



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

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Madahbee seeks unity on rights

AAMJIWNAANG FN – Patrick Madahbee's first official act as Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation was to stage a ceremony calling for unity among the 42 member communities.

Madahbee and re-elected Deputy Grand Chief Glen Hare distributed squares of burgundy cloth bearing the image of the Anishinabek Thunderbird, along with tobacco ties, to representatives of each member First Nation at the annual general assembly to remind delegates of their collective responsibility "to move the rights-based agenda forward."

The traditional stand-up election process – where supporters lined up behind the candidates of their choice – selected Madahbee to his second term as Grand Council Chief over Tom Bressette, former chief of Kettle & Stony Point, and Robert Corbiere, former chief of Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. In 1980 Madahbee, a citizen of Aundeck Omni Kaning FN, was elected at the age of 27 as the youngest-ever person to hold the office. He subsequently served as Chief of his community for 17



Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee

years. Hare was elected over Alderville Chief J.R. Marsden and Greg Plain of Aamjiwnaang FN near Sarnia, host community for the 2009 assembly.

Serpent River FN Chief Isadore Day, assisting in the Unity Ceremony, said the Governance Cloths were intended to symbolize "the work we have to do together to clarify the relationship we have with the British Crown and the government of Canada."

The ceremony began with the Governance Cloths placed in a pile on the floor between folded British and Canadian flags. One by one Chiefs were called forward to accept the cloth squares and tobacco ties.

Beaucage, stepping down after five years as Grand Council Chief to focus on his campaign for the office of National Chief, handed over the Anishinabek leadership headdress to Madahbee following a traditional ceremony conducted by Elder Gordon Waindubence of Sheguindah First Nation.

(Assembly news on pages 8,9.)



NO HARMONY IN THIS TAX

Harmonized tax out of tune with financial realities facing First Nation citizens and other residents of Ontario

'I'll take two'

One of John Beaucage's last acts Grand Council Chief was to urge Anishinabek Nation citizens to participate in a postcard-writing campaign asking Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Premier Dalton McGuinty to respect First Nation treaty rights to tax exemption in the event plans proceed to "harmonize" Ontario's provincial sales tax and the federal Goods and Services tax. Phoenix Sky Cottrelle, 13 months, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, was the first in line to get a supply of the postcards.

– Photo by Marci Becking



Protest growing against dump proposal

Lorna Murray is one of a growing number of landowners supporting a group of women from Beausoleil First Nation who are protesting a proposal to create a garbage dump in Simcoe County directly above one of the purest sources of drinking water on earth. Details on Page 2.

– Photo by Sharon Weatherall

McIvor wins but appeals



Sharon McIvor

OTTAWA – Sharon McIvor will appeal a B.C. court decision that she says continues to discriminate against thousands of women who cannot pass on their Indian status to their descendants. While the B.C. Court of Appeal decision found that McIvor's grandchildren qualify for Indian status, she is seeking leave to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of Canada on behalf of an estimated 100,000 people who are still excluded. Indian Affairs minister Chuck Strahl said the government will re-write the definition of Indian Status.

IN BRIEF

Card okay ...for now

WASHINGTON D.C.–The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is allowing an extension on the use of current versions of Indian Status Cards to gain land or water entry to the United States.

This extension will remain in place, at the discretion of U.S. officials, as Canada works to implement new secure cards.



Sinclair heads new commission



OTTAWA – Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair, the first Native judge appointed to the Manitoba bench, Murray has been appointed Sinclair the new chair of Canada's residential schools truth and reconciliation commission. Judge Sinclair will be joined by two new commissioners – Wilton Littlechild, the Alberta regional chief for the Assembly of First Nations and Marie Wilson, a former regional director of CBC North who is married to Stephen Kakfwi, former NWT premier.

Anti-flu plan kicks into high gear

UOI OFFICES – A special Community Planner has been hired by the Union of Ontario Indians to lessen the impacts of what the World Health Organization has officially declared a world-wide influenza pandemic.

"We just want to assure the citizens in our 42 member communities that our staff are taking all precautionary steps possible to minimize the impact of any possible health emergency," said newly-elected Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee.

The Grand Chief said UOI health unit staff was working with provincial and federal government officials to put in place community services and infrastructure needed to ensure that all preventive measures possible are in place.

In Ontario as of June 11th close to 2,000 cases of H1N1 influenza had been reported, including outbreaks on six unidentified First Nations.

Health officials say those most at risk of developing serious complications from the flu virus are those with underlying medical problems such as Asthma, Diabetes, or cardiac problems, as well as

pregnant women.

Doreen Cachagee, who had been assisting First Nations in Ontario to develop and test Pandemic Plans two years ago, was contracted in mid-June to fill a similar role for Anishinabek communities through a funding partnership with the First Nation and Inuit Health agency.

FNH recently surveyed all First Nations in the Ontario Region to see which communities would like further assistance.

Emergency medical supplies were purchased two years ago and stockpiled in each First Nation community. Supplies included disposable masks, gowns, and gloves, and each community was also supplied with one folding stretcher and a pulse oximeter to record how effectively a patient's system is metabolizing oxygen to 48 hours on a hard surface.

For further information, contact your local Public Health Unit, your local health care provider, TeleHealth toll-free at 1-866-797-0000, Tony Jocko, health policy analyst, at the UOI or visit the Health Canada website: www.hc-sc.gc.ca



WATER: Lifeblood of Mother Earth



Farmers follow women's lead in water protest

By Sharon Weatherall

TINY TOWNSHIP – Public attention is becoming focused on a plan to create a garbage dump on the site of the Alliston Aquifer, which scientists say is a source of some of the purest drinking water on earth.

On June 12th after Simcoe County met in emergency session to impose a ban on protesters parking on Concession 2 of Tiny Township, the group, led by five women from neighbouring Beausoleil First Nation, began blocking trucks from entering the proposed landfill site.

“We talked it over and the decision was made that the trucks are going nowhere today,” said Elizabeth Brass-Elson, a Beausoleil band councillor who joined the protesters as an individual.

Spokesperson Vicki Monague said aboriginal people of the area had made it known they were peacefully protesting Site 41 in the adjacent farmland.

“To put a parking ban on that road is a public statement conveying the message to aboriginal people they may be trying to interfere with the peaceful encampment,” said Monague, who set up camp in mid-May with four other women from Christian Island. “This parking ban is being viewed by the people at the encampment as discriminatory and racist.”

As many as 50 Native protesters – with the support of nearby landowners – were at Site 41 daily.

Monague said the women were

fulfilling their traditional role as caretakers of the water, which the Anishinabek refer to as the “Lifeblood of Mother Earth.”

Following the parking ban, the women moved into the centre of the roadway, offering prayers and smudging with sweetgrass, which was mistaken as a bonfire by OPP officers who later blocked both entrances of Concession 2 due to “a public safety threat”.

Police asked protesters to move after six tandem trucks had lined up waiting to dump loads of earth inside the proposed landfill site.

“They started pumping water from the site on March 30 this year and are dumping 810 litres per day into MacDonald Creek – I have seen them do it,” Monague said. “It’s all a business transaction and a legal way to swindle tax dollars out of taxpayers but they are going to contaminate the water doing it – the fish will die and people are at risk of getting cancer.”

“The government of Canada has a band-aid approach to water on First Nations. We should have been consulted in 1990 (when the project was initially proposed) and were not – they do not respect our treaty. Simcoe County passed a resolution only two weeks ago to involve Beausoleil First Nation but it will take us six months to get a seat on the Community Monitoring Committee. When we asked them about the integrated waste transfer station and other issues at the council meeting on Christian Island, they lied or would not answer our questions.”



Spokesperson Elizabeth Brass-Elson informs police mediator Heidi Fisher on June 12th that protesters had decided to block truck access to Site 41.

Simcoe County administrator Mark Aitken told Beausoleil councillors that the provincial Ministry of the Environment issued approval for the Site 41 dump.

Construction at the site began in June, 2008, a permit to pump water was issued in December, cell construction began this spring, and the landfill – which has cost \$40 million to develop to date -- will be operational this fall.

Beausoleil Chief Rodney Monague said that council has a “reserved opinion” on the matter and that more information is needed before any decision can be made regarding the landfill.

He says the protesters camped across from Site 41 are not representative of the entire First Nation community, but are gaining support from other area residents.

Neighbours and citizens from several First Nations have been supporting the protesters with food, money, firewood and other donations.

The protest camp is on land

owned by Tiny Township resident Art Parnell who says Site 41 is not a proper site for a dump and he would like to see it stopped.

A sacred fire is burning in a lodge that was built for the protesters by local farmers, who have demonstrated their support in weekly rallies involving as many as 50 tractors. Native men are supporting the women protesters by acting as fire-keepers.

The women say they are committed to keeping their protest peaceful, that this is not a native issue but one that involves unity of all peoples, regardless of gender, race or colour.

Clean water activist Steve Ogden says in his wildest dreams he could never have imagined a coalition of Native and non-Native protesters.

“We will stand up together and when we stand together we have to push – a lot of people pushing is a lot of power,” said Ogden, who launched the movement against Site 41 with Mohawk activist

Danny Beaton, a resident of Tiny Township.

Simcoe North MP Garfield Dunlop -- who has spoken out against Site 41 for year -- was joined by council members of Tiny Township at the second tractor rally in early June.

“This show of community support today is incredible,” said Dunlop. “We have two opposite edges of the spectrum, with the Native women on one side the farmers on the other. Both are bringing more awareness to the fact that Site 41 is a mistake. Water is the centre of the universe and I have never seen anything like this.”

“The county should shut it down. It’s a mistake and a waste of money – not something we should hand down to our kids. The bar was set higher in Walkerton and that should have stopped this.”

Aboriginal Day Celebrations were planned at the camp for June 21 and a benefit concert at the site was in the works for later this summer.

Michigan plans to build pipeline from Lake Huron

By Shawn Jeffords
The Observer

SARNIA – Ontario is being ignored as a Michigan county prepares to build a massive pipeline that would divert millions of litres of water a day from Lake Huron.

So says Dennis Lennox, the drain commissioner from Cheboygan County, Michigan. Lennox said a proposed pipeline from Genesee County, Michigan, would damage the Great Lakes and hurt residents on both sides of the border and that’s why he opposes it and Ontarians should too.

“I absolutely think Ontario is being ignored,” Lennox said in an interview with The Observer. “It’s very dangerous to the

future of our Great Lakes and we need to welcome input from our neighbours.”

Lennox said until recently most Canadian officials didn’t know of the project pitched by Genesee County, which includes the city of Flint, to the Michigan’s Department of Environmental Quality. It’s work that’s been planned for years, he said. Genesee County officials want to build the pipeline, which would draw 322 million litres (85 gallons) of water from the lake per day.

The county wants the \$400-\$600 million pipeline so it can control its own water system. It currently buys water from the city of Detroit and rates have

doubled in recent years. Lennox said he can sympathize with ratepayers wanting a better deal but a solution should be worked out with Detroit water system officials.

“If this is approved it will lead the way to dozens of new pipelines across the Great Lakes, mass diversions and the commercial exploitation of water resources,” he said. “It’s a precedent-setter.”

Michigan’s Department of Environmental Quality requires that a 45-day comment period, which ends July 15, be provided before it renders a decision. That news could come before the end of 2009.

But that period will fly by and a response

from the Lambton Area Water Supply System, which would come in August, will be too late, Lennox said. He’s urging Ontarians to write their local members of provincial and federal Parliament to voice their objections. He’s also appealing to those same government officials for help.

Sarnia-Lambton MP Pat Davidson had not heard about the proposed project until she was contacted by The Observer. She said it was a surprise, especially since she had just met with a panel from Michigan and Ontario concerned about water levels in Lake Huron and they didn’t mention anything to her about the proposed pipeline.

ANISHINABEK

Putting a face on poverty

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY—Poverty has been given a face and a voice in Thunder Bay.

A photo-voice slide show—Poverty in Thunder Bay: This is Reality was shown at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery on April 22, an exhibition of the 30 photos in the show were hanging in the Thunder Bay Art Gallery front lobby until the end of May, and a companion 34-page book of photos has been published for sale in the community.

“As soon as people walk in (the Thunder Bay Art Gallery) they see the show,” says Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee member Joy Asham, explaining how she and six other photographers used disposable cameras to take the 30 photographs which show the face of poverty in Northwestern Ontario’s largest city.

Louis Brizard, Tammy Cyr, Tracy Hurlbert, Amanda Perreault, Lauren Sagutch and Sandra Taggart shot the images along with Asham to show their



Tracy Hurlbert displays the Poverty in Thunder Bay: This is Reality photo voice book she and the Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee presented during a slide show presentation at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

vision of poverty in Thunder Bay, and the Economic Justice Committee published the book using the photographs and captions used in the exhibition.

“Some people don’t think there is poverty in Canada,” says Hurlbert, one of the seven members of the Economic Justice Committee. “Yes, we do have poverty in Thunder Bay.”

A 2006 report by the committee estimated that in 2000 almost 17,000 people, or 14 per cent of the population, lived in low income situations, most of those being of Aboriginal descent, women and children. The report also estimated an Aboriginal poverty rate of 40 per

cent in 2000.

The photographs range from an image of a man with his cap out begging for change on a downtown sidewalk to an image of a hearing aid and an apple to an image of a garbage can.

“We don’t know his real story of why he is here like this,” reads the caption of the image of the man holding the cap. “We passed him on the street every day. We see them everyday, but I think sometimes people forget they are human too. They have feelings. They have struggles too, and we are in no position to judge.”

The photo book and the slide show are both available; phone 807-344-1589 to order.

IN BRIEF

Moose Deer grows

MOOSE DEER POINT FN— Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee has congratulated Moose Deer Point First Nation for achieving deregulation and disposition of approximately 160 hectares of park lands and disposition of approximately of 103 hectares of provincial Crown lands to be transferred to the Government of Canada for addition to the First Nation’s land base.

