



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

Volume 21 Issue 3

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## Harmonization must respect tax exemption

**NIPISSING FN** – The Anishinabek Nation is working to ensure that the harmonization of sale taxes in Ontario will respect First Nations' exemption of taxation that is entrenched on treaties and under Canadian law.

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage, candidate for the office of National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, has petitioned the Government of Ontario to take part in the taxation reform process.



Grand Council Chief John Beaucage

In March Minister of Finance Dwight Duncan introduced the 2009 Ontario Budget which unveiled a plan to sign an accord with the federal government to reform and harmonize the 8 per cent provincial Retail Sales Tax with the 5 per cent federal Goods and Services Tax.

"First Nations in Ontario may be willing to support this taxation reform, provided it respects our right to tax exemption and improves the way in which that exemption is processed," said Grand Council Chief Beaucage.

Currently the Province of Ontario recognizes this exemption and has provided for a means of point-of-sale exemption. However, the processing of the federal GST exemption is far more arduous requiring a way-bill to prove consumables are delivered to an on-reserve address and often requires sending away for a GST rebate.

"We certainly don't want to see our right to tax exemption reduced to a bureaucratic rebate system," said Beaucage.

The Grand Council Chief sees the Ontario government's proposed harmonization of provincial sales tax and federal goods and services tax as a unique opportunity for both governments to help ease First Nation poverty.

"By agreeing to respect our treaty right to tax exemptions they can keep some badly-needed dollars in the pockets of the poorest people in this wealthy land," said Beaucage, estimating that the payment of various provincial and federal taxes contributes to an estimated 80 per cent "leakage" of every dollar that finds its way into First Nation communities.

"Unless this fundamental right of First Nation tax exemption is at long last fully recognized by other governments, I can foresee customer service nightmares in stores and business outlets across Ontario if tax harmonization occurs," said Beaucage, who represents 42 First Nations from Sarnia to the Ottawa Valley, and across central and Northern Ontario from Peterborough to Thunder Bay.

Beaucage sent a letter to Premier Dalton McGuinty, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Brad Duguid, and Minister Duncan—who is also the Minister of Revenue—outlining his approach and concerns with the harmonization plan.



Chuck Strahl, Canada's Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, hands out miniature sticks to members of the M'Chigeeng Thunderbirds during opening day at the 38th Little NHL tournament in Sarnia.

## 'Hockey allows kids to dream'

By Kyle MacKinnon

**SARNIA**—"Hockey is what bands the country together," Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Brad Duguid said during the 38th Little Native Hockey League tournament.

"It's huge in First Nations communities. It is encouraging to see these youngsters having fun and enjoying the experience. It allows the kids to dream"

Duguid was one of the many dignitaries and former NHL players who were on hand for the March 16 opening day of the tournament hosted by Aamjiwnaang First Nation and the city of Sarnia.

Duguid and Canada's Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Chuck Strahl visited some Little NHL players in their dressing room before their games.

They handed out pucks, sticks and hats to the kids.

Strahl, who announced earlier in the day that the Government has committed \$400 million over the next two years to support on-reserve housing—\$65 million to First Nations in Ontario—said that

hockey is Canada's game.

"It promotes good physical fitness," Strahl said.

"It is great to get the leaders of the communities together. Hockey is Canadian."

Former NHL players like Tony McKegney, Mark Napier and Johnny Bower feel the same way.

"When I was growing up, I played and went to school with a lot of kids from the Reserve," former NHLer McKegney said.

"There is a real kinship that comes from hockey."

McKegney, who lives in Sarnia and was the first African-American player to score 40 goals in the NHL, said that it can be difficult being a minority.

"Playing hockey as a minority I can relate," he said of some of the trials and tribulations some players can go through.

"But I think it is great hosting an event like this. It is great for the kids and the game."

More on Pages 10 and 11.

## INSIDE

Some subscribers will receive a copy of Niigan Ga-Zhaamin DVD inside this issue. It's a look at self-government and what it means to the Anishinabek. If you would like to receive a copy, call 1-877-702-5200.



Also in this issue is a copy of Ipperwash: Tragedy to Reconciliation. This booklet includes background information on the Stony Point land grab, the events surrounding the death of Anthony "Dudley" George and the UOI's involvement.



## Changing their votes?

**WELLINGTON** – New Zealand Prime Minister John Key says



his country may follow the lead of Australia, which endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on April 3. New Zealand, along with Canada and the United States, were the only dissenting votes among 158 cast on last year's non-binding declaration of the UN General Assembly that sets out the rights of the world's estimated 370 million indigenous peoples.

## IN BRIEF

### Commission closes doors

**OTTAWA** – After 18 years, the Indian Specific Claims Commission closed its doors March 31, replaced by the newly-created Specific Claims Tribunal. The ICC conducted 88 inquiries with reports and produced 17 mediation reports, stressing the importance of oral history in the resolution of land claims.



### Vacating SkyDome

**HAMILTON** -- Organizers for the Canadian Aboriginal



Festival are moving from Toronto's SkyDome to Copps Coliseum and Hamilton Place for the 16th annual event. Education Day and the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards will take place Friday, Nov. 27, and the 1,000-dancer pow-wow will highlight weekend activities Nov. 28-29.

Information for vendors and other participants is available at 519-751-0040 or at info@canab.com





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Deputy Grand Chief, Glen Hare

Chief-of-Staff, Bob Goulais

Executive Liaison Officer, Monica Lister

Executive Secretary, Patricia Campeau

## Post-secondary funding on agenda with Strahl

Grand Council Chief John Beaucage met with The Hon. Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development prior to the Little NHL tournament on March 16, 2009.

During their time together, the Minister and Grand Council Chief jointly announced \$65 million for on-reserve housing in Ontario.

These new funds are Ontario's portion of the \$400 million announced in the 2009 federal budget.

During their meeting, they discussed concerns over the Matrimonial Real Property Bill, the review and authority renewals for the Indian Government Support Program and the Post-Secondary Student Support Program, as well as individual advocacy on behalf of Shingwauk Kinomaage Gamig and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek.

#### Harmonization of PST/GST

On March 26, 2009, through the 2009 Ontario Budget, the Minister of Finance announced the government's intentions to explore the harmonization of provincial Retail Sales Tax and the federal Goods and Services Tax.

Grand Council Chief was prepared for this possibility, and immediately contacted the Minister of Revenue's office to seek standing in this tax reform initiative.

Although this process is likely to take time, we hope First Nations will have a say in these changes.

The Grand Council Chief delivered a firm position to the Minister, stating: "First and foremost, we hope and expect that such harmonization of sale taxes in Ontario will respect First Nations' exemption of taxation that is entrenched under law and in the treaties. Any deviation, perceived barriers and negative changes to claiming this right will likely be met with significant resistance."

#### Education Agreement

The Province of Ontario, through the Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne has agreed to engage in formal discussions with the Anishinabek Nation regarding the Education Final Agreement being negotiated between our First Nations and Canada.

This table will also be supported by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

This marks a change in the position of Ontario who have only sat as observers up until this point. Although this is not a tri-partite discussion, the new formal table will be an opportunity to raise important discussion such as recogni-

## Political Digest



Bob Goulais

tion of the Anishinabek Education System, transferability and implementation issues.

Recently, the Anishinabek Nation negotiators and the negotiators representing the Government of Canada have been talking about the ratification process for the education final agreement.

Although some contentious issues are still to be negotiated, namely the fiscal arrangements, it is good to see that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Although the deadline dates have been moving, it is clear that the goal of an Anishinabek Nation Education System may soon be realized.

#### Matrimonial Real Property

The Union of Ontario Indians is taking part in a comprehensive lobbying effort at Parliament Hill opposing Bill 8: Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act.

The bill was introduced on February 11, 2009. Chief Shining Turtle, Chief Isadore Day and Chief Liz Cloud were to be participating in the lobbying days on March 23 - 27th and again March 30-April 3rd.

The UOI was to be joined by representatives of Chiefs of Ontario, AIAI, Nishnawbe-Aski and Grand Council Treaty 3.

#### Missinabie Cree

First Nations of the Northern Superior Region have been concerned over the land claim settlement of Missinabie Cree First Nation.

This Treaty 5 community has negotiated settlement of a small land base in Robinson Superior territory.

Grand Council Chief Beaucage has been advocating for a table to discuss the concerns of these communities, and in particular Michipicoten First Nation which is most directly impacted.

The Hon. Brad Duguid, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs has agreed to fund and facilitate a mediation process to raise the issues between the interested parties.

It is certainly a unique situation that hasn't occurred in Anishinabek Nation territory for several generations.

Bob Goulais is the Executive Assistant of Grand Council Chief John Beaucage and chief of staff.



Grand Council Chief John Beaucage admires the original carving of Dewey Smith. Smith, who is also a staff member of the Assembly of First Nations, was one of the featured artists at the InterNation Trade and Economic Summit, held in Toronto, March 9-11, 2009. At the Summit, Grand Council Chief Beaucage participated in a panel titled "The Balancing Act: Balancing Environmental Stewardship and Economic Sustainability".

-- Photo by Bob Goulais

## A New AFN Campaign Fundraiser

Friday, May 8, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn (the old Sheraton Caswell on Regent St.)

1696 Regent St., Sudbury, ON 705-522-3000

Rooms blocked off at a special rate of \$96/night under Code "BCF".  
Rooms need to be booked by April 30 to take advantage of the special rate.

\$50/Ticket or \$400/table

Buffet Dinner ~ Live Entertainment ~ "Anishinaabe" Auction



FOR TICKETS: Lake Huron Regional Chief Patrick Madahbee or Vicky

Corbiere at 705-368-3183 or Vicky@manitoulin.net

OR Karen Commanda at 877-702-5200, 705-497-9127

Email: recnip@anishinabek.ca.

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

# Realize your Potential

Bursary and scholarship application deadlines:

**May 1:**  
Fine Arts

Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship centres (OFIFC)

**June 1:**  
Post Secondary Education  
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For more info: 1-800-329-9780x020

NAAF.CA



# ANISHINABEK

## Aamjiwnaang begins process to create custom election code

By Greg Plain

AANJIWNAANG FN – This Southwest Region Anishinabek Nation community is investigating the feasibility of a custom election process.

Over the next six months, Aamjiwnaang citizens will be surveyed in person – online for off-reserve members – about what they think about current governance processes and how they might be changed.

Kelly Williams, Assistant Band Administrator for Aamjiwnaang, is leading the fact-finding process and eventually the implementation of what members ratify.

She will be working with Development Committee members, including councillors Tina Johnston and Liz Yellowman and three community members.

In the project's first phase the group will be compiling information from various communities across Canada, and primarily in Ontario to find the pitfalls and successes of various First nation election processes.

Currently 63 of 133 First Nations in Ontario are using a Custom Election process for their leadership selection.

Next step will be to draft an Election Code based on the information-gathering process. Aamji-

wnaang will ensure that every effort is made to engage all citizens of the First Nation to ensure maximum participation in a referendum on the Election Code.

Chief Chris Plain says the move towards a Custom Election Code for Aamjiwnaang is a step towards real governance.

“We have become accustomed to the way our leaders are elected, but this process has been created by the Indian Act with no input from First Nations people.

The creation of our own election system would be Aamjiwnaang's first step away from Indian Affairs control over this part of the Indian Act.”

The process provides an opportunity for community members to create a code that has elements that are distinct to their First Nation.

It will also result in a greater capacity for the formulation of other community-based codes and laws, in areas such as Citizenship and Lands Management, as well as generate a sense of pride within the First Nation.

In pursuing their own election system, Aamjiwnaang citizens will be examining such issues as term lengths for Chief and Council, number of council members, rules for council eligibility, a code of conduct/eth-

ics and procedures for Chief and Council, a process for removal of a Chief or Councillor, a system of appeals and redress for complaints about the election process, and an amendment procedure for the Election Code.

The draft election code will be reviewed by band council and community members and a copy sent to Indian Affairs for information and comment. A ratification vote is projected for July, 2010.

The process is expected to take 18 months from start to finish.



Aamjiwnaang administration building.



### Want to save money and help the Anishinabek Nation 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Westmont properties</b> discounts vary from hotel to hotel and some black-out periods apply	Special ID card required. Obtained by contacting the charity office at <a href="mailto:ansgc@anishinabek.ca">ansgc@anishinabek.ca</a> 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
<b>Great Northern Conference Centre</b> 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
<b>Holiday Inn Sudbury</b>	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
<b>Days Inn</b>	Call 1-800-329-7466 for participating hotels in Canada and the USA or visit their website at <a href="http://daysinn.ca">daysinn.ca</a> . Contact the hotel of choice and give them the corporate code <b>LKAH</b>	For assistance with hotel rates and major conferences please contact Sheila Bellefeuille at 705-561-9629
<b>Motel 6</b>	Call 1-800-466-8356 for participating hotels in Canada and USA or visit their website at <a href="http://motel6.com">motel6.com</a> . 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



### Happy Birthday Merle Assance-Beedie

Happy 70th Birthday Mama.

It is with great excitement that we honour you, love you and always cherish you. Not only on your birthday, but always. We are truly blessed because of you. Love, Steven, Neil, Lisa & Dawn xxxox



### Post your SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS in the

## ANISHINABEK NEWS

Births, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, and obits

<p><b>Celebrating 50 years!</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Carol Ella Brown</b> ...always remembered</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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!</p>
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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](mailto: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.



## ANISHINABEK NEWS

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

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

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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

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

#### DEADLINE FOR May

##### Advertising

Bookings: April 20

Final Art: May 10

##### News

News submissions: April 20

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

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# MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

## Plain-talking 'shaker' puts stories to paper

Some call David Gehue a Medicine Man or a healer. Many of the hundreds of people he has helped since he accepted the responsibility 23 years ago of practising the Shake Tent ceremony call him a miracle worker.



Maurice Switzer

The blind 52-year-old Mi'kmaq simply refers to himself as a "shaker", and has self-published a 182-page collection of his experiences that is bound to fascinate and intrigue readers, as well as raise more than a few eyebrows. One of the book's pluses is helper Joyce Atcheson's success in bringing to the printed page not just the author's words but his actual voice, rounded g's and all.

A Cree Metis woman with extensive experience as a nurse and journalist, Atcheson was an ideal helper for Gehue (pronounced jee-oh), whose stories would be out of place in any book that smacked of academia or pretense. He puts on no airs, in person or in print, plain-talking in sentences that are sometimes sprinkled with four-letter words, and scoffing at those who would pose as what he calls "holy men".

Gehue is as matter-of-fact about his work as if he were lobstering in Indian Brook, Nova Scotia, instead of acting as an intermediary for the spirits for whom he says he is merely an "interpreter". The spirit realm, he has been taught, is pure energy, where reality – as humans understand it – is an illusion, meaning it can be altered. The few brief passages where Gehue tries to describe the unseen powers to which he attributes his success as a healer will likely only serve to feed the skepticism of readers more likely to be in awe of gigabytes than a Great Spirit.

His stories about his experiences in the shaking tent are the most magnetic, whether built on humour – as when he refers to the importance of breaks in sweat lodge ceremonies for participants to get a breath of fresh air, as well as "to release their gas" – or pathos – his frustration at being told by other healers that it is not yet time for his sight to return. He lives his mother's prophecy that he will have to do God's work in the dark.

The bluntness of some of his opinions are certain to set First Nations tongues a-wagging. He categorizes under the heading "bannock bullshit" those self-proclaimed healers who charge big bucks for ceremonies, toot their own horns, or get "too touchy-feely" with women seeking their help. He dismisses the concept of two-spirited people. "There's no such thing", he says. "I don't care if you're gay; just don't blame it on the Great Spirit." And he's unabashedly anti-abortion, noting that, more than anyone, people who regard themselves as traditionalists should understand the sanctity of human life.

