus
6:00 pm - 60 James Street
Parry Sound

Thursday, February 26th, 2009

Canadore College -
Commerce Court Campus
6:00 pm in the Lecture Theatre
- E112 - North Bay

Thursday, April 16th, 2009

Canadore College -
West Nipissing Campus
6:00 pm - 94 King Street
Sturgeon Falls



For more information please call Kim Sawyer 474-7600 ext. 5469 or visit our website www.canadorec.on.ca

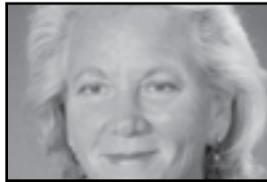
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MASINAIGAN/BOOKS

Textbook for underdogs

NORTH BAY – Maureen Boldt has published “Paralegal Services in Ontario”. A former city councillor with a reputation for championing underdog causes, Boldt says her book – which sold out its first printing last fall – makes an ideal text for law and criminology students, and a home resource for consumers finding wanting to know more about landlord-tenant issues and small claims courts.



Maureen Boldt

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CTS CANADIAN
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Hill shares her dreams

By Christine McFarlane

TORONTO—Wendy Hill, a traditional healer and Elder at Anishnawbe Health has written her first book “Understanding Life, What My Ancestors Taught Me through My Dreams”. To be published in March by Red Light Press, it is a compilation of stories about Hill’s life growing up at Six Nations, experiencing her culture, her ceremonies and the dreams she experienced through spiritual happenings.

At a December lecture presented by the Indigenous Education Network at the University of Toronto, Hill discussed her upcoming book.

“From a young age, I experienced spiritual happenings, and as I got older these happenings



Wendy Hill

grew a lot stronger and more serious.”

These spiritual happenings and a close brush with death at the age of 20 when she went into a coma from an illness prompted Hill to write about her experiences.

Hill’s book relates the messages she has encountered in her dreams, messages that entail the importance of choices, finding our purpose in life and teachings that impart how we all have a guide that walks with us and teaches us as we journey through life.

Examining border lines

By Marci Becking

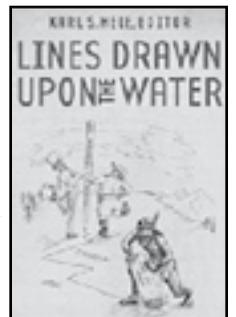
Lines Drawn Upon the Water, a collection of papers edited by Garden River First Nation citizen Karl S. Hele, is a historical account of the Great Lakes Borders and First Nations who were impacted by the “lines” that Canada and the U.S. created in the 1700s.

This book is extremely detailed with a quarter of its pages consisting of author notes. The detailed maps and the chronological list of 37 treaties signed between 1785 to 1873 helps the reader sort through the boundaries created by Canadian and American governments.

“Lines” also discusses Canada’s failure to recognize the 1794 Jay Treaty’s confirmation of Native rights to transport goods into

Canada. As Hele writes in his book “ultimately the issue concerns the larger struggle of First Nations to force recognition of their people’s rights to move freely across the border in search of economic and social independence.

Karl S. Hele teaches in and is the director of the First Nations Studies Program at the University of Western Ontario, where he is an assistant professor of First Nations Studies and Anthropology. He has presented and published several papers on the history of the Anishinabeg and Métis communities in the Sault Ste. Marie region and their relationship to colonialism.



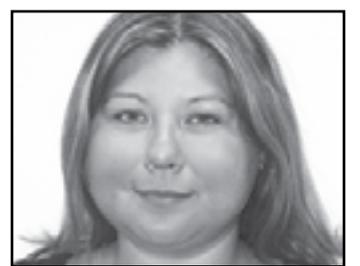
Rama writer studies C-31

RAMA—When Shawna Snache learned she was among 10 finalists selected in the Canadian Aboriginal Writing Contest, one question came to her mind. “Why didn’t I win?” Snache laughed. “It took me a couple of days to get over the fact I didn’t win.” The resident of Rama First Nation said she was so confident in her writing skills and the topic she selected that she was sure her story would emerge the winner.

“After a couple of days, I put it into perspective,” she said. “The competition was really stiff — 80 talented writers from all over Canada. I did pretty well.”

The contest originated four years ago and is run by the Dominion Institute.