A special celebration will be held at a later date with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Ground broken in Alderville

ALDERVILLE FN – The first home built by Habitat for Humanity in a First Nation community for a First Nation family will be in Alderville.

Ground was broken for the project May 30th and construction of the house will take place throughout the summer.



Five-pin champs

Becky Commanda, Nipissing First Nation, and Daniel Dokis, Dokis FN, were members of a team that finished second at this spring’s national championships in Regina of the Canadian Five-pin Bowling Association. Earlier the two, who have each been bowling for only three years and practice in Sturgeon Falls, were on the provincial championship team.

—By Marci Becking

Regalia on the auction block

By Karen J. Pheasant

WIKWEMIKONG—Last summer, I went to a pow-wow where a poster announced an “Indian Auction” and thought perhaps it was a fundraiser for a local community project, maybe auctioning off the service of hired hands—strong Indian men to clean yards, fix cars or better yet, a dinner date!

I was wrong in my assumptions.

The pow-wow was out in the middle of a field beside the Trans-Canada highway, and the grounds were filled with tents, 5th wheels, trailers and tipis on each side of the dance arbour. We danced beyond the midnight hours.

The night air was cold, but after hot soup, laughter and the dance of the last song sleep comes quickly amidst the gentle flapping of the tents. It doesn’t seem very long before the sun’s rays glimmer through the tent door, but the tiredness of the long drive, dancing the long Grand Entry and

inter-tribals coaxes the body back to sleep. I roll over, determined to sleep a few more minutes until I hear the gentle camp stir of voices and generators starting up... and I hear what sounds like an auctioneer’s voice.

Pow-wow participants flock to fill up the dance arena in a circle around the previous evening’s emcee, Howie Thompson, except he isn’t announcing a dance or a song, but is auctioning off camping gear, star quilts, dancing gear accessories... and dance outfits. A tall traditional dancer walks around the circle, holding up his bone breastplate, while the auctioneer takes bids, starting at ridiculously low prices, considering the detail, and history of the breastplate. Next it’s an almost brand new tent, some beadwork, a roach and a little girl’s jingle dress.

Howie Thompson says several things triggered the concept of an Indian Auction for him. It’s a chal-

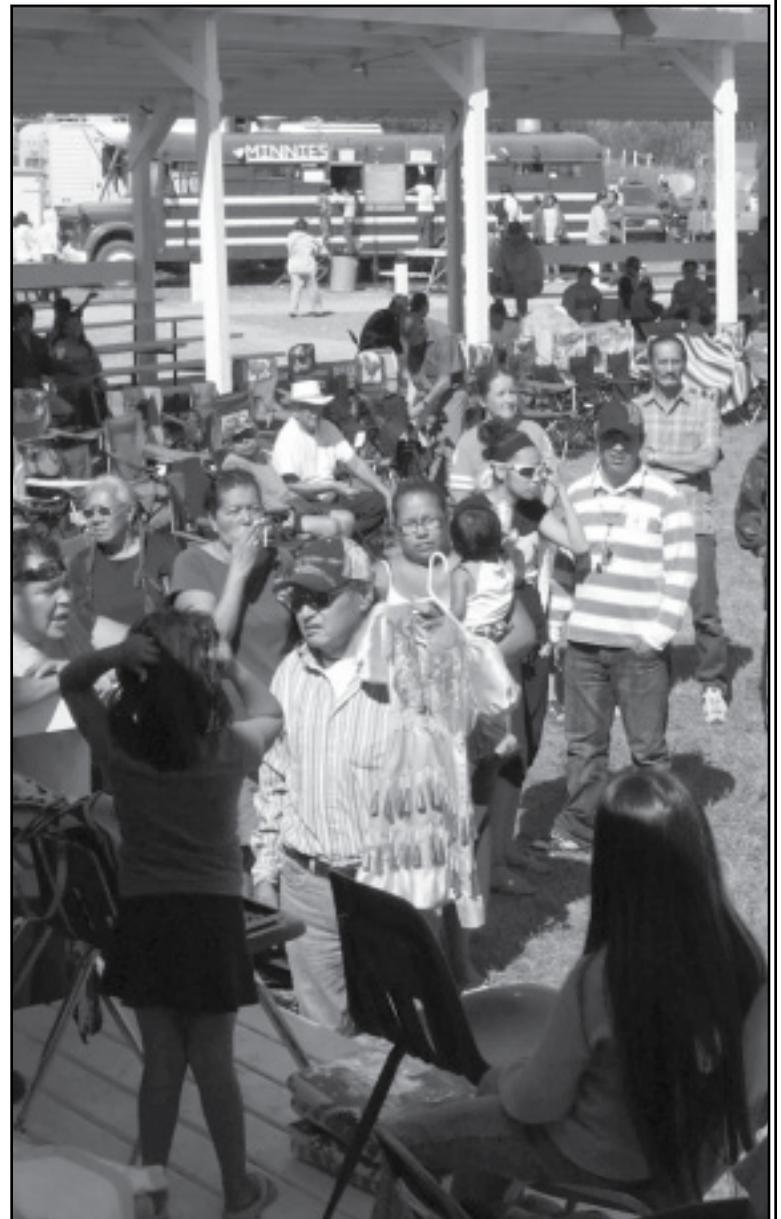
lenge to have enough cash flow to defray the costs of a summer on the pow-wow trail and often times one sees individuals or families going camp to camp selling their wares—dry meat, pow-wow CD’s, beadwork or sage and sweetgrass.

The other unfortunate reality is the presence of pawn shops near large reserves or sites of annual large pow-wows like the Montana Crow Fair. In the windows can be seen rows and rows of dancers’ outfits, everything from head to toe, from the roach to the moccasins. Howie Thompson realized this and decided to form a venue in the best interests of pow-wow sellers and buyers. Sales take place out in the open for all to witness.

This summer many of you are attending the AFN assembly in Calgary, Alberta and if you are driving, stop and visit the Carry The Kettle Wacibi (Pow-wow) west of Regina. Howie Thompson will be the weekend emcee.

Perhaps you will find yourself a good deal on regalia, and know that you are lending support to someone else in the pow-wow circle.

Karen J. Pheasant B.A. Poli.Sci. and Eng. Lit., is a citizen of Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve and former Creative Writing Instructor with the Enowkwinn Centre, Penticton B.C. kj_pheasant@msn.com / www.karenjpheasant.com



Auctioning a jingle dress.

Pow-wow Trail

OPP Traditional Pow-wow

Thursday, July 9, 2009

OPP General Headquarters

Front lawn, 777 Memorial Ave.

Orillia, ON

Registration opens at 10:30 am

Grand Entry: Noon

Closing: 6:00pm

Contact: Ashley (705)329-7674

Wahnapiatae First Nation

14th Annual Traditional Pow-Wow

August 15 & 16

Wahnapiatae First Nation, Wahnapiatae,

located N. of Sudbury, ON

Grand Entry: Saturday 1pm & 7pm;

Sunday 1pm

Vendors: Call for fees and info

Contact: Annabelle (705) 858-0610



ANISHINABEK NEWS

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Editor: Maurice Switzer

Assistant Editor: Marci Becking

Coordinator: Priscilla Goulais

Contributors: Joyce Atcheson, Holly Brodhagen, Lynn Cloutier, John Fox, Rick Garrick, Lynn Gehl, Margo Little, Karen J. Pheasant, Harmony Rice, Chad Solomon, Richard Wagamese, Sharon Weatherall.

PH: 705-497-9127 ~ 1-877-702-5200
FX: 705-497-9135

WEB: www.anishinabek.ca

E-MAIL: news@anishinabek.ca

MAIL: P.O. Box 711, Nipissing First Nation,
North Bay, ON, P1B 8J8



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 JULY/AUG

Advertising

Bookings: June 20

Final Art: July 10

News

News submissions: June 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

Two peoples in search of a better brand

I'm always looking for parallels between my two heritages, and a dandy one literally fell into my lap a few weeks ago.

The Consul General of Israel was visiting North Bay and the wall-to-wall crowd he attracted to the cozy little Sons of Jacob Synagogue would have made a Rabbi envious. People don't always like what Israelis have to say but they seldom have trouble drawing a crowd.

Amir Gissin is typical of those chosen by the Middle East's only true democracy to represent its interests around the world. He is sturdy of stature and conviction, seeking peaceful solutions but never backing down from a necessary fight.

With anti-semitism rife around the world – even in some pretty polite company – Gissin broached the topic head-on. And he surprised more than a few in his audience by making his points – not from the expected ideological stance – but by framing his subject in terms of a marketing challenge.

"Israel has a branding problem," he said, reminding his listeners of the power of a globally-recognized name like Coca-Cola. The good news is that Israel, like Coke, has become a household name; the bad news is that, unlike the world's favourite soft drink, Israel has become increasingly synonymous with negative perceptions.

"When people think of Israel, the word that comes to mind is 'conflict'," says Gissin, whose role to a great extent involves convincing Canadians that his country is a good place to invest, to send their children to school and to visit as tourists. It's a tough sell with a brand like that.

What Canadians don't know, he says, is that the computer chips that power the Canadian-made BlackBerry personal digital assistant were invented and manufactured by an Israeli company. They don't know that



Maurice Switzer

Jewish scholars have won more Nobel prizes than any other identifiable group, or that the beaches in Tel Aviv rival those anywhere on the planet.

Gissin travels the country enlisting the support of Jews everywhere to help polish Israel's brand, which he says is constantly tarnished by the traditional negative bias of mass media reporting. He is a big enough man to admit to listeners that mistakes are made by soldiers in any conflict – including members of the Israeli Defence Force – but reminds us that they call it a "defence force" for a reason – Israel is not a wanton aggressor that targets civilians with terrorist bombs.

The power of effective branding was still in my mind three days later when I was reading remarks made by John Beaucage to the Economic Club of Canada, a very upscale Toronto crowd of corporate movers and shakers. Approaching the end of his five-year tenure as Grand Chief of the 42 member communities of the Anishinabek Nation, Beaucage was stumping the country as a candidate for the office of National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

He told his Bay Street audience about his plan to make economic development the engine that improves social conditions for First Nations. On this night Beaucage was talking about creating healthy First Nation communities through job creation, not higher welfare cheques. Self-government, he observes, means providing citizens the opportunity to feed, clothe and house their own families.

He has been more interested in the potential of resource revenue-sharing agreements as tools to eliminate First Nation poverty than on perpetually relying on a paternalistic fiduciary relationship with Canada. He understands the importance of holding Canada's feet to the fire to resolve treaty rights and land claims, but sees this process as a building block to self-sufficiency.

During his Anishinabek leadership he encouraged the development of templates for economic development processes and laws that protect the interests of women and children in First Nation communities. His comment about bringing an end to the AFN's image as an "old-boys' club" drew an appreciative roar from the sellout crowd that attended his first campaign fund-raiser in Sudbury.

When Canadians think of First Nations, John Beaucage envisions the day when time-worn stereotypes will not be the first images that pop into their heads.

He wants a better First Nations brand – not just a shinier public image created by handshakes and photo-ops with cabinet ministers – but a positive public perception based on the reality of First Nation success.

This is not a paid public announcement – nobody tells me what opinions to have or who to vote for.

And I *would* vote for John Beaucage when I attend the AFN assembly in Calgary July 22nd...if I was one of the 630 Chiefs who currently enjoy that exclusive privilege.

But that's a story for another day.

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

Just call me 'Heavy Purple Thunder Ox'

As a kid I was surrounded by Hollywood and comic book Indians with names like Wahoo, Stalking Bear, Many Knives and Rolling thunder. My name, in contrast, was Wagamese. I always felt as though I got shafted in the great Indian name department. We were supposed to have great, grand-sounding names and Wagamese didn't seem to cut it. It took a long time to get over that.

Then, when I was in my late thirties, I lived in southern Alberta. That's the homeland of the Stoney, Peigan, Blackfoot and Blood people. While I lived there I got a chance to attend some of their ceremonies, pow-wows and cultural gatherings. I got a real glimpse into their traditional lives.

They have great grand names. There are people called Shot Both Sides, Many Grey Horses, Starlight, Heavy Shields, and Eagle Speaker. For a transplanted Ojibway with the name Wagamese, I wanted one of those romantic, image-evoking family names. You could say I had a pretty bad case of genus envy.

Like most people who were kids during



Richard Wagamese

that informational void of the 50s and 60s, I romanticized the idea of having a great, grand-sounding Indian name. I wanted to be a Wolfchild, a Black Bear, a Thunderchild or a Medicine Crane. Anything but plain old Wagamese. That didn't sound dramatic enough to qualify as an Indian name.

Even white people acting like Indians had better sounding names than mine. You could see them at pow-wows all dressed to kill in skillfully-copied regalia. They were Cougar Stalking Man, Whispering Cloud Woman and Heavy Thunder Wind. Wow. Nowadays there here are websites where non-native people are called Coyote Dreamer, Eagle Wind Woman, Deep Blue Crystal Medicine Woman or Songs in the Wind. How does

someone get a name like that?

I think we should all be able to choose our own Indian names. We'd be far more interesting sounding if we did. But there'd have to be a formula. First you'd have to pick a verb and then an animal. So you could be Dancing Fox, say. Then you'd have to pick a colour and an attitude or an attribute. So in the end you could be Shy Blue Dancing Fox. Wow. Imagine that?

Yessir. No more Wagamese for me. I'd join the ranks of other awesome-named people. I'd have a list of requests of course. All those great sounding names from my childhood when Indians were people of the movies, the comic book or the rumour. I'd be memorable and far more brown by virtue of my great name.

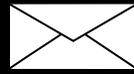
Heavy Purple Thunder Ox. That's me.

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

MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION



LETTERS



Cowboys and Indians

The corner store in my neighbourhood (KwikWay at the corner of Lasalle and Rideau St in New Sudbury) sells "Indian Chief Headbands" and plastic "Cowboys and Indians" figures as toys.

The clerk said that they were just toys and I quietly explained that I didn't see any other cultures or ethnic groups represented on the toy wall. I had hoped that we had moved beyond the point where the First Nations culture would be regarded as a child's game.