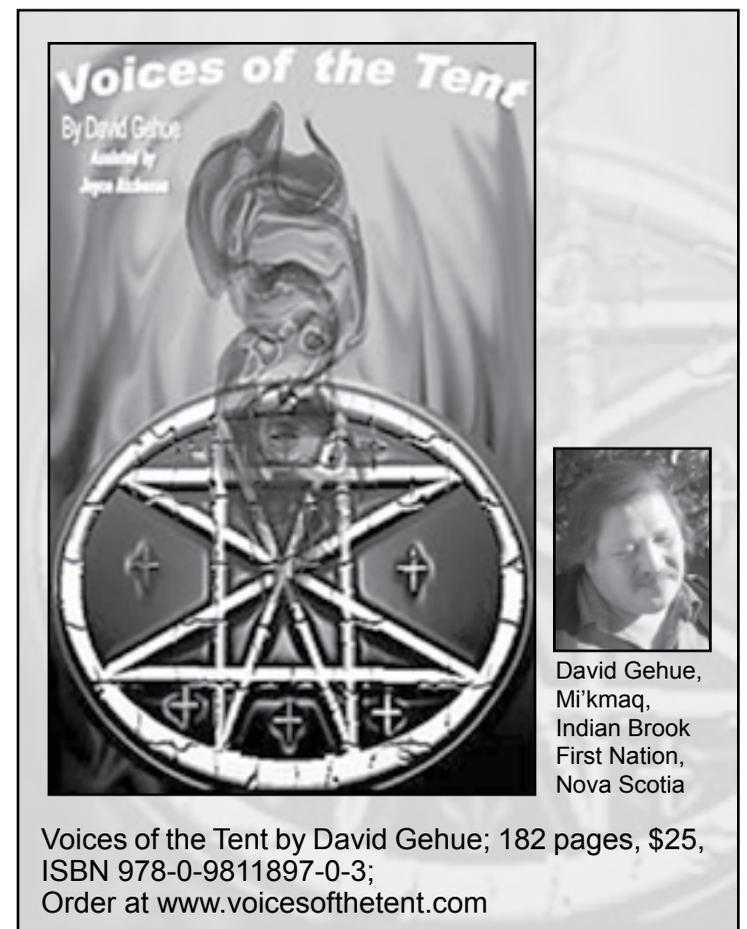
But Gehue condemns no-one's choices or belief systems, observing that there are a hundred roads to the Great Spirit, and that Western and Traditional medicine can work together to save lives. He practices what he preaches, the importance of respect, carin' and sharin'.

In the spirit of ethical conduct, journalists are expected to reveal any personal involvement with the subjects of their stories. Here is mine.

In November of 2003 when my wife Mary was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer and given 3-6 months to live, we were referred to David Gehue by a close friend. When Mary passed into the Spirit World on Jan. 12, 2009, she had enjoyed many happy days by listening to the voices of the tent as relayed by David.

The best doctors in Northern Ontario called her prolonged life "a miracle".

*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.*



David Gehue, Mi'kmaq, Indian Brook First Nation, Nova Scotia

Voices of the Tent by David Gehue; 182 pages, \$25, ISBN 978-0-9811897-0-3; Order at [www.voicesofthetent.com](http://www.voicesofthetent.com)

## Having Canada as your backyard moves the spirit

The view from our deck is amazing. There's a spill of land that ends at a lake. It's about a quarter of a mile away and across the water there's the sheer treed face of a mountain. Above that is the sky and we can see a long stretch to the west where the sun sets over yet another mountain.

We've come to appreciate the view in every season, but in the summer's it's particularly striking. The water seems to change colour with the direction of the wind and at times it's a mirror. You can literally see two mountains and two skies on really calm days.

To sit out on the deck is to feel the land right around you. There are fir trees, aspens, and poplars. There are stretches of wild rose, blackberries, and wild raspberries. Behind us there are mountains and the bush sits there all rugged, deep and tough and it feels sometimes as though our backyard is Canada.

In the evening, when the wind is calm and



Richard Wagamese

the daylight eases its way deeper into dusk and the land shadows and becomes a quiet thing, there's a palpable feel of magic everywhere around you. For me, someone who spent most of my life in cities, it's a deeply spiritual time.

If I close my eyes I can feel the land. As I breathe deeper and deeper, I feel the energy, the spirit of it, and it's a calming and empowering thing. It's so quiet you can sometimes feel like you're disappearing into it, becom-

ing a part of everything and when I really concentrate I can feel the Indian in me, all ancient and modern at the same time.

That's why I love sitting on the deck so much. There are no questions then. There's no nagging press to be somewhere or do something. There's no urgency. Instead, with the moon coming up over everything, there's only peace. There's only the feel of the land. There's only the feeling of embers from tribal fires glowing deep inside me.

I've come to understand that being spiritual is the most vital thing for me – and that spiritual, in the Indian way, means getting in touch with whatever moves your spirit. That deck is one way I reach it but you can reach it just as easily through music or silence or painting. Whatever moves your spirit.

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

# MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION



Angel Toulouse, left and Marissa Bob worked together on a design that enabled their egg to survive a ten-foot drop during the H.E.A.R.T. Conference.

## Sagamok kids show they have heart

SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK – The H.E.A.R.T. Conference, “Standing Strong with Anishnawbek Pride” held March 13 engaged its 40 participants with hands-on activities to assist with the emotional, communication and spiritual development of youth.

Marla Toulouse, Youth Strategy Coordinator, said the youth are excited about next December’s exchange program involving Sagamok and Maori youth from New Zealand. Each group

will visit each other’s communities to learn about the culture.

The H.E.A.R.T. (Holistic-Emotional-Awareness-Response-Training) conference was one of the capacity building workshops preparing the youth for the Sagamok International Exchange Program. Upcoming workshops will include Maori History and Culture, Ribbon Shirt and Ceremony, Leadership Challenge, and Life Skills in Volunteerism.

“The youth are expected to fill in merit forms for their partic-

ipation,” said Toulouse. “It is an evaluation tool for the program and tracks their growth.”

Guest speaker Brian Nootchaitai, North Shore Tribal Council Mental Health Worker, promoted responsibility.

“The youth are at the transition period where they begin that journey into adulthood,” he said. “The journey is about accepting responsibility and about empowerment for the choices that we choose and direction we want to go. We create our futures.”

## IN BRIEF

### Walking for MADD

Nipissing First Nation citizen Elaine Commanda is an active participant in the area’s chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Commanda, who has lost four relatives in separate car accidents involving drunk drivers, will be participating in MADD’s third annual Strides for Changes walkathon May 9th. She describes her participation in the public-awareness walkathon is “a coping mechanism.



### New home this year

NORTH BAY – A family from Dokis First Nation have been selected as occupants for a new Habitat for Humanity semi-detached home being built this year. Kirk Southwind and wife Honey King will contribute 500 hours of volunteer work to the Habitat program. The couple and their five children ages 7 to 14 have been living in a row house with no yard or basement.



### Waterfront plans

THUNDER BAY – People interested in developing a First Nation Regional Community Plan are planning their third meeting April 20 at Waverley Resource Library, 2-4 pm.

The group involves organizers of the Waabi-Ma’iingan Traditional Teaching Lodge project – which they hope will be a component of the proposed Aboriginal Heritage Park on the city’s waterfront.

Contact Cindy Crowe at 807-473-9851 or by e-mail at crowe@tbaytel.net.



## Nboobiike

Muriel Sawyer, a language teacher for 30 years, and Evelyn McLeod are two of the organizers of a series of Anishnaabemwin Language Immersion Camps presented by Nipissing First Nation Public Library. The weekend sessions are open to all comers and have included teachings on traditional medicines by Henry Anishnabie and Perry McLeod-Shabogesis, soup-making, table talk, and Anishinaabe legends.

– Photo by Glenna Beaucage



### “OK OK one last quick kiss then beat it. The wife is getting suspicious.”

This caption was judged the best of 24 entries submitted by 14 Anishinabek News readers. Judge Les Couchie, director of operations for the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generations Charity, has provided a leather jacket to winner Albert Dumont of Kitigan Zibi.



## NATIVE COUNSELLOR TRAINING PROGRAM

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](mailto:oneca@oneca.com) website [www.oneca.com](http://www.oneca.com)**

## BIIDAABAN HEALING LODGE Program Dates

### Anger Management

• June 8-17/09 • Sept. 21-30/09 • December 7-16/09

### Grief & Abandonment

July 13-22/09 • Oct. 19-28/09

### Sexual Abuse Survivor’s

May 4-13/09 • Nov. 16-25/09

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# NIIZHOODE/FAMILY

## 'Invest in youth', participants told

By Adrienne Pelletier

SUDBURY – Over 100 participants registered for “A Place of Talking” conference aimed at providing useful information on youth issues for First Nation social services professionals.

Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation was the host of the event, which offered a variety of workshops, including: “Adolescent Self-Injurious Behaviour Without Suicidal Intent”, “Aboriginal Best Practice in Community Development” by well-known child welfare advocate George Simard and “A Cultural Approach to Anger Management” facilitated by Vince Pawis.

Keynote speaker Theda Newbreast shared on the subject of Wellness (Bimaadziwiin.) Her workshop was very interactive and she challenged participants to think about the next Seven Generations.

“What legacy are you leaving for your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews?” she asked, emphasizing the youthful population among aboriginal peoples in Canada -- average age of 27 --and the need to invest in our youth so they can bring about a better tomorrow for all our nations.

She also taught us the importance of self-care and sobriety. Teaching Anishinabek youth their history, language and culture are critical steps in ensuring that they become citizens who are living a good life and giving back to their communities.

The conference opened with an evening of fun, playing “The Price is Right”, with hosts Mariette Sutherland and Greg Sutherland as “Bob Barker”. Laughter was the medicine of the day.

The next conference will take place Sept. 15-17 this year. For further information please contact Kinoondidaa’ Gamig Treatment Home at 705-368-0435.

Adrienne Pelletier is Social Services director for the Union of Ontario Indians.



Keynote speaker Theda Newbreast and Chief Craig Abotossaway of conference hosts Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation.

– Photo by Kendra Madahbee

## Oppressed women modern-day slaves

By Suzanne Keptwo

OTTAWA – An estimated 200 million human beings are literally bought and sold every year, a human rights organization says.

Persons Against the Crime of Trafficking in humans (PACT-Ottawa) hosted an information session entitled End Slavery that informed participants that – 200 years after



Erin Wolski

the end of the trans-Atlantic slave trade – sexual slavery is the most lucrative form of contemporary slavery and affects primarily women and both genders of children.

Erin Wolski (Chapleau Cree FN), representing the Native Women’s Association of Canada, brought the matter of human trafficking into a Canadian context with her presentation: “Aboriginal Women: Root Causes of their Vulnerability”. She linked the issue of human trafficking to missing and murdered aboriginal women enslaved by the oppressive forces of gendered racism, lateral violence and systemic discrimination.

A 1996 Canadian government report estimated that aboriginal women between 25 and 44 are five times more likely to die as the result of violence.

## Holly launches pioneer challenge



By Holly Brodhagen

Have you ever dreamed of learning a skill from the pioneer days?

Have you thought about whiling away the evening hours stitching a quilt, knitting some booties, whittling a piece of wood, dipping some candles? Do you have a useful skill passed down to you that you want to pass on? Now is your chance.

When I was a young girl my class took a trip to a pioneer village where we learned how to card wool, spin yarn, churn butter, butcher a chicken, and make buckets and horseshoes. Since that time I have been fascinated by these wonderful skills.

Whether you call them homesteading skills, pioneer trades, hobbies or crafts, they are considered a dying art form. But are they? If you think of how many people are moving towards a sustainable life where they produce their own food, purchase local products and live a simpler life you realize that these skills are not dying out but are still going strong.

It is amazing the many ways you can learn a “pioneer” trade. There are books, websites, videos, and the old-fashioned way of being taught by another person. I personally have tried all these methods but my favourite is watching someone who has perfected their craft and listen to their stories. I treasure those times and look forward to many more like them and I invite you to join me.

I am hosting a PIONEER CHALLENGE for anyone who is

interested in learning a “pioneer” skill.

The guidelines are:

1) The skill must be something that is done without the use of modern-day gadgetry (no sewing machines, computers, nail guns, etc).

2) You can learn the skill in whatever manner you choose, such as books, websites, apprenticeship or trial and error.

3) It should be a new skill that you are learning for the challenge.

4) There has to be an end product (dishes, quilts, meat, vegetables).

There are two groups: youth and adult. Youth are under the age of 18 and adults anyone over 18.

Beginning now you have until July 10, 2009 to choose a skill, learn what you can and produce or be in the process of producing your end product.

No later than July 10th, send me your story (maximum 400 words). Tell me about yourself, the skill, why you chose it, how you learned it and what your end product was. Send me a picture of you practising your skill or displaying your final product. For the youth group, parents/caregivers can help learn the skill and write the story. Your experience will be published in the September issue of the Anishinabek News.

I look forward to hearing about your adventure and sharing it with our readers. Watch this column for updates in the months to come.

### Take the Pioneer Challenge

Youth and adult winners of Holly’s Pioneer Challenge will receive \$100 gift certificates to stores to be identified in future columns.



## FLOWER MOON ANNUAL HIV/AIDS CONFERENCE

The fifth moon of Creation is Flower Moon, where all plants display their Spirit sides for all the world to see.  
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For more information contact:

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Tel: (705) 497-9127 ~ Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200 ~ Fax: (705) 497-9135 ~ Email: cocod@anishinabek.ca



# Through the eyes of a child

**By Holly Brodhagen**

Children are sacred gifts from the Creator. They are the fruit of generations that came before and represent the seeds of future generations.

Unfortunately, children are being exposed to increasing amounts of environmental pollution and hazards.

First Nation people are considered a vulnerable population. They are more likely to have poor health due to exposure to hazards related to poverty, poor nutrition, lower education levels, tobacco use

and cultural practices make them amongst the first to feel the effects of environmental hazards.

“Through the Eyes of a Child: First Nation Children’s Environmental Health” manual – produced by UOI’s FASD program – looks at some of the environmental issues that are affecting First Nation children on and off reserve.

The information provided is intended to support service providers in addressing the environmental health concerns of their clients in a manner that is culturally sensitive and strength based.

## Medicine Wheel Model

*“We have to go through all the elements of Air, Water, Earth and Fire in our life cycle. They are all interconnected and have a purpose.”*  
~Elder Gordon Waindubence, 2008

This manual uses the four elements of Earth, Air, Water and Fire to organize and explain the environmental concerns facing First Nation families. Each of these elements relies upon the other to ensure its health and well-being. When one element is negatively impacted the repercussions are felt by all the elements. Teachings provided by traditional elders are used to explain how First Nation people are connected to the elements, how they are affected and the impact they have upon the environment, including what they can do to address environmental risks.

## Environmental Health Concerns

- Children and youth aged 24 and under made up almost one-half (48%) of all First Nation people, compared with 31% of the non-Native population.
- Infant mortality rates are twice to three times as high in First Nations and Inuit communities.

A study of exposure to persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in 99 First Nation people in the Sioux Lookout area showed a cor-

relation to lower performances on cognitive activities. It is believed that First Nation’s exposure to the POPs as well as other contaminants was linked to traditional lifestyle including hunting and fishing practices.

Exposure to hormone disruptors occurs mainly from contamination of wildlife and other foods, including from food packaging. First Nation individuals rely heavily on a traditional food diet such as fishing and hunting which can be contaminated with heavy metals, pesticides, PCBs and PDBEs.

First Nation people have higher rates of tobacco use on and off-reserve than the non-native population. They have higher rates of asthma and are more likely to be hospitalized for a respiratory illness.

The chemicals associated with negative reproductive outcomes that are released from factories can be found in communities located near industry such as urban centers, low income housing projects and in areas with natural resource production like those found around many First Nation communities.

## First Nation Response

Although First Nation people are moving forward on environmental issues there is considerable concern about their ability to adequately address the problems their communities face. Most interviewees and research sources named



lack of resources, financial and professional, as being the greatest barrier to significant environmental improvements.

There was a common theme during discussions with interviewees and Elders for this manual. There is a need to return to the teachings. It is recognized by service providers, Elders, political leaders and First Nation organizations that the teachings provide a foundation for future environmental work.

Blending science with traditional knowledge provides credibility to the mainstream population and governments, which allows First Nations to develop programs that meet their cultural and traditional needs while satisfying the requirements of research and outcomes.

To obtain a manual, call Laurie McLeod-Shabogesic 1-877-702-5200 Ext. 2296.



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# MNO-BMAADZIWIN/HEALTH

## Anishinabek acknowledge five health care heroes

CURVE LAKE FN – The Union of Ontario Indians has launched the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of front-line workers in the health and social service field.

Under this program a call for nominations was distributed throughout Anishinabek Territory earlier this year and five recipients were acknowledged with an award and certificate for their achievements: Derek Debassige, M'Chigeeng First Nation; Shirley Corbiere, Aundeck Omni Kaning FN; Dr. Brenda Restoule, Dokis FN; Keith Rogers, Aamjiwnaang FN; and Heather Ireland, Munsee-Delaware FN.

Derek Debassige opened the doors to the Manitoulin Physiotherapy Clinic in 2007, balancing his business with his part-time workload at the North Shore Tribal Council. His educational background includes Bachelor of Health Science and Bachelor of Kinesiology degrees and Certificate in Contemporary Acupuncture for Health Professions. He has also studied abroad at the Curtin University in Perth, Australia where he received his certificate in Orthopedic Manual Therapy. Derek has contributed to Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology's health care educational curriculum and the development of the Laurentian University Web-based Cultural Teaching Tool for health care students.