It challenges aboriginals be-



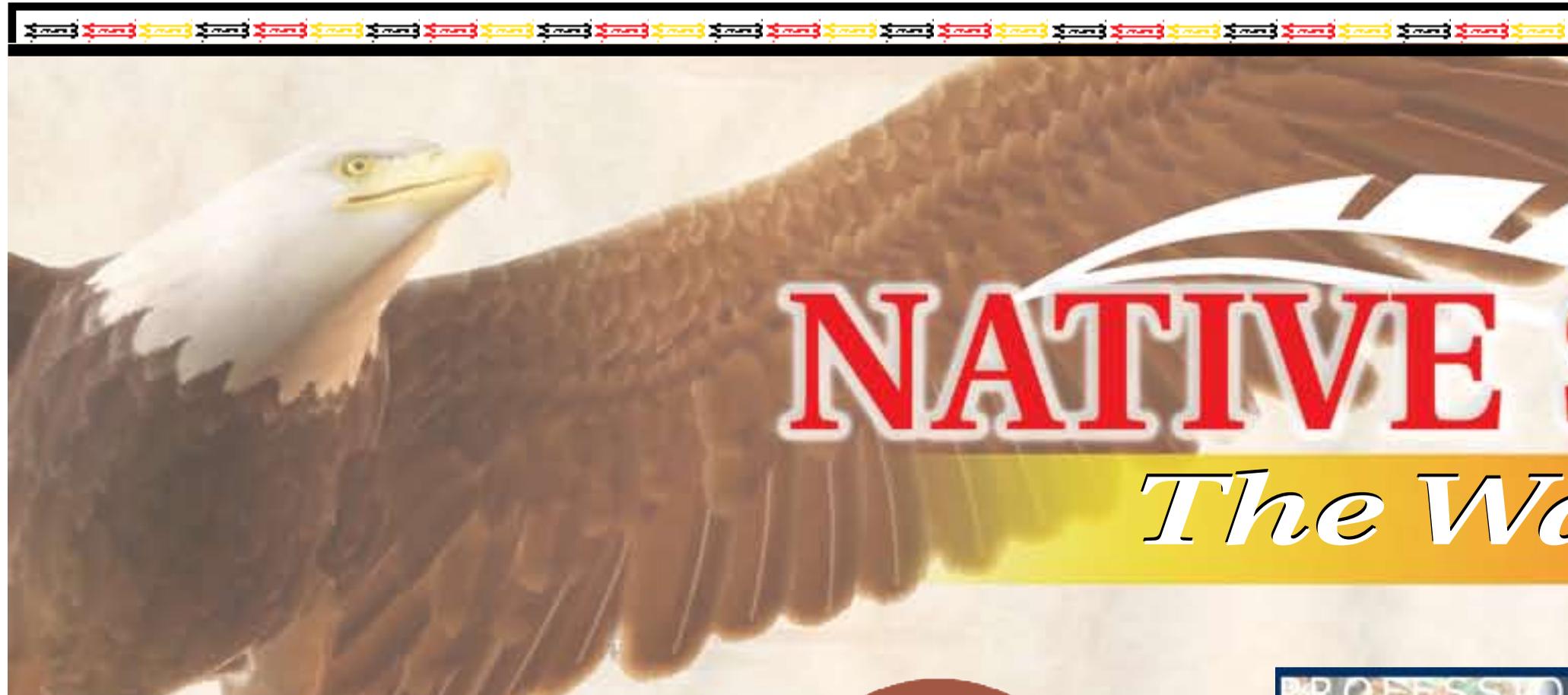
Shawna Snache

tween the ages of 14 and 29 to write a short story on a defining moment or event in aboriginal history.

Snache, who entered the 19-29 age group category, said she put a lot of thought into deciding on a topic.

“There is so much that’s significant to our history. I talked to my mom and decided to write my story on Bill C-31. It’s about Indians’ status being reinstated after marriage or if their children weren’t born into native status,” she said.





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KINOOMAAGEWIN/EDUCATION



Union of Ontario Indians representatives on the Nursing Program Development Committee, from left– Mindy Taylor, Aboriginal Health Initiatives Officer, Chochi Knott, Program Developer with Anishinabek Educational Institute, and Mary Deleary, Site Coordinator, AEI Munsee-Delaware Campus.

25 seats available for nursing program

By Chochi Knott & Mindy Taylor

UOI OFFICES – The committee tasked with developing a new Practical Nursing Program being offered by Anishinabek Educational Institute has had a number of tele-conferences and meetings to establish admission requirements, the course name, and the mode of delivery for the proposed new program.

AEI – one of eight Aboriginal-operated post-secondary learning institutes in Ontario -- will deliver the Registered Practical Nursing Program in the fall of 2009. What will make this RPN program unique is that the curriculum will be enhanced with cultural content without adding any additional program time for participating students.

