



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

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## Flu plans top agenda

UOI OFFICES – Grand Council Chief Pat Madahbee is urging Anishinabek Nation chiefs and council to take an active role in the planning process to deal with expected H1N1 flu outbreaks this fall.

"We need to ensure that each of our 42 communities has a functional plan," said Madahbee, who sent an urgent memo to community leaders outlining several important elements of any emergency planning.

"A critical portion of any of the plans is the development of each community's Business Continuity Plan the Grand Chief emphasized. "We need to have plans outlining how our communities can continue to function and at what level, when forecasts indicate as many as one-third of band employees could be off the job because of the flu outbreak."

Madahbee also urged communities to test their plan's effectiveness through table-top exercises involving potential scenarios requiring mass immunizations, and alternate care sites.

In the event of a major flu outbreak, community health staff will be too occupied treating patients to fill their normal planning responsibilities, the Grand Chief noted. "They will be unable to carry out many of the critical communication decision-making requirements needed in an emergency situation."

Two years ago all 134 First Nations in Ontario were provided with 12-week stockpiles of disposable personal protection equipment – including gloves, surgical masks, goggles and gowns -- by the Ontario Region of First Nations Inuit Health (FNIH) in anticipation of a flu pandemic.

The Grand Chief's memo reminds communities to ensure that their stockpiles of emergency supplies have been rotated to ensure that sufficient quantities are on hand and that "best before" dates are still current.

FNIH has indicated that each Ontario First Nations community in Ontario Region will be receiving an additional \$1,902 to facilitate the testing of community plans.



Tamara Malcolm, 26, from Ebb and Flow FN in Manitoba, walked from Winnipeg to Ottawa to bring forward her concerns about discrimination and unfair treatment of First Nations women in the Child Welfare system. "Child and Family Services sets up aboriginal women to fail," says Malcolm. Full story in the Anishinabek News October issue. – Photo by Marci Becking

## Funding a human rights issue

OTTAWA – For the first time a human rights tribunal is investigating a complaint that federal funding shortfalls for First Nations discriminates against them.

On Sept. 14 a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal began hearing a historic case which asserts the federal government is discriminating against thousands of First Nation children in the federal child welfare system. Currently First Nations Child

welfare agencies receive, on average, 22 percent less funding than provincial agencies. This has resulted in a two-tiered child welfare system where First Nations children on reserves receive less funding and services than other children.

Overall there are more First Nations children in child welfare care in Canada than attended residential schools at the peak of the system's operations.

## IN BRIEF

### Marshall made legal impact

OTTAWA – National Chief Shawn Atleo said Donald Marshall Jr., the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq activist who passed away Aug. 6—"forever changed the legal landscape in terms of how Canada must deal fairly and justly with Aboriginal and First Nations' human and Treaty rights." A Royal Commission found that Marshall was wrongfully convicted of murder in 1971 and spent 13 years in prison as an innocent victim of racism. In 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Marshall, who had been charged with fishing out of season, was legally harvesting eels under the terms of a 1760 treaty.

### Status changes due next April

OTTAWA—The federal government is meeting First Nations and Aboriginal groups across Canada to gather information to meet next April's deadline for amending the registration provisions of the Indian Act. The B.C. Court of Appeal ruled in the McIvor case that existing "status" provisions of the Indian Act discriminate against women.

### Phil gives bank advice

TORONTO – Phil Fontaine, former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), has been appointed Special Advisor to the Royal Bank of Canada. Canada's largest bank says Fontaine will provide advice and counsel to RBC's Canadian businesses to help the company deepen its relationships with Aboriginal governments, communities and businesses in Canada.

## Serpent River to set nets in Elliot Lake

SERPENT RIVER FN – The first Lake Huron Treaty Commissioner is planning to assert his First Nation's treaty rights by having community members set fishing nets in one or more lakes within the municipal boundaries of nearby Elliot Lake.

Chief Isadore Day – whose traditional name is Wiindawtegowinini— says the planned Oct. 1st action is intended to demonstrate that "our relationships with the Crown must be under-

stood and acted upon according to the original Spirit and Intent of the treaties."

"Serpent River citizens will cast their nets to harvest fish for food and ceremonial purposes," says Chief Day. "This will be a first step forward for Serpent River in taking a rightful place in their territory, which includes Crown lands located in a municipality."



Chief Day

Chief Day says his First Nation has been dealing for the past two years with the loss of access to Crown lands within their traditional territory without any meaningful accommodation or benefit for those losses. The Elliot Lake Act was given Royal assent in 2002 and enabled the Ontario government and the City of Elliot Lake to enter into a business arrangement for the sale of Crown Lands at market value

to pave the way for development of a massive cottage lot program.

"Our community is being forced to assert fishing rights to create awareness about the legal standing of treaty rights—even within a municipal territory," says Chief Day, whose First Nation has some 300 citizen living on the reserve just east of Elliot Lake.

"The Crown must sit down and reconcile the treaty relationship by recognizing First Nation jurisdictions."

# WATER: Lifeblood of Mother Earth Site 41

## Controversial dump trashed

By Ian McInroy  
Barrie Examiner

After 25 years of studies, delays, meetings and protests, Site 41 has been laid to rest.

Simcoe County councillors passed a motion Sept. 22 that will see construction and future development at the North Simcoe Landfill Site.

"Site 41 will no longer be constructed as a landfill site," Simcoe County Warden Tony Guergis said after the motion passed.

"This is a huge, huge victory," Site 41 opponent and protester Vicki Monague said outside the county administration centre after the motion passed.

"We never even dreamed when we started the protest camp back on May 8 that it would come this far so soon. (It was) a monumental movement with natives and non-natives coming together to fight for Mother Earth," she said.

The county's \$350,000 civil lawsuit against Monague and fellow protester Anne Ritchie-Nahuis was dropped, but the pair still face criminal charges of mischief after being arrested at Site 41 earlier this summer.

The victory at county council is not the end of her fight against the dump, however, Monague said.

"That doesn't guarantee that Site 41 will not be used for some kind of waste management practices," she said.

"The opposition to Site 41 will now be working on getting the Ministry of Environment certificate of approval for the site revoked so it won't be used for any kind of waste management development," she added. "That's something I'll be promoting over the next couple of months at the various events I'll be at."

MOE officials said last month that the certificate is transferrable, if the county chose to sell the

property. A new owner would be bound by the same conditions laid out in the certificate, including that the landfill could only accept trash from Tay and Tiny townships, Midland and Penetanguishene.

Monague said Ontarians should be sending less garbage to landfills.

"We need to all work towards zero waste, starting in our homes and starting with our own lives," she said.

Aime Grenier-Webb was thrilled with the dump's demise.

"It's been a very big deal for a lot of people and the opposition has always been there," she said, as her daughter, Maddie Webb, 5, sat with a 'Stop Dump Site 41' sign on the administration centre's lawn.

"We've all stood together and we've made a strong voice and we've put the county in a position where they had to listen to us," she said.



Beausoleil First Nation citizen Erica Luttit assisted her mother, Elder Gloria King at the Elmvalle Water Festival which took place just a few miles away from the controversial Site 41. King is a water speaker and as a First Nations woman - a water protector. Inset: Vicki Monague, opponent and protester at Site 41. — Photo by Sharon Weatherall.

## Canadore College Alumni Association

### Expressions of Interest are invited from individuals who wish to join the Alumni Association Board at Canadore College.

"The Canadore College Alumni Association is a not-for-profit association that is dedicated to increasing the quality of life, awareness and education for current students, alumni, and the community".

The Alumni Association is seeking applications from Canadore alumni for vacancies on the Board as of October 2009. Appointments are for two years and may be renewed twice, to a maximum of six years.

In order to maintain a balance of expertise on the Board, we are particularly interested in applicants who have graduated from Health Sciences, Law and Justice, Aviation, or Skilled Trades. The Board strives to maintain a gender balance, and to reflect the cultural diversity of the Nipissing and Parry Sound districts.

For further information on the Board's operations and priorities, and on the processes for nomination and appointment, please contact Joey Rainer, Alumni Officer, at (705) 474-7600 ext. 5172. Expressions of Interest must be received by October 5, 2009.