Shirley Corbiere has worked on the front lines in the health field for 25 years, from serving as a Community Health Representative to Health and Social Director. Shirley continues her commitment of ensuring the health and wellbeing to the membership of her community, Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation. She has participated in and im-



Mindy Taylor, Aboriginal Health Initiative Officer and Autumn Watson, Health Retention and Support Officer are promoting the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative for the Union of Ontario Indians at health and career fairs and workshops across Anishinabek Nation territory.

plemented several programs, ranging from prenatal classes to pandemic planning.

Dr. Brenda Restoule graduated with a PhD in Psychology from Queen's University. She was nominated by Daniel Manitowabi who says her career is devoted to "providing culturally-safe care in the area of aboriginal mental health and wellness". Dr. Restoule is currently the vice chair of the Native Mental Health Association and is employed with Nipissing First Nation Health Services and Shkagamik-Kwe

Health Centre in Sudbury. She encourages students to consider careers in health and has been recently named a Role Model with the Rainbow District School Board in Sudbury.

Keith Rogers is currently the Employment Supports Coordinator with Stepping Stones Support Services for Southwestern Ontario. His educational background includes graduation from the following Lambton College programs; Social Service Worker, Human Services and Enterprising Native Peoples. This University of Western Ontario Native Journalism program graduate has implemented various projects relating to career fairs and health services. He is currently responsible for the First Nations Role Model and Mentorship program which recognizes the importance of health professionals and the guidance they have to offer to community members.

Heather Ireland was nominated by Chief Patrick Wadilove of Munsee-Delaware Nation for her perseverance in the health care field for over 20 years. She has held several key positions, including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Regional Worker for the Union of Ontario Indians and Diabetes Prevention Coordinator for the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (Simcoe-Muskoka area). Heather graduated from the Native Community Care program from Mohawk College. She has also studied at Yellowquill College and the Anishinabek Educational Institute.

For more information on the program, please contact Mindy Taylor, Aboriginal Health Initiatives Officer or Autumn Watson, Health Retention and Support Officer at (705) 657-9383.



## Let's put our Hearts into it!

### Lower your risk of heart disease and stroke

Aboriginal People are more likely to have high blood pressure and diabetes, and as a result, are at greater risk of heart disease and stroke than the general population.

You can lower your risk by:

- Eating a healthy diet
- Being physically active
- Achieving a healthy weight
- Knowing and managing your blood pressure
- Knowing and managing your diabetes
- Quitting smoking

Talk to your healthcare provider to see how you can lower your risk of heart disease and stroke.

Or contact the Heart and Stroke Foundation at:

**1-888-HSF-INFO**  
**(1-888-473-4636)**

[www.heartandstroke.ca/Aboriginal](http://www.heartandstroke.ca/Aboriginal)

Let's put our **Hearts** into it!

# MNO-BMAADZIWIN/HEALTH

## Parents: Focus on 'the whole child'

By Laura Liberty

TORONTO – Non-native society needs to pay closer attention to traditional First Nations methods of child rearing.

“Interaction between healthy elders and grandparents is an important link to healthy relationship,” Dr. Jean Clinton told participants at the March 24-25 annual conference of the Best Start Resource Centre by Health Nexus.

Dr. Clinton, Child Psychologist at McMaster University, talked about The Key Role of Relationships in Infant and Child Brain Development. When it comes to child development, she suggests that sometimes the best advice for parents is “Get out of the way!”

Parents are spending too much time focusing on their children’s academic success, she stressed, in-

stead of emphasizing the development of the whole child with many skills, the importance of belonging and relationships.

Jaynane Burning Fields, an Iroquois from Six Nations and Executive Director at the Niagara Regional Native Centre, presented a wellness wheel to show the connection between the Spiritual, Physical, Mental and Emotional self.

Traditional practices such as smudging, and cleansing rituals help all parts of self and it is impossible to separate one from the other.

Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt presented on Bullying and the Early Years. She pointed out that learning to control emotions early in life will help build a foundation for children to reach their goals. Although bullying is always aggression, not all aggression is bullying.



Laura Liberty is the Lake Huron Region FASD worker based at the head office of the Union of Ontario Indians on Nipissing First Nation.

## Raising FASD kids ‘running with bulls’

By Laura Liberty

PETERBOROUGH – Raising a child is like doing a sprint. Raising a child with special needs is like running a marathon. Raising a child with FASD is like “running with the bulls”.

This was the message for a conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder from Donna Debolt, a Children Aid’s Society Consultant from Alberta.

FASD is a permanent birth defect, caused by drinking alcohol during pregnancy. It describes individuals who have been diagnosed with a range of disabilities caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. It includes sub-categories such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Alcohol-Related Neurobehavioral Disorder, Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Static Encephalopathy.

An FASD diagnosis meets four criteria. Proof the mother drank alcohol during pregnancy, distinct facial features, low birth weight and brain abnormalities. The area of the brain affected controls specific behaviours such as reasoning, problem-solving, inhibitions, math and memory, to name a few.

Only 10% of kids with FASD have the distinct facial features which lessen with age, making early diagnosis very important to ensure access to services. Since 80% of children with FASD are cared by someone other than their parents, pinpointing the cause of behaviour also presents a challenge.

Anishinawbe Health Toronto is currently accepting self-referrals from individuals or families interested in pursuing a diagnosis.



## Quitting is hard. Not quitting is harder.

Smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke increase your risk of heart disease. Smoking also nearly doubles your risk of an ischemic stroke.

Quitting smoking is one of the best things that you can do for your health.

Making a change to being smoke-free can be hard. Don’t be afraid to ask for help and support from your family, friends and healthcare provider.

To learn more about quitting, contact the Canadian Cancer Society’s Smokers’ Helpline at:

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[www.smokershelpline.ca](http://www.smokershelpline.ca)



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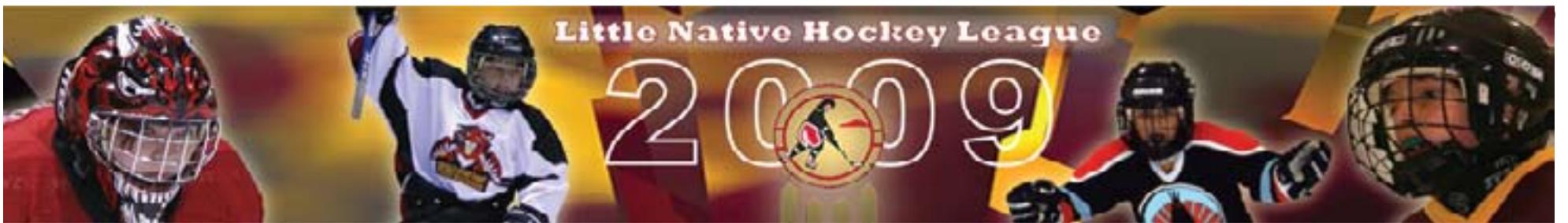
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## Aamjiwnaang can't repeat as midgets

SARNIA—Four hours before his Midget Championship game at the Little Native Hockey League Tournament Kyle Jackson sat quietly in a seat four rows from the ice at the Sarnia Sports and Entertainment Centre.

He watched the thrill of victory and the disappointment of defeat as the younger kids in the tournament competed in each division.

The look of understanding draped across his face as the buzzer sounded ending the game.

He knew what it felt like to win, and what it felt like to lose.

It was only a year ago that a little known Aamjiwnaang Hitman bantam team showed that they were the squad to beat in the tournament, winning the championship 3-1 over Moose Factory.

But now things were different.

Jackson and his midget team-

mates were expected to win.

The pressure of being defending bantam champs and that the tournament was being held in their own back yard was evident in Jackson's eyes as the game drew near.

"Last year I didn't know what to expect," Jackson said of his first trip to the Little NHL.

"There will be a lot more fans here to watch us this game."

Jackson said that there wasn't a lot of interest to play for team Aamjiwnaang, at least from those in his community.

"We had the pick up some players from different places," he said.

"But there is a lot of high hopes."

The Hitman started the tournament off with a 5-1 victory over the Rama Sharks.

They then defeated the Curve Lake Eagles 6-1, followed by a



The Aamjiwnaang Hitman had their chances to score but they couldn't beat Nipissing goalie Nicholas Daybutch.

5-2 win over the Wasauking Nim-kee.

"We didn't get cocky," Jackson's teammate Kevin Davey said.

"We kept the end goal in mind. And that (was) to win a championship."

Aside from having a quick breakfast together, there really was no time to set-up lines or plays.

It was an in the moment reaction, most of the time, according to the players.

"As we played more with each

other we got to know where each other was on the ice," Davey said.

"The more we played together the easier it became."

The stage was set as the Hitman had only one more road block to endure before they could be announced champions once again, the Nipissing Warriors.

Nipissing had gone 2-0-1 in the round robin.

As the teams skated onto the ice for the final game of the tournament the crowd settled into their seats.

The Hitman swarmed the Warrior goal, but to no avail.

The Warriors scored early, to take a 1-0 lead, and, after a miscue behind the Hitman goal, managed to pot their second goal of the game.

The hill was too high for the Hitman to climb as the Warriors claimed the championship 2-0.

"I think that this tournament was a good way to get noticed and meet new people," Davey said.

"It is a way for scouts to see what Aboriginal hockey is all about."

### "A" Championship Games

- Tyke Boys: Six Nations 13 Wikwemikong 0
- Novice Boys: Six Nations 10 Garden River 4
- Atom Boys: Six Nations 2 Garden River 1
- Pewee Boys: Wikwemikong 7 Curve Lake 0
- Bantam Boys: Six Nations 5 Nipissing 1
- Midget Boys: Nipissing 2 Aamjiwnaang 0
- Pewee Girls: Moose Cree 6 Chippewa 0
- Bantam Girls: White Fish Lake 4 Attawapiskat 0
- Midget Girls: Wikwemikong 7 Aamjiwnaang 3



Aamjiwnaang dancer Jojo Maness performed at the opening ceremony for the 2009 Little NHL held in Sarnia.

## Little NHL good for Sarnia area

SARNIA— For the first time in its 38 years of existence the Little Native Hockey League tournament was held in this southwestern Ontario city.

"In years past the tournament has been held in either in Sault Ste. Marie or Sudbury," organizer Ronald Simon said.

"This is the first time in 20 years that the tournament has been held in South Western Ontario."

Simon said that it was important for many reasons that the Aamjiwnaang First Nation and the city of Sarnia wanted to host the event that attracted 100 teams (2,000 players) from 42 First Nations communities.

"Well it costs a lot for Elders, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and cousins to travel to these Northern Communities to watch the younger players play in the tournament," Simon said.

"Plus, there will be about \$2-3 million dollars brought into the local hotels and restaurants. Not to mention the malls and every other small business in the community."

Simon said that, aside from the hockey, the Little NHL tournament is like a giant family gathering.

"People make so many friends and renew old ones," Simon said with a smile.

"It is such a great event."

Vicky Praill, sports/event marketing coordinator for Tourism Sarnia-Lambton said that it was a lot of work but it all paid off during the opening ceremonies.

"It was a lot of hard work figuring out the logistics of everything," Praill said.

"We had meetings for over a year. It was a huge

endeavour. But it's absolutely amazing that we get to showcase our community. It is an honour to be the host."

Local merchants benefited from the number of people that made their way to Sarnia over the week.

"In this economic turmoil it was a relief to have so many people through our doors," owner of a local restaurant, Frank Smyth said.

"We have been wall-to-wall all week, which has been great."

The Little NHL offered another notch in Sarnia's belt, which has a rich history of hockey in the community, including International Silver Stick Tournaments as well as a competitive minor system, Jr. A, Jr. B and Jr. C teams in the area.

"This has always been such a great event," former NHL coach and Little NHL Alumnus Ted Nolan said.

Nolan, who was in the Sarnia area promoting The Ted Nolan Foundation, said that both his boys have played in the tournament and that it is a great way to build relationships.

"It is a time for people to get together and celebrate hockey and their culture," the former NHL coach of the year said.

But it is the long-term effects that Aamjiwnaang Chief Chris Plain said will have the most impact on the community.

"It has revitalized hockey in young kids," Plain said.

"There is a lot of community pride when you host and event of this nature. It has been an overall success."



## Wiky hand better than Aces

SARNIA—When the Aamjiwnaang Aces midget girls team walked onto the ice as part of the Little Native Hockey League opening celebrations in Sarnia, they were the defending champs.

They held a banner with their team name.

The girls, dressed in their team jerseys yelled, screamed and waved as their team was announced.

The stood on the Sarnia Sports and Entertainment Centre ice preparing for the daunting task ahead of them.

"Last year no one wanted to play for us," forward Kaitlind Peters said.

"But now that we have won the Little NHL championship, everyone wanted to play on our team."

Peters, whose dad Bourk is a coach, said that the team kept most of the same girls that defeated Wasauksing Anong-ohns in the finals, 2-1 in overtime the year before.

If it isn't broke, don't fix it.

"There has never been a girls team that has won the Little NHL championship in back-to-back years... That is our goal," Peters said. "We are a hard working team, that never gives up. We are



Nola George of the Aamjiwnaang girls midget team fires a puck up ice during the Little NHL finals.

well coached."

Peters said that a lot of the team is from around the area. In fact a lot them play minor hockey together on a different team.

"I think we learned a lot from last year," Peters teammate Nola George said.

The Aces cruised through the opening round, winning both of their games, out-scoring their opponents 13-1.

The victories guaranteed them a shot to defend their title against

Wikwemikong.

Unfortunately for the Aces, they met up with a talented opposition.

Despite being led by Maryanne Meneffe (who scored three goals for the Aces, Aamjiwnaang lost in the finals 7-3.

Wikwemikong captain Kelly Babstock had three goals in a winning effort, but also controlled to the point of dominating the play every time she was on the ice.

## Parents already booking hotel rooms in Sudbury

SARNIA—Just before the opening ceremonies of the Little Native Hockey League tournament in Sarnia, a woman talked on her cell phone.

She asked for a pen as she quickly jotted down a number on her hand.

Why?

Because only moments into the opening ceremonies of 2008's event, players, parents and coaches were preparing for the 2009 tournament.

The number on her hand was a contact number she could call as soon as the 2009 Little NHL location was announced to guarantee a hotel room.

Within only hours of the announcement that Sudbury was the home of the 2009 tournament, more than half the hotel rooms were booked.

"We are almost sold out," Rob Skelly of Sudbury Tourism said only two days after the announcement.

"We've added nearly 400

rooms in the city just mainly due to this event."

Skelly said that the economic impact of the Little NHL tournament is nearly \$10 million.

"According to a study done by the University of Waterloo that (\$10 million) is the direct expenditure of the tournament to a hosting city. From shops, to restaurants the whole economy is effected."

Skelly said that a lot of the smaller communities who participate in the Little NHL tournament, use the yearly event as their lone vacation.

"Tourist buy things that they don't usually do when they are at home," Skelly said.

"We are very excited to be welcoming the tournament back."

The last time that Sudbury was the host was only two years ago (2007).

"It has always been a really good tournament," Denis Commanda from Nipissing said.



Aamjiwnaang Chief Chris Plain

"It gives everyone pride in their culture and in themselves. 'Kids in sports don't see the courts."

"We would be more than happy to put another bid in to host the tournament again," Aamjinawnaag Chief Chris Plain said.

"It is really good for the community."

## Little NHL coverage



Kyle MacKinnon has been a sportswriter for over three years in his home town of Sarnia, Ontario. Originally a radio/ TV personality with the OHL's Sarnia Sting and the WOHL Sarnia Legionnaires, Kyle completed his certificate for Broadcast Journalism at Lambton College before completing his diploma at Mohawk College in Hamilton. He has broadcasted for the Hamilton Bulldogs of the AHL as well as countless other sports

including football, basketball and karate. He has interviewed many professional athletes including Tiger Woods, Mike Weir, Steven Stamkos, Johnny Bower. He has also interviewed Prime Minister Stephen Harper as well as other high profile politicians. Kyle has worked for many publications in the Sarnia area before finding a home at Sarniasports.com, a community based Internet site that has a free monthly publication. Kyle lives with his wife Melanie and their two children, Gavin their three-year-old boy and Ryan their 11-month-old girl.



Cam Patterson of the Oneida First Nation Redmen is one of the returning players for Team Ontario.

## Team Ontario uses Little NHL as training camp

SARNIA—Chandon Hill sat in the top corner of the Sarnia Sports and Entertainment Centre, armed with a pen and note pad, during the 2008 Little Native Hockey League tournament.