Leslie Blais
Copper Cliff

Cutting hair 'abuse'

People can't go around chopping other people's hair, especially a child at a vulnerable age of 7.

I have six sons and one daughter; no one has the right to touch anything or any part of my children's person.

I was in such disbelief when I read how lightly this is being taken by the Crown. How can he say there are no grounds for criminal charges and that it wasn't in the public interest?

It doesn't matter why the child was growing his hair. The issue is that the teacher's aide took scissors and cut off a part of his person and heritage. This is child abuse.

Our children are supposed to be safe in schools as they have been entrusted to our schools and teachers away from home.

RoseMarie Trudeau
Wikwemikong

A book for Jeremy

I wrote a book about the last thing my Anishnabe grandson did before he went on his journey at age 14. All the money that this book makes goes into the Jeremy Whetung memorial fund to help other students that are much like him to further their education. I hope to get this book in the schools for ages 4-8. I am on disability and don't have the money for printing. I am looking for some direction, or grant to put this book out. You see when you lose a child one of the things you think about is that others will forget how wonderful he was.

Patty Whetung, Curve Lake
(705) 654-3163

Liked Dudley's story

I liked the story about Anthony "Dudley" George. It's wrong that a person has to die for self-government. The government should be ashamed of themselves.

It hurt my feelings to see a person die for nothing.

Jerry E. Wenlock,
Barriere, B.C.

Feeling Sam's passing

The passing of Sam George is felt here as well. The family name is that of my grandfather Isaac George (1898-1985), whose father was John George Mandoka (Spirit Maker).

I remain amazed and honoured by the brave efforts of all of my relatives in Canada. Please convey to Grand Council Chief John Beaucage my respects for making such a declaration in honour of First Nations warriors. We offer prayers and a pipe on behalf of all of the George family in Canada as well as your leaders and yourselves as well.

Even though it's sad, I like how it's said "Dudley and Sam will celebrate a victory dance in the Spirit World, surrounded by our ancestors and our mightiest warriors of our Nation."

Donna VanZile
Forest County Potawatomi
Crandon, WI

Unhappy in Rama

Without any community consultation Chief and Council struck a deal with the Province negotiating Casino Rama revenue post 2011, when the current deal expires. This deal did not include negotiations for jobs for First Nation people, nor did they seek input from the community to address their questions or concerns. The people of Rama were informed after the fact and never had their voices heard, which has become a problem and a pattern between the community members of Rama, and the current leadership.

I want neighbouring communities and First Nations to know that life in Rama is not the picture of idealism that the leadership paints it.

Elder Arnold Snache



Dwindling pedigree

Many of our people may not see it, but this family where our blood and culture still run deep is not very far from losing all status recognition, which includes the established rights gained by treaties that we enjoy today that was established with future generations in mind. By the Canadian facts of determining who were are, who is Native, what constitutes an Anishinaabe, and picking and choosing which future children may be recipients of rights by treaty and such, from being told 'you are no longer Anishinaabe...or Cree... you are not longer Native' -- the family will never get this back.

After two consecutive inter-marriages, it is a pull towards elimination of recognized peoples. This 'Abocide' Bill has the potential over the short span of two generations to do what 500 years of colonization failed to do -- the elimination of all status Indians.

Robert Animikii Horton
"Bebaamweyaazh"
Rainy River First Nation

Memories of foster care 'terrorism'

By **John Fox**

A family member told me about the multi-million-dollar class action lawsuit against the Attorney-General of Canada on behalf of Aboriginal foster kids and adopted children.

At first, I was glad this action is taking place. After some thought, my feelings about this issue as a Crown Ward turned to anger as I reflected about my experiences in the Children's Aid Society system -- most of which were not very positive, but I managed to survive. I thought about the hundreds of other CAS survivors who were not as fortunate! Many are lost, beaten, abused and some have passed on or living on the streets of our inner cities or towns.

I asked myself "Why did I survive?" The way I lived after foster care I should have been one of the first casualties of this system. After my sixteenth year matured as a CAS Crown Ward I was on my own; I did not know who I was, I no longer spoke my language, I had no family or community connection and I had no life skills.

How did I live through the terrorism --the bullying, the physical assaults and the verbal abuse I endured in non-native high schools just because I was different and native? The CAS foster care placements were outside of my reserve.

And how do I explain the violence I used to witness in one of the foster homes when the husband beat his wife to a pulp because of his own jealous rage, his own infidelity and his seeming hatred of Indian people? In the end, he targeted his assault upon me.

Lastly, how do I explain being manhandled while in foster care by the care-givers or members of their family who would casually come downstairs to beat us at their leisure?

As a foster child, I dared not mention any of this to any of the countless CAS social workers deemed to provide a service. Most of these people -- who sounded like robots-- said the same thing, "I was to blame for any bad experiences because my family did not want me and I was not allowed to speak with them".

With this said my self-defeatism was complete

and I felt alone, alienated and scared. The powerlessness and loneliness a child feels while in CAS care cannot be described. It is a deep, soul-wrenching sadness one feels when the child feels no one cares or is not allowed to talk to their family or is completely cut off from their community.



John Fox

My last foster home placement consisted of me having to sleep on the couch with no privacy. I never did meet the social worker assigned to me -- not once. At about sixteen years of age, I got booted from my last CAS foster home and I felt I never wanted to look back. For a short time, I stayed with a family member but with no money I ended up on the streets.

I found the next best thing to camaraderie and that was fair-weather friends, drinking, getting into fights and small-time criminal activity. It meant changing everything --my lifestyle, my thinking, learning to live my Native spirituality -- and it required my humbleness to get the healing from my elders. In the end, my self-sacrifice paid off and this August I will be sober 25 years. Today, I am very grateful for my life, my family and I count my blessings daily.

I want to bring closure to the CAS issue which I dodged and avoided all my life. It was a very shameful and painful chapter in my life. In my mind, I was lied to, manipulated, humiliated and abused within this system. Now, I want to see the Government of this country held accountable for how our people were treated by the child welfare system.

The practice of genocide and oppressive policy is ongoing even to this day and it scares me that the Children's Aid Society hides under a cloak of secrecy, family law and the courts to kill the child within the Indian. This sort of child welfare practice has to be stopped in its tracks and to this end, I have created a Facebook link called CAS.lawsuit-Toronto. The link has information and if need be, I can forward an application to any survivor.

No amount of payment will give me or the hundreds of other Aboriginal children our lives back!
John Fox is a CAS survivor from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, currently living and working in Ajax, Ont.

MNO-BMAADZIWIN/HEALTH

Drugs major Assembly topic

By Marci Becking

AAMJIWNAANG FN – Health issues were at the top of the agenda at the 2009 Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly. Many Chiefs talked about recommendations and issues that came out of the February's Booniikan Neshnaaskaagwin Mshkiki "War on Drugs" conference held in Sudbury.

Chief J. R. Marsden of Alder-ville First Nation said that individuals are handed as many as 100 OxyContin pills at a time.

"We need to talk to doctors and pharmacists about overprescribing," said Chief Marsden. "These pills are getting into the wrong hands. We need to support any resolution that protects our communities."

Chiefs passed a resolution giving the Union of Ontario Indians Chiefs Committee on Health direction to take any steps deemed necessary to control the widespread abuse of OxyContin in the 42 member communities. All research is to be integrated into the Anishinabek Nation Strategic Plan on Drugs, which includes the four pillars of Prevention, Treatment, Protection and Harm Reduction.

Funding is also being secured by the UOI health department to host a youth "war on drugs" conference in the fall. The conference will address the illegal and prescription drug issues that are having serious negative impacts on First Nations.

Chiefs also passed a resolution calling for recognition and easier access to traditional healers.

The UOI will begin drafting a strategic plan with interested communities to be presented at the next Anishinabek Grand Assembly.

Head Start has 4 sites

TORONTO—The Aboriginal Head Start program is a non-profit early intervention, pre-school readiness program that can be found in four locations in Toronto.

The program sessions to First Nations, Inuit and Métis children ages two-and-a-half to six years old.

The philosophy of the program is to offer a holistic approach to education that emphasizes the needs of the child within the family, school and the community.

The program recognizes parents are the "first educators" who have a right and responsibility in regards to their child's education. For information contact Christine Vautour at 416 656 3773.



Chesney Wright from Walpole Island with car seat Technician Bill Arch from Onigaming.

Project promotes child car seat safety

By Harmony Rice

TORONTO – Securing Our Future, a new public education campaign to promote child passenger safety was launched by Regional Chief Angus Toulouse at the Chiefs in Ontario Health Forum.

The project aims to increase awareness on the proper use and installation of car seats through targeted interventions at five community demonstration sites, a promotional campaign and an educational resource package that will be sent to all 133 First Nation communities across Ontario.

"There is a need to increase awareness on child car passenger safety, through culturally-appropriate initiatives for Ontario First Nations which will promote correct usage and installation of child car restraints to reduce injuries to children in automobile collisions," said Toulouse. "We are working with communities who currently offer no child car restraint safety initiatives. We will evaluate our success and publish a report that will inform best practices for Ontario First Nation Child Passenger Safety Initiatives."

In November, 2008, the Ontario First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly passed a resolution supporting an Injury Prevention Initiative and projects like the Securing our Future campaign.

COO coordinated training for two facilitators as Certified Child Car Seat Technicians for each participating community. The launch featured a live demonstration with Mischa Williams, a young toddler who received a brand new car seat from the Chiefs in Ontario. The installation was completed by two certified technicians from Onigaming First Nation, Bill and Colleen Arch.

"I am so glad that I agreed to participate," said mother Chesney Wright from Walpole Island. I have learned so much about installing the car seat and securing my daughter safely."

For more information please visit the chiefs-of-ontario.org website.

COO launches First Nation integrated plan to promote health

By Harmony Rice

TORONTO—A Chiefs in Ontario (COO) Health Forum – Working Together: Strengthening the Circle of Wellness – attracted dozens of First Nation health professionals and community service providers to the three-day event this spring.

The goal of the forum was to encourage First Nation to engage with government and participate in the health care system.

According to Regional Chief Angus Toulouse the forum was a great success.

"At all levels of First Nation government—directors, leadership, coordinators and community members – were all engaged in important discussions around the most necessary issues key to our survival as communities. It was important to take the time to address relationship building with government, from a nation-to-nation perspective. I am confident that this forum and the community participation in the work will lead to the success of the new tripartite relationship we are seeking."

During the forum the Chiefs in Ontario launched the Ontario First Nations Integrated Health Promotion Strategy, a new initiative to promote healthy eating, active living and healthy smoke-free communities. The new strategy is dedicated to the late Howard Pamajewon, a former Chief from Shawanaga FN who promoted healthy living, sports and culture. Family members Ann and Bella Pamajewon participated in the launch of this new initiative with an inspirational tribute to Howard.

"It is important for us to celebrate the leadership within our communities who have challenged our notion of healthy living, and healthy communities," said Regional Chief Toulouse. "Former Chief Pamajewon was dedicated to making this change and we honour his commitment."

The Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative announced a new Health Care Role Model campaign. Geared to First Nation students, the campaign features several First Nation Health professionals, para-professionals and students from across Ontario in a poster and web campaign. The role model winners are Miranda Hill -- who is achieving her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Oneida, Rhonda Angecone -- a successful nurse practitioner from Lac Seul First Nation, Samantha Boshart – from Chippewas of the Thames who is studying to become a doctor, Ron J. Thomas – a primary care paramedic from Six Nations, Bernadette Wabange – a health director for Eagle Lake First Nation and Ross Corston from the Moose Cree First Nation – a pharmacy technician who plans to be a pharmacist.

Please see the chiefs-of-ontario.org website for more information.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Stan Beardy was recognized for his years of service in the health field, and Ontario Minister of Health Promotions Margaret Best and Ontario Minister of Health and Long Term Care David Caplan addressed relationship-building with First Nation leadership in the province.

BIIDAABAN HEALING LODGE Program Dates

Anger Management

• Sept. 21-30/09 • December 7-16/09 • March 22-31/10

Grief & Abandonment

July 13-22/09 • Oct. 19-28/09 • Jan. 11-20/10

Sexual Abuse Survivor's

• Nov. 16-25/09

Community Wellness Conference

Oct. 6-9/09

Time for Renewal for former graduates of Biidaaban Healing Lodge: August 10-15, 2009

Revitalization of the Spirit for people who are in recovery
August 24-28, 2009

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

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

Toll Free: 1-888-432-7102

Annual Meeting of the Corporation

NOTICE OF MEETING

The annual meeting of the Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital Corporation will be held on Monday, June 29th, at the Laurentian Site cafeteria in the South Tower. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.



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A Special Report on Economic Development



Sisters Sarah and Stacey Monague were among 20 students in the Seneca College Entrepreneurship Certificate Program staged on Christian Island by instructor Jerry Shapiro to encourage adult students to pursue self-employment and other career opportunities.

Islanders learn entrepreneurship

By Sharon Weatherall

BEAUSOLEIL FN --Sarah and Stacey Monague are working together on a plan to expand an existing camping business on Christian Island and make it more lucrative. The lifelong residents of Beausoleil First Nation were among 20 who registered for a course on entrepreneurship being taught by Seneca College instructor Jerry Shapiro.

"The island has the best freshwater beaches north of the Caribbean and through the course we want to learn how to promote and market our business," says Sarah. "Mr. Shapiro says we have a good idea and is helping us with our business plan."

"Most people have some kind of business idea but don't know what to do with it," says Shapiro. "It takes a lot of planning and research to find out how to get it out there and get financing for it. If you don't have a business plan you can't go anywhere."

"In this course we are trying to open the eyes of the people who live here and help to make them more self-supportive or give them something they take off the island and share with others. This is a tax-free island – a remote community with all kinds of opportunity for the people that live here."

One of six Seneca College instructors involved in the Entrepreneurship Certificate Program, Shapiro says Christian Island presents "huge" opportunities to provide experiences for tourists looking for "health, wellness and peace of mind."