**Please submit Expressions of Interest to:**



**ALUMNI**

c/o Joey Rainer, Alumni Officer  
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# ANISHINABEK



Future homeowner April Smoke, her son Josh, and her aunt Deb Martin at the site of her Alderville First Nation Habitat for Humanity house.  
– Photo by Sarah Wight

## Habitat builds Alderville home

ALDERVILLE FN – Construction began in mid-August on the first-ever Habitat for Humanity home in Canada built on a First Nation.

“Chief and Council, the staff, and the community of Alderville First Nation have ensured the success of this project through support, dedication, and hard work,” said Kim Lauder, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Northumberland, which was beginning construction on its 28th home. “We’re very excited for this build to take off.”

Maamwi Build, meaning “all together” in Ojibway, began with volunteer nail-driving by Alderville Chief and Council, and will include labour donated by staff of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Royal Bank of Canada, and even Northumberland – Quinte West M.P.P. Lou Rinaldi.

“RBC is very proud to be part of the community project that contributes to the lives of families all around us and enables us to give back to our community,” says Dawn Davis, Branch Manager of RBC Cobourg.

“We are quite pleased to establish partnerships like these with businesses and the community because it allows us to create an affordable home for an Alderville First Nation Family,” says Chief Marsden.



Lisa Myers, Gabriel Lamarche and Shelley Essaunce completed the same route Shelley’s grandfather took while escaping from Shingwauk Residential school in 1919.

## Trio follows Grampa’s runaway tracks

By Kelly Crawford

The descendants of a 12-year-old Anishinaabe runaway from Shingwauk Residential School literally followed in his footsteps in August.

The Residential School Trek – 250kms of railroad tracks– started at Algoma University College on Aug.13 when Shelley Essaunce, her cousin Lisa Myers, and Shelley’s son Gabriel Lamarche set out on the same route her Grandfather – Vance Reuben Essaunce– took while escaping from Shingwauk. It ended two weeks later in Espanola.

“After listening to our Grandfather tell this story over and over throughout the years, it became a part of our lives” says Shelley, an Aboriginal program liaison with Parks Canada. “He thought it was his community that sent him away, not standard Indian Policy. He spoke about it until the day he died.

“After the Spanish Flu had decimated the community on Christian Island where Grampa lost both his mother and grandmother, the Indian Agent ordered him to Shingwauk Residential School,” Shelley recounts. “After a short stay of about eight days, he was ‘beat up’ by the principal for something he

apparently did, although he never did understand why. Perhaps it was for speaking Anishinabemowin as he didn’t know any English, but we’ll never know.

“The escape plan involved my Grandfather and three other boys and the agreement was to leave in the morning after the first roll call. They put all their clothes on and shoved bread in their pockets at breakfast for the journey. When it came time to go, only two left, and they made a run for it; they knew they had until supper at the next roll call when the school staff would become aware of their absence.

“They listened for the train whistle and followed the sound to the train tracks and began their walk east. These tracks were to become their trail to freedom. They walked as far as Espanola, a distance of 250 km, where Grampa lied about his age and got a job working in the lumberyards. He did not return home to his community for 20 years.

“This was a walk of hope,” she says, “and represents the healing of the successive generations from the atrocities of Residential Schools our families have lived through.”

## Lands unit focus on rights

In the spring of this year, staff and leadership met in Toronto to discuss strengthening the direction of the Lands and Resource mandate of the Union of Ontario Indians.

The focus will be more relevant to First Nations rights than the province of Ontario’s lands policies and a set of principles was proposed to guide Lands and Resources’ advocacy work done on behalf of the Anishinabek Nation.

The draft principles include a focus on Sovereignty and original Crown and First Peoples Relationships; recognition and reconciliation of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights; development and implementation of Anishinabek Law; Anishinabek Culture and Language; Regional Representation and Renewal; Inclusion of Youth and consideration of Future Generations; and Unity.

It was also clear that each of the Nation’s four regions have distinct challenges and opportunities with respect to Lands and Resources and this is to be reflected when the Lands and Resource Unit reports on its new direction to the upcoming fall assembly in Garden River.

“As First Nations, we must be concerned that the provincial government is doing political end-runs on the matter of land rights and interests,” says portfolio Chief Isadore Day of Serpent River. “It doesn’t make sense for Ontario to entrench new laws and legislative processes that will be challenged by treaty implementation within the next couple of years,” he said, referring to the likely implementation of an Ontario Treaty Commission.

## Submit your artwork for 2010 Calendar

### *N'ginaajiw – My spirit is beautiful*

By Jody Cotter

NIPISSING FN – AIDS Education and Program Coordinator Jody Cotter is looking for artwork for the “N’ginaajiw” –My Spirit is Beautiful 13 Grandmother Moons calendar for 2010.

The calendar represents the beautiful teaching of the 13 Grandmother Moons. So please pick a month and illustrate your artwork through paint, colouring, markers, pencil, etc.

The N’ginaajiw self-esteem campaign for First Nations women teachings come from Arlene Barry’s series of compiled teachings called “Kinoomaadiewinan Anishinaabe Bimaadinzinwin”.

#### Thirteen Grandmother Moon Teachings

January – Spirit Moon

February – Bear Moon

March – Sugar Moon

April – Sucker Moon

May – Flower Moon

June – Strawberry Moon

July – Raspberry Moon

August – Thimbleberry Moon

September – Corn Moon

October – Falling Leaves Moon

November – Freezing Moon

December – Little Spirit Moon

Blue Moon Big Spirit Moon

The thirteenth moon of Creation is Big Spirit Moon. Its purpose is to purify us, and to heal all

of Creation, a process which may take a three-month long spiritual journey. During this time, we receive instructions on the healing powers of the universe and transform into our own vision of the truth.

E-mail a picture of the artwork or mail it in along with the month that it represents. If you are chosen, your picture will be printed in our calendar and you will receive a \$50 prize. Please forward all entries no later than October 16th 2009 to Jody Cotter c/o Union of Ontario Indians, P.O. Box 711, North Bay, ON, P1B 8J8, Email images to: jody.cotter@anishinabek.ca



## ANISHINABEK NEWS

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

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**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 OCTOBER****Advertising**

Bookings: September 20

Final Art: October 10

**News**

News submissions: September 20

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## MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

## A summer of back-stabbing

My boss just wouldn't give me a holiday raincheck for July.

So like millions of Canadians who book vacation weeks in the first month of summer, I had to make the best of it. It wasn't all bad – I didn't have to water any plants or wash my car and the shadflies thought it was winter and flew south.

Fortunately I had volunteered to support John Beaucage's campaign to be elected National Chief so I got to see the sun and wear short-sleeve shirts for a few days at the Assembly of First Nations annual meeting in Calgary. John had earned pretty good reviews for five solid years as Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation and a wealth of experience gained using his economics degree in the business world.

The other four hats in the ring belonged to men who were hardly shoo-ins, including one character famously quoted as saying he would have shot the first settlers he saw landing on North American shores, and another who annually threatens to barricade the Trans-Canada highway. I saw one candidate pondering his political strategy while perched on a bar stool at an outdoor patio near the convention centre, and nursing the tallest glass of draught beer I have ever seen.

But Indian politics is nothing if not unpredictable, and Ontario's candidate was hung out to dry by also-rans who, it had been understood, would throw their support behind Beaucage after they had enjoyed their few minutes at the microphone. It didn't help that many Ontario chiefs seemed to be missing in action, especially those from north of the 46th parallel.

John Beaucage has been around the political block, but even he was taken aback by the apparent simultaneous attacks of amnesia that afflicted some of those who had promised their support to him after the first ballot.



*Maurice Switzer*

It's a terrible sight to watch honesty become a casualty on the floor of a political convention.

Anyways, J.B. was as gracious in defeat as he has been in victory, and he will land on his feet working as a First Nation advisor for a windpower company or some other corporate entity that has been impressed by his leadership ability. He had barely landed back in Ontario and everybody but the Bloc Quebecois were hounding him to represent their party's brand.

The election intrigues dampened my spirit that had already been waterlogged by July's precipitation, but I still had some vacation plans to look forward to.