His eyes followed the play as if he was participating in the game.

The whistle blew and he quickly wrote down a note, circled it and wrote a number beside his latest passage.

As the puck dropped he quickly looked up again, not to miss an instant of the midget game.

Hill, who was selected as the head coach of this year's Team Ontario hockey team, knows Sarnia well.

He played for Sarnia's Jr. B team that won the Sutherland Cup in 2002. He also spent five games with the Ontario Hockey League's Sarnia Sting.

Hill was looking for the top players at the tournament to help his Team Ontario bring home a national championship.

"Team Ontario is always competitive," he said of his team's chances at the 2009 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships, which will be held in Winnipeg May 3-9.

"This tournament (the Little NHL) offers a great neutral point to evaluate players."

He said that it is difficult to see all the great players that First Nations teams have to offer because, "It makes it convenient to see a lot of players in one spot. It's sometimes hard to make it up to Moose Creek," he joked.

During the tournament he held a practice with 35 players participating in the make-shift evaluation camp.

"We will have to work as a team," said Cam Patterson, who played on last year's team Team Ontario North which finished 4th.

Last year's tournament had a Team North Ontario and Team South Ontario; this year there will only be one team from the most heavily populated province.

"I think that only makes us better," Hill said of the change.

"This is a bantam/midget tournament," Hill said.

"But we will have mainly midgets on the team. We want that experience. For a bantam player to make the team they will really have to stand out."

# INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Chief Day seeking uranium consultations

CUTLER – Chief Isadore Day, Wiindawtegowinini, continues to await a response from the Minister of Northern Development and Mines to a pre-consultation commitment on the issue of uranium mining in the traditional and treaty territory of Serpent River First Nation.

Ongoing discussions have occurred between Serpent River First Nation and the ministry on

this matter for well over a year and the Chief now wants the ministry to know that it's time to move on its duty to consult.

"Our position is that consultation must be accommodated by ensuring that all meaningful preparations are made between governments," says Chief Day. "That means Northern Development and Serpent River First Nation.

"The Crown must be honour-

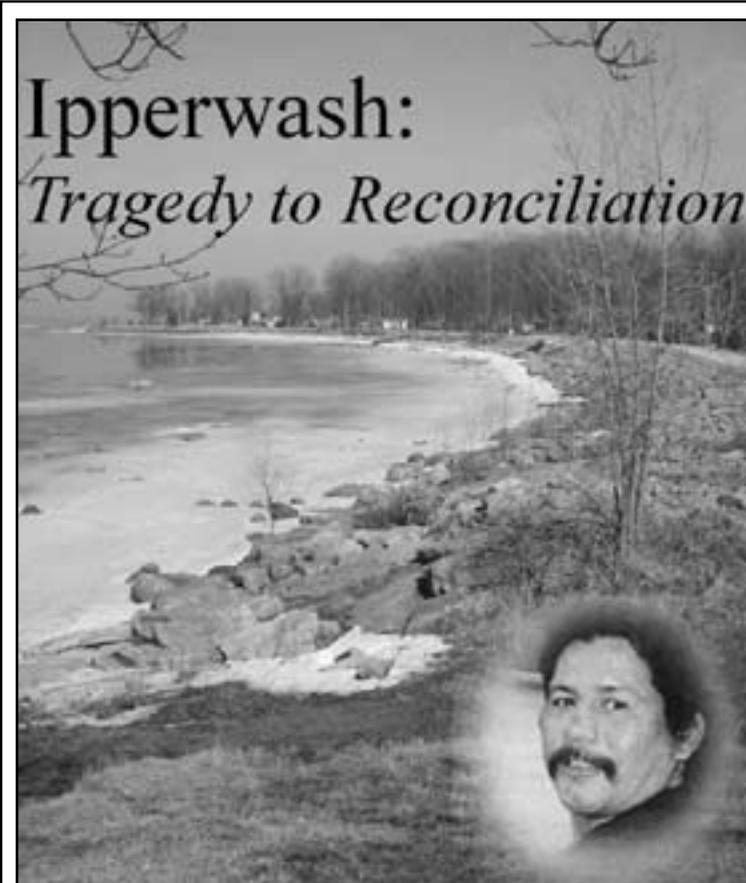
able in its responsibility here and not expect that we will accept any engagement or monies from industry as the solution. It is clear that uranium is a serious issue and we demand that governments and all their responsible authorities and lead agencies act according to their respective mandates."

Uranium mining approvals are governed under two jurisdictions in Ontario and Canada. Serpent

River First Nation currently has a number of active licensed uranium mine-tailing management areas in its traditional territory that will remain toxic-radioactive fields for thousands of years. Chief Day is concerned that this is not a baseline consideration taken into account while Ontario endorses exploration to continue. Chief Day asks the question "How much more can the land take?"



Chief Isadore Day



## Ipperwash progress report

By Karen Biondi

When the final report of the inquiry into the Sept. 6, 1995 shooting death of Dudley George at Ipperwash Provincial Park was delivered by Commissioner Sidney Linden, there was hope for a new beginning between First Nations and government in Ontario.

The recommendations given by Justice Linden were to be used as a guideline for healing and reconciliation. It has been nearly two years since the report was presented and the Union of Ontario Indians is working to ensure the commission's recommendations translate into action that will benefit member communities and citizens of the Anishinabek Nation.

This article is the first in a series of ten that chronicle the history behind the tragedy. The articles will not focus solely on what made the headlines, but also ensure the commission's recommendations translate into action that will benefit the Anishinabek Nation.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Chiefs of Ontario and the province of Ontario established four priority areas for consideration by a newly-created Ipperwash Priorities and Action Committee (IIPAC): treaty implementation, land rights and interests, First Nation jurisdiction and capacity building.

As participants in the IIPAC process, the Union of Ontario Indians has created a booklet inserted in this issue of the Anishinabek News chronicling the history of Ipperwash, including information about the land claim issue, the death of Dudley George and the subsequent Inquiry. A companion power-point presentation was also developed and can be requested by e-mailing [ipperwash@anishinabek.ca](mailto:ipperwash@anishinabek.ca).

## New status cards may be accepted at U.S. border crossing points

By Dan Bellrose  
The Sault Star

SAULT STE. MARIE – The rush is on for citizenship documentation, passports or enhanced identity cards, to satisfy a fast-approaching United States Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative requirement deadline.

In two months, beginning June 1, U. S. border agents will only be accepting passports, or Homeland Security-approved enhanced identify cards, for entry into the United States by land or water.

Passport Canada issued nearly five million passports the last fiscal year, including an average 18,000-a-day in January, according to Macleans Magazine, yet only 54 per cent of Canadians currently possess the document.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), responsible for 615 First Nations communities, is poised to launch an enhanced "status card" which was "conditionally" agreed upon by American officials as a valid border-crossing document a year ago.

The new status card, officially known as a secure certificate of Indian status, will begin being rolled out this spring with initial priority to First Nations communities bordering the United States of America.

"Nothing is confirmed but we hear that INAC will be sending out a mobile unit in late April to begin scanning and electronically filing documents with Ottawa," said Chief Dean Sayers of Batchewana First Nation.

Expectations are it will take between two and three weeks to process and print the new cards, as compared to same-day issuance of the current laminated paper document from band administration offices.



Despite the imminent launch of the INAC campaign, Batchewana and Garden River First Nation, two of the largest First Nations in Algoma District, are also pursuing their own biometric border-crossing smart cards in time for the June 1 deadline.

Garden River announced in February, 2008, that it had reached agreement with Veritec Inc. to license the U. S. company's 2-D VS Code Biometric technology for use in creating the smart cards.

"We are in the process of satisfying Homeland Security requirements, it has better security features than the INAC card, and we are hoping it will be approved within the next couple of months," said Sayers.

The Batchewana-Garden River card will address the border-crossing issue, he said, "It's an exercise in sovereignty and jurisdiction . . . we don't need the endorsement of the Government of Canada."

The status card is an identity card issued for administrative reasons by INAC to confirm that the cardholder is registered as a Status Indian under the Indian Act.

Its provided to assist registered Indians, and nearly 800,000

are registered as such, in accessing a wide range of entitlements, programs and services.

The programs and services, including non-insured health care and certain tax exemptions on purchases, such as gasoline and tobacco, are administered by federal agencies, provincial governments and other private-sector program and service providers.

There are five First Nations in the vicinity of Sault Ste. Marie with about 7,000 registered members, according to recent INAC data, including about 2,200 living on-reserve.

The area First Nations, with their registered memberships and then on-reserve population in brackets, include:

- \* Batchewana (2,358 and 623);
- \* Garden River (2,380 and 1,100);
- \* Mississauga (1,055 and 366);
- \* Michipicoten (762 and 52);
- \* Thessalon (592 and 91).

The security of the current laminated paper status card, and INAC issues about 85,000 annually, has been questioned for a number of years due to concerns over the simplicity of altering and reproducing it.

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

# LANDS AND RESOURCES



National Chief Phil Fontaine.

## ‘The right to water is a human right’

OTTAWA – Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine used the occasion of World Water Day, celebrated on March 22, 2009, to reference the special relationship Indigenous Peoples have with “the life blood of the planet.”

“Water is an important issue for Indigenous peoples around the world, and First Nations in Canada are no exception,” said National

Chief Fontaine. “Most Canadians take clean drinking water for granted but First Nations cannot always trust the water that comes out of their taps. There are currently 109 First Nations communities under drinking water advisories, which is an increase since last July. This is unacceptable in a developed country like Canada. The government of Canada has to join other countries at the United

Nations in recognizing the right to water as a basic human right.”

The National Chief noted that the theme of this year’s World Water Day was “Shared Water – Shared Opportunities”, with a special focus on transboundary waters.

The National Chief stated: “Water knows no boundaries and is the life blood of the planet. First Nations have always taken

care of and used the waterways. The transboundary transfer of water for commodity purposes is a concern for us because it may affect our water rights and our access to and enjoyment of the water for harvesting, transportation and as a potable water supply.”

World Water Day originated at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro.

Please join us for a special Invitational screening of the new film

### WATERLIFE

with special guest Josephine Mandamin, leader of the Mother Earth Water Walk.

**WHEN:** 2:00PM April 8, 2009

**WHERE:** NFB Cinema @ the National Film Board of Canada, 150 John St Toronto (located at the north west corner of John and Richmond)

**3:45PM** Q & A with Josephine Mandamin and WATERLIFE director Kevin McMahon

**4:00PM** Reception

Please **RSVP ASAP** to Julianno: [julianne@primitive.net](mailto:julianne@primitive.net) as demand is high and seats are limited.



## Regional workshops focused on water

By Rhonda Gagnon

The Lands and Resources, Department held two Anishinabek Regional Water Sessions within the Huron Region and Southeast Region. The purpose of the Water Sessions was to inform First Nations communities on water issues, exchange information, discuss local issues and to provide updates on government initiatives that are currently taking place with respect to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.

The Anishinabek Women’s Water Commission played a key role in the regional sessions. A water ceremony, traditional teachings and a sharing circle were included in each presentation. Additional support was given by the

Anishinabek Women’s Council, Anishinabek Elders Council, and Youth Council.

The Huron Regional Water Session was hosted by Whitefish Lake First Nation on March 23, 2009. There were about 40 participants in attendance.

The Southeast Regional Water Session was hosted by Mijankaning First Nation, with ten participants attending.

The Superior and Southwest Regional Water Session will be held in May. Please check at your local band office for more details.

We wish to express our thanks to hosting Chiefs Steve Miller and Sharon Stinson-Henry, the local community Elders for their support, all the participants and government staff.

## Water walkers go up St. Lawrence

An Anishinabe prophesied that “In about 30 years, if we humans continue with our negligence, an ounce of drinking water will cost the same as an ounce of gold.”

Water is essential to survival and health. Everything is related to water. This is proportionate to Mother Earth. Our food sources use water to be nutritious. The medicine wheel teachings are about balance in life.

A group of Anishinabe-Kwe and supporters have decided to take action regarding the water issue. They have taken the initiative to walk around the Great Lakes with a bucket of water to raise awareness:

- 1st Annual 2003 - Lake Superior
- 2nd Annual 2004 - Lake Michigan
- 3rd Annual 2005 - Lake Huron
- 4th Annual 2006 - Lake Ontario
- 5th Annual 2007 - Lake Erie
- 6th Annual 2008 - Lake Michigan (Lower)
- 7th Annual 2009 - St. Lawrence River

The 7th Annual Waterwalk begins April 13th, 2009 at: Katarokwi Native Friendship Centre. Schedule St. Lawrence River Water Walk 2009

- April 13th - Send off at Kingston, ON,
- April 15th - Morristown, NY
- April 17th - Cornwall, ON
- April 18th - Longueuil, QC
- April 19th - Sorel-Tracy, QC
- April 20th - Nicolet, QC

- April 22nd - Donnacona, QC
- April 24th - Montmagny, QC
- April 25th - Riviere-Du-Loop, QC
- April 26th - Rimouski, QC
- April 28th - Matane, QC
- April 29th - Sainte de la Madeleine, QC

\*PLEASE NOTE: DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*

Mother Earth Water Walk would like to express our gratitude and many thanks to those who supported us in our past walks through in-kind contributions, sponsors and special donations. We would like to acknowledge the following for their generous contributions:

- Three Fires Society
- Native women’s Assn Canada
- Ontario Native Women’s Association
- Union of Ontario Indians
- Volunteers
- All who participate in the walk

Ways you and your community can support the Mother Earth Water Walk:

- Be aware and raise awareness of the importance of our water
- Come out and walk with us
- Monetary gifts to help with expenses
- Communities can show their support through Feasts and gatherings along the way

Website: [www.motherearthwaterwalk.com](http://www.motherearthwaterwalk.com)

## Lands and Resources incorporates treaties

By Barb Naveau

TORONTO – On March 26-27 the Union of Ontario Indians Lands and Resources staff held their annual staff planning retreat at the Chiefs of Ontario office in downtown Toronto to develop a workplan for 2009-2010.

Workplan development focused on incorporating our Treaties to educate and strengthen our own understanding of our Treaties and Rights.

Lands and Resources invited guest speakers Dwight Teeple from the Bay Mills First Nation in Michigan who presented on the U.S. Treaties of 1820, 1836, 1855. Martin Bayer, Sagamok First Nation, presented on the 1850 Robinson Treaties between the Crown and the Ojibways of Lake Huron and Lake Superior.

Chief Isadore Day and Chief Wilfred King, Anishinabek Nation portfolio holders of Lands, Resources and Justice (Fish Clan) also shared their knowledge and direction on Treaty Implementation.

A blueprint of Seven Guiding Principle statements and three goals was developed for research and review for potential proposal development towards a Rights-Based Agenda.

### Key Messages on Forestry Agreement

Representatives of the Anishinabek Nation presented their expectations and interests to the five mutually agreement upon topic areas to be reflected in a draft Forestry Agreement and a positive discussion took place between the parties.

The parties shared information regarding the Ministry of Natural Resources’ Independent Forest Audit and reporting processes and identified areas for further discussion.

The parties are now ready to develop the terms and concepts to be reflected in a Forestry Agreement.

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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.



# RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION

## Grassroots communication critical to success of agreement

By Christian Hebert

**NIPISSING FN** – The challenge facing those developing the Governance agreement in upcoming months will be to create awareness "on the ground"; meaning more needs to be done to reach those First Nations people who are still unsure or unaware of what this agreement portends.

While an outstanding new video presentation and monthly newspaper updates are ongoing, they are only a starting point to build support for the ratification of the agreement in 2009 and beyond.

First Nations people must take the initiative to talk to each other about what is going on: tell a friend; a family member; an Elder.

This is the way word has spread about smaller things in each First Nation for so long.

Governance is such an important issue, yet news from person to person is travelling slowly.

The problem does not only lay with the grassroots reserve members, however.

"More Chiefs have to know what they're signing and that they recognize that this is a good deal,"

says Martin Bayer, Governance's head negotiator. "The Chiefs have to promote this concept to the communities. When we (the Union of Ontario Indians representatives and Canada) come out to the communities, there needs to be a higher turnout"

Federal negotiator Elizabeth Morin agreed with Bayer, adding "First Nations communities believe it's viable."

Communities need to stand behind this improving socio-economic situation. It's good for Canada for First Nations to be healthy and viable."

Enthusiasm continues to grow within communities who have had showings of the Governance video, Niigan Ga-Zhaamin.

The video, produced by the Union of Ontario Indians, focuses on what Anishinabek self-government meant in the past and what rights were never given up, but seemed to have been passed over and are returning to a place of strength now.