"On Christian Island there is a market for taking

people out of fast-paced environments and junk food and offering them a healthy, peaceful environment."

Topics covered include Introduction to Small Business, Defining an entrepreneur, Self-evaluation of an entrepreneur, Marketing strategies, Financial needs, Human Resources, The Business Plan, Modes of Instruction and Traditional Classroom.

Beausoleil director of education Peggy McGregor says bringing Seneca College to the reserve is a community development initiative that will encourage people to get their feet wet and pursue business options on the island or further education.

"In the past we featured an educational assistant program here from which five grads have gone onto pursue further education in the field and last year we had 20 nurse practitioners graduate.

Local delivery of education programs is integral to our community's development. Certificate programs have proven very worthwhile in our community and in most instances; it is a stepping stone to further education or a different career."

McGregor said she was inspired by a speech by Sylvia Maracle, Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres in which she spoke about the need to train and educate ALL community members regardless of family name, age, or address."

The Seneca College program is held on-site in alternate weeks, and complemented with online instruction and independent study.

Blueprint follows 3 steps

By Barret Dokis

The Anishinabek Nation's Economic Blueprint contains 21 recommendations which are grouped into a process which was developed by the Member-tou First Nation. This model is called the First Nation Progression Model and is intended as a guide for communities to follow as they work towards their pursuit of eliminating poverty within their communities. This Progression Model includes three steps in order to achieve economic development success. The first recommendation of the Anishinabek Nation's blueprint recommends that all communities use this model as a basis for their economic planning.

The first step focuses on what our communities must do in order to build capacity within their communities to prepare for economic development. The second step within the progression model requires that communities then prepare to convert this capacity into specific strategic plans. The third and final step focuses on the pursuit of economic development within the Anishinabek territory. Below is a listing of the 21 recommendations categorized into the three steps.

Step One includes recommendations such as building Local Capacity in Financial and Quality Management recommends that all First Nations within the Anishinabek Nation need to make economic development a priority.

Develop a communication strategy to consistently promote



Barret Dokis

Aanii, my name is Barret Dokis My title is Economic Development Coordinator. and I will be responsible for helping the Anishinabek Nation develop the implementation strategy for the recently developed Economic Blueprint.

I bring over 10 years of experience working in commercial fields and economic development. In my previous roles In 2002 I graduated from Cambrian College's Business Administration Program in the Management stream.

If you have any questions about the blueprint, do not hesitate to give me a call at (705) 497-9127 ext. 2502 or I can be reached by email at barret.dokis@anishinabek.ca.

the Anishinabek Nation Economic Blueprint both internally within the Anishinabek Nation and externally.

Step Two – Preparing for Economic Development includes recommendations such as: Develop and implement an Economic Development Strategy in each Anishinabek First Nation Community and develop and implement Anishinabek Human Resource Strategy.

Step Three – Pursuing Economic Development recommends that First Nations should seek out business opportunities throughout the Anishinabek Nation territory.



Wasse-Abin High School students won a prize for best trade show display at the 9th annual E-Spirit competition in Kelowna, British Columbia. From left: Marshall Odjig, Pam Kimewon, Skye Trudeau, Theresa Fox, Fawn Jacko, Nadine Oshkawbiswens, Santana Eshkawkogan, Alyca Shawana, Zane Aguonie and Theresa Peltier. The event was organized by the Business Development Bank of Canada and hosted by the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

Wiky booth best of show

By Margo Little

WIKWEMIKONG –A team of young entrepreneurs from Wasse-Abin High School took their innovative business ideas to the ninth annual E-Spirit competition in Kelowna, British Columbia, parlaying their intensive 16 weeks of training into a prize for Best Trade Show Display during a gala ceremony May 15.

The Whacky Kart Way booth entered by Zane Aguonie and Nadine Oshkawbiswens caught the judges eye during the annual competition which attracted over 160 Aboriginal students from across the country. The Wikwemikong delegation consisted of Theresa Fox and Alycia Shawana with their Mskwo-Waaskone Designs concept and Theresa Peltier, Sky Trudeau and Marshall Odjig with their Nawautin Wellness Spa business plan. Also represented were Santana Eshkawkogan and Pam Kimewon with the Teen Stylists scheme and Fawn Jacko with Maamweh Anishnaabemowin.

Accompanying the Wikwemikong student contingent was Wasse-Abin business and technology instructor and staff advisor Jason Thibault.



Anishinabek Grand Council Assembly



Leadership council results

The Anishinabek Nation leadership elections were held in June.

Southwest Region: Chief Chris Plain (Elder Leroy Dolson); Southeast Region: Chief James R. Marsden (Elders Joan Hendrick and Rod Monague Sr.); Northern Superior Region: Chief Peter Collins (Elder Mike Esquega); and Lake Huron Region: Chief Isadore Day. (Elders Martin Assinewe and Elsie Bissaillon). Chief Hazel Fox-Recollet is the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve representative.

Gordon Waindubence is the Grand Council Elder.

Commercial code

Chiefs at Assembly were briefed on Commercial Code by Douglas Sanderson from the University of Toronto and UOI legal counsel, Fred Bellefeuille. For economic development, Rule of Law and governance reasons, First Nations may want to adopt a commercial code – a set of laws that regulates commercial law.

Commercial law is the law of contracts, and so the proposed Code would govern commercial transactions into which a First Nation, its members, or corporations enter.

Wind power

Wind and alternative energy are becoming a popular business venture for First Nations.

Peter Bettel, VP of Brookfield Asset Management Inc. said that just about all of his company's energy projects run through First Nations.



New Anishinabek Nation leadership

Grand Council Chief Pat Madahbee and Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare speak to the Chiefs and delegates at assembly. Youth Council representative Sandra Albert, Chippewas of the Thames FN, made blankets for the new Anishinabek Nation leadership. The power is given to the new leadership by women who drape the Chiefs with the blankets.



Traditional stand-up elections

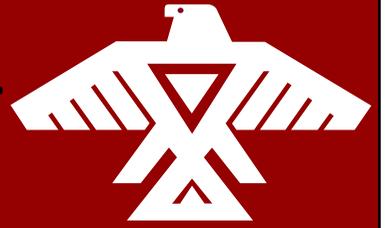
Chiefs, proxies and Elders stood behind each of the three candidates, Tom Bressette, Patrick Madahbee and Robert Corbiere for Grand Council Chief and Glen Hare, J.R. Marsden and Greg Plain for Deputy Grand Council Chief.

– Photos by Maurice Switzer



Anishinabek

Grand Council Assembly



Aamjiwnaang Binoojiinyag Kino Maagewgamgoons Junior Kindergarten

Students and instructors sang "Oh Canada" in Anishinaabemowin at the start of the Grand Council Assembly. Back row: Instructors Carletta M., Tammy P., Laura R., and Mrs. Henry. Middle row: Derrick O., Lexi M., Zak C., Shepherd J., Nolan C., Shayla A., M'skwa P., William J., Krislyn R. Front row: Tristen N., Macy H., Emma B., Ember N., Kalleigh V., Faith R., Avery R., Corbin W., and Launa G.

– Photo by Marci Becking



Jeannette Corbiere Lavell

Citizenship law urgency

By Marci Becking

AAMJIWNAANG FN – Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Commissioner spoke to the Chiefs and delegates at Assembly about the urgency for a citizenship law.

"We need to do this citizenship law now," said Corbiere Lavell. "We know that there is no dispute of a one-parent law. We know who our people are."

Over 400 participants were reached in the 18 consultation sessions held in four regions and two Nation-level conferences.

Corbiere Lavell said what she heard from the participants was that Anishinaabe language was needed for our culture and spirituality.

"It is who we are as a people," said Corbiere Lavell.

She also heard participants express the importance of incorporating our Treaties to help explain the history of our ancestors who determined E-dbendaagzijig – those who belong..

Other responses included keeping Canada responsible. Canada must recognize our citizens and our right to determine our citizens.

"The issue is Citizenship, not membership, Nations have citizenship and social groups have members," said Corbiere Lavell. "Nations have land, their own governance, culture, language and spirituality. We cannot be fooled into a discussion on membership."

"There are two different criteria. The one-parent rule was accepted overall as being the only way to ensure that we continue to exist and that we protect the lands we now occupy. The other is Cultural Criteria," Corbiere Lavell. "Our Grandfather's teachings will help to explain our history. We need to use the Clan System to determine citizenship roles, responsibilities and issues."

Jeannette Corbiere Lavell can be reached by E-mail at commissioner@anishinabek.ca.



Unity Cloth presentations

Chief Chris Plain, Aamjiwnaang First Nation received a Unity Cloth from newly-elected Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee and Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. Looking on is new Lake Huron Regional Chief Isadore Day.

–Photo by Marci Becking



INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



Serpent River First Nation Chief Isadore Day cut the ribbon June 1st welcoming community-based policing to the community. From left: Emma Meawasige, Anishinabek Police Service Representative, Chief Isadore Day and Dorothy McLeod-Tremblay.

Anishnawbek Police Service debuts in Serpent River FN

By Nadine Schofield
Mid-North Monitor

Constable Vernon Macumber was welcomed to Serpent River First Nation on June 1st. SRFN will be policed by the Anishnawbek Police Services replacing the majority of Ontario Provincial Police services with community based policing. The service is already successful in Sagamok Anishnawbek and Macumber will be based out of that office until such time as a satellite office can be set up in SRFN.

"We're here to celebrate a milestone in the history of our community," said Chief Isadore Day who hopes to increase the size of the force over the next several years.

A representative from the Ontario Provincial Police said, "He will never be alone, we will always be a phone call away. APS has the same authority



Vernon Macumber

as any Ontario police officer to stop speeders, respond to 9-1-1 calls and all duties requiring an officer.

"We don't consider this cutting the ties. We're looking forward to working with you," said the OPP.

The Sagamok Anishnawbek detachment will be home base for the SRFN services and officers will back up Macumber as needed.

The OPP will also be sharing their resources as needed. The community was advised that nothing changes except perhaps who is the first to respond to the needs of the community.

APS will be working with elders and a recruited committee of volunteer advisors to access the needs of the community. Macumber will be in the community full time by Monday, June 15 after two weeks of orientation in Sagamok Anishnawbek.

Native communities deserve same policing

TORONTO (The Canadian Press)

To prevent another tragedy that killed two aboriginal men in a jailhouse fire three years ago, Ottawa and Ontario must bring policing services in First Nations to the same level as those in non-

aboriginal communities, a jury at an coroner's inquest said Thursday.

The panel also urged that all unsafe holding cells in Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service facilities be closed, noting that as many as 19 detachments didn't meet na-

tional building code standards or have sprinkler systems installed.

The jury noted that while its advice was largely aimed at the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, many of the recommendations could apply to other First Nations police forces across Canada.

Chief's Corner

First Nation: Pays Plat

Name: Chief Xavier Thompson

Political Career: 6 years as Band Councillor (3 terms) 1 Year as Chief (1st term)

Vision for Community: Creating policies to create stability. Rules have to be made and followed to avoid chaos. It is the foundation on which the community should be built.

Community Accomplishments/Challenges: Pays Plat has created their own water treatment plant, the beginnings of high speed internet access and the introduction of street lights all in the last decade.

Personal (hobbies, interests, family, influences):

Chief Thompson is a trained musician; he entered politics at the age of 25 and became Chief at 31. Chief Thompson's goal is to revitalize Pay Plat's language and traditions.



Chief Xavier Thompson

Curriculum needs more Native content

By Karen Biondi

If there is one area that can be agreed upon by both First Nations and the government it is the need to improve First Nations content in the education system.

One of the major challenges that are faced by policy makers, teachers and students is the lack of quality material to use in the classroom. The majority of teachers are not of First Nation descent and frequently do not have a lot of exposure to the various First Nation cultures, unless they are teaching on a First Nation community. Many of those teachers find working there extremely positive, but after several years, they move away from the community to be with their own families or escape the isolation or remoteness that can often exist.

As a former high school teacher myself, I saw first-hand how First Nation students would struggle to adapt to their new environment. Often, they had attended school on their communities but were now being bused to larger high schools in the public education system. The rivalries were blatant, in many schools the First Nation students stuck with their friends from the community, and if you 'messed' with one, you "messed" with them all.

Some steps have been taken to incorporate First Nation curriculum into the general school system. This is necessary not just because of the current political climate, but for the positive inclusion of the people who were fundamental in the shaping of Canada. A Native Studies class is now offered in some schools, but usually at those schools that already have a large First Nation population. Enrollment is mainly by First Nation students. This course, while a step ahead, still does not meet the need of bringing First Nation content into every classroom to every student.

Part of the problem begins in the education of teachers themselves. Some teachers' colleges have courses on educating First Nations where students learn about the cultural differences that impact the lives of First Nation students and what it would be like to teach in a First Nations community. These courses are not, however, mandatory and most teachers find the extra time and expense during a frantic year too much to take on. Were this class mandatory, think of the difference it could make for the future teachers entering the public system when dealing with First Nation students and attempting to incorporate their culture into the teaching?

Progress is in the hands of the grassroots people: teachers, community members and elders. An excellent example of this is the work of the late Sam George, brother of Dudley George who was killed in 1995 while protesting for the return of his people's land at Ipperwash. Sam visited schools and shared his brother's story with the students.

He discussed how the family struggled to get the Inquiry that answered so many questions about his death and how the recommendations will hopefully prevent future tragedies. Sam said, "The most effective way to get the student's attention is to introduce them to Dudley. To show them that he was a real person." If these people could form a working relationship to have events as simple as a guest speaker, major progress could be made on how First Nations history and culture is taught in the public school system.

New Ipperwash coordinator

Hello, my name is Nicole Latulippe, Métis from the North Bay area. I'm delighted to be the new project coordinator for the Union of Ontario Indian's involvement in the Ipperwash implementation process.

I have a BA in human geography from Nipissing University and a master's degree in geography and international development from the University of Guelph. I've spent the last few years working and doing research



Nicole Latulippe

in India and West Africa; but am anxious to apply myself to work for social justice in the regional context. It's true what they say: Think Global, but Act Local!