Early registration is encouraged since only 25 student places will be available for the new program at both Munsee-Delaware and Nipissing First Nation campuses.

The admission requirements for acceptance into AEI's Registered Practical Nursing program are as follows:

First priority will be given to applicants who have the following requirements:

- * OSSD with the majority of courses at the College (C), University (U), University/College (M) or Open (O) level plus
 - Grade 12 Math (C) or (U)
 - Senior Level Chemistry (C) or (U)
 - Senior Level Biology (C) or (U)

Second Priority will be given to applicants who do not possess an OSSD, but who have the following credits:

- Grade 12 Math (C) or (U)
- Senior Level Chemistry (C) or (U)
- Senior Level Biology (C) or (U)



Anyone interested in this program who does not meet the admission requirements should still contact AEI to learn about options in obtaining the required courses, as there may be conditional enrollments to those who have not yet completed these requirements.

St. Clair College and their staff have been extremely helpful in gaining equipment and academic resources to ensure that our students will receive the same learning experience as students on their campus. AEI students will have full access to the St. Clair College library as well as web access to Academic Journal Articles. The students will also have access to the online Blackboard program to ensure that they can communicate with each other and their Instructors in the off time of classes and they will have access to their marks.

Murray Maracle Director of Education at the Anishinabek Educational Institute states, "This is a dynamic opportunity for our people to gain a quality education which will allow them to enter into a professional career in the healthcare field."

Watch for updates in the Anishinabek News. For further information contact Mindy Taylor or Chochi Knott by telephone at the Curve Lake Office (705) 657-9383 or by email at taymin@anishinabek.ca or chochi.knott@anishinabek.ca. For early registration you may contact Jan McLeod at the Nipissing Campus at 1-877-702-5200 or by email at AEI@anishinabek.ca.

Students have more success separated from opposite sex

By Sharon Weatherall

CHIMNISSING – When Melanie Porte entered Grade 8 at Christian Island Elementary School in September she became part of a unique pilot project geared to helping students make an easier transition into high school next year.

The school is experimenting with same-sex classes separating intermediate male and female students.

New to the Beasoleil First Nation school and community last summer Porte says the all-girl classroom is quite different from any school class she has attended in the past and she is enjoying it.

"More people speak out loud in class and are not shy and there are more group discussions. The teacher is helpful and kind. She encourages us to be ourselves and do our best," said Porte.

"Being in an all-girl class has helped me to meet people, make friends and adjust into the community. I am excelling in class and that makes me feel better – last year before I came here I was not doing so well in some subjects. This year I am not afraid to ask questions if I don't understand."

School principal Mike Lucas says while it is still too early to tell, he believes the girls are experiencing the most success from the pilot program so far.

"It has allowed the girls to be more serious about school and participate in class where in the past they would be more reticent to do so with the boys in the room. Time will tell in the end but this is really an attempt to help pull up self-esteem and achieve high levels in class before the students enter high school."



Christian Island Elementary School teacher Julie Bougie and student Kyra Cass discuss some artwork.

Using the new system, teacher Julie Bougie has noticed improvements and significant changes especially in seven of the girls she taught last year in the still-mixed Grade 7 class.

"Their self-esteem has been boosted and they are very confident in class. We have been able to converse and talk about girl issues and everyone is comfortable to work together – encouraging and helping each other to do well," said Bougie. "It is nice

to see girls acting like 12 and 13-year-olds, showing respect to each other, teachers and staff at the school. Some however are not yet sure of how to maintain that confidence outside of the class or in front of strangers.

Lucas said, "there is nothing stopping the teachers from putting the kids together for programs they feel will be appropriate. They are still together in the schoolyard and the community – this is mainly for instructional purposes."



NATIVE COUNSELLOR TRAINING PROGRAM ENRICHED

The Native Counsellor Training Program – Enriched component is designed to allow graduates of the Native Counsellor Training Program to further advance their skills by providing additional professional development courses.

Native Counsellors who graduated from the NCTP under an articulation agreement between 1999-2006 can enroll in the Enriched program and obtain the two courses they require to get the Ministry of Education Certification plus receive two additional professional development courses.

NCTP Graduates who have a Ministry of Education certificate prior to 1999 can enroll in the Enriched program for professional development and to upgrade their skills.