The video has been seen as one part of the table's goal of building deep and broad support for the deals in 2009 and has not only received good reviews from

the citizens of the First Nations but from federal public servants who have viewed it as well.

"This video is going to go a long way in bringing understanding to our cause in layman's terms," remarks Bayer.

One of the other aspects that garnered praise from both sides of the table is the Governance Working Group established in the fall and the early success of the ambassadors from each First Nation who are a part of it.

While originally created as a UOI initiative as part of a breaking-down of the Governance communications process to promote the agreement in workable segments, it is quickly transitioning into a community-related activity, with early positive returns.

"With the Working Groups, we're trying to stress the betterment of our communities, with better results and better lives for our people" says Bayer. "[We're] creating better living conditions in our communities and healthier First Nations economic climates."

The next Governance negotiations will take place April 15 and 16 in Toronto.



Viewers of the new Niigan Ga-Zhaamin video about self-government will see and hear R. Martin Bayer, Anishinabek Nation Chief Negotiator on Governance, explain the connection between effective governance institutions and economic development. "We want the opportunity to attract more partnerships and investment in our communities" he says. "Stakeholders and potential investors need to know - if they're willing to do business with us and make significant investments - that there are independent, objective institutions in place that can help resolve disputes or issues that might arise."

## Working group assists Education negotiations

By Christian Hebert

**NIPISSING FN**—The Education table convened on March 25-26 with the most widespread comments being positive reinforcement and the end to the process being in sight and attainable.

The most prominent commendations were made regarding the work of the Ratification Working Group (RWG) and their efforts to ensure a smooth rollout of the ratification vote, the communications effort accompanying the process and both the Anishinabek Nation and Canada's commitment to an informed vote by First Nations citizens.

Special mention was made for the Working Group efforts of Gail Restoule for her technical assistance of attention to practical detail in the voting process, and to Austin Acton, for outstanding working contributions towards the effort.

Both Canada and the Anishinabek Nation also acknowledged the leadership meetings between the Grand Council Chief and the Minister of Indian Affairs and their positive outcome, as well as noting an upcoming meeting with finance to discuss the draft of the Fiscal Transfer Agreement.

Continuing to stress the importance of communications to the ratification of the Education Final Agreement, both sides agreed that the Anishinabek Nation's primary

efforts will involve the initial outreach to its people and promoting the benefits of the Agreement.

Also major communications will be targeting at simplifying the practical process, such as how and where to vote, making it a comfortable procedure for the voters.

Canada also introduced a list of 11 factors necessary for a healthy process, including democracy, neutrality, professionalism among ratification officers and cost-effectiveness as examples.

The Anishinabek Nation's Legal Counsel, Tracey O'Donnell, acquiesced with the concept, but had some concerns over their practical application, using cost-effectiveness as an example: "Suppose [the Anishinabek Nation] develops an outstanding ratification process, only to be told it violates the cost-effectiveness issue?"

Canada's consideration of the issue was a "spirit of the law" rather than "letter of the law" approach, but agreed both sides must work together in meeting these factors.

One outstanding contentious issue encountered by both the RWG and the Main Table is "Ratification Threshold": what percentage of the voters must cast a ballot for the vote to be viable and how many of those ballots must be "yes" votes in order for



From left: Anishinabek Nation Legal Council Tracey O' Donnell, INAC Assistant Negotiator Murray Pridham and Anishinabek Nation Negotiators Bernadette Marasco and Merle Pegahmagabow finalize sections of the Education Final Agreement at the March 25-26 meetings at the UOI Elder's Hall.

the Agreement to be successfully ratified. The Anishinabek Nation's head negotiator Merle Pegahmagabow produced a statistical study of the 42 First Nations and the percentage of their population who reside off-reserve, and voiced his concern over the current threshold and the impact of so many potential off-reserve voters: "The [education agreement] may be difficult to get votes for, as the off-reserve population may

not be [directly] affected by the vote, and may not send in their ballot."

Pegahmagabow introduced an alternative threshold, which the Anishinabek Nation believes may be more achievable in practice. Canada's head negotiator Mark Prystupa acknowledged the issue, but maintained the current threshold is in the negotiation mandate and while a change could be requested, it would be "like moving

mountains" for it to be approved. Canada's proposed solution is to redouble the communication effort in order to draw the off-reserve voters into the process.

Both sides concluded a more detailed examination of the issue is needed.

The next sessions between the two sides will be fiscal negotiations on April 7-8 in North Bay and main table negotiations in Ottawa on April 22-24.

# RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION



## Rama draws most participants for citizenship consultations

The community-based citizenship consultation sessions are winding up in April with the conference on the 21 and 22 in Sault Ste. Marie. The Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on Citizenship, Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, will be reporting on what she heard over the past year regarding what the criteria and process should be for deciding our First Nation and Anishinabek Nation citizens. The consultation in Rama on February 25 had the best turn-out with over 50 registrants. Reporting on his group's deliberations is Ernie Sandy of Rama First Nation.

— Photos by Mary Laronde

Find your copy of the  
**'NIIGAN GA-ZHAAMIN'**  
video in this issue!

If yours is missing contact Jason at  
(705) 497-9127, toll free at 1-877-702-5200  
or by email [resjas@anishinabek.ca](mailto:resjas@anishinabek.ca)  
and we'll have a copy mailed to you.

JOIN  
THE ANISHINABEK NATION COMMISSIONER ON CITIZENSHIP  
**JEANNETTE CORBIERE LAVELL AND  
GRAND COUNCIL CHIEF JOHN BEAUCAGE**  
FOR  
*"THOSE WHO BELONG"*  
**E-DBENDAAAGZIIG**

A 2-DAY CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS  
AND THE CHIEFS COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE TO:

1. Report feedback from Citizenship Consultation Sessions
2. Confirm drafting instructions for Law on Citizenship
3. Decide next steps and implementation
4. Develop recommendations for Grand Council 2009

**April 21 & 22, 2009**  
**Garden River First Nation Recreation Centre**

*There is no cost to register for this conference.  
Lunch and refreshments will be provided over the 2 days.*

For more information contact:  
Esther Gilbank, 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) 497-9135 • Email: [gilest@anishinabek.ca](mailto:gilest@anishinabek.ca)

**Our Nation. Our Way. Your Say.**





# Chiefs Committee on Governance

## Fourth in a four-part series: Kidowenan/Communications

Stories by Rick Garrick

### Getting the message out to the Anishinabek Nation

In 2008, Patrick Madahbee of Aundeck Omni Kaning and Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation formed a sub-committee of the Chiefs Committee on Governance and put their minds to the task of creating a strategic plan.

The Communications section of their 2008 report looked toward the development of a cooperative and comprehensive Anishinabek Nation Communications Strategy that would require dedication from our Leadership Council, First Nation Chiefs and Councils and the grassroots citizens. The envisioned strategy would support the collective initiatives and priorities.

#### Objectives

- Continued and consistent communications throughout Implementation process, Internal and External Communications Strategy
- To provide regional and local First Nations leadership with materials and tools required to explain the goals, process

and outcomes of the Anishinabek Nation initiatives so that they can actively involve their community members

- To engage First Nations citizens in the development and implementation of their First Nation governments

#### Target Audiences

- First Nation Chiefs and Councils
- Leadership of First Nations Regional organizations, including Provincial-Territorial Organizations, Tribal Council and Treaty groups
- First Nations Citizens

#### Key Messages

- First Nations citizens must be involved in developing and implementing the changes required that will lead to the full recognition and implementation of First Nation governments
- Change must occur, change will occur,

and First Nations must take the lead in creating this change

- Taking control of our own governments is directly linked to moving beyond “shameful conditions” and building a better quality of life for our people
- This work will not interfere with, or take the place of any other initiatives that are underway or in development at the community, regional or national level

#### Next Steps

- Development of timelines that show our past, present and future direction or goals on the First Nation and Anishinabek Nation level.
- Develop Tool Kit to include Visual communications that illustrate the nation's short to long-term goals; an example is using the Political Manifesto and other related Anishinabek strategies as guides to progress
- Once the short-term goals have been completed the medium-term goals

would take the place of the short-term goals and so on. It is a continued path to recognition and implementation of First Nation governments.

- Expand First Nations communications on the National, Political and Regional levels; the Anishinabek Nation Strategic Communications Council was developed to meet these needs. This intricate part of the communications process is required to allow leadership to come together and coordinate plans, information and reach consensus on common issues that are affecting the future of our people.
- Research to provide information to create First Nation instructional handbooks on the common issues and next steps
- Review implementation plan and evaluate next steps and timelines
- Funding and services evaluation for projects on both levels
- Data collection on the various Anishinabek Nation initiatives

### CHRZ Rez 91 now broadcasting in Parry Sound area

Vince and Anita Chechok recently installed a state-of-the-art console in their family-owned radio station, CHRZ Rez 91.

“Now we sound like a downtown Toronto radio station,” says Vince, the former Global Television Network high power transmitter technician who brought his knowledge and skills back home to Wasauksing First Nation in 1988. “After I got involved in broadcasting, I thought it would be neat to start a radio station up here. When I came home in 1988, I still had the same notion.”

But Vince first went to work as a freelancer with a radio station in Parry Sound and later with Bell Canada as a technician, where he discovered an old radio five-watt exciter that was not operational and was being discarded.

“I got it working,” Vince says, explaining that the exciter is the piece of equipment that sends the radio signal out into the airwaves. “We put an antenna on it and a CD player, so we had a little radio station in the community.”

After a year or so of operating the radio station from the basement of their home in Wasauksing, the Chechoks were among four Aboriginal radio stations offered funding by Barrie's Rock 95 owner Doug Bingley for new equipment and financial support over a seven-year period to get them up and running.

“We asked him what he wanted in return and he said ‘just keep it going,’” Vince says. “So we made a commitment to him as well, to keep it going.”

CHRZ Rez 91 has since increased their audience to the whole Parry Sound area, thanks to a stronger transmitter and a format that appeals to the listeners.

“We're licensed for an eight kilometre broadcast radius of city-grade signal,” Vince says, “but we go about three times as



Vince Chechok of CHRZ Rez 91 in Wasauksing interviews Mike Restoule, Director of the Restoration of Jurisdiction department at the Union of Ontario Indians for a radio broadcast update. CHRZ Rez 91 airs some Anishinabemowin language programming along with a variety of music, ranging from 60's rock to contemporary Native artists to some traditional music.

far with a degraded signal.”

“We call it a community radio station,” says Anita, Vince's wife. “We may not be community owned, but the community feels like it is theirs.”

CHRZ Rez 91 airs some Anishinabemowin language programming along with a variety of music, ranging from 60's rock to contemporary Native artists to some traditional music.

“We play one out of 10 by a Native artist,” Anita says. “We also play a lot of these new artists — we get a lot of callers saying ‘Who was that?’”

Vince adds that CHRZ Rez 91 also airs What's Happening, a community calendar which includes “everything that is happen-

ing on the Rez” as well as announcements for off-reserve non-profit organizations.

“We also do the weather,” he says. “But we don't do the news yet.”

While CHRZ Rez 91 has not had any full-time staff to date — both Chechoks fill in at the station after completing their day jobs and they currently have a trainee on board for a few months — Anita is hopeful that the station will eventually sustain a full-time position.

“I see the station continuing to grow,” she says. “We have an established listening audience and we are finding it much easier to book commercials.”

Vince's future goals are to improve automation in the station and to develop more

networking opportunities with other Aboriginal radio stations across the province.

CHRZ Rez 91 has been a good vehicle for sharing the community's culture and beliefs with their neighbouring communities, Anita adds.

“Community radio is a way of declaring our identity as Anishinabek people,” she says. “It's a vehicle to share our culture with our brothers and sisters.”

CHRZ Rez 91 has also provided broadcast training and experience to a number of band members over the years.

“We've trained three people to date,” Anita says. “One of those has gone on to pursue a career in media.”

# KIDOWENAN/COMMUNICATIONS



Anishinaabe filmmaker, Darlene Naponse of Pine Needle Productions, shown here on location shooting her new feature film, *Every Emotion Costs*, is opening a brand new studio building in Whitefish Lake First Nation. The grand opening will be in June.

## Pine Needle Productions to shoot feature film

Darlene Naponse is preparing to shoot a feature film in her home community of Whitefish Lake First Nation.

"It's a drama about a girl returning home," Naponse says, describing her upcoming film, *Every Emotion Costs*. "It deals with identity and community."

Naponse is looking to explore the reality of returning home to the reserve to face family, community and the ceremony of death through the story of Quilla and her sister June as they return to bury their mentally-ill mother.

"Every Emotion Costs will inspire its audience through its realistic and contemporary vision of First Nations people," Naponse says. "It incorporates serious artistic direction coupled with rich characters, original music and a stunning visual showcase of the real northern Ontario

landscape."

While Naponse first went into business in 1999 to create films, graphic designs and websites through her award-winning production company Pine Needle Productions, which is located on reserve in Whitefish Lake First Nation, she has since narrowed her focus to feature and client-based films.

"I try to tell real stories about what First Nations people are," Naponse says, "by creating and finding some unique themes, images and stories. I really strive to be original and creative."

Naponse adds that she is constantly updating her skills and computer, editing and filming equipment.

"It's really important to keep up with technology, understanding all the new trends and the use of new innovations," Naponse

says, explaining that she recently upgraded to an HD digital video camera. "I'm currently looking into a new technology that was just released — I'm always looking for new tools."

Naponse has produced communications products for a wide range of clients during her eight years of operation, including both Native and non-native clients such as the Union of Ontario Indians, Waubetek Business Development Corporation, Kegeedonce Press, Laurentian University and Pukaskwa National Park, and contracts out when doing larger projects which require more time than she and her one full-time staff person can provide.

"I've worked with the Elders and on a number of youth projects," Naponse says, emphasizing that she offers a Native perspective of the world and the world

of technology and that her studio is based in Whitefish Lake First Nation. "We work in all areas of Ontario and North America."

Naponse's work has been screened at numerous film festivals around the world, including three times at the Sundance International Film Festival, as well as on APTN and other international television stations.

"I just enjoy sharing stories," Naponse says. "That's what I love to do."

Naponse feels that her love of sharing stories comes from growing up and continuing to live in Whitefish Lake, where the community members are more connected to each other due to the limited connections to the outside world.

"We share stories with each other," she says, "and we share stories about the world with our

people."

Naponse's lifelong dream to study filmmaking took her on a path of years of study at university and in the field to gain the skills needed to create and produce creative films.

Pine Needle Productions is opening up a brand new studio building in Whitefish Lake First Nation, with video production and full audio recording facilities. The grand opening will be in June.

"It's a lot of long hours and hard work, but at the end of the day I feel that everything I did was worth it," Naponse says. "I love what I do. I feel like I'm accomplishing all those dreams I had as a girl. And I think that's what keeps me going, is achieving all those dreams."

# KIDOWENAN/COMMUNICATIONS

## Nish Radio may be streaming online

Nish Radio CFGI is looking at the possibility of going online with their radio signal.

"We got high-speed Internet over here in 2008 so that allows us to get up and online," says Morgan Priester, Nish Radio's station manager/DJ. "We have many band members spread across the country and they would probably be interested in tuning into our station."

While the online broadcast is a goal for the future, the Chippewas of Georgina Island-owned radio station improved their sound by installing new computers.

"We upgraded our computers," Priester says. "We're running the same sound board and the same transmitter — the equipment is working great."

Nish Radio first went on the air in 2000, with a focus on the local community of about 200 on-reserve band members and a 250 watt transmitter that broadcasts for a radius of about 20 km from Georgina Island, which is located on Lake Simcoe.

"Our goal is to provide the community with information, news and community events," Priester says. "What's happening in the community."

Nish Radio also plays a rock/country mix of music, with "a bit

of a country and western focus" and about 50 per cent Aboriginal content.

"Our play list goes from the new to the old as well," Priester says, adding that listeners often call in to say they haven't heard that song before. "We try to play some of the songs not usually heard on mainstream radio. We go back a ways in our music research in the library."

Nish Radio plays both traditional and contemporary Aboriginal music, and they also provide some Anishnabemowin language programs.

"The language is pretty important," Priester says. "We have a local teacher, Isadore Toulouse, and we run some of his language on tape programs. We're working on doing Anishinabe stories as well, in English as well as translated into the language."

Nish Radio began operations when the band received start-up funds from a Barrie radio station to purchase the equipment needed to get the station on the air as well as a seven-year commitment to provide monthly financial support.