STAFF

Allan Dokis
Director
dokall@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2251

Kerry Assiniwe
Relations Coordinator
kerry.assiniwe@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2320

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

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

Nicole Latulippe
Project Coordinator
ipperwash@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2253

MISSION

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

LANDS AND RESOURCES

Shka-kami-kwe, our Mother Earth

By Arnya Assance

I may not be the most qualified person to write an article about the environment, however, for the month of May it was an eye-opening experience relating to our Shka-kami-kwe, our Mother Earth.

I traveled with Rhonda Gagnon to Aamjiwnaang First Nation to the Southwest Regional Water Session. While the meeting was informative, the post-meeting activity was what was so moving.

Ron Plain, Josephine Mandamin (Chief Water Commissioner), Rhonda Gagnon, Kathleen Padulo (Chiefs of Ontario) and I hopped in the van for a "Toxic Tour", of the Aamjiwnaang FN, and Sarnia's Chemical Valley. My heart ached as I witnessed a glimpse of what it is like to be surrounded by such an environmental shame.

Tears rolled down my face as we made our first stop at the community cemetery. The cemetery is surrounded by huge oil silos on either side, but what is more intrusive are security cameras that face the cemetery. I saw firsthand the invasion of privacy to mourn your loved ones in peace.

At another stop down the



Grand Council Chief John Beaucage showed his support at Site 41 in May.

road, Josephine prayed for the water. While this is typically a moving experience, the signage posted about serious health concerns at the creek made it an oxymoronic experience. So many signs of life in the background -- birds chirping, leaves and flowers blooming -- yet the very life source flowing was so toxic you were warned of

its toxicity. Our host, Ron Plain explained the impacts of living in a place you love so much, but that causes serious health damage to his own children. It truly was an eye-opening experience.

A few weeks later, I traveled to Site 41 in Simcoe County. Site 41 is a proposed landfill located on top of a pristine aquifer. This

aquifer -- streams, rivers eventually all feed into Georgian Bay and eventually into the Great Lakes water system. A group of Anishinabe Kwewag from Beausoleil First Nation have established a permanent peaceful protest site directly across from Site 41. Site 41 is located closest to my home community, Christian Island.

The Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief visited the site on May 22, participating in a traditional Water Ceremony around the sacred fire, and tasting the water from the artesian well. Grand Council Chief John Beaucage spoke to the media at the site, and had a telephone interview with 740 AM Radio's Dale Goldhawk to get the message out to the general population about Site 41.

The visit was topped off with a feast prepared on site by the women and their supporters. A continuous stream (no pun intended) of supporters stop by, offering whatever they can -- food, their support, money, firewood -- and all is very much appreciated.

The protest adjacent to Site 41 has brought the Anishinabek community together with its non-native family. Peacefully. Hopefully the landfill proposed for Site 41 will not go forward, and that we can find new ways to preserve our water for our seventh generation.

Arnya (Asinii Kwe) is a First Degree Initiate of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge, a traditional society of the Anishinabe (Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatami) people.

Focus is on the water: Mandamin

Josephine Mandamin -- long-time water activist and leader of the Mother Earth Water Walk -- is one of the founding commissioners of the



Anishinabek Nation's Women's Water Commission. Mandamin, citizen of Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, has walked around all five great lakes and this spring, walked the St. Lawrence River. This is part two of an abbreviated account of her journey. For more information visit www.motherearthwater-walk.com.

April 23, 2009: We were warmly welcomed by Chief Jean Philippe Sioui, his wife Michele their beautiful children, and her son at Wendake. Such beautiful traditional people. They really made us feel like family. We are Family.

We then went to the Longhouse where we were again treated like we had known them forever. We

danced to the water drum with the women in the community.

April 24, 2009: We walked in good spirit, strong walkers, Today was Pipe Day and it was completed with the music of the flute from Natalie. The day ended with a beautiful spectacle of honking snow geese: thousands of them on the shore.

April 25, 2009: We started the day @ 3:45 am, we walked from Saint Antoine de Tilly to Beaumont. Walked through Quebec and Levis, and it was fast paced, really hot. It was really good to feel the fresh breeze as we approached Beaumont, with still some refreshing snow on the ground in some spots.

There is a lot of traffic on the river, and on the road too! We met a few people who were really interested in the Mother Earth Water Walk. I have rarely seen so much love and dedication for the children of the future. The focus is on the Water and the future

generations. This walk is helping us understand what doing the work is all about.

April 30, 2009: After a beautiful long day of great joy, even if all are tired, we are resting in Sainte Flavie. The water view is spectacular. It is so good to be here and walk for the Mother Earth Water.

Today we were greeted by a beautiful shooting star as the walkers were starting their first steps of the Water Walk! then at lunch time, The Walkers were greeted in Rimouski by six Migmaq community members, many eagles visited today, and a woman from Rimouski, Gabrielle, walked with us.

May 01, 2009: The grand finale of the Mother Earth Water Walk. The celebration will be held at the community hall of the municipality of Riviere de la Madeleine in Gaspesie, Quebec at 6 pm, with the community, the presence of the Migmaq from Gaspesie, and news people. Please contact the municipality for more information. We may arrive a little late, but we will be there!

New water assistant at UOI

Hi! My name is Sarah Louis and I am a new addition to the Union of Ontario Indians! I have been brought on as the Water Unit Assistant for the Lands and Resource Department.

I am a community member of Nipissing First Nation, and am returning home as a recent graduate, after having spent the last three years in Toronto, Ontario. There, I received my advanced diploma in Environmental Technology from Seneca College of Applied Arts and

Technology. Prior to Seneca, I attended Nipissing University where I also gained a bachelor degree in Environmental Geography.

I am looking forward to excising the knowledge and expertise that I have gained throughout my education and work experience here at the UOI. I can be reached at (705) 497-9127 ext. 2245 or by e-mail to sarah.louis@anishinabek.ca



Sarah Louis

Forestry Framework Agreement Key Messages

Representatives of the Anishinabek Nation and the Ministry of Natural Resources have begun to draft the key terms and concepts related to strengthening their relationship and to incorporate these concepts into the first draft of a Forestry Agreement.

The parties have agreed to turn their attention to Forest Management. The negotiations continue to be constructive and progress is being made.

The Parties continue to make progress in defining their relationship resulting in good discussions regarding capacity, opportunities and economic development.

The Parties have each put forward constructive ideas regarding strengthening their relationship and forest management planning. They continue to work towards practical and workable solutions.

STAFF

Jason Laronde
Director
larjas@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2263

Nadine Roach
Forestry Coordinator
roanad@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2234

Barb Naveau
Forestry Assistant
navbar@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2255

Rhonda Gagnon
Water Resources Policy Analyst
bucrho@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2318

Sarah Louis
Water Resources Assistant
sarah.louis@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2245

Arnya Assance
AORMC Coordinator
assancea@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2340

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

Anishinabek have right to own Citizenship Law

By Lynn Gehl

It was one year ago when Grand Council Chief John Beaucage mandated Jeannette Corbiere Lavell as the Anishinabek Nation's Commissioner on Citizenship. It was my privilege to present as a keynote speaker at the Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Law Initiative Wrap-Up Conference held April 21 and 22 in Garden River First Nation, Sault Ste. Marie, where well over 150 people attended.

Hosted and facilitated by Commissioner Corbiere Lavell herself and Mike Restoule, Director of Restoration of Jurisdiction with the Union of Ontario Indians, the conference was packed with a dense schedule of presentations, discussions, and question and answer periods. A pipe ceremony with Anishinabek Nation Leadership Council Elder, Gordon Waindubence, and an opening prayer offered by Elder Doreen Lesage of Garden River called in good spirits.

All Nations have the right to establish their own Citizenship Laws. This right is an inherent right bestowed from the Creator versus a right delegated from another human source such as the governments of Canada.

As many Anishinabek know, matters of identity, membership, and citizenship are tightly woven. An added dilemma in establishing a Citizenship Law is the interference imposed through the Indian Act that has both gendered and racialized our understanding of who we are.

Adding to this dilemma is the relationship that exists between status registration and band funding.

Regardless of these dilemmas, in its determination to remain a strong Nation, the Anishinabek must look beyond the imprisoning box of INAC funding. Let's face it, even if legal cases such as McIvor and Gehl are successful in challenging the Indian Act, the elimination of status Indians will always remain the Government of Canada's primary goal. Given this, it simply makes sense for the Anishinabek to reject the government's definition of status and for the establishment of our own Citizenship Law.

On the first day of the conference Commissioner Corbiere Lavell presented what she heard during the many consultation sessions held over the past year. Suggestions from community peoples included the need:

- for change;
- to take responsibility in defining who we are;
- for Canada to be responsible in recognizing who we are;
- for unity in defining who we are;
- to appreciate our culture and language in defining who we are;
- to reject Indian Act and blood quantum definitions of who we are;
- for lineage (descendancy) to define who we are;
- for adoption, marriage, and dual citizenship provisions;
- to embrace and include the Anishinabek who are denied status;
- to address the matter of depleting band memberships through the implementation of a one-parent citizenship rule; and,
- to establish an impartial appeals process to resolve grievances.

Councillor Wayne Beaver, who has been a champion in this area for well over 20 years, offered conference participants a case study of the implications of the second-generation cut-off rule and marriage-out rate to



Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on Citizenship, Jeannette Corbiere Lavell (left), presents Lynn Gehl, Algonquin Anishinaabe-Kwe, a gift in appreciation for her key-note address at the recent (April 21 and 22, 2009) E-Dbendaagzijig (Those Who Belong) conference in Garden River First Nation in Ontario. Gehl is currently leading a Charter challenge regarding the continued discrimination in Section 6 of the Indian Act.

—Photos by Mary Laronde



The Anishinabek Nation Elders Council offers guidance at the opening of the E'Dbendaagzijig conference at Garden River, April 21 and 22, 2009. From left: Wayne Beaver, Alderville; Mike Esquega, Northern Superior Region Elder; Elsie Bissaillon, Lake Huron Region Elder; Bonnie Bressette, Anishinabek-Kwewuk Council; Anishinabek Nation Leadership Council Elder, Gordon Waindubence; and Rod Monague Sr., Southeast Region Elder.

Alderville First Nation. Given the projected analysis that the last person born with status could be as soon as the year 2032, Beaver promotes the one-parent citizenship code.

Fred Bellefeuille, UOI Legal Counsel and member of Commissioner Corbiere Lavell's technical team, helped participants understand the process of drafting, ratifying, and implementing a Citizenship Law.

He explained that all law is based on principles, which serve to act as a guide. The principles established through the community consultation phase of this project will serve well in guiding the process of drafting a Citizenship Law. The process of voting and ratification will serve to give the law legitimacy, where implementation will require infrastructure and the training of registration clerks.

During discussion regarding the importance of an impact analysis to identify and quantify the impact of the new law, conference participants called for an exhaustive pro and con study, including short and long-term analyses.

Although there is much work to do, once this new Citizenship Law is in place and all Anishinabek citizens are established, the Anishinabek can then begin to present the argument that funding transfer-dollars must be based on the number of Anishinabek citi-



Terry Debassige of M'Chigeeng offers his opinion at the E'dbendaagzijig conference in April 2009. Donna Debassige, Anishinabek-Kwewuk Council, (in front) and Robert Beaudin were also part of the M'Chigeeng delegation. "Use Anishinaabe b'maadziwin," he said.

zens versus based on the quickly depleting number of status Indians in INAC's register. Only through this position of increasing strength can we ensure our land related rights, such as our share of all revenues derived from them.

It is precisely for this reason that Corbiere Lavell argued, developing and implementing our own Citizenship Law is crucial.

In closing, Corbiere Lavell quoted the

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, which stated, "the right to self determination is vested in Aboriginal Nations rather than small local communities in that Nations must be of sufficient size and capacity to enable them to assume and exercise the powers and responsibilities of Nationhood"

Lynn Gehl is Algonquin Anishinaabe-kwe, and a Ph.D. Candidate at Trent University in Peterborough. lynngehl@trentu.ca

RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION

ROJ Briefs

Chiefs Committee wants Nation's focus on citizenship and constitutions

At its May 19 and 20 meeting in Orillia, the Anishinaabe Anokiiwin Aanokiitoojig (Chiefs Committee on Governance) heard a report from the Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on Citizenship, Jeannette Corbiere Lavell that at the June 2009 Grand Council, she would be tabling recommendations on the draft citizenship law as well as an outline of a strategic plan needed to see the law through to implementation.

The Commissioner will facilitate the development of the strategic plan at a work shop with the Anishinabek-Kwewuk Council and other women leaders prior to the Grand Council. Included in such a strategy will be the need for an impact and benefits study.

The CCoG supported the Commissioner's approach, noting that a detailed work plan for studies, additional community engagement and awareness, and identifying costs could be tabled at the subsequent Grand Council in the fall.

The CCoG also decided it would seek support from the Nation's leadership to focus on and actively pursue establishing all 42 First Nation constitutions and the Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin or the Anishinabek Nation constitution.

A founding convention for establishment of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin will be recommended to the Grand Council. Restoration of Jurisdiction director, Mike Restoule, previously the coordinator for the constitution development processes, suggested that the ratification of the draft Anishinabek Nation constitution be done through a convention of delegates from the 42 Anishinabek First Nations, to be held prior to March 31, 2010.

In a convention process, delegates from each First Nation would meet for a week to review the draft document chapter by chapter, revise wording, and come to consensus on the Nation's constitution. First Nation constitutions, however, would be established through individual community ratification votes.

Update on constitution development

To date there are 10 First Nation constitutions ready to get on with final community consultations and ratification processes: Alderville, Aundeck Omni Kaning, Chippewas of Georgina Island, Curve Lake, Garden River, Kettle and Stony Point, Red Rock, Wikwemikong, and Whitefish Lake.