The annual theatre-winery-spare-no-expense tour with my Blonde Daughter and Brunette Grand-daughter is usually a breath of fresh air and this year was no exception. The first of four plays we saw at the Stratford Festival was Julius Caesar – that Shakespearean yarn about the leader who gets stabbed in the back – and front – by all his friends. While expertly presented, the production reminded me a bit too much of events I had just witnessed at the AFN assembly.

Fortunately the other performances were all musicals, and helped instill a more upbeat mood.

For me the most impressive performance of this year's Festival visit was not even on stage. During West Side Story we were seat-

ed beside a young woman who was training a guide-dog for the blind, a year-old Golden Retriever named Cooper whose challenge was to sit still for the three-hour duration of the play. Cooper never emitted a peep all evening, and was content to curl up and snooze while the lead belted out "I've just met a girl named Maria". I couldn't help but notice that some two-legged ticket-holders responded to the production in much the same manner.

Before heading back to North Bay, we were to rendezvous with cousins in Toronto and collect two tourists from the European branch of the family who were making their first trip to Canada. The language barrier was shattered when Blonde Daughter became miraculously fluent in Slovak after only two glasses of Chardonnay.

As a teetotaler I had no such talents to fall back on, but with the help of some friendly local immigrants and a palm-size translation device my house guests and I managed to communicate pretty well during their four-day visit in North Bay. There was the occasional misunderstanding; the Slovak words for mushroom and fish are very similar so the young man looked at me quizzically when I told him why we were going out on Lake Nipissing. Thanks to our First Nation guide we didn't find any truffles but my young friend hauled in three pickerel, quite a thrill for someone whose entire country is about the size of two of our Great Lakes.

Afterwards he watched, fascinated by the skill with which our guide filleted our day's catch. As for me, I felt a familiar twinge each time the razor-sharp knife plunged into a fish's gleaming back.

*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.*

## Let's bring back the living room

We've re-started a grand old tradition at our house.

We've thought about it for a long time but it's only now that we've actually gotten around to doing something. Typically, we got too busy, too distracted, too into our own routines and responsibilities to take any action.

The funny thing is, that the tradition we restarted is set up to highlight that very reaction in our homes and communities. We call it Bringing Back the Livingroom. It's a gathering. It's a coming together of people to talk to each, tell stories, sing songs and share time and space without the distraction of television, a cell phone or a computer.

After everyone arrives, we share a pot-luck dinner. Our first one was magnificent with offerings from chili to chicken to a broccoli and cheese salad. It was a fabulous, eclectic table. When the eating was over, the main event took place.

Everyone had the chance to tell a story,



*Richard Wagamese*

sing a song, read something they'd written, read something that moved them or introduce us to a piece of recorded music that was special for them. We sat there, in candlelight and were awed by what came out.

I heard a touching story about homelessness from a friend who I've lived down the road from for almost four years. We'd never even spoken before this, never shaken hands, only nodded at each other when we passed on the road.

But his story was riveting. It showed him to be a man much like myself, with a similar history and a similar emotional reaction to it.

Without this gathering I would have never had the privilege of hearing his story. I would never have found someone with so much in common with me.

We heard songs sung with a six-string guitar. We heard an a cappella blues song. We heard stories about childhood recollections, about the spirituality of fly fishing, and the trials of war. From each voice we found a connection to a part of ourselves. We found community in disparate parts.

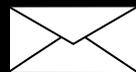
Bringing Back the Livingroom. We're going to do it every month. We're going to gather people together for the opportunity to really hear other, to share, to become joined. It works. Everyone who was there left feeling more complete, more attuned to their neighbours, returned to a simpler, fuller time when stories and music brought us all together.

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

# MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION



## LETTERS



### Canadian Tire kiss-off

I have been using my status cards for years for tax exemption until last week. I went to Canadian Tire and they would not take my card because I didn't live on the rez. I am a native no matter I live and I have never had this happen to me in 44 years. They pulled out this paper which they said they got off the Internet but when I ask them to make me a copy they said 'No-- to get it myself 'and when I asked for the website they also refused. I was very upset and said some nasty things.

I feel that our people need to get together and get this straightened out.

**Lucy Corbiere**  
Windsor

### Thanks for Site 41 support

I am a citizen of the Serpent River First Nation and have my concerns about the proposed dump Site 41 to my Chief, Isadore Day.

As the proposed dump at Site 41 will have a tremendously hurtful impact on the underground water systems, we all collectively have good reason to be afraid. In the reading and research that myself and other women have undertaken, it is clear that neither the county or the province (Crown) properly lived up to their duty to consult with regard to the rights of First Nations in the area. There are many First Nations who would be affected.

The protest at the site has been driven by Anishinabe-kwe. The environmentalists, county residents and ordinary Ontario citizens welcomed the protest and offered on-going support of food, land, and resources.

As a citizen of the Serpent River First Nation, which is part of the Anishinabek Nation, I welcomed the press release from our Grand Chief and thank him for his support. I would encourage future press releases continue, and that the press releases reflect the absolute urgency of stopping this dump site and asserting First Nations claims and rights to be properly consulted.

**Germaine Trudeau-Elliott**  
Orillia

ED. NOTE – In the face of mounting protests, Simcoe County has abandoned its plans to create a garbage dump at Site 41. Story on page 2.

### Create fire escape plan

Starting during Fire Prevention Week Oct 4th – 10th and continuing all month, teachers and firefighters across Ontario – with help from Sparky the Fire Dog – will show our kids how to create and practice an Escape Plan at home.

To help you prepare your family's Escape Plan, we've developed a simple planning grid you can download FREE at [www.safeathome.ca/drill](http://www.safeathome.ca/drill).

**Patrick Burke, Ontario Fire Marshal**



### Treaty Daze

The Garden River First Nation Arts Committee secured funding to produce Treaty Daze – a one-act play commemorating the signing of the 1850 Robertson Huron Treaty to assist people in the understanding of treaty history in Canada. The production – called Treaty Daze – hired nine Algoma district high school students as cast members. Here, from left, Ted Syrette as Shingwauk and Kyle Burton as Nebonagoching present a wampum belt to government officials played by Isaac Rendall and Scott Dinsmore, to signify the signing of the treaty.

–Photo by Margaret Hele

## Unity is our best medicine!

At this November's fall assembly of the 42 Anishinabek Nation member communities I will be tabling my report on the development of a treaty implementation framework.

This work will support the implementation of the Union of Ontario Indians' mandate to provide political advocacy on matters affecting treaties. The Ipperwash Inquiry recommendations include the development of an Ontario Treaty Commission, and the Chiefs in Ontario are participating in that process.

But there are a number of different treaties in the province that will require different legal perspectives and approaches due to the diverse nature of treaty relationships that both pre-date and follow Confederation.

Many things have transpired since the mandate was provided to conduct this work. In the last year,

energy sector developments, major forest tenure policy changes, Ontario Mining Act changes and the Federal / Provincial Harmonized Sales Tax memorandum are major issues that will directly impact treaty implementation.



Chief Day

Neither the Ontario nor Federal governments may be prepared to meet the level of expectations of First Nation on matters of treaty implementation. One of the issues expected to be discussed by Chiefs in Assembly at Garden River in November will be a recommendation for effective communications and consulting with First Nations by Ontario and Canada as they develop their treaty process.

As the Lake Huron Treaty Commissioner I will be calling

for unity and collaborative strategies among First Nations within treaty territories in order to give strength to larger political efforts such as resource revenue-sharing, legislation changes in the natural resource sector, and broader issues like the right to education and health services.

One of our Anishnabek Youth in my recent travels said that "Unity is our best medicine". He couldn't be more correct. We need to ensure that the Rights-Based Agenda is well established from a mutually-understood perspective if we are to advance quality of life for the next generation.

*Isadore Day, Wiindawtegowini, is elected Chief of Serpent River First Nation and Lake Huron Regional Chief of the Anishinabek Nation and was appointed as the first Lake Huron Treaty Commissioner.*

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★ Do your youth want another reason to stay in school?

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**ALUMNI**

**Annual General Meeting**

The Board Executive and Directors of the Canadore College Alumni Association wish to invite all Canadore alumni to attend the 2009 Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20th, 2009 in the McCubbin/Murray Alumni Board Room.