"Rock 95 helped us get our licence and they provided us with equipment," Priester says, noting that Nish Radio currently has two



Morgan Priester, Nish Radio's station manager and D.J. plans to take "Nish Radio CFGI" on Georgina Island to the internet. Priester hosts the morning show, called Morgan in the Morning, while Sean Big Canoe hosts the evening show. In addition to music, community events and news, Nish Radio also provides ice reports and small craft advisories for people on Lake Simcoe.

full-time staff and a number of volunteers. "They had a big commitment to starting First Nation radio stations."

Priester hosts the morning show, called Morgan in the Morning, while Sean Big Canoe hosts the evening show.

"People tune in to hear what is going on," Priester says. "We have quite a cottage crowd as well, that probably doubles in the

summer."

In addition to the music, community events and news, Nish Radio also provides ice reports and small-craft advisories for people on the lake.

"Just about everybody has a boat so we are concerned about safety," Priester says.

While the band provides most of the operating funds for the radio station, Priester is looking

forward to increasing advertising revenues over time.

"We do have a small amount of advertising," Priester says. "We are in the York region, so we have the potential to reach a lot of people. We have lots of listeners — they like to hear something different. The Aboriginal music scene and culture is just exploding."

## Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek stays connected through newsletter

Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay) delivers their monthly community newsletter to every Elder in the community.

"For the Elders, we deliver the newsletter right into their mailbox," says Peggy Lynch, the community's Brighter Futures coordinator who puts the newsletter together each month. "They just enjoy seeing the goings-on in our community. They can see what happened last month and what will be happening this month."

Lynch usually prints enough newsletters for every household in Rocky Bay, which is located on Lake Nipigon about two hours east of Thunder Bay on Hwy. 11 and home to about half of the community's total band membership of about 600.

Although the newsletter goes out to all the on-reserve band members, the band does not currently distribute it to off-reserve band members.

"A lot of the events that happen here don't get out to people who live off-reserve," says band manager Amelia Hardy. "We usually put advertisements in the Thunder Bay newspapers when we have band elections or similar events."

Hardy explains that the main purpose of the newsletter is to keep people in the community informed about all of the activities going on within the community and to encourage them to participate in any of the upcoming events.

Rocky Bay usually has quite a few events going on throughout the year, from the fall hunt to winter fishing on Lake Nipigon to a number of traditional feasts.

"We usually have a traditional supper after the

fall hunt, and a variety of games such as loon calling, moose calling and fishing games," Lynch says. "In the winter we drill fishing holes on Lake Nipigon and offer three prizes in each age group for the biggest fish in each category of six species of fish."

The community also features traditional feasts of foods cooked using special recipes, such as beaver, partridge, bear and different types of fish.

Lynch covers each of these events as well as a variety of special events organized by different departments within the band, such as a Christmas dinner organized each year by the community family support worker.

"We give out a gift to every child in the community," Lynch says. "A lot of people look forward to events that are going on in the community."

During the June edition of the newsletter, Lynch focused on the community's graduates but also included information on community events and workshops.

"I'm trying to provide more information on employment and what is happening in the community," Lynch says. "People enjoy it. They look forward to the newsletter each month."

Any community member can submit news items, information or ads at no cost to the newsletter, which usually consists of eight to 10 pages each issue.

"All the front-line workers put in the programs they have been running over the past month," Lynch says. "Sometimes there are special thanks or updates about what the Chief and Council will be doing."

"If there is something we feel the community should know about, we put it in the newsletter."

## DEBWEWIN CITATIONS for Journalism

The Debwewin Citations are the first major awards intended to recognize and encourage excellence in reporting about Native issues by aboriginal and non-aboriginal journalists. Anyone can nominate a journalist whose work is distributed in Anishinabek territory. A selection committee co-ordinated by the Union of Ontario Indians communications unit solicits nominations for the awards, whose name reflects the Ojibway word for "truth," but literally means "speaking from the heart."

Anyone may submit a nomination, but all nominations must be endorsed in writing by a First Nation in Ontario.

To nominate a journalist for the Debwewin Citations contact the Communications Unit at (877) 702-5200 ext. 2288 or Email [news@anishinabek.ca](mailto:news@anishinabek.ca)

Nomination deadline is October 20, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

"Recognizing excellence in the coverage of aboriginal issues in the media."



2002 winner Peter Edwards, Toronto Star, and Michael Sifton, President and CEO of Osprey Media Group Inc.



2003 winner Rick Garick, Wawatay News, and Osprey Media Group Vice-President, Editorial, Lou Clancy.



2004 winner Lynn Johnston, cartoonist, with Grand Council Chief John Beaucage and John Size, editor of the North Bay Nugget.



2005 winner Bud Whitley, columnist for Osprey Media, and editor of the North Bay Nugget, John Size.



2007 winner Sgt. Peter Moon, public affairs ranger for the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group with Grand Council Chief John Beaucage.



2008 winner Jennifer Ashwasagai, news director, Moose FM radio, Parry Sound and Grand Council Chief John Beaucage.

# KIDOWENAN/COMMUNICATIONS

# ANISHINABEK NEWS



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

In 2008 the Anishinabek News celebrated 20 years of publishing by creating an online presence.

"People can now view the current issue and some back issues on the anishinabek.ca website," says Maurice Switzer, editor of the Anishinabek News and communications director for the Union of Ontario Indians. "People are now able to view the Anishinabek News on their mobile devices. Creating messages capable of attracting political support is the hard part; we can always use the latest technology to distribute them."

The Union of Ontario Indians first began publishing what was then called Ontario Indian in 1988 to tell citizens of member First Nations how their political organization – then based in Toronto – was representing their interests.

"For the past 20 years our official publication has helped us listen to what our citizens tell us, at the same time informing them – and other Ontario residents – about political activities, cultural events and personal achievements across Anishinabek territory," says current Grand Council Chief John Beaucage. "While its target readership is primarily Anishinabek Nation citizens, our newspaper has a broad audience that includes journalists, government departments, and hundreds of non-Native subscribers."

Now publishing ten issues with a monthly circulation of around 11,000 copies, Switzer says The Anishinabek News has evolved from an organizational newsletter into a newspaper designed to foster pride and share knowledge about Anishinabek current affairs, culture, goals and ac-

complishments.

"It keeps our citizens up-to-date on UOI activities, but has also changed other people's perceptions of the Anishinabek people and nation," says Switzer. "It has become an important public education tool."

"We based our workplan on an Anishinabek teaching about the gifts of the four directions: Respect, Honesty, Sharing and Strength" he says. "Those gifts correspond to media relations, public education, products like the Anishinabek News and our website, and communications support."

This template translates into a variety of annual activities, including creating and distributing more than 70 annual media releases, laying out 52 Nijiji Circle Pages published in Saturday editions of the North Bay Nugget, delivering cross-cultural workshops – like those staged for 250 teachers last spring – and providing communications advice and training to UOI staff and member communities.

Our newspaper is just one aspect of the communications products and services we deliver," says Switzer, who credits UOI leadership for recognizing the importance of communications in political advocacy.

"At one time, the Anishinabek News was a paid vehicle," he says. "But leadership understood that if we really wanted to let our people know what we are doing, we had to provide our newspaper to any citizen on request. It's not cheap, but our advertising sales currently cover our printing and mailing costs."

About 7,500 copies of the Anishinabek News are shipped out to both on and off-reserve members of the 42 Anishinabek member communities; others are sent to



Union of Ontario communications unit: Marci Becking, Maurice Switzer and Priscilla Goulais.

Native Friendship Centres, colleges and universities, and government and non-governmental agencies across Ontario.

Switzer is currently looking at distributing the Anishinabek News in schools throughout Anishinabek territory as a public education strategy.

"We are trying to promote our newspaper as a teaching tool," Switzer says, explaining that the teachers could use the Anishinabek News as a textbook to teach their students about Anishinabek culture and events. "We think that is a key role of our newspaper to play in the future."

The Communications Unit, which employs two other full-time staff, coordinator Priscilla Goulais and communications officer Marci Becking, and post-secondary student interns over the summer months, also publishes the much-anticipated annual Great Lakes Pow-Wow Guide.

"We're not sure if it's the only one of its kind, but people tell us it's the best," says Switzer. "It is highly sought after. The phone starts ringing in March."

But the highlight of the newspaper's 20-year history came last June when the Anishinabek News became available in online format for the first time.

"The newspaper is an old technology, but it is still a very valid one," says Switzer. "People forget much of what they hear, but they believe what they see in print, whether it's on an inked page or a computer screen."

Switzer believes the day will come when the Anishinabek Nation has its own radio and television stations, but, "whether it's smoke signals or satellite signals, the most successful political leaders have always understood that communicating is job one."

## Wiky TV 5 provides community voice for over 20 years

Wiky TV 5 has been providing the community of Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve with coverage of community events for over 20 years.

"When people want to know what's going on, they go to TV 5," says Gordie Odjig, program director at Wiky TV 5. "My job is to go out and get the information."

Odjig has produced a wide variety of documentary and interview programs on topics ranging from council meetings to jingle dress dancing since he took on the position in 1989.

"The idea was to record community activities and play them back to the Elders," Odjig says. "We do video productions and documentaries on a professional level. My productions are very professional, just as good as APTN."

Wikwemikong started up the Wiky TV 5 cable channel after

the local cable company installing cable around the community in the late 1980's asked if they were interested, says Mary Lynn Odjig, general manager of Wikwemikong Development Commission.

"They offered a community channel and donated all the equipment," Mary Lynn says. "For the first couple of years it was mainly run by volunteers."

"The chief saw the possibilities of having a community channel," Gordie says, noting that the Elders needs were among his main focuses while out covering the community. "I was always thinking about the Elders. They couldn't go out to these events."

Gordie first became interested in video-making when he saw a video camera at school in Grade 2; he eventually pursued a video course in college and jumped at the opportunity to shoot videos for the community channel when

asked by the chief back in 1989.

Gordie has since accumulated a huge library of historical footage from community events over the years, footage which both he and Mary Lynn feel would be a valuable asset once it is transferred to digital media so others can readily access the information.

"We have thousands of hours of footage stored on 3/4 inch video tape," Gordie says.

The cable channel also provides up-to-date information on community activities via an on-screen list for cable subscribers, and via a website, <http://www.geocities.com/wikytv5/>, for online members who do not have access to the cable channel but have access to the Internet.

"We developed the geocities site a few years ago," Gordie says. "It provides general information for band members all around the world."

Wiky TV 5 also provides a

number of other services as a fundraising endeavour to keep the operation going, such as video documentation, photo-to-video/digital transfers, promotional videos and documentaries, video copying and transfers, and wedding and music videos.

"It is a challenge to operate TV 5 and they have to operate as a business and rely on volunteers and fundraising activities to continue," Mary Lynn says. "It's not a band program and it has no core funding. They have to generate their own core revenue."

Mary Lynn adds that many young band members have been trained at Wiky TV 5 over the years and they are now using those skills in new careers.

"One provides video and photography services, another designs websites and sells his work through e-commerce, and another trainee went back to school and is pursuing a music recording busi-

ness," she says.

Gordie's long-range goal is to offer the community channel programming to the other outlying on-reserve communities in Wikwemikong; currently, the cable company has approximately 300 subscribers in the main village of Wikwemikong.

"I want to serve all the band members in the community," he says. "We're only serving about one-quarter of the band membership."

Mary Lynn adds that the Wasase Abin High School now has live feed that will generate opportunities for both TV 5 and the high school.

One of these events is the annual Christmas Telethon.

"The telethon is a successful fundraising event and receives local and Manitoulin Island support, either by sharing their talents or making a donation," she says.



# GWAAPID/LAUGHING

## Don Kelly's humour bridges cultural gap

By Suzanne Keptwo

OTTAWA – Funny man Don Kelly is no fish-out-of-water when standing in front of a live audience, as he was at Carleton University's 8th annual New Sun Conference.

The star of APTN's Fish Out of Water series centred around his sometimes futile attempts to master traditional Native skills seemed a perfect fit to speak on this year's theme -- Inspiring Resilience. Genuine, charming, intelligently humorous and an all-round good sport, Don easily captures the interest of his audience, much easier than he could a bear in a hand-made trap on one of his show's episodes.

Kelly is a professional communicator. He has worked as a writer-broadcaster for CBC, as well as in strategic communications and media relations. He has served as a researcher with the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and Communications Director for the Assembly of First Nations. He continues to do contract work for the AFN when he is not too busy hosting and writing his Gemini-nominated television show, or performing his standup comedy routine at clubs around the country.

A citizen of the Ojibways of Onigaming in northwest Ontario, Don Kelly's family moved to Winnipeg when he was five, around the same time he first discovered the unifying impact of comedy. Observing members of his extended family share in the laughter prompted by Bill Cosby, Don realized that comedy "crosses all cultures, ages and genders" and can serve as a "vehicle to reach a lot of people".

He is the first to admit that he's an urban Indian, or as he was once called, a "cement Indian" – his feet have seldom walked on anything but concrete.

Never exposed to the traditional way of his father's people, he was a perfect fit for Fish out of Water, which exploits his genuinely bumbling attempts to master traditional skills that have sustained First Peoples for millennia.

"The show captures the way

Aboriginal Peoples teach and learn: by getting out there and doing it," says Kelly. "And part of learning by way of doing is, to 'screw up' – without a scolding but with laughter". Whether using a travois, erecting a tipi, or making a fire, it is obvious to viewers that Don Kelly – like many of them – is a genuine Cement Indian.

The series, airing on Tuesday nights at 9pm Eastern time, addresses the plight of many First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples who, for many reasons, were not raised learning the survival skills of their ancestors. Kelly explains that over fifty per cent of aboriginal people are currently living in urban areas, meaning many do not regard the deep woods as "pharmacy, grocery or department store".

The essence of Fish Out of Water, he says, is to build bridges between the rural and the urban, the traditional and the contemporary. It also offers a rare glimpse at traditional Elders in a different, less stereotypically stoic light, one that demonstrates that humour permeates the identity of First Peoples.

Coming from a strong storytelling tradition, First Nations have, as Kelly puts it, "been working the room" since time immemorial. A good story-teller is aware of structure, key points and impact, combined with the flexibility to deliver what the audience is most receptive to. He sees these traits as embedded in the culture, for example, in the humour of trickster stories.

Kelly sees teasing as typical of Native humour.

"It is often gentle and self-deprecating," he observes, and also used to softly remind others to keep their ego in check. In front of an aboriginal audience he is able to go a "little more inside" and make jokes at his own expense whereas in front of other audiences, he feels he has a responsibility not to reinforce negative stereotypes.

It is also timeless, Kelly reminds us. "Laughter has been echoing across Turtle Island for thousands of years."



Don Kelly gets archery lesson from Mohawk Elder Peter Isaacs at Six Nations of the Grand River territory.



Laurentian University  
Université Laurentienne

### LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY

"Mnaaj'in Gechi-wiidookang Nishnaabe-Gchi-Kinoomaagziwin"  
NATIVE EDUCATION PERSON OF DISTINCTION AWARD

#### Eligibility:

Nominees must:

- Be First Nations (Status or non-Status), Métis or Inuit
- Demonstrate a commitment to Native Education in North Eastern Ontario
- Through contributions demonstrate accomplishments in at least one of the following areas of university education: teaching, research, training and development, community education or alternative teaching, management, and board or committee work
- Must be present to receive the award at Laurentian University's June 19th celebration of Aboriginal Day

#### Selection Process:

The Selection Committee will consist of 2 members identified by LUNEC and 1 member of Laurentian University faculty or staff. The Nomination Committee will identify the recipient of the award(s) based on the eligibility requirements and the completed nomination submissions.

#### Nomination Submissions:

- A. Nominator must complete the Nomination Form
- B. Nominator must include a written response to each of the following questions up to a maximum of 2 pages.
  1. How does your nominee demonstrate his/her commitment to Native Education?
  2. In what ways does your nominee participate in the development of Native Education in North Eastern Ontario?
  3. What are your nominee's individual achievements and accomplishments in the Native community or at work that make him/her a candidate for an award of distinction?
- C. The Nominator must provide 3 Letters of Support to accompany the nomination, one of which maybe a letter of support from the nominator and another from a recognized leader or elder in the Native community.
- D. All nominations must be on 8.5" x 11" white paper.

To obtain a nomination package, please contact Rondah Assinewai, Laurentian University, (705) 675-1151, ext., 3437 or [rassinewai@laurentian.ca](mailto:rassinewai@laurentian.ca). Completed Nominations must be mailed or delivered to:

Director of Academic Native Affairs  
Laurentian University  
Ramsey Lake Road  
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 2C6

Incomplete packages or nominations sent by email will not be accepted.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE: Friday May 15th, 2009**

## APTN Aboriginal Day Live Flag Contest 2009



Submit your flag creation by  
MAY 15, 2009 to:  
APTN Aboriginal Day Live Flag Contest 2009  
Attention: Marketing Department  
339 Portage Avenue  
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Young people ages 12 to 17 years are invited to design a flag reflecting their perspectives on the richness and diversity of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples.