The Anishinabek Nation constitution needs two chapters on Relationship of Laws and Appeals and Redress drafted. In a parallel process the Anishinabek System of Appeals and Redress is being developed by the Union of Ontario Indians Legal Department. A system to address appeals is required in both education and governance agreements and can be later part and parcel of the envisioned Anishinabek nation justice system.

Education fiscal transfer agreement update

An education fiscal negotiations meeting was held May 21st between Canada's representatives, Patricia Stirbys, Federal Fiscal Negotiator, and Diane Bain, Senior Inter-governmental Relations Officer, and Anishinabek Nation representatives, Merle Pegahmagabow, Head Education Negotiator; Andrew Arnott, Fiscal Relations Analyst; Austin Acton, Articling Student; Bernadette Marasco, Education Administrative Assistant; and Lisa Restoule, Fiscal Policy Assistant.

Meetings have been ongoing around the wording of the Fiscal Transfer Agreement. While there continues to be discussions and agreement on the text, there have been very little negotiations around the actual dollar figures to be included in this agreement. Fiscal negotiation meetings are scheduled throughout the summer to coincide with the main table negotiations on the Education Final Agreement.

Canada sends in new education negotiators

At the next main table and fiscal meetings in June, there will be a new slate of federal negotiators at the education table. The new Chief Federal Negotiator for education is Jide Afolabi. Afolabi will be replacing Patricia Stirbys as the new Federal Fiscal Negotiator at both education and governance tables. Stirbys and Diane Bain have been assigned to other files within INAC.

Grand Council Chief gets ministerial support for education agreement

Recently Grand Council Chief John Beaucage met with the Ontario ministers of aboriginal affairs and education, Brad Duguid and Kathleen Wynne.

The Grand Council Chief sought commitment from Ontario to continue bilateral discussions and garner support for the Anishinabek Education System, resulting from a final negotiated agreement on education. In a subsequent meeting with the Minister of Indian Affairs, Chuck Strahl, the Grand Council Chief sought similar commitment and support for a successful conclusion for the draft final agreement on education between the Anishinabek Nation and Canada.

In his address to the spring assembly of Treaty #3, Minister Duguid is reported to have said, "There's nothing more important than that gap in education... That, in my view, is why I'm here... That's what drives me as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs."

In 2006, the Anishinabek Nation education negotiators tabled a funding proposal based largely on filling the funding gap in education as an essential part of the means to getting better education results and therefore, filling the education achievement gap between First Nation and Canadian students.



Merle Pegahmagabow, Anishinabek Nation Head Negotiator on Education

Cabinet adds two years to education mandate

Canada has given its education negotiators another two years to complete the Anishinabek Nation Agreement with Respect to the Exercise of Education Jurisdiction. This moves the potential ratification vote to the fall of 2011.

Canada invited the Anishinabek Nation education negotiations team to attend a meeting on April 22nd, 2009 with the federal caucus, one of Canada's internal approval bodies. Canada sought an extension to their negotiations mandate which currently expires in June 2009. After the federal caucus meeting, the next step in the federal approval process was a review by the Federal Steering Committee, which is comprised of central federal agencies such as Finance, Justice, Treasury Board, the Privy Council Office, and Indian Affairs.

The following briefly outlines the history of the education negotiations:

- Canada and the Anishinabek Nation begin education negotiations April 1998
- Signed Agreement in Principle November 2002
- Negotiations of the Final Education Agreement commenced 2003
- Anishinabek Nation presented its Fiscal Proposal to Canada September 2006
- Anishinabek Nation tabled an Implementation Plan February 2009

The outstanding negotiations issues with Canada are:

- the definitions of "Members" and "Students";
- the definitions of "General Funding Increase", "Enhanced Funding" and "New Funding" and the way this funding will be addressed in the Fiscal Transfer Agreement
- the Ratification Process that will be used by the First Nations to approve the Education Final Agreement;
- Canada's complete response to the Anishinabek Nation Fiscal Proposal;
- The details of the dispute resolution process for resolving disputes between Canada and the Participating First Nations after the Education Agreement takes legal effect; and,
- The harmonization of definitions and similar provisions between the Education Agreement and the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement

In addition to the negotiations with Canada, the Anishinabek Nation has initiated formal discussions with Ontario for Ontario's recognition of the Anishinabek Education System that will be established under the Education Final Agreement. There was a meeting on April 23rd where the Grand Council Chief John Beaucage discussed the arrangements that need to be put in place with Minister Wynne, the Minister of Education, and Minister Duguid, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

The Anishinabek Nation's proposed timeline to complete all negotiations and to establish the Anishinabek Education System are as follows:

- Finalize negotiation of the draft Education Final Agreement and Implementation Plan by November 2009
- Complete the draft Fiscal Transfer Agreement by March 2010
- Complete the Participating First Nation Fiscal Contribution Agreement by June 2010
- Present the final negotiated package to the June 2010 Anishinabek Nation Grand Council
- Initiate approval process to initial the Education Final Agreement – June 2010
- Finalize arrangements with Ontario – September 2010
- Initial Education Final Agreement - November 2010
- First Nation Ratification Vote – November 2011
- The Anishinabek Education System is operational – April 2012



RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION

Anishinabek Nation way of dispute resolution closer to implementation

By Karen Biondi

North Bay – Anishinabek Nation citizens have asked for a system of dispute resolution which reflects our culture and traditions and a March 25-27 workshop has helped move a unique Appeals and Redress system another step closer to implementation.

Citizens from across Anishinabek territory convened at the Union of Ontario Indians offices in North Bay to participate in the first of a two-part mediation training session.

Titled Mediation Foundations, the session was presented by trainer Janine Huggins, from the Continuing Studies department at the University of Western Ontario.

Janine is a lawyer who actively practices mediation and whose considerable training experience includes working in Nunavut for several years.

The goal of creating an Appeals and Redress system is to help Anishinabek communities deal with conflict internally without having to spend large amounts of money in the courts and to avoid conflicts festering out of proportion.

Cynthia Behm, a citizen of Aundeck Omni Kaning and par-



Janine Huggins

ticipant in the drafting of the Appeals and Redress policy, says "...not all of our issues can be addressed by Chief and Council and our Appeals and Redress System is one that was put together by grassroots people who face issues either personally or in the workplace. Our issues will be dealing with our own people and will not have to be dealt with by the non-native system."

Janine led the future commissioners of the Appeals and Redress system through the theory of mediation, including the circle of conflict and how to effectively end it.

Beverly Bressette, of Kettle and Stony Point, said "The Circle of Conflict was especially helpful because it clearly shows potential mediators where to focus the discussion. Time can be saved by knowing which topics to avoid such as history which cannot be changed. It's more productive to discuss concrete steps that can be taken in the present or future to resolve the conflict."

Participants discussed the concept of BATNA, which stands for: Best Alternative To a Negotiated Agreement. BATNA lists options, aside from mediation, to resolve a conflict, such as taking a case to the court system.



Participants at the March 25-27 "Mediation Foundations" workshop in North Bay. The goal of creating an Appeals and Redress system is to help Anishinabek communities deal with conflict internally without having to spend time and money in the courts.

The training goal is to demonstrate that mediation may be a better alternative than BATNA, since even a court win can mean a costly legal bill.

Trainees had the opportunity to apply what they had learned, assuming the role of mediator in role-play scenarios.

This provided the future commissioners the chance to see what it would feel like to sit on both sides of the mediation table.

Conflict scenarios were developed by the UOI legal team in cooperation with Janine to pres-

ent realistic models of the types of conflict trainees could expect to see working in the Appeals and Redress System. Scenarios included conflict between Chief and Council and citizens, employees of band programs and citizens and business management.

Aldophus Trudeau captured the ideals of the Appeals and Redress system quite eloquently: "I honestly believe that mediation is an important process to the Anishinaabe people, for the simple fact that the process involves talking (sharing) each others concern

(dispute) and coming to an understanding (resolve) to a certain concern. Basically, mediation is a fifty-cent word for sharing circle."

As the Appeals and Redress process continues to move forward, we will keep you up to date through the Anishinabek News.

To read the full Appeals and Redress policy, go to www.anishinabek.ca and proceed to the Legal Department webpage.

Karen Biondi is a policy analyst for the Union of Ontario Indians legal department.

New system for appeals and redress fundamental to good governance and future Anishinabek Nation justice system

A system of dispute resolution is absolutely critical to good governance; if citizens feel that they have nowhere to turn when they disagree with the policies or laws of their government, then the integrity of that government is lost along with the free speech of its people.

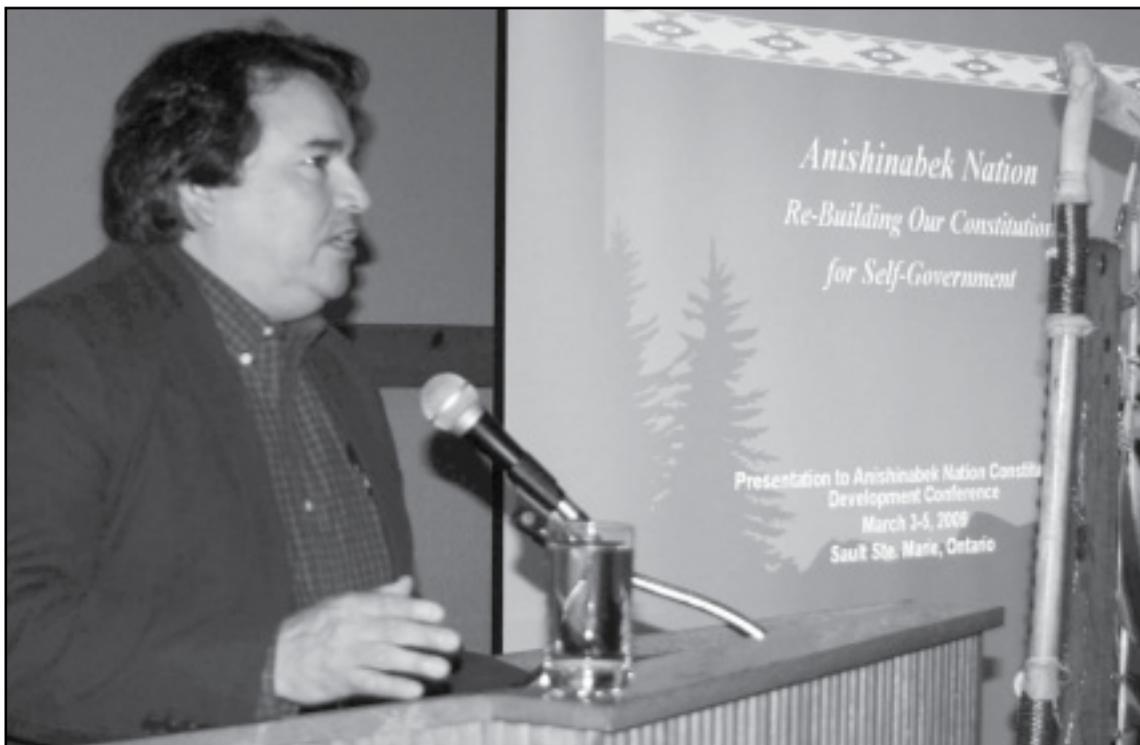
A meeting was held April 27 to specifically determine how the Appeals and Redress system, which has been under development for the past six years, will fit into the Final Agreement on Governance, which identifies a system for appeals as a minimum governance standard.

Several key issues arose from the April meeting between the Governance Negotiation Team and the UOI legal team. Since the Appeals and Redress system is running ahead of the governance negotiations, it will likely be fully implemented by the time the Final Agreement on Governance is in place. One of the problems is that broader questions of law cannot be dealt within the appeal and re-

dress system as it now stands. For example, if a citizen had an issue with a constitution, extra measures would need to be taken to ensure that there was a system in place to handle legal issues and develop an Anishinabek system of law.

Anishinabek citizens, through consultations and workshops, have said what they want their appeals and redress system to look like. It includes sharing circles, mediation and a Dispute Resolution Panel. The idea of arbitration, having one person hear the case and render a decision, was rejected as being too similar to the court system which is already in place both provincially and federally.

As governance negotiations continue and the Appeals and Redress project continues to move toward implementation by spring of 2010, these issues will need to be addressed so that the best possible conflict resolution system and the foundation for an Anishinabek Nation justice system can be put into place to tackle the needs of the communities.



R. Martin Bayer, Anishinabek Nation Chief Negotiator, addresses the March 2009 conference on the Anishinabek Nation constitution. Constitutions at both the Anishinabek Nation and First Nation levels, and citizenship need priority and special focus by the Anishinabek leadership, the Chiefs Committee on Governance has determined.



Alexander Day
 Congratulations to Alexander Day of Serpent River First Nation on his Grade 12 graduation. You did it Alex and you never gave up!!! We're so proud of you.
 Love, Mom, Wesli, Viola-Rose and family



Celebrating a graduation? Call 1-800-463-6408 to place an ad!



Daaniss Rice
 Congratulations to Daaniss Rice of Wasauksing First Nation for graduating from the Paramedics program, Class 2009 at Durham College. Love from the whole family!



The 15th Annual Great Lakes Pow-wow Guide is available at www.anishinabek.ca



Ogemawahj Tribal Council
 P.O. Box 46, 5984 Rama Road
 Rama, Ontario L0K 1T0
 Tel (705) 329-2511 Fax (705) 329-2509
 Email: jsmoke@ogemawahj.on.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POSTING

POSITION: Tribal Council Engineer
CLASSIFICATION: Full-time, Permanent Position
SALARY: Commensurate with qualifications and experience
LOCATION: Tribal Council headquarters at Rama First Nation
CLOSING DATE: July 23, 2009 at 2 p.m.

The Ogemawahj Tribal Council (OTC), consisting of the following member First Nations: Chippewas of Beausoleil, Chippewas of Georgina Island, Chippewas of Rama, Mississaugas of Alderville, Mississaugas of Scugog Island, and the Pottawatomi of Moose Deer Point, supports the overall goals and objectives of its member First Nations in the development and facilitation of a superior service delivery organization. In keeping with this mandate, a self-starting, highly motivated individual is required to assume the responsibility for the overall engineering advisory services of the Tribal Council and member First Nations.