Kindly RSVP prior to Wednesday, October 14th, 2009 to Joey Rainer in the Office of Alumni Services, at (705) 474-7600, ext. 5172, or [joey.rainer@canadorec.on.ca](mailto:joey.rainer@canadorec.on.ca).



# Inter-governmental Affairs

## Protecting Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

## Secure status card process tedious

By Greg Plain

KETTLE AND STONY POINT FN – The federal government has started in select First Nations, the process of changing the old status card to a new secure status card.

Before going to get the new secure card, it's important to have with you three pieces of identification that includes your original birth certificate, old status (band) card and another piece of photo identification such as a health card or driver's license. Your name has to match your birth certificate so if you've been married and your surname has changed, you will need a marriage certificate as well to show why your name has changed.

You will also need to fill out paperwork – to apply for the se-



Carmen George, citizen of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation begins to fill out the paperwork for his new secure status card.

ecure status card. You will be given a four-digit personal identification number PIN of your choice to activate the card.

The next step in the process involves getting your photo taken and you will have to sign your name on an electronic tablet (that will show on your new card).

Once you are done all of this

– which takes about an hour and a half to complete – you will receive your new card in the mail and then it will have to be activated by phone using your PIN number.

The Secure Card process should be coming to all First Nation administrative offices in the spring of 2010.

## Commission work in British Columbia

By Karen Biondi

The first recommendation discussed in the mission statement of the BC Treaty Commission is: "The First Nations, Canada, and British Columbia establish a new relationship based on mutual trust, respect, and understanding — through political negotiations."

Replace "British Colombia" with "Ontario" and this recommendation could have been from the Ipperwash Inquiry. In his final report, Justice Linden discusses how the creation of the Treaty Commission of Ontario should play an important role in creating a new relationship between Ontario First Nations, Canada and Ontario; something which is desperately needed, particularly after Ipperwash and other land claim disputes throughout the province.

The primary function of the BC Treaty Commission is to oversee the treaty process to ensure that the negotiations between First Nations, British Colombia and Canada are progressing and that each of the parties is using the process efficiently. Before its inception, there were 19 recommendations given to guide "the independent keeper of the BC Treaty process" to success. The Commission helps to support progress in negotiations and ensures that the treaties drafted will be longstanding. It was seen as a constructive alternative to First Nation litigation and confrontations. And it seems to be working.

One of the main roles of the BC Treaty Commission is to improve the knowledge of people throughout the province and Canada on land claim and treaty issues. This is not a topic commonly taught in schools, certainly from a First Nations perspective, which leaves many Canadians confused as to what the government and First Nations are trying to accomplish. This naivety can and has been a major stumbling block to new and improved Nation to Nation relations. Education and public awareness will be critical for the Treaty Commission of Ontario as well.

If the Treaty Commission of Ontario comes into existence based on certain critical principles which serve as the foundation for the BC Treaty Commission, it would be a celebrated step forward for the province of Ontario and First Nations. This independent agency would help to process the growing number of claims more quickly and effectively. According to INAC, as of March 2008, there were 110 claims under review in Ontario—28 in negotiations and one at the Indian Specific Claims Commission; 81 have been concluded. It is imperative to the economies of these First Nations that these claims be resolved so that there can be a larger sense of independence from the government in terms of First Nations governance, economic development and education, to name a few.

It is not possible, nor would it be right, to follow the example of the BC Treaty Commission to the letter; the Anishinabek have a history and treaties which are distinctly different from the BC First Nations. Discussions as to what Ontario's commission will look like have been ongoing; the Treaty Commission of Ontario is one of the sub-working groups of the Ipperwash Implementation plan in which the Anishinabek Nation is participating. The discussions between Ontario, Canada, the UOI and various other PTO's from the province have been working towards building the vision of what the Treaty Commission will be in Ontario.

For First Nations, with the memories of Ipperwash, it cannot come soon enough.

*The goal of the Union of Ontario Indians in its work to implement the Ipperwash Inquiry Report recommendations is to help build healthy relationships between Anishinabek First Nations, government and police services.*

*The Ipperwash Inquiry Report was released in May 2007. The Union of Ontario Indians advocated since that time for the federal and provincial governments to partner with Ontario First Nations to implement the Report's recommendations. Through this effort, a joint implementation process with Ontario was formalized in September 2008. For more information, please contact Nicole Latulippe, Project Coordinator, at Ipperwash@anishinabek.ca, or at (705) 472-9127, ext. 2253*

## Ipperwash task force moving forward

By Nicole Latulippe

The Ipperwash First Nation Task Force (FNTF) met September 9 and 10 to evaluate progress on the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry priority areas – Treaty Implementation, Lands Rights and Interest, First Nation Jurisdiction, and First Nation Capacity.

Ultimately, these steps will be taken to enhance the process: strategic planning sessions with First Nation leadership and the FNTF, implement the overall communication strategy to engage First Nation citizens and determine the scope of activities that are possible and achievable for the next 6-12 months

The FNTF is coordinated by Chiefs in Ontario and includes participation by the Union of Ontario Indians. Its role is to provide First Nation leadership in Ontario with the opportunity to address the issues and concerns with Crown governments related to topics within the Ipperwash Inquiry and equip leadership with the tools required to address the issues.

In addition to assessing the overall approach to Ipperwash implementation, the FNTF also reviewed the current status of each of the 7 sub-groups:

### Resource Revenue Sharing (RRS):

- A number of resource development companies wrongfully interpreted the \$30 million announcement from the Premier of Ontario as diminishing their responsibilities to compensate First Nations. The Ontario Regional Chief drafted a letter to the Premier encouraging Ontario to take action to correct this misinterpretation.

### Treaty Commission in Ontario (TCO):

- Information gathering is essentially complete: the expert forum (July 28-30) produced a series of power point presentations prepared by the experts; a video of the forum including presentations from the Elders; and a Common Discussion Paper, which is designed to be a starting point for First Nation leadership in the potential development of a TCO.

### Consultation and Accommodation:

- The sub-table is assessing the information base, including a Chiefs in Ontario toolkit on consultation and accommodation, and anticipates developing a community engagement strategy to raise awareness on consultation and accommodation among First Nations.

### Dudley George Reconciliation Fund:

- The New Relationship Fund will be in operation until 2010. The sub-table will explore options for the transition to the Dudley George Reconciliation Fund

### Policing:

- The sub-table hosted a significant information gathering and sharing event: an expert Forum on First Nation policing which was held on May 12-13, 2009. Next steps are being considered.

### First Nation Jurisdiction and Reconciliation:

- In order to organize the issues more effectively, an internal First Nations paper has been drafted.

### Heritage & Burial Sites:

- The sub-table is tasked with clarifying existing practices/requirements/policies for First Nations, Aboriginal organizations and the public and developing appropriate policies and legislative and/or regulatory amendments

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## MISSION

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

# Lands and Resources

Ensuring access to natural resources



Salt pile at Fisher Harbour. —Photo by Art Jacko, Manager of Lands and Resources, United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin.

## Polluter faces music on Manitoulin

By Marci Becking

WHITEFISH RIVER FN—Anishinabek Chiefs, council members and citizens of Whitefish River brought their concerns and evidence to representatives of Alexander Centre Industries Limited (ACIL) and the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the company's application to expand their shipping commodities list through Fisher Harbour in Whitefish River's traditional territory.

"You're not going to hurt our people," said Chief Shining Turtle of Whitefish River, located at Birch Island on Manitoulin. "Get a five-year plan to get out of the salt (business)."

ACIL, which operates Fisher Harbour on the east side of Little LaCloche Island, has been without a lease since 2004 when its 30-year lease expired.

The company's old lease permitted them to bring steel, lumber, iron ore pellets, limestone, paper products and coal into the harbour. ACIL wants to expand that list to include bulk salt, metal-bearing concentrates, cement and cementations materials, slag, natural aggregates, wood products, agricultural supplies and products, precast concrete, metals and scrap metals, silica sand, rubber materials, motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, polymer materials and machinery and machinery parts—some materials have been shipping illegally since the 1970s.

Prior to the Aug. 26 meeting Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee had referred to the company's activities as "environmental racism".

Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse said that the most important truth was that First peoples were here occupying these lands and were never conquered and the Supreme Court agrees.