Visit [www.aptn.ca](http://www.aptn.ca) for more contest details.



# EDUCATION *Kinoomaagewin*



A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANISHINABEK NEWS  
April 2009



Lynn Gehl examines wampum belt replicas she made as teaching aids for a new Indigenous Studies course the PhD candidate will be teaching at Trent University.

— Photo by Nik Gehl

## Students in this course must make wampum belts

By Kelly Crawford

PETERBOROUGH — Lynn Gehl believes in the power of hands-on learning.

The PhD candidate in the Indigenous Studies Program at Trent University will be asking students in her new self-government course to create a wampum belt as one of their assignments.

“Indigenous teaching should involve the whole body and the course assignments reflect this belief,” says Gehl. “I wanted to have assignments that would engage students more fully, mind and body.”

“Indigenous Struggle for the Land: The Treaty, Land Claims, and Self Government Process in Canada” will be offered from May 11 through August 6, 2009 at Trent.

“I designed, developed, and organized the curriculum myself,” says Gehl, who describes herself as a “non-status, non-treaty, and out-of-territory Algonquin-Anishinaabe-Kwe of the Turtle Clan.”

“Elders often say that knowledge is not true unless it is in your heart,” she says. “This course is certainly rooted in my heart knowledge. It is based on my dissertation entitled ‘Maan Pii Nde’: Offering a Debwewin Journey Through the Algonquin Land Claims and Self-Government Process’.”

Gehl says she has combined her academic education with her heart knowledge and is determined to share her gifts with others in a classroom setting.

“Indigenous ways of knowing are very sophisticated and they are worthy of feeling proud about,” says Gehl, who earned her B.A. from York Univer-

sity and M.A. from Trent. “This course will serve to clarify Western historical knowledge as there is such a misconception about Canada’s history. It begins with pre-Contact and moves along right up to the contemporary land claim and self-government process.”

As described in the course syllabus “the course provides students with the opportunity to examine the treaty process from a multiplicity of voices and perspectives such as Western and Indigenous historians, Indigenous political scientists, legal analyses, as well as federal policy. Within this exploration, Indigenous Knowledge as a valid and legitimate way of knowing is emphasized throughout. In addition, this course provides students with the opportunity of an in-depth examination of the land claims and self-government process the Algonquin of Ontario are currently involved with.”

Her course also provides students with the opportunity to use more than just their minds. Gehl is a strong believer in Indigenous learning as a multi-faceted experience. As such, one of the assignments will be for students to build a replica of the famous Haudenosaunee two-row wampum belt that describes the Iroquois concept of travelling down the river of life parallel to settler society, the people of each nation staying in their respective “canoe” and not interfering with their neighbours’ journey.

Gehl made two important teaching aids herself, replicas of two wampum belts exchanged at the 1764 Treaty of Niagara gathering.

## Trent PhD student challenging Indian status rules

Lynn Gehl, a non-status Algonquin, lives in Peterborough and is a PhD candidate in Trent University’s Indigenous Studies program. She has launched a court challenge under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms against Section 6 of the Indian Act, which determines the eligibility required to be considered a status Indian. Lynn was interviewed by Ottawa Valley freelancer K. Y. “Kim” Hanewich.

Q: How did your family lose Indian status?

My Kokomis (Grandmother Viola Gagnon) told me that in 1927 the RCMP escorted her and her parents off the reserve at Golden Lake (now Pikwàkanagàn First Nation). In 1910 my great-grandmother Annie Meness married Joseph Gagnon Jr. His mother was Indian but his father was French so my family lost our Indian status.

Q: What did you do to try to regain status?

It was a long process of learning my family history from my Kokomis and then I went into the archives in Toronto to conduct research. I am visually disabled so it was hard work. I had to find an archival record that linked Angeline Jocko (my great-great-grandmother) to one of her Indian uncles (a man), as this would prove that my Kokomis’ father was an Indian through his mother line.

Q: Where you successful in obtaining status registration?

I got information to have my Kokomis, her brothers Gordon Gagnon and Kenneth Gagnon (my great uncles), my Uncles Stewart and Donald registered. My father Rodney Gagnon died suddenly in November 1988 and was granted status posthumously.

I was denied status because I do not know who my grandfather was. There are no rules in the Indian act to tell the Registrar what to do in the event that someone does not know who their father or grandfather is. The Registrar assumes them a non-Indian. This negative presumption of paternity resulted in my denial of status.

Q: What actions have you taken to attempt to remedy your status discrimination?

Through Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto I have put forward a constitutional challenge test case regarding the issue of unknown paternity. The legal question to be answered is whether Section 6 of the Indian Act which deals with the rules defining who is and is not an Indian is in violation of Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that provides: “Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability”.

Q: What do you hope to achieve through this action?

My lawyers are seeking a declaration that I be entitled to be registered as a status Indian and clarification in Section 6 of the Indian Act regarding people born out of wedlock or of unknown paternity so that Section 6 can be applied in accordance with the equality section of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



Non-status Algonquin Lynn Gehl with her Kokomis (Grandmother) in Haileybury, Ont. in 1995. Lynn grew up in Toronto and is currently a PHD candidate at Trent University in Peterborough.

## ANISHINABEK NATION CREDIT UNION

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Abby Jones, right, a Grade 7 student at Cape Croker Elementary School, helped the Anishinaabe Nordic Racers win the intermediate girls' team title at the March 5 Ontario Elementary School Cross-country Ski Championships.

## Cape Croker girls capture ski crown

By Laura Robinson

BARRIE – The Anishinaabe Nordic Races girls team from Cape Croke Elementary School captured the Intermediate Girls title at the March 5 Ontario elementary school cross-country ski championships at Hardwood Hills north of Barrie.

Team members were Abby Jones, who finished 9th overall, Kayla Keeshig (12th), Jessie Stanish-McDonald (14th) and Shania Squires (16th).

“I sort of got kind of down at the beginning of the race,” said Grade 7 student Abby Jones, “but I figured I had to go to the finish line somehow so I tried as hard as I could. I was surprised when I did so well.” Later in the day Jones teamed up with her younger brother Elwood Watkinson-Jones, Steve Nadjiwan and Kayla Keeshig to take second place in the Intermediate Relay.

The Junior Girls team of Rose Nadjiwan, Jade Solomon, Echo Keeshig, and Breanna Watkinson placed second in their category.

Steve Nadjiwan, a Grade 6 student at Cape Croker, finished in sixth place among Intermediate Boys. Nadjiwan’s gold medal at the Feb. 20 Bluewater District Elementary School Championships in the Junior Boys skate race was one of the highlights of the Nordic Racers season. His younger sister Rose led the Junior Girls at Bluewater with a bronze, followed by Kayla Keeshig (4th), Shania Squires (5th), and Jade Solomon (6th). Cape Croker placed third overall in the 22-school district.

Shania Squires says the season started on a high note because of the three-day training camp in Cape Croker Park with Saskatchewan cross-country ski champions Keewetin, Sekwan and Takwagan Trotter of Lac La Ronge Cree Nation.

“The training camp was cool because we got to meet new people, and now we know they can ski with us” said Squires.

The Trotter family were able to be guest coaches with the team through funding from the Aboriginal Sport Circle, the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women, Sport and Physical Activity and fund-raising efforts from the Ecu-Fems, an ecumenical group of women in the nearby Thornbury area who are trying to reconcile the negative legacy of residential schools by working towards positive projects for aboriginal youth.

The same organizations funded another training camp just before the Ontario Championships, this time with former Canadian champion Angus Cockney and his daughter Marika Cockney, who followed her father’s ski tracks and won the national Juvenile Girl’s championship title in 2007. The Cockneys are Inuit.

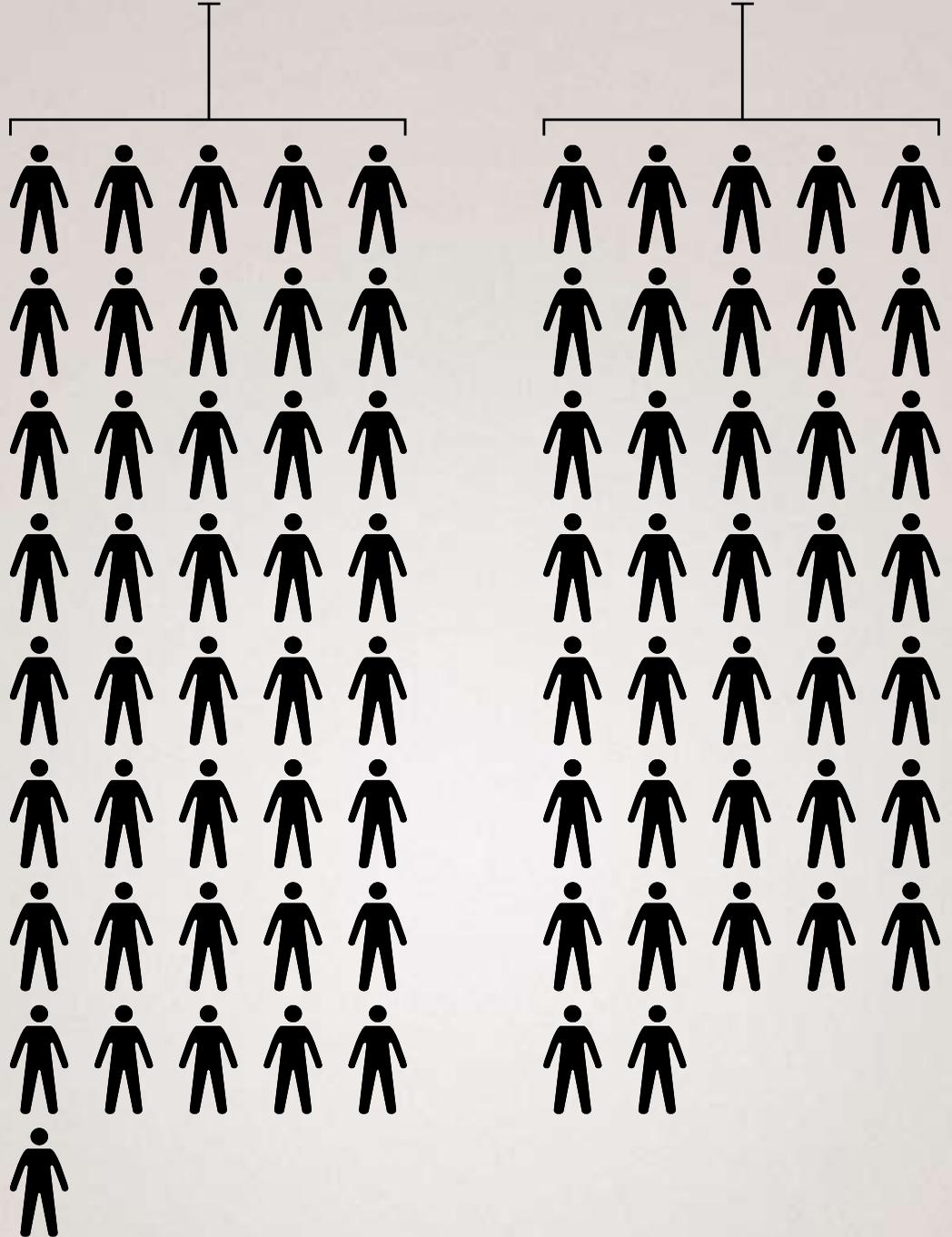
“The training camps are fun” says Abby Jones. “We actually got to learn more. Angus and Marika taught us new things.” Jones was also able to attend the National Snow Industries Association Show in Montreal where she learned about the business of cross-country skiing.

Now that the ski season is over students are fixing their bicycles in preparation for the cycling season while Squires and Jones will help instruct younger cyclists.

*Laura Robinson is a former national-calibre skier and cyclist who organized and coaches cross-country and cycling programs for Cape Croker students.*

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# KINOOMAAGEWIN/EDUCATION

## *Post-secondary funding in jeopardy?*

# Ottawa spends on prisons rather than provide opportunities

By Christine McFarlane

OTTAWA—Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is investigating the option of requiring First Nations learners to apply for student loans and eliminating the existing Post Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) under which INAC provides funding which is distributed by band councils under their own eligibility criteria.



Stacey Tobey

According to the Canadian Federation of Students, education at all levels is an Aboriginal and Treaty right for First Nations people, and is recognized in the Canadian Constitution Act of 1982.

Although education is a provincial jurisdiction, education for

status First Nations and Inuit students falls under federal jurisdiction under the Indian Act, regardless of where schooling is pursued, on or off-reserve.

First Nations students at the University of Toronto provided these responses when asked about impacts of a possible end to the PSSSP.



John Croutch

June Allison: Chippewas of Rama FN; History Major, Minor in Aboriginal Studies and Medieval Studies – “Cuts to funding for First Nations students would be disappointing. This would affect me in my desire to go to grad school. If there were cuts it might affect my ability to continue on in my studies.”

Luana Mantovan: Garden Riv-

er FN; Working towards a Bachelor of Science – “I don’t really believe that there is a possibility our funding may be cut. In my opinion, if that was going to happen, our leaders and education units would be asking us to take action and would be organizing for protests. I do also recognize that it is in the interest of some aboriginal groups to move away from Indian Act legislation because of self-government pursuits and wanting control of their own education would be a part of the process. This would be upsetting to me because it would cause a divide and people will be excluded from opportunities.”



Allison King

Tracey King: Wasauksing FN;

B.A, B.Ed. Masters of Education candidate – “Band post-secondary educational funding, I believe, is in short supply compared to the growing demand of today’s student population across the country. Potential students are forced to embark on a competitive process to apply for band funding. Priority and waiting lists I believe were created largely due to this funding shortage from INAC.”

Stacey Tobey: Beausoleil FN; Transitional Year Program – “I don’t get band funding, as of yet. The Transitional Year Programme is not considered a University course. If the government decides to take PSE then they are not keeping to the treaties. It will become



Tracey King

harder for aboriginal people to get access or funding to attend post-secondary education.”

John Croutch: Wikewemikong; 3rd year, majoring in History with double minor in political science and Aboriginal studies – “The writing has been on the wall for First Nations post-secondary students ever since funding was capped at 2% annually in 1996 which, according to the AFN, has denied 10,589 eligible First Nations students access to funding between 2001-2006. We are dealing with an ideological government in Ottawa that would rather put money into prisons than into programs that give people opportunities.”



Luana Mantovan

## You will make a difference

As a member of the Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital (HRSRH) Board of Directors

### The HRSRH is seeking two representatives to join the Board of Directors.

#### COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Board of Directors includes 12 elected members who must reflect the geographic, cultural, ethnic and linguistic characteristics of northeastern Ontario. New guidelines for the selection of Directors specify the range of professional skill and expertise and personal attributes required to make informed governance decisions in a complex and dynamic environment. **The HRSRH is currently seeking an Aboriginal representative and a member with legal skills and expertise.**

#### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Applicants will demonstrate an understanding of the roles, responsibilities and commitment this appointment will entail. Applicants will also demonstrate a commitment to dedicate the time required to attend Board meetings; participate on various committees; attend annual events such as the Annual General Meeting and Board Retreat; an understanding of governance in a large and complex corporate environment; the knowledge to participate in informed and critical discussions about policy issues and the ability to offer expertise in specific areas; effective communications skills; and the absence of a real or perceived conflict-of-interest.

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

Every applicant for nomination to the Board of Directors must complete an application form supported by personal references. The Selection Committee will review all applications and select a short list for interviews. All applicants will be acknowledged.

To assist you in considering this position, the Application Form, Principles of Governance, Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors, Roles and Responsibilities of Individual Directors and Guidelines for Selection of Directors are posted on the hospital’s website [www.hrsrh.on.ca](http://www.hrsrh.on.ca). You can also contact Brigitte Sobush for more information at (705) 523-7114 or [bsobush@hrsrh.on.ca](mailto:bsobush@hrsrh.on.ca)

#### Deadline for submissions is Monday, April 20, 2009.

Applications should be forwarded to: Chair, Selection Committee c/o Brigitte Sobush HRSRH 41 Ramsey Lake Road Sudbury ON P3E 5J1 facsimile: (705) 523-7115 email: [bsobush@hrsrh.on.ca](mailto:bsobush@hrsrh.on.ca)

## Master’s program scores 100%

By Shirley Honyust

LONDON, Ont. – History was made as the Educational Forum for Aboriginal Studies announced a 100% success rate with all 17 students in the University of Western Ontario program graduating with their Masters of Education degrees.