PROGRAM LENGTH: 5 week sessions over 3 years in July and the first week in August.
LOCATION: Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario
DATES: July 6 to August 7, 2009.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: June 12, 2009

For more information please contact the ONECA office at:

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KINOOMAAGEWIN/EDUCATION

Discarded comic books opened Bartleman's world

By Heather Campbell

SUDBURY—The magic of reading and writing took a young First Nation boy from Muskoka to six of the world's seven continents. Young James Bartleman fostered his love of reading when he discovered comic books found in the Port Carling dump. Comic books led to story books, which led to library books then to university and the world.

The Honourable James K. Bartleman, citizen of Mnjikaning First Nation, served more than 35 years in the Canadian Foreign Service, was Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, a Visiting Fellow in Native Leadership at Laurentian University and currently Chancellor



Hon. James K. Bartleman with Sheila Cote-Meek, Laurentian University's director of Aboriginal Academic Affairs.

of the Ontario College of Art and Design.

This love of reading has inspired him to ensure that Aboriginal children in Ontario have access to books – lots of books. He launched two book drives that brought in two million books that

went to 33 Aboriginal communities in Northwest Ontario, Nunavut and northern Quebec. He helped establish 36 summer literacy camps in 28 First Nation communities, started a school-twinning program for aboriginal and non-aboriginal students to become pen pals and launched Club Amick, a reading club for thousands of young aboriginal readers.

Himself the author of four biographical books -- Out of Muskoka, On Six Continents, Rollercoaster and Raisin Wine -- spoke to delegates of the Canadian History of Education Association at Laurentian University. The history graduate of the University of Western Ontario was at home summarizing

highlights of the 400-year relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in Canada.

He called Canada's notorious 100-year experiment with the Indian Residential for aboriginal people today, noting a 22% aboriginal unemployment rate that is triple that of other Canadians.

Bartleman said it was through books that he found his way past poverty and racism. His Scottish father and First Nation mother were not permitted to live on her reserve and were shunned by neighbouring non-Native communities. They survived by living a predominately Native lifestyle that included blueberry picking, cutting wood and hunting.



Maya Chacaby

Shame became pride

By Christine McFarlane

Maya Chacaby, a recipient of the 2008 President's Award for Most Outstanding Native Student at the University of Toronto overcame a lot of odds to get to where she is at today. Maya is 33 yrs old. She is from Kaministiquia Anishnaabek First Nation. The spelling for the word I used is Bi maatiziwin and the phrase she uses near the end of the story is Ojibwe (Oji-Cree)

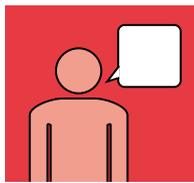
Chacaby grew up in Northern Ontario and came from a pretty troubled family. She relayed how "the people that raised me until I was ten or twelve were residential school survivors, and though we had the language and culture around us, we were not allowed to practice or speak the language. This was seen as an embarrassment, something to be ashamed of, and the same thing with our culture, even though we hunted and we were in the bush, anything that they felt had to do with culture was discouraged."

Chacaby does a lot of work around maintaining language and Anishnawbe ways. It is integral to the journey she is on now. She is a tutorial assistant to Ojibwe language teacher Alex McKay at the University of Toronto. She arranges events that focus solely on using the language, and is a strong advocate of Anishnawbe people having the right to write in their language, practice their ceremonies and re learn their way of life which was integral to Chacaby when she reclaimed who she was.

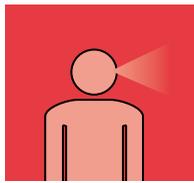
STROKE WARNING SIGNS



WEAKNESS Sudden loss of strength or sudden numbness in the face, arm or leg, even if temporary.



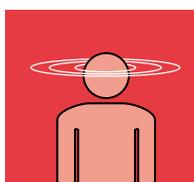
TROUBLE SPEAKING Sudden difficulty speaking or understanding or sudden confusion, even if temporary.