"First Nations have responsibilities given by the Creator regarding the land and water," said Toulouse, "No treaties indicate that the First Nations have given up their land, water and resource

rights."

ACIL has been shipping commodities that aren't currently on their list, a situation of great concern to the Union of Ontario Indians – the political voice of the 42 member communities of the Anishinabek Nation, including Whitefish River.

"Some of the commodities on the proposed commodity list may have a significant effect on the lands and waters," says UOI water policy analyst Rhonda Gagnon. "For example, metal concentrates, agricultural products, salt, flux sand and slags can severely impact water quality, ecosystem productivity, natural fisheries, and species at risk."

"The Great Lakes have all ready been degraded so much, that we don't know how much more the Lakes can take," says Gagnon. "I mention water quality because First Nation Peoples are highly dependent on the Lands and Waters to survive for their ways of life. It seems that Alexander Centre Industries Limited has disregarded the community concerns with respect to water degradation, noise pollution, increased traffic, community safety, traditional and Treaty Rights, and overall site degradation at Fisher Harbour."

Elders in the First Nation are very disturbed by the change they've seen in the environment.

"Our primary concern is the environment and the importance of Whitefish River's traditional way of life," says council member Esther Osche. "We are concerned about the deer population, migratory routes, the water -- when you catch a fish at the harbor they are almost cooked! The water quality troubles the Elders. They speak of a time that you could freely drink from the lake. They are sad for the future generations. There is a flourishing of green algae and invasive species."

The Ministry of Natural Resources will be evaluating the information presented to determine what action is required.

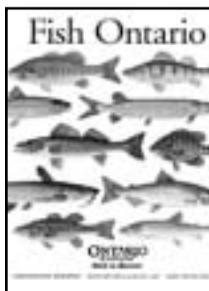
## Watch what fish you put on your plate

TORONTO - If the huge trout you caught from one of the Great Lakes ends up on your dinner table you might be at risk from alarmingly high levels of toxins, says a new report from advocacy group Environmental Defence.

And at least four years of government data shows the condition of the fish isn't improving, according to the report. "It's something so subtle. You're not going to eat a piece of fish and suddenly get cancer," said Mike Layton, Environmental Defence program manager and one of the report's authors.

Like the fish, it's going to accumulate in your own body."

The report, "Up to the Gills," focuses on toxic chemicals in Great Lakes fish by examining advisories published by the Ontario Ministry of Environment for eight species



of fish in 13 locations across the Great Lakes.

Many fish were found to be partly or completely unfit for human consumption, with bigger fish being the worst for a meal.

The toxins in the fish included mercury from coal-fired power plants, dioxins from industrial processes and pesticides.

Some species of fish around the Toronto area need to be avoided entirely, the report found.

These include lake trout and large carp.

## Forestry review needs FN input

TORONTO—Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee says First Nations must be involved from the outset of Ontario plans to modernize its forest tenure and pricing system.

"The forests in this province are located on our traditional territories and the Crown has a legal obligation to consult and accommodate our interests," said Madahbee, reacting to an August 27 announcement of the review by Michael Gravelle, Ontario Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forests. "We applaud Minister Gravelle's efforts to engage First Nations to become more involved in the forestry sector, but that involvement has to start at square one of the process."

The Grand Chief of the 42 member communities of the Anishinabek Nation in Ontario -- said revising the province's existing forestry tenure -- a licensing system that defines harvesting and associated responsibilities -- will be a critical element in ensuring First Nations support of the planned overhaul of forestry policy.

"Tenure review has always been a focus of First Nations concerns because the current system often excludes and limits the involvement of our communities from acquiring meaningful licenses for economic benefits," said Madahbee.

The issue of tenure reform surfaced in 1994 when the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management on Crown Lands in Ontario introduced Condition 77 (now 34) which did not use tenure to address First Nations issues.

## Wiky uses funds for feedback

By Kelly Crawford

WIKWEMIKONG -- The Wikwemikong Lands Office has received \$99,679 in funding as part of the New Relationship Fund from the Ontario government.

Lands Director Noella Jacko explained that the funds will be used within the Wikwemikong Lands Department on "anything to do with lands and resources" but specifically "informing and educating about the importance of the Lands and Resources department." This will include work on the website, newsletters and brochures.

"We have wanted to do this for a long time, but never had resources to do it," she added.

"Reaching out to get all the necessary feedback needed is a



Noella Jacko

priority for the department. The plan also includes connecting with all band members, from Elders and youth to the off-reserve band members."

The department will be creating two new positions—Community Consultation Facilitator and a Research Development Officer. In addition, the funding will also cover "training on up-dating the website," explained Jacko. "We are also planning to build a greenhouse for the orchard."

## Forestry table update

Representatives of the Anishinabek and the Ministry of Natural Resources continue to negotiate a Forestry Agreement and made good progress on their discussion of forest policy. They began their discussion of key interests and challenges regarding consultation and communications. The table resumed its work on September 8, 2009.

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### MISSION

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

# Aboriginal Ontario

## Open for Business

A Special Report on Economic Development



Proposed hotel project at Little Current will offer a spectacular view of the North Channel.

## First Nations planning new conference centre at Little Current

M'CHIGEENG FN --Great Spirit Circle Trail(GSCT) – a tourism consortium of eight First Nations --and some partners from the Manitoulin region hope to develop a full-service 65-unit hotel and conference centre.

The project would include some deluxe suites, a conference centre, a health spa and business centre and would take full advantage of the water view along the north channel from the proposed site -- a 1.65-acre property owned by Little Current and located just to the west of the Manitoulin Visitor Information Centre.

"We know that Manitoulin is in great need of such a year-round facility to support the whole Island economy," says Dawn Madahbee, General Manager of the Waubetek Business Development Corporation. "In addition to the conference, meeting and sporting event markets, the hotel has been designed to meet the need of the motor coach industry who are interested in staying on Manitoulin to experience all that the Island has to offer. There are 150 motor coaches literally passing through Manitoulin every summer as we do not have the room capacity in our region to meet the accommodation standards of the industry. Such a project would be a major boost to the whole Island economy as motor coach visitor stays would be extended."

Madahbee says the First Nations project demonstrates the partnership potential among Manitoulin's various communities.

## Sagamok enters mining industry

MASSEY– Sagamok Anishnawek First Nation is in the mining business.

Chief Paul Eshkakogan and Dr. Richard Sutcliffe, CEO of URSA Major Minerals have signed an Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IBA) in relation to the mining company's Shakespeare Nickel Project.

"This agreement is the culmination of many years of fruitful discussion," said Chief Eshkakogan following the Aug. 12 signing ceremony. "It provides a basis for our community to effectively participate in the Shakespeare Project, to share directly in the economic and other benefits associated with it, and to continue to fulfill environmental stewardship responsibilities within our traditional and treaty territory."

The Impacts and Benefits Agreement is the first such agreement to be entered into by either Sagamok Anishnawek or URSA Major, and one of only a few in the Sudbury mining camp. It follows an Interim Measures Agreement entered into by the parties in September 2007. The Interim Agreement paved the way for the filing of a Closure Plan for the Shakespeare Project with the Ministry of Northern Development and



Chief Paul Eshkakogan, Sagamok Anishnawek and Dr. Richard Sutcliffe, President and CEO of URSA Major Minerals

Mines. It also set the framework for the parties to enter into good faith negotiations on a comprehensive benefits agreement that would be applicable exclusively to URSA Major's Shakespeare Project until close out of the mine.

"The agreement demonstrates our shared commitment to work collaboratively with Sagamok Anishnawek First Nation", said Dr. Sutcliffe. "The Shakespeare Project is URSA Major's main asset and our relationship with Sagamok has been an important part of advancing the project. With improving nickel prices, URSA Major will now focus efforts on preparations for resuming mining at Shakespeare and we look forward to Sagamok's renewed involvement through employment, training, and business development."

Implementation of the Agreement will commence with the establishment of a joint IBA Imple-

mentation Committee and further development of a human resource strategy supporting established objectives for employment and training of Sagamok members in the proposed mine and mill. In addition to commitments in the areas of employment and workforce development, the agreement provides for participation in environmental aspects of the project and establishes contract tendering processes that will help build business capacity within Sagamok during construction, operation and closure.