Reporting to the Executive Director, you will oversee, direct, manage and coordinate all program functions and activities of the Technical Services Department while providing direct professional engineering advisory services to the member First Nations during pre-planning, planning, design, construction, and maintenance of community infrastructure works and facilities. You will assist with the preparation of terms of reference for contracting Professional Services; assist with the tendering and contract award process and successful implementation of same; advise/coordinate environmental screening of capital projects; supervise OTC inspection services and assist with implementation of a yearly capital program for community facilities and infrastructure; support member First Nations with negotiations with INAC and other resource agencies, and liaise with other technical services providers; define project scope, estimate of costs, milestones, and implementation plan/management regime for all Minor Capital projects, as requested; to work with the OTC Infrastructure Specialist to provide fire advisory services to First Nations.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. A degree in Civil Engineering and be a licensed Professional Engineer in the Province of Ontario, and a minimum of five years experience in the area of professional engineering service delivery and community development is required.
2. Must have five years overall related work experience supervising personnel, budget preparation, financial planning and management.
3. Must have experience working with First Nation Government, First Nation Communities and other levels of Government. A keen appreciation of OTC First Nation Cultures and community aspirations is required.
4. Must have proven well-developed communication, staff/public relations and negotiating experience; must be highly self-motivated and able to work well independently or as a team member.
5. Must have excellent computer skills, proven experience with word processing, spreadsheet, database, and related engineering technical software preferably in a Microsoft environment.
6. Demonstrated experience and ability in policy, planning and technical services development and implementation.
7. Must be insurable.
8. Must have valid Ontario Driver's License, access to reliable transportation and have \$1mil public liability insurance.
9. Criminal Reference check as relevant to the position must be provided.

Knowledge and Skills:

- Excellent knowledge of federal and provincial legislation/policies that affect First Nation government, sound knowledge of contemporary public sector operating systems and procedures are required;
- Must be innovative and decisive with high-level organizational, managerial, research, analytical skills;
- Must demonstrate the ability to work with a high level of tact and discretion.
- Must demonstrate results-oriented technical management and implementation skills;
- Must possess excellent Project Management skills and must be able to establish and effectively achieve measurable objectives within directed work plans; must be capable of performing and working within a 'multi-task' environment;

PLEASE SEND APPLICATIONS BY July 23, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. TO:

Ogemawahj Tribal Council, Attention: Executive Director, P. O. Box 46, 5984 Rama Road, Rama, Ontario L0K 1T0.

Candidates must provide a detailed resume, three (3) references plus current CPIC with application.

Please mark on the envelope "OTC Tribal Council Engineer". Only those selected for an interview will be notified. Full job description available upon request at (705) 329-2511.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

First Nation Manager
Permanent Full-Time
Salary Range: Negotiable based on skills and experience

Closing Date: July 10, 2009

Preamble: Munsee-Delaware Nation is currently accepting applications from mature, motivated, community-orientated people to fill the position of First Nation Manager.

Summary: The First Nation Manager is directly responsible for the overall efficient and effective administrative and financial management of the Munsee-Delaware Nation Administration, its program areas and services and for keeping Council current and up-to-date on all matters relating to the business of the Munsee-Delaware Nation in a timely and professional manner.

Supervision: First Nation Manager reports directly to the Co-Manager and to Munsee-Delaware Nation Chief and Council.

Please submit your resume, covering letter, copy of Education credentials, two (2) current work-related letters of reference, and any other supporting documentation, clearly marked in an envelope stating Competition MDN-FNM001 to:

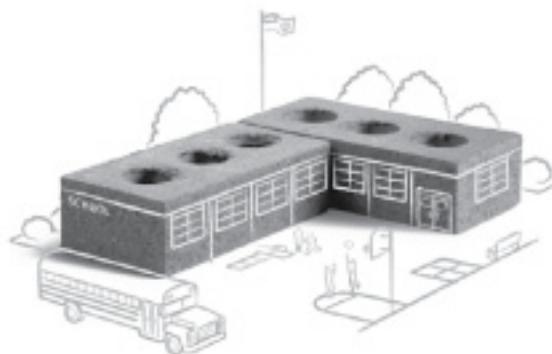
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Southern First Nations Secretariat
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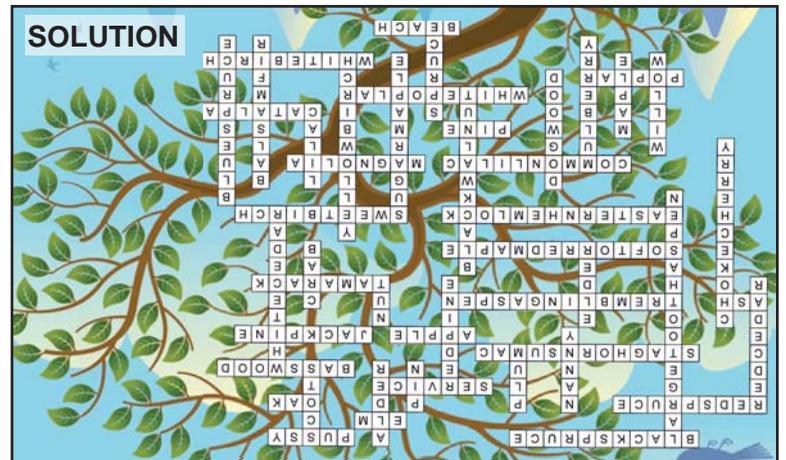
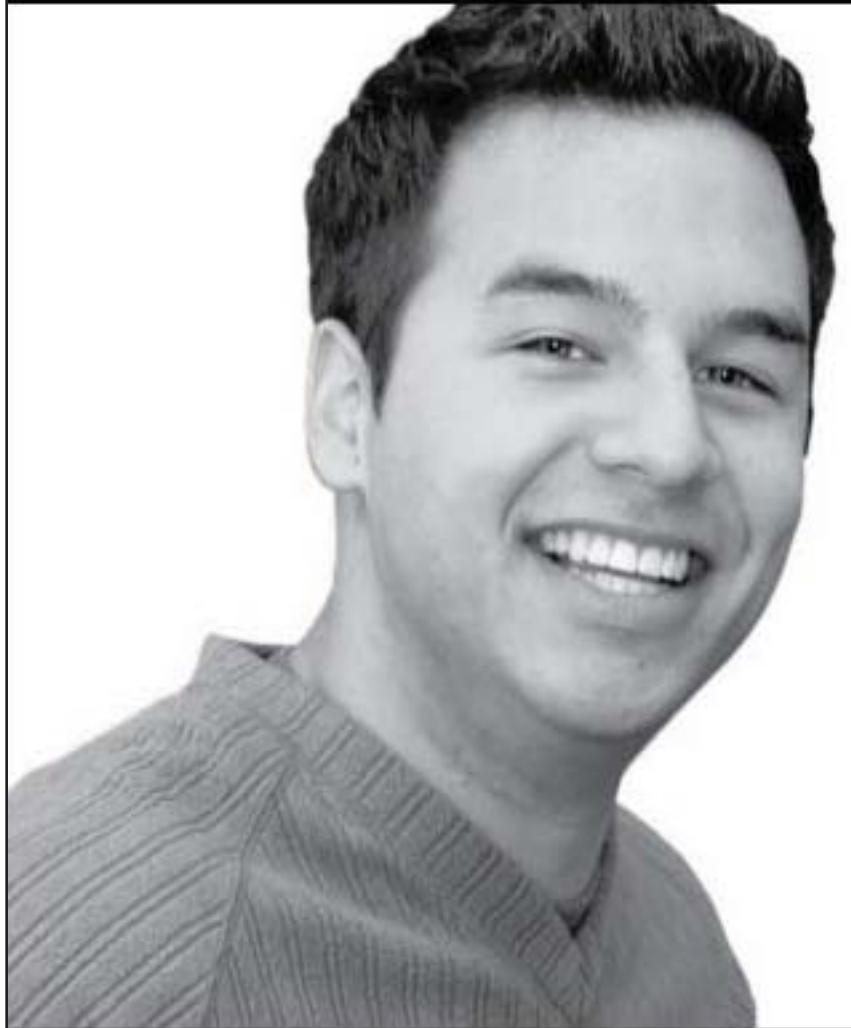
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EDUCATION

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A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANISHINABEK NEWS
June 2009

'Native students need access'

Dr. Beaucage gives PM a prescription

NORTH BAY – In one of his last public appearances as Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation, John Beaucage accepted an honorary Doctor of Letters from Nipissing University, and took the opportunity to challenge the federal government to improve access for First Nations students to higher education and skills training.

During his June 5th convocation address to Faculty of Science graduates, Beaucage outlined the education elements of his campaign for the office of National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations for which he will be a candidate at the AFN assembly in Calgary July 22nd.

"I want to thank the Chancellor, the President, the Board of Governors, and the Senate for this great honour and opportunity to address you today. I am grateful for this recognition and am very honoured to carry with me this distinction from Nipissing University," said Beaucage, who was joined by supporters, wife Bonnie, their three children and eight grandchildren.

"Education is of the highest priority for me, and it will be

front and centre in my platform to become the next National Chief," said Beaucage, who holds an economics degree from the University of Western Ontario and served for five years as Grand Council Chief of the 42 member communities of the Anishinabek Nation.

During his address, Beaucage referred to an internal review by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada of its Post-Secondary Student Support program, since the authority for the program must be renewed by 2010.

First Nations have learned that some recommendations point to drastic policy changes to all facets of the program, including changes to administrative processes and program-delivery structure, and perhaps a change from grants to a loan system administered by an outside agency such as Canada Student Loans.

"It is my position that such unilateral changes will be disastrous for the success of the program for First Nations, as these changes will result in even less access and opportunity," said Beaucage. "I am strongly recommending that the Government of Canada



On June 5 former Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from, left, Dr. Dennis Mock, President and Vice-Chancellor of Nipissing University, and, right, David Liddle, Chancellor of Nipissing University.

–Photo by Marci Becking

renew the existing authority of the Post-Secondary Student Support Program with enhanced dollars.

"More resources are needed to ensure more First Nations students can attend college, university and skilled trades programs, including apprenticeships. The importance of education for our people, and our people's right to education, cannot be stressed enough," he added.

Beaucage is advocating

that the government evolve the Post-Secondary Student Support Program into a legislated program. Currently, this program is considered "discretionary" by the federal government, while First Nations assert that lifelong education is a right.

"First Nations need to play a leading role in the evolution of the post-secondary program. The overall goal of such a legislative initiative will be to increase

the number of post-secondary graduates exponentially over the next 10 years as a means of eliminating poverty and enhancing First Nation economies," said Beaucage.

Beaucage also proposes removal of a two-per-cent federal funding cap on post-secondary education that has been in place since 1996, in favour of a two-per-cent annual increase in funding over ten years.

Language comforted loneliness at residential school

By Elizabeth Bower, *The Examiner*

PETERBOROUGH – Shirley Williams used to get so lonesome in her residential school, where she was physically and emotionally abused, that she'd sometimes crawl under her bed covers and imagine she was in her family's kitchen with her mother and father.

During these stolen moments, says the Ojibwa woman, she'd have imaginary conversations out loud in Anishnaabe – the language she was forbidden to speak at St. Joseph's Residential School in Spanish, Ont.

Williams, a retired Trent University professor, recalls a nun pulling the covers off her and asking what she was doing.

"Praying, Sister!" she recalls replying.

The anecdote drew laughter at a Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Group meeting held June 15 at the Peterborough Public Library.

But Williams knows there's not much to laugh over from those dark times.

It was 1949 and Williams was 10 years old, living with her parents in the Wikwemikong reserve on Manitoulin Island, when a priest took her away, like other First Nations children, to be assimilated into western culture through residential schools.



Shirley Williams

She still shudders, she says, whenever she hears a slap because it brings back memories of public beatings of the children and sounds of continual slaps behind closed doors.

She spent six years at the school and when she went home each July and August, she says her father always told her, "Don't forget your language; don't forget who you are."

Williams is now a member of the Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Group, formed about a year ago and made up of 12 people who meet regularly to share stories and promote healing from the legacy of physical, emotional, cultural and sexual

abuse in Canada's residential schools.

During the June meeting, 42 people listened to guest speaker Marlene Brant Castellano, professor emerita with Trent University's Indigenous Studies department and a recipient of the Order of Canada.

Castellano was involved in the launch of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2008.

She said part of the mission is to increase public awareness of the history of residential schools.

She said Canada could create a museum with archived documents, akin to the Holocaust Museum in Washington D. C., to ensure the history of residential schools is never forgotten.

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Participate

Information Centre to review proposed operations Sudbury Forest 2010 - 2020 Forest Management Plan

We Need Your Input

Do you ...

- Have an interest in natural resource management in the Sudbury Forest?
- Want to know more about the proposed operations of the Sudbury Forest?
- Want to take an active role in the planning process and development of the Sudbury Forest Management Plan (FMP)?
- 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 (LCC)** invite you to attend a public open house to help us to develop the 2010 - 2020 FMP for the Sudbury Forest. You will have the opportunity to review and comment on:

- The proposed areas identified for harvest, renewal and tending operations;
- The proposed road locations and conditions for the first five-year term;
- The preferred areas of operations for the second five-year terms;
- The proposed corridors for new primary and branch roads for the ten-year term;
- A proposal to amend specific management direction for Sturgeon River Provincial Park in the 2007 Temagami Area Park Management Plan.

How to Get Involved

Information Centre(s) will be held at the following locations on the following days:

July 14, 2009 Sudbury, Howard Johnson Plaza, 50 Brady St., 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

July 15, 2009 Sudbury, Howard Johnson Plaza, 50 Brady St., 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

July 16, 2009 St. Charles Community Centre, St. Charles, 20 Casimir Road, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A summary of the long-term management direction for the forest and maps showing proposed areas for harvest, renewal and tending operations, as well as road corridors will be available at the Information Centre or upon request.