Three of these students presented to the forum as members of a March 19 roundtable panel at Huron College on the UWO campus: JoAnne Henry (Chippewas of the Thames) Anika Altman (Walpole Island), and Patti Whiteye (Walpole Island).

Dr. Rebecca Coulter introduced the graduate students with a brief description of the program, which nearly folded in July 2008, but continued operations by successfully recruiting teachers and administrators from southwestern Ontario. Rebecca was named

the coordinator and selected staff from the university’s academic and legal faculties. Dr. Coulter holds the Edward G. Pleva Award for Excellence in Teaching and the OCUFA Award for Outstanding Contributions to University Teaching.

One of the morning panelists, JoAnne Henry, continued working as a full-time principal at Hillside School on the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation while she completed her Master’s Degree. She attended UWO for her Bachelors of Sociology degree before earning a Bachelor of Education from Nipissing University.

Jo-Anne studied for her M.Ed. in Special Education at the Uni-



versity of British Columbia before returning to UWO and enrolling in the Masters of Education in First Nations Studies. She is now the Aboriginal Liaison for the Lambton-Kent District School Board, which serves the First Nation communities of Kettle Point, Walpole Island, Aamjiwnaang and the Delaware First Nation in Moraviantown.

New mom Anika Altman’s dream is to be part of the establishment of a permanent language immersion program at Walpole Island. She was able to bring her baby to school in order

Patti Whiteye’s role was to research and write about what contributed to the success of the students in the program in hopes that other programs will incorporate some of these strategies to increase student retention and success.



## 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:

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](mailto:oneca@oneca.com) website [www.oneca.com](http://www.oneca.com)



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# NATIVE

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# STUDIES

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For Information on how to apply contact: Indigenous Services, Student Development Services, The University of Western Ontario, London, ON Toll-free: 888-661-4095 Local phone: 519-661-4095 e-mail: is.staff@uwo.ca

[www.sds.uwo.ca/Indigenous](http://www.sds.uwo.ca/Indigenous)

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- NATIVE NURSES ENTRY PROGRAM (NNEP)
- NATIVE ACCESS PROGRAM (NAP)

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Lakehead University is dedicated to working with Aboriginal peoples in furthering their educational aspirations. Aboriginal programs at Lakehead University offer academic, research, cultural, and support services tailored to Aboriginal needs.

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## UOI Staff

### Lindsay joins AEI



Lindsay McConnell

Aanii,  
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Clerk/Receptionist for the Anishinabek Educational Institute, Nipissing Site.

My name is Lindsay McConnell, from Wasauksing First Nation and it is with my pleasure to announce that on March 23, 2009 I became a member of the AEI team.

Before assuming this position, I had spent the previous nine years working within my community of Wasauksing First Nation as the Administrative Assistant.

It is very exciting for me to have the opportunity to be a part of such a great team and am looking forward to sharing my knowledge and experiences with all.

Aahow, Miigwetch,  
Baamaapii G'waabmin

### Sandra back at UOI



Sandra Restoule

Hi, my name is Sandra Restoule I have returned to the Union of Ontario Indians after a two and a half-year absence.

I am originally from Dokis First Nation where I was employed for seven years as Social Service Administrator/Lands Officer until I returned to school in 2002.

In 2003 I joined the UOI in the Intergovernmental Affairs Department as Treaty Research Clerk until 2006 at which time I took a leave until March 2009.

Upon my return I changed departments and am now the Finance/Administration Clerk. I will be supporting the Finance/Administration team with general administrative duties, meeting preparation, as well as cheque

reconciliation, year-end audit preparations and maintaining the filing system for both the administration and finance departments.

I look forward to this new experience with the UOI and I am proud to be employed by a well-respected organization. I can be reached at (705) 497-9127 ext. 2333 or by e-mail at [ressan@anishinabek.ca](mailto:ressan@anishinabek.ca).

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Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

Canada

### PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has issued an official Notice of Public Hearing, available at [www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca), that it will hold a one-day public hearing to consider Shield Source Inc.'s (SSI) application to renew its Nuclear Substance Processing Facility Operating Licence for its facility located at the Peterborough Municipal Airport, Peterborough, Ontario. SSI requested a renewal of the licence for a five-year term.

SSI produces gaseous tritium light sources (GTLS) at the Peterborough facility. SSI also manufactures nuclear devices containing GTLS. Both the GTLS and the nuclear devices are sold for use in Canada and internationally.

Hearing Date: June 10, 2009  
Place: CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario  
Time: 9:00 a.m.

The public hearing will be webcasted live via the CNSC Web site and archived for a period of 90 days.

The public is invited to comment on SSI's application. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by May 13, 2009 at the address below and include a written submission; a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only or by way of written submission and oral presentation; and the name, address and telephone number of the requester.

Please note all submissions are available to the public upon request to the Secretariat. SSI's submission and CNSC staff's recommendations to be considered at the hearing will be available on April 14, 2009. Agendas, hearing transcripts and information on the hearing process are available at the CNSC Web site: [www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca), and refer to Notice of Public Hearing 2009-H-02, or contact:

L. Levert, Secretariat  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater St., P.O. Box 1046  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Tel.: 613-996-9063 or 1-800-668-5284  
Fax: 613-995-5086  
E-mail: [interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)



# Participate

## Review of Long-Term Management Direction Sudbury Forest 2010 – 2020 Forest Management Plan

### We Need Your Input

Do you...

- Have an interest in the natural resource management in the Sudbury Forest?
- Want to know more about the proposed long-term management direction in the Sudbury Forest?
- Want to take an active role in the planning process and development of the Sudbury Forest Management Plan?
- Have an interest in the protection and management of your provincial parks?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the **Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Vermilion Forest Management Company Ltd.** and the **local citizens committee** invite you to review the proposed long-term management direction for the 2010 – 2020 forest management plan (FMP) for the Sudbury Forest. The proposed long-term management direction includes the proposed management strategy, which will provide for sustainability of the Sudbury Forest by balancing social, economic and environmental considerations, consistent with legislation and policy.

You will have the opportunity to review and comment on:

- Levels of access, harvest, renewal and tending activities;
- Preferred harvest areas and areas which could be reasonably harvested during the ten-year term of the plan;
- The analysis done of alternative corridors for each new primary road for the next twenty years;
- A proposal to amend specific management direction for Sturgeon River Provincial Park in the 2007 Temagami Area Park Management Plan.

Your comments and input will help us develop balanced and well informed decisions as we continue with the planning process. Any additional background information that you can provide us with would be greatly appreciated.

### How to Get Involved

A summary of the long-term management direction, which includes a map summarizing proposed harvest areas and primary road corridors, has been prepared and is available for review on request. As well, "value maps", which provide information such as fish and wildlife habitat features (e.g., lake trout lakes, heronries), parks and protected areas, tourism facilities as well as many other features on the Sudbury Forest are available on request.

Comments on the proposed long-term management direction for the Sudbury Forest must be received by Tim Lehman of the planning team at the MNR Sudbury District Office, by **May 7, 2009**. Comments on the proposal to amend specific management direction for Sturgeon River Provincial Park (2007 Temagami Area Park Management Plan) can be sent to Tim Lehman, MNR Sudbury District or Roel Teunissen, Ontario Parks at Northeast Zone office Sudbury.

The plan is being prepared by the following planning team members:

- Peter Street**, RPF, General Manager, VFM, Chair
- Mark Lockhart**, RPF, Planning Forester, VFM, Plan Author
- Tim Lehman**, RPF, Area Forester, MNR
- Bruce Richard**, P & IM Supervisor, MNR, Project Mngr
- Ron Luopa**, RPF, Operations Forester, VFM
- Doug Maki**, RPF, Silvicultural Forester, VFM
- Mike Hall**, Area Biologist, MNR
- Rick Reynen**, Resource Liaison Officer, MNR
- Darrell Alston**, Wahnapiatae First Nation
- John Manitowabi**, Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation
- Vicki Mather**, LCC Representative
- Chuck Miller**, Killarney Provincial Park, MNR
- Jesse Leverre**, Senior Forestry Technician, MNR
- Bert Gauthier**, Area Technician, MNR

The planning team members, the MNR District Manager and the LCC are available during the planning process to meet and discuss your interests and concerns.

A formal issue resolution process, as described in the Forest Management Planning Manual (2004), can be initiated upon written request. A summary of all comments collected throughout the planning process will be made available to the public in a summary form during the planning process and for the duration of the approved ten-year plan.

### Stay Involved

In addition to this opportunity to review, there are three other formal opportunities for you to be involved, tentatively scheduled as follows:

Information Centre: Review of Proposed Operations	<b>June 2009</b>
Information Centre: Review of the Draft Forest Management Plan	<b>November 2009</b>
Inspection of MNR-Approved Forest Management Plan	<b>March 2010</b>

If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be notified of public involvement opportunities, please contact Jesse Leverre at 705-564-7867.

The general information regarding the FMP process as well as the information described in this notice, will be available at the Vermilion Forest Management Company Ltd. office and at the MNR office during normal office hours for a period of thirty (30) days from April 8, 2009 to May 7, 2009. As well, an appointment with the ministry's Sudbury District Manager or with a planning team member during non-business hours may be made by calling 705-564-7823.

For more information, please contact:

**Tim Lehman, R.P.F.**  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
3767 Highway 69 South, Suite 5  
Sudbury, ON P3G 1E7  
Tel.: 705-564-7875  
Fax: 705-564-7879

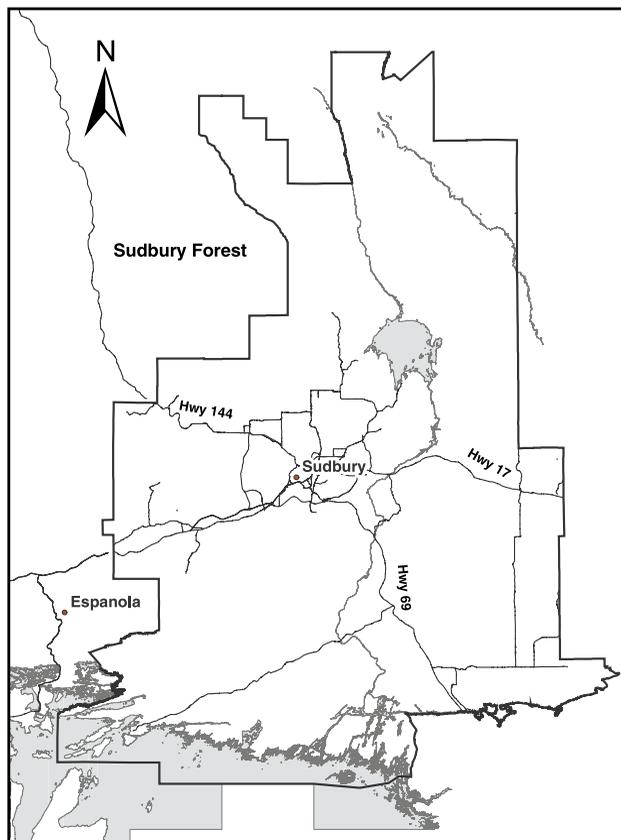
**Ron Luopa, R.P.F.**  
The Vermilion Forest  
Management Company Ltd.  
311 Harrison Drive  
Sudbury, ON P3E 5E1  
Tel.: 705-560-6363  
Fax: 705-560-7887  
E-mail: vfm@onlink.net  
Website: www.sudburyforest.com

**Viki Mather**  
Sudbury Local Citizens Committee  
RR #1  
Wahnapiatae, ON P0M 3C0  
Tel.: 705-919-7854  
E-mail: vikimather@hotmail.com

**Roel Teunissen**  
Park Management Planner  
Ontario Parks, Northeast Zone  
199 Larch Street, Suite 404  
Sudbury, ON P3E 5P9  
Tel.: 705-564-9748

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 use of your personal information, please contact Don Mark at 705-564-7360.

Renseignements en français : Bert Gauthier, au (705) 564-7866.



# BOOKS

## Writing advice? 'Read!'

By Christine McFarlane

TORONTO – Curve Lake playwright Drew Hayden Taylor got his start as a writer by phoning up editors asking if he could produce articles for them.

"To me, personally, the writing process is about just sitting down and writing," says Taylor, one of the participants in a March 18-19 Indigenous Writer's Symposium hosted by the Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives and First Nations House at the University of Toronto. Other guests included Penny Couchie, Marilyn Dumont, Richard Van Camp, Joseph Boyden and Lee Maracle.

"Every field of writing is different," says Taylor. "With non-fiction, you rely on other people to fill out what you want to write. That process involves doing research and finding out information about what you want to write and how you want to write."



Drew Hayden Taylor

"With fiction or theatre it's about coming up with interesting characters that have an interesting story that takes the audience on an interesting journey."

Taylor, who says his first "serious" writing credit was for the CBC series "The Beachcombers" in 1987, says he finds the raw material for his plays, short stories and essays everywhere.

"I draw upon life, I guess. I draw on people I have met, places I have been, things I have experienced, or perhaps want to experience. I think my writing is 50 per cent what has happened, and 50 per cent imagination."

His best advice for aspiring writers?

"Read. All great writers are great readers. You learn so much unconsciously from other writers by reading and I tell young people who want to be writers to 'go out and live an interesting life.' If you have a boring or uneventful life – if you spend all your time in the basement playing video games – you won't have much to write about."

Taylor described the Indigenous Writer's Symposium as "a marvellous experience".

"What an honour it was to hang around and talk writing with such talent as Lee Maracle, Joseph Boyden and Richard Van Camp. It's a pity that it wasn't better attended."

# DOHM-NUK/LET'S PLAY

## Lightning strikes thrice!

By Andrew Weigel

SANTA FE, N.M.— Renowned native artist, Joseph Sanchez has been struck by lightning three times.



These events prompted Joseph to consult Elder Albert Lightning for an explanation as to why lightning was seeking him out.

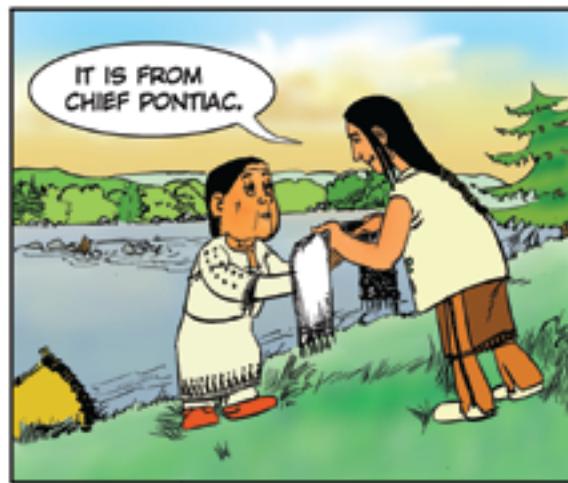
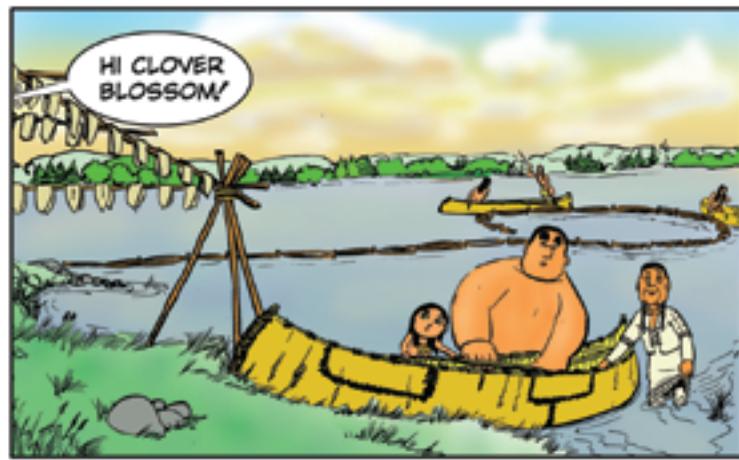
The reply: "You're not listening."

Joseph Sanchez is one of the Native Group of Seven Artists, which includes Daphne Odjig, Norval Morrisseau, Alex Janvier, Jackson Beardy, Carl Ray and Eddy Cobiness.

Today, Joseph Sanchez is Deputy Director and Chief Curator of the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

His museum is hosting The Drawings and Paintings of Daphne Odjig: A Retrospective from June 26 to Sept.20.

## 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.

**Tournament fee includes:** complimentary gift and prizes for all golfers, practice range, barbecue lunch, steak supper, cart, round of golf, men's and women's longest drive, closest to the pin/rope.

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ANISHINABEK NEWS