Under the Agreement, URSA Major will provide financial contributions while the project is in operation which can be used by Sagamok at its discretion to support community initiatives, including those outlined in the First Nation's Ten Year Action Plan for Healing and Community Development.

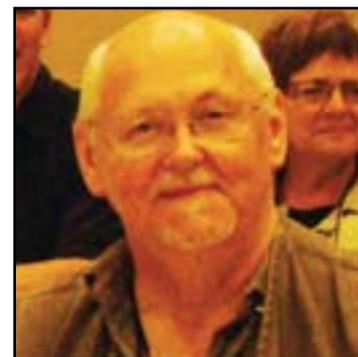
## Building economies the progressive way

By Barret Dokis

GARDEN RIVER FN --The first recommendation of the Anishinabek Nation's Economic Blueprint suggests communities start using The First Nations Progression Model, an approach used by Membertou First Nation which has become a nationally recognized economic success story.

Bernd Christmas, who served as Membertou Chief Executive Officer and assisted in the development of the Anishinabek Nation blueprint, emphasizes that their strategy was not about jumping into the first available opportunity. Instead Membertou took a strategic approach to development which he describes as the Progression Model. The model consists of three stages: Capacity Building in financial and quality management, Preparing for economic development, and Pursuing economic development opportunities.

The first stage of this model is of extreme importance to our communities. At this stage First Nation organizations, including the Union of Ontario Indians and individual First Nation Communities, are encouraged to focus on developing their capacities to manage an economic development process, particularly the financial and quality management aspects. This includes addressing issues related to leadership, accountability, policies, procedures and required systems.



Economic Development Officer Marshall Tannahill of Chapleau Cree First Nation at the August Economic Development Officer Conference held in Garden River First Nation. – Photo by Crystal Madahbee

In order to progress through this first stage, our communities and other related organizations need to assess their current capacity and identify areas that need to be strengthened or developed further. One way to ensure strong internal governance, policies, procedures, and systems is to obtain ISO certification. By having ISO certification, our communities can prove both internally and externally to their community that they have strong management systems in place. Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, Sagamok Anishnawek First Nation, Waubetek Development Corporation, and the Union of Ontario Indians are currently involved in the ISO certification process.



## Rights blowin' in the wind

By Jennifer Ashawasegai

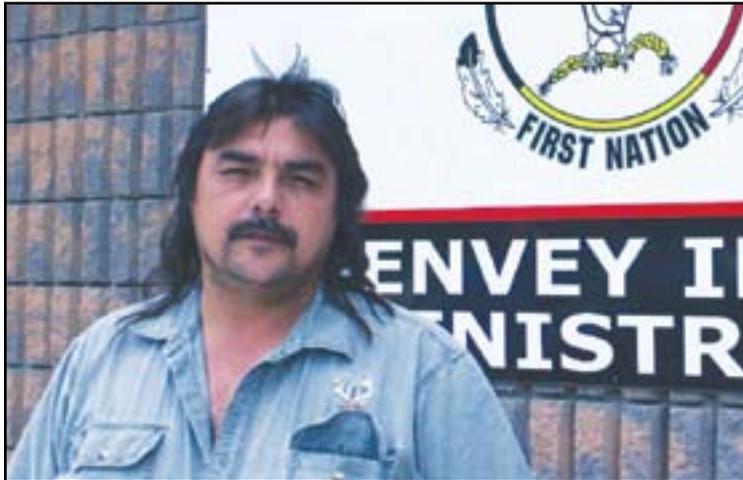
Part two in a series

**HENVEY INLET FN** – The push is on to exercise aboriginal and treaty rights across Canada, as increasingly more First Nations leaders understand the link between inherent rights and economic development.

Some First Nations have launched lawsuits to claim jurisdiction over traditional lands and demand that governments fulfill their legal duty to consult communities about any developmental activities in their territories. Some landmark Supreme Court decisions -- Haida, Taku River and Mikisew -- have affirmed that First Nations have a right to meaningful consultation and accommodation prior to any decisions, conduct or activities that may impact on the rights and interest of Aboriginal peoples.

From Osoyoos First Nation's award-winning winery in B.C.'s Okanagan Valley to Membertou First Nation's oil and gas industry partnerships in New Brunswick, Native faces are becoming more familiar in a wide variety of business sectors, increasingly so in the field of alternate energy development.

First Nations have been part-



Chief Wayne McQuabbie of Henvey Inlet First Nation says windpower developments are a step towards exercising Aboriginal rights.

nering up with wind developers to harness green energy, a good cultural as well as business fit.

Wasauksing First Nation near Parry Sound is in negotiations with Skypower Corp. to create a 38-Megawatt project involving 15 wind turbines, a type of economic development that Chief Shane Tabobondung calls "sustainable". Skypower is currently restructuring due to the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, its principal shareholder, but Chief Tabobondung says this will not have an impact on the development in his community.

Chief Wayne McQuabbie of Henvey Inlet First Nation just north of Wasauksing agrees that wind developments are also a step towards exercising aboriginal rights. His community is getting ready to sign a memorandum of understanding with Wind Dancer Corporation at the same time as

it prepares to launch a territorial claim to enable it to exercise jurisdiction over traditional lands. Henvey may also partner to erect wind turbines outside of reserve boundaries.

Brookfield Power Corporation, another wind developer, has several projects on the go with First Nation communities and created the position of Senior Advisor of Aboriginal Affairs for John Kim Bell.

Canada's Constitution protects Aboriginal rights and interests but Ontario is an example of a jurisdiction that has gone a couple of steps further.

The province not only made revisions to its archaic mining act to accommodate First Nations, but also enacted The Green Energy Act mandating consultation with First Nations in projects intruding on their traditional territories.

## First Nations conserving more than the light

By Rick Garrick

**THUNDER BAY**—Whitefish Lake Councilor Harvey Petahgoose helped implement energy conservation measures in his community two years ago.

"We had a big report done up," Petahgoose said during the Conserve the Light Gathering in Thunder Bay. "There was only one complaint -- the shower heads were blasting apart."

After installing low-flow shower heads and other energy-conserving equipment through the North Shore Tribal Council project, Petahgoose even changed all of his own lights to fluorescent bulbs.

"They (community members) have smart meters installed on their homes," Petahgoose said, explaining he has noticed "somewhat" of a difference on his hydro bills even though he has natural gas-fired appliances.

The Sept. 1-4 event featured a two-day gathering of First Nation and Métis Elders on Mt. McKay and a two-day First Nations and Métis Energy Efficiency Conference at the Valhalla Inn.

"The subject they are talking about is Mother



Charles Fox -- former Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Grand Chief, now a consultant -- served as a facilitator for the Conserve the Light conference in Thunder Bay.

Earth," said Fort William First Nation Elder Marlene Pierre. "How we protect her is very appropriate for this time, not just for Anishinabe, but all for people."

Reports were delivered during the conference about different projects carried out over the past two years under the Ontario Power Authority's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Measures for Aboriginal Communities (EEMAC) program.

Unbalanced heat return units which expel too much air out of a house or blow too much cold air in and overly high hot water tank temperatures were among the problems found during the projects.

Ontario Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure George Smitherman also announced a \$250 million Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program and an Aboriginal Energy Partnerships Program during the conference.



Chief Denise Restoule announces new dam project. Background: Jackie Cerceau, Hydromega, James Cutfeet, Indian and northern Affairs Canada.

## Dokis dam project to generate hydro

**DOKIS FN**—The construction of a 10-megawatt, \$43-million hydro dam, known as the Okikendawt Hydro Project, will begin in 2011 with the dam opening in 2012.

The Okikendawt Hydro Project received its name in a ceremony near the Portage Dam Site in August. Okikendawt means "pots in the rocks in the river" in Ojibway and is situated where Lake Nipissing flows into the French River near Monetteville.

Chief Denise Restoule says that as many as 150 people will be hired in the construction stage.

"The band is looking for different government agencies for funding," says Chief Restoule. "What we get will be considered part of our equity in the project."

Dokis First Nation and Hydromega have started the regulatory process to obtain a Water Priority Permit under the federal Dominion Water Power Act. The permit will allow for the development of the dam and the use of water for that purpose.

Dokis First Nation members, Lake Nipissing and French River water users, and authorities such as Ontario Parks, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Public Works and Government Services Canada have all been consulted and support the project, said Chief Restoule.