Values maps, with 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.

Written comments on the proposed operations for the Sudbury Forest must be received by Tim Lehman from the planning team at the Ministry of Natural Resources Sudbury District Office, by September 12, 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, Ministry of Natural Resources Sudbury District or Will Kershaw, Ontario Parks at Northeast Zone office Sudbury.

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

Peter Street, R.P.F., General Manager, VFM, Chair
Mark Lockhart, R.P.F., Planning Forester, VFM, Plan Author

Tim Lehman, R.P.F., Area Forester, MNR
Bruce Richard, P & IM Supervisor, MNR, Project Manager

Ron Luopa, R.P.F., Operations Forester, VFM
Doug Maki, R.P.F., Silvicultural Forester, VFM
Mike Hall, Area Biologist, MNR

Rick Reynen, Resource Liaison Officer, MNR
Darrell Alston, Wahnapitae First Nation
John Maniwabi, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve

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 Ministry of Natural Resources 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)*, is available on written request. A summary of all comments collected throughout the planning process will be made available for public review during the planning process and for the duration of the approved ten-year plan.

Still Can't Make It?

In addition to this invitation to participate, there are two other formal opportunities for you to be involved, tentatively scheduled as follows:

Information Centre: Review of the Draft Forest Management Plan: **December 2009**
Inspection of the Ministry of Natural Resources -approved Forest Management Plan: **April 2010**

The draft FMP is tentatively scheduled to be submitted on **October 2009**.

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

The general planning information and maps described in this notice will also be available for review and comment, for a 60-day period July 14, 2009 to September 12, 2009 after the information centre(s) at the Vermilion Forest Management Company Ltd. office and at the Ministry of Natural Resources office during normal office hours. 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 705-564-7875.

For further 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
Wahnapitae, ON P0M 3C0
Tel.: 705-919-7854
E-mail: vikimather@hotmail.com

Will Kershaw
Senior Park Planner
Ontario Parks, Northeast Zone
199 Larch Street, Suite 404
Sudbury, ON P3E 5P9
Tel.: 705-564-3168

The Ministry of Natural Resources 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 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, (705) 564-7866.



EXCELLENCE



Scotiabank Scholarship Awards of Excellence winners: Perry Bebamash, M'Chigeeng First Nation; Cheryl Recollet, Wikwemikong; Michele Baptiste, National Manager of Aboriginal Employment for Scotiabank; Angeline Pitawanakwat, Wikwemikong; and William Couchie, Nipissing First Nation.

Students recognized with Awards of Excellence

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FIRST NATION –Scotiabank scholarships – Awards of Excellence were given during the 2009 Anishinabek Nation Lifetime Achievement Awards held on June 17 at Casino Rama. In total, four scholarships were handed out to First Nation students; those who are citizens of any of the Anishinabek Nation's 42-member communities. Scotiabank recognizes the achievements of students who exemplify dedication, commitment, hard work and continued success in their academic studies – with the ultimate goal of career success.

Cheryl Recollet, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, completed her undergraduate studies at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. She successfully obtained an Honours Bachelor of Art Degree in Geography, an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology and completed a certificate in Applied Geography. Prior to Laurentian University, Recollet graduated from Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Technology in which she obtained a Diploma in Native Lands Management, a program that highlighted the jurisdictional challenges often associated with First Nation land bases.

Recollet has worked at various capacities within First Nation communities in areas to include First Nation policy development, strategic planning, comprehensive community planning initiatives, land-use planning and traditional ecological knowledge methodologies.

Recollet is currently pursuing her Master of Science degree in Environmental Assessment at McGill University. She hopes to examine the environmental assessment process relative to First Nation and Indigenous land bases in Canada and abroad. In this, her goal is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the importance of traditional ecological knowledge integration within environmental assessment regimes as well recognize the significance of geospatial tools within environmental assessment planning and management practices.

Being responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Mapping a Brighter Future project, at the UOI, which essentially aims to increase access to digital geospatial tools and data, Cheryl was trained on the use of web-based geospatial technology and resources and in turn has provided access to and training on it to various First Nations planners, developers and decision makers.

Other winners included Perry Bebamash, M'Chigeeng First Nation who is enrolled in the Anishinabemowin BA program at Algoma University. Upon completion of this program he plans to attend teachers college and then teach the Anishinabek language full-time.

William Couchie, Nipissing First Nation is enrolled in the PhD program at the University of Western Ontario in the field of History. He received his Bachelors at Nipissing University and his Masters at Western University. He hopes to become a university professor and teach First Nations History. He also hopes to write a book on his own community Nipissing First Nation.

Angeline Pitawanakwat, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve attends Sir Sanford Fleming College where she studies Biotechnology Technologist-Forensics program. Her dream is to work with law and justice whether in the laboratory conducting DNA tests or out in the field investigating the scene of a crime; eventually hopes to work on homicide investigations.

More coverage of the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charities Lifetime Achievement Awards and golf tournament next issue.

ANISHINABEK

Dream Catcher kids

Dylan and Chelsea Dokis are grateful for support from the Dream Catcher Fund for the 2008-09 season with the Garden River FN Atom Little NHL team.



Dandelions: a talented weed

By Holly Brodhagen

How do I get rid of dandelions? They are taking over my lawn.

I love dandelions. They grow abundantly without any fertilizer, and add a bright yellow hue to dull-green lawns. Let's not forget the joy that comes with blowing the seed parachutes off the stem.

Dandelions are a great source of Vitamins A and C, potassium, iron and calcium. They have me-

dicinal properties that include treating warts (white stem sap), anemia, kidney disease, jaundice, arthritis, respiratory infections and gallstones (roots) and are used as a diuretic.

Although dandelions are great to eat, don't harvest from areas



Holly Brodhagen

with high concentration of contaminants such as lawns or roadsides. If you are going to harvest them look for areas protected from contaminants such as chemical-free backyards, farms and wooded areas.

The greens (before the flower grows) can be cooked or eaten raw after a few cool water changes to remove dirt and debris. Roots can be roasted, ground and used as a coffee substitute. The yellow flowers (remove the sepals and stems) can be used in baking and to make wine. Search the internet or your local library for wild food recipes to find some interesting and yummy recipes.

Although I advocate for the preservation of all dandelions, I did find some tips about how to get rid of dandelions on your lawn.

To prevent them taking root, keep a healthy lawn by overseeding with grass to crowd out the weeds, mow frequently and leave the clippings on the lawn, set mower height to 2-2 1/2 inches, don't cut off more than the top 1/3 of your lawn and don't over-water. Avoid using lawn fertilizer that contains potassium.

Applying vinegar or boiling water directly to the plant is the most environmentally-friendly chemical way to kill dandelions, but be careful because you can also kill grass this way. Remember, Ontario bans the use of pesticides for cosmetic use on lawns, gardens and parks.

Clearly dandelions are not going away, so it might be time to embrace their beauty and usefulness.

Reminder: Submissions for the Pioneer Challenge are due no later than July 10th. Please include your name, address, phone number, story about your skill and a few pictures displaying your end product. E-mailed submissions can be sent to askholly@gmail.com or mailed to the Anishinabek News attention Ask Holly.

Ontario's adoption records are now open.

visit www.ontario.ca/adoptioninfo

Effective June 1, 2009, Ontario's adoption records are open. This means that adopted adults and birth parents can apply for post-adoption birth information from birth records and adoption orders.

An adopted adult, 18 years of age or older, can now apply for a copy of his or her original birth registration and adoption order. A birth parent can receive information from the birth registration and adoption order of the child that was placed for adoption once that child turns 19 years old.

If you want your identifying information kept private, and if the adoption order was made before September 1, 2008, adopted adults and birth parents can file a disclosure veto.

To learn more about your right to information and privacy regarding adoption, visit www.ontario.ca/adoptioninfo or call 1-800-461-2156 (TTY 416-325-3408).

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AFN ELECTION 2009

Beaucage outlines plan for the North

SIOUX LOOKOUT (June 23, 2009)– Today John Beaucage outlined his specific plans to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the needs of northern communities.

Beaucage's plan not only includes the government meeting their fiduciary obligations to First Nations in the north, but renewed public-private partnerships in resource development.

Economic creativity key

TORONTO (May 28, 2009) - John Beaucage told a Bay Street audience that economic development should be a priority in improving social conditions for First Nations across Canada.

"The National Chief must play a key role in the development of First Nations economies and in making economic development a top priority as the means of addressing poverty."



We must have say in citizenship: Beaucage

NIPISSING FIRST NATION (June 3, 2009) – Anishinabek Nation leaders want the federal government to involve First Nations in revising Indian Act provisions dealing with citizenship.

John Beaucage applauded the government's decision to not appeal a landmark B.C. court decision on the issue, but says this presents an opportunity to open up the issue of citizenship to a broader First Nations interpretation.

Beaucage reaches out to urban citizens

OTTAWA (June 19, 2009) – First Nations citizens who live in urban centres will be given a significant say in A New AFN, says John Beaucage.

Beaucage plans to introduce a new Urban Citizens Commission into the committee structure of the AFN including a portfolio representative on the national executive

Beaucage leads field of five

OTTAWA – Five candidates have had their nominations approved in their bids to replace National Chief Phil Fontaine, who has announced he is stepping down after serving three terms as leader of the Assembly of First Nations.

John Beaucage, who served the past five years as Grand Council Chief of the 42 member communities of the Anishinabek Nation, is considered a front-runner leading up to the election July 22 during the AFN annual general assembly in Calgary.

Other candidates include Shawn Atleo, who has served as AFN regional chief for British Columbia, Perry Bellegarde, a former AFN regional chief from Saskatchewan, Chief Terrance Nelson from Roseau River, Manitoba and Bill Wilson – a hereditary Chief from British Columbia.

According to the AFN Charter an eligible candidate must be eighteen (18) years of age or older, of First Nation ancestry, a member of a First Nation community in good standing with the AFN, and endorsed by 15 eligible electors (First Nations Chiefs).



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IPPERWASH



Sam George at the launch of the Anishinabek Nation's Era of Action campaign to implement the Ipperwash Inquiry recommendations, held June, 29 2007 at the Union of Ontario Indians head office. — Photo by Priscilla Goulais



Sam George and his wife Veronica admire a hand-made quilt presented to him during an Oct. 4, 2008 tribute gathering at a downtown Toronto restaurant. — Photo by Christine McFarlane

A life full of firsts

By Maurice Switzer

There were many firsts in Sam George's life, most of them not pleasant ones. His brother Dudley was the first person to die in a land claim dispute in the 20th Century when he was shot and killed by an OPP sniper at Ipperwash provincial Park on Sept. 6, 1995.

He was undoubtedly the first aboriginal person to file a lawsuit against a sitting provincial premier, Mike Harris, whose instruction to cabinet colleagues to "get the f---ing Indians out of the park" was a factor in how police dealt with Dudley George and the other unarmed protesters.

And Sam was the first presenter in the first class of a new aboriginal journalism program that was launched at First Nations Technical Institute in June of 1997. When people asked staff how our course differed from other journalism programs, we would point to our first guest lecturer as an example of someone who had really lived the news that others merely wrote about.

There was another first associated with Sam George this month. For the first time since the Union of Ontario Indians installed a sturdy stainless-steel flagpole outside its Highway 17 offices last fall, the red flag of the Anishinabek Nation was lowered to half-mast. In the early hours of Wednesday, June 3rd, Sam George passed into the Spirit World, his body weakened by his lengthy battle to uncover the truth about Dudley's death.

“He was a modern-day hero, whose legacy will impact future generations.”



Brad Duguid, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

“He was instrumental in creating a new relationship between government and aboriginal people.”



Premier Dalton McGuinty

“Sam is a true Ogitchidaa - a warrior of kindness and servitude.”



John Beaucage, Grand Council Chief

“His last days were spent in his home in a room full of the photographs and memories of a rich life.”



Murray Klippenstein, George Family lawyer

“We just wanted to know the truth.”



Maynard "Sam" George

Ipperwash Park land transferred

IPPERWASH PARK – Following a traditional sunrise ceremony on May 28, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid and Chief Elizabeth Cloud signed an agreement to transfer Ipperwash Provincial Park land to the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation.

The agreement sets out the next steps for the transfer of park land, including environmental and archeological assessments and discussions on how park land will be used until the land transfer is complete.

The transfer of Ipperwash park land is just one step toward local healing and reconciliation as discussed in the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry.

“This agreement will lead to further healing and reconciliation across Ontario as we work together with Aboriginal partners to implement the recom-

mendations of the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry,” said Brad Duguid.

“We are grateful to see this Ipperwash Inquiry recommendation fulfilled and are thankful for the many people – especially Dudley for his personal sacrifice,” said Chief Cloud.

QUICK FACTS: The Ipperwash Inquiry investigated the events surrounding the tragic death of Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation member Anthony O'Brien (Dudley) George in September 1995.

Justice Sidney Linden's Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry was released on May 31, 2007.

LEARN MORE: Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry: Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Scott Cavan, Minister's Office, 416-314-7395, Greg Flood, Communications Branch, 416-314-9455, Web: ontario.ca/aboriginal-news



Kettle & Stony Point FN Chief Elizabeth Cloud and Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid at Ipperwash Park handover. Looking on from left, Pam George, Dave Henry, Barb Bressette, Bonnie Bressette, Brian Monague, Justice Sidney Linden, MPP Gerry Phillips, Maria Van Bommell. -- Photo by Greg Plain

DOHM-NUK/LET'S PLAY

Rabbit & Bear Paws



Herstory

Valeraya Hookima, 11, from Mother St. Bride School stands beside a project she and brother Skylar created as their entry for the 2009 North Bay regional Historica Fair. Over 100 Grades 4-9 students from both English and French school boards presented projects showcasing the history, geography and heritage of the community, province and country.



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We are pleased to celebrate National Aboriginal Day.

On June 21, join us in celebrating **National Aboriginal Day**.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO CREATE?