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DOHM-NUK/LET'S PLAY

Jana sings for Obama



Jana Mashonee

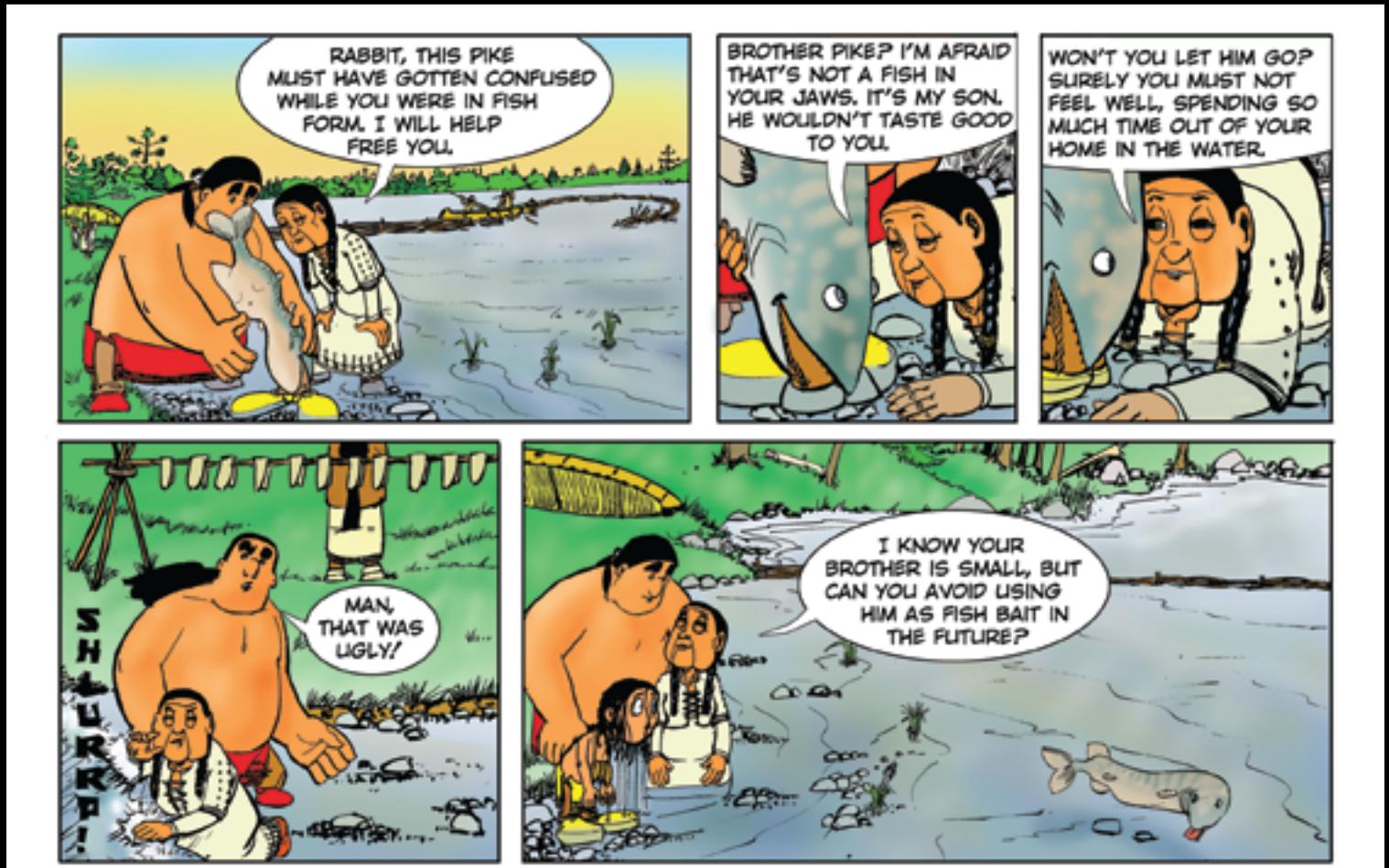
WASHINGTON, D.C. – Jana Mashonee – a seven-time Native American Music Award Winner – performed her newest single "A Change is Gonna Come" live for the first time at the Jan. 20 Inaugural Ball for new U.S. President Barack Obama.

On the same day the singer, songwriter and actress – who has Lumbee and Tuscarora heritage – released her newest album "New Moon Born." Originally from Robeson County, North Carolina, Mashonee was nominated for a Grammy for her 2007 album "American Indian Story".

"A Change Is Gonna Come," is a cover of the Sam Cooke soul classic. Jana's take on this powerful song features intense guitar work by 2008 Juno award-winning musician,

"Jana's Kids" is the only educational scholarship in the United States awarded for all three categories: academic, artistic and athletic achievement.

Rabbit & Bear Paws



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Anishinabek News Annual Golf Tournament

Indian Hills Golf Club Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Thursday June 11th, 2009

REGISTRATION: 1-877-702-5200 ext. 2288 to book your foursome. Categories include, Men's, Women's, Mixed (2 men + 2 women), Men's Senior 50+.
Early Registration \$750.00 per team . After May 15th \$800.00 registration per team. Limit 36 teams. 10:00 am Shotgun start.

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ANISHINABEK NEWS