She said the dam will maintain water quality and flow, improve fishery habitat, protect endangered species and archeological zones, and also rebuild the historic Chaudiere Portage Route.

The Okikendawt project has been an economic development goal for the Dokis First Nation for 25 years.

## Anishinabek PowerPlay



**TORONTO** – Hydro One has provided PowerPlay grants to M'Chigeeng, Dokis and Beausoleil First Nations to support outdoor sports and community recreation.

"We welcome Hydro One's support of our outdoor rink and recreation pad project," said Penny Roy-Corbiere, Finance Manager of M'Chigeeng First Nation. "The project will provide fun and fitness throughout the year."

M'Chigeeng and Beausoleil both received \$15,000 while Dokis First Nation received a \$20,000 grant.

# RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION

## Anishinabek consultations: 'The Ten Year Talk'

*Readers' Note: Under the Restoration of Jurisdiction banner, the Union of Ontario Indians conducted community information and consultation sessions from 1998 to 2008. A comprehensive report on grass roots community feedback was prepared by ROJ summer student, Caitlin Morrison. Caitlin read the ROJ reports from this "10-year talk", analyzed them, and identified priority issues. This excerpt is the introduction to the report.*



ROJ Community Facilitator, Mike Eshkawkogan (right), engaged students at Wasse-Abin High School in Wikwemikong in March 2004.

Self-government is a topic which is receiving a great deal of attention as it forces the federal and provincial governments to address First Nations issues.

For the past ten years, the Union of Ontario Indians has been spearheading workshops, information sessions, conferences, and media notifications to the First Nations citizens of the Anishinabek Nation, to move towards and implement jurisdiction over governance and education.

When the Restoration of Jurisdiction initiative first began, Anishinabek ("the People") were unsure of what exactly was being negotiated with respect to self-governance and education, and they were unable to see the vision of the process.

Workshops on governance structure, various aspects of capacity development, conflict resolution processes and First Nation control over education revealed that First Nation citizens wanted more information and training, as well as education on traditional Anishinabeg governance and education structures.

The desire for traditional culture and values as the foundation of the Anishinabek Nation government, First Nation government, and education board structures was very apparent and has been a dominant theme throughout the years.

As First Nation citizens learned more through the ROJ workshops and conferences, complex questions and legitimate concerns arose, which the ROJ technical staff took into account and addressed in future workshops and reports.

The feedback from First Nation citizens has been the primary source of input into the development of the Anishinabek Nation Governance and Education board

structures.

Grassroots community input is imperative for a truly Anishinabe vision of self-governance as the communities are the ones in control first and foremost of their own lives.

The Indian Act has been controlling every aspect of First Nations life since 1876, and amendments made over the decades have been for the benefit of the mainstream society, not First Nations peoples. Anishinabek First Nations are fed up with being controlled by the Indian Act and want to see INAC administration transferred over to the hands of the First Nations, more specifically a central Anishinabek Nation government, for they believe INAC is not operating in their best interests and there is a great deal of mismanagement regarding funding to First Nation communities.

First Nations have been controlled for so long by the Indian Act, that for some it has become comfortable and familiar, which is dangerous.

First Nations are recognizing that they can no longer survive within the confines of the Indian Act and under the thumb of INAC, and are gathering strength to build resources and take charge of their inherent right to govern themselves.

In the 2000 report by Ojib-Hawk, consultations with Anishinabek Nation community members were conducted to find out what needs to be done and in what priority? The following are the top five issues identified:

A. Education and training for government officials and for the community as a whole.

B. Develop own constitution, system of law and government policies.

C. Motivate community members (specifically youth) involvement, cooperation and communication.

D. Secure resources through either economic development and/or government funding.

E. Address our housing problems.

The report was the initial tool for the development of the Capacity Development workshops which were designed to meet community needs and build capacity in key governance and administrative areas such as policy development and the separation of politics and administration.

The general idea is to meet community needs and prepare for increased governance and administration responsibilities that would result from First Nations signing the final agreements in education and governance that are currently under negotiation with Canada. One of the legal effects of ratified agreements in education and governance is that the Indian Act sections that deal with Band governance and education will no longer apply the Anishinabek First Nations that sign the final agreements.

The Union of Ontario Indians is currently in the process of developing an Anishinabek Nation constitution and Citizenship statute to be ratified by Anishinabek communities in the near future.

With respect to Governance, five main themes have remained consistent throughout the past ten years:

- Unity- which can be solidified through Anishinabek Nation and First Nation constitution development;

- Traditional clan/family system and Seven Grandfather Teachings;

- Determine own members/citizens- First Nation membership code and Anishinabek Nation Citizenship initiative;

- Inclusion and active participation of Elders, youth and women;

- Economic development- being able to tap into natural resources and network with off-reserve businesses.

Other key issues have arisen

in the reports such as honouring the treaties, language and culture, education and training for Chief and Council and band administration, accountability of leadership, separation of political and administrative duties, conflict resolution, and the removal of INAC, which will be addressed later on in this report.

With respect to Education, five main themes have remained consistent throughout the past ten years:

- Language and culture- imperative that children know the language and who they are as Anishinabe;

- Parental involvement- education comes from the parents first and they need to be more involved in child's education;

- Community involvement- it is also the community's responsibility to educate;

- Elders- they have the knowledge of the language and culture;

- Funding- what will the fund-

ing arrangement look like, what support will there be for secondary and post-secondary studies?

Other key issues were the removal of INAC and First Nation control over First Nation education, the need to teach life skills (experiential learning), support for special needs, and implications for off-reserve (urban) residents.

The one major link to all of these key issues is that First Nations citizens want to see the removal of INAC and get out of the oppressive stronghold the Indian Act has on all aspects of their lives.

Issues such as health and social programs, roles of women in self-governance, addressing differences in religious beliefs, recognition of governance and education jurisdiction by the province of Ontario, services for special-needs students, including off-reserve citizens and input by non-native residents on Anishinabek territory need to be examined further.



Former Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Jim Prentice with former Grand Council Chief John Beaucage at the signing of the Governance Agreement-In-Principle at Nipissing First Nation, February 2007.



Capacity Development Workshop held at Magnetawan First Nation, September 2008.

*Restoration of Jurisdiction Capacity Development Workshop*



**TRADITIONAL  
GOVERNANCE IN  
CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY**

**October 27 & 28, 2009**  
9:00AM-4:00PM

**Garden River First Nation**  
Community Centre

**Workshop Facilitator:**  
**Denise Anne Boissoneau**

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

**Who Should Participate?**

- Leadership
- Membership Clerks
- Band Managers
- Department Directors
- Board and Committee Members
- Directors of Operations
- Teachers
- Education Counsellors
- Interested community members welcomed

**For more information contact:**

Terry Restoule  
Capacity Development Coordinator  
Union of Ontario Indians  
P. O. Box 711  
North Bay, ON P1B 9J8

Phone: (705) 497-9127 Ext: 2279  
Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200  
Fax: (705) 497-9135  
Email: restou@anishinabek.ca

This workshop will focus on the notion of self-government as the mechanism for social change. The participants will identify some of the issues, trends, activities of inherent right of self-government. Also to identify customary laws, traditions and practices for a modern government.

The goal is to seek responses and solutions as to what is traditional governance, whether it is communal, kinship or clan system based on Anishinabe principles.

# RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION

## 2009-2010 negotiation, workshop and conference dates

### EDUCATION NEGOTIATIONS

**September 25, 2009** – Education Table meeting with Ontario – North Bay  
**September 29 & 30, 2009** – Participating First Nations Contribution Agreement Ne-

gotiations, Sault Ste. Marie (Tentative)  
**October 6-8, 2009** – Education Negotiations – Implementation, North Bay  
**October 27- 29, 2009** – Education and Fiscal Negotiations, Ottawa  
**November 24-26, 2009**–

Education and Fiscal Negotiations, Location to be determined.

### GOVERNANCE NEGOTIATIONS

**October 14 – 15, 2009** – Pic Mobert

**November 9 – 10, 2009** –Munsee Delaware  
**December 2 – 3, 2009** – Toronto  
**January 19 – 20, 2010** – Orillia

### GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

**September 29 – 30, 2009** – Sault Ste. Marie  
**October 27-29, 2009** – Sault Ste. Marie  
**November 17 – 18, 2009** – Sault Ste. Marie  
**December 15 – 16, 2009** – Sault Ste. Marie

### CONSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT

**December 1-3, 2009** – Community Constitution Ratification Regional Workshop, Sault Ste Marie  
**January 26-28, 2010** – Community Constitution Ratification Regional Workshop, Rama  
**February 9-11, 2010** – Community Constitution Ratification Regional Workshop, Fort William First Nation  
**March 2-4, 2010** – Anishinabek Nation Constitutional Convention, Sault Ste. Marie

### CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

**October 27 – 28, 2009** – Traditional Governance Models in Contemporary Society, Sault Ste. Marie  
**November 25 – 26, 2009** – How to Conduct Program/ Agency/Organization Audits, Wasauksing First Nation  
**December 15 – 16, 2009** – Developing First Nation Curriculum and Standards, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation  
**January 19 – 20, 2010** – The Use of Technology in First Nations, Red Rock Indian Band

### LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

**January 20 – 21, 2010** – Regional Workshop, Orillia  
**February 2 – 3, 2010** – Regional Workshop, Fort William First Nation  
**February 16 – 17, 2010** – Regional Workshop, Garden River First Nation.



## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS 2009-2010

The Union of Ontario Indians will be conducting a series of five (5) two-day Capacity Development workshops between September 2009 and March 2010.

These two-day workshops are aimed at providing First Nation communities within the Anishinabek Nation territory with an opportunity to further develop capacity levels in key identified areas.

Participants at each of the workshops will include Leadership, Band Managers, Directors of Operations, Program Managers, Staff and Community Members within the First Nations.

**Dates & Locations**

- **Effective Proposal Writing**  
*September 23 & 24, 2009*—Magnetawan First Nation
- **Traditional Governance Models in Contemporary Society**  
*October 27 & 28, 2009*—Sault Ste. Marie
- **How to Conduct Program/Agency/Organization Audits**  
*November 25 & 26, 2009*—Wasauksing First Nation
- **Developing First Nation Curriculum and Standards**  
*December 15 & 16, 2009*—Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
- **The Use of Technology in First Nations**  
*January 19 & 20, 2010*—Red Rock Indian Band

*There is no cost to participate in these workshops*

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Accommodations and travel are the responsibility of the individual workshop participants.

For more information contact:

Terry Restoule, Capacity Development Coordinator, Union of Ontario Indians, P. O. Box 711, North Bay ON P1B 8J8  
 Phone: (705) 497-9127 Ext: 2279 ~ Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200 ~ Fax: (705) 497-9135 ~ Email: rester@anishinabek.ca



# Social Services

To advocate on social issues affecting our people



Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee discusses child welfare issues with Norma Bouchard and Veronica Waboose at the Thunder Bay Child Welfare Law development session in August.

## Child welfare process 'heart' work

By Christian Hebert

THUNDER BAY – “This process is not only hard work; this is ‘heart work.’”

Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee’s comment at the first Anishinabek Child Welfare Law community consultation set the tone for an emotional launch of an eight-community process.

Nearly one hundred participants, both First Nation and non-Aboriginal, made their contributions to the new Law’s development, one aimed specifically to address First Nation Child Welfare needs and concerns.

There was a consensus that two main factors contribute to the need for a completely differ-

ent method of providing Child Welfare services to Anishinabek communities.

“The existing law doesn’t work for us”, UOI Social Director Adrienne Pelletier told a CBC reporter during an interview at the Thunder Bay session. “Our children are being taken not only from their family, but also from their community and their very culture; these children lose their very identity when placed in a non-Native foster home. They lose who they are, along with everything else.”

The second factor was stressed by Grand Chief Madahbee. “This cannot be a leadership initiative. It must be community-driven.”

This sentiment was appreciated by all contributors to the first two community sessions held in Thunder Bay and Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve.

“Our people themselves are the ones who are coming up with the plan (for the new law) from the bottom on up” emphasized Madahbee.”

Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare, who is attending all eight community consultations, agrees. “We have always had the jurisdiction to take care of our kids...our grandmothers and grandfathers know how to care for our kids. Since time immemorial we have always looked after our own kids.”

The Anishinabek Child Welfare Law community consultation process continues with upcoming sessions in Rama Sept.30-Oct.1; Red Rock Oct. 14-15; Sault Ste. Marie Nov.4-5 and Toronto Nov.18-19.

Pelletier urges all community citizens to register and attend sessions near their community by calling the Union of Ontario Indians for information and pre-registration at (877) 702-5200.

Grand Chief Madahbee set the tone for the process.

“Our children are our most precious resource; we need to make this law a reality.”

### Upcoming Child Welfare development sessions

Rama Sept 30 - Oct 1

Red Rock Oct. 14-15

Sault Ste. Marie Nov. 4-5

Toronto Nov. 18-19

To register, please call

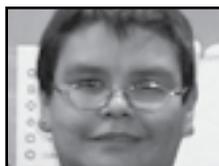
1-877-702-5200

## Healing journey can be a bumpy ride

By Christine McFarlane

I have begun to realize that my healing journey will always be filled with up periods and down periods. It is through the down periods that it takes every ounce of my energy to keep on the straight and narrow in my path of healing. It is through these rough patches in my life, that I learn to grow. I learn to grow in strength, determination and resilience.

There have been many periods in my healing journey where I have sat back and questioned myself. I have asked myself “why am I doing this” and from the experience itself I wonder, “what is it that I am gaining from this and what am I losing?”



Christine McFarlane

Through the rough patches, I learn that I have to take the time to sit back and reflect on what it is exactly that may be getting to me. That in itself is difficult. It is difficult because it means sitting down and really letting myself feel whatever feeling is stirring up inside me. When you grow up learning that it is better to

not let your feelings show, re learning that it is OK to let yourself feel can be scary. I liken the moments of feeling my feelings as riding waves. It was wisely suggested to me that in riding the waves that present themselves in my journey, I can grow stronger because with each wave, you learn a new and different lesson.

## ASK HOLLY

BY HOLLY BRODHAGEN

askholly@gmail.com



## Forming ‘team’ helps kids cope with school

Ask Holly is back.

It was intended that my return would coincide with the announcement of the winners of the Pioneer Challenge, but due to a lack of formal submissions from my readers, the Challenge has been cancelled.

I have been collecting questions and suggestions during the past months, some interesting, others a little strange and many intriguing.

People asked about where my clothes come from, what happens to the hair that goes down the drain, how to make the right choices for a child, things to do with glue and so on.

This month I have chosen a variation of a question being asked by some moms about making decisions about school for their child.

Whether the child is new to school or is returning, every parent has concerns and questions.

The first step to relieving the stress about school is for the parent to build a good relationship with the teachers, principal and office staff. That way they have the support of the school staff to monitor their children’s progress and help if problems arise.

Since I do not have children in school yet I had to ask some other mothers and fathers for their advice, and received some eclectic suggestions.

The most common suggestion is to talk to your child about what they are comfortable with, any worries they have and how their day went.

Talking everyday can help

you pinpoint when a problem occurs so you can help your child find a solution to the problem.

Know about school policies about everything from clothing, to banned foods, appropriate behaviours and consequences for these behaviours, protocols for complaints, safety measures and anything else you can think of.

Be prepared as a parent. Have “mailbags” ready for each child so they can transport artwork, letters, notices, etc to and from school.

Keep extra clothing in your car for each child for those unexpected accidents. Carry a list of contact numbers including the bus company, school, and board office so you aren’t scrambling to find them when you need to.

If you or your child have concerns, talk to the school staff. They are experienced in dealing with a large variety of problems and can help brainstorm solutions.

Don’t wait for a minor concern to become a larger problem thinking it will go away with time. By creating a team between you, your child and the school, your child is learning how to be proactive and problem solve.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for future Ask Holly columns, write to Ask Holly c/o Anishnabek News or email Holly at askholly@gmail.com.

Holly Brodhagen, Dokis First Nation, holds a Masters of Social Work degree.

## Australia to apologize for state care of children

CANBERRA—Australia’s government will follow its historic apology to Aborigines last year for past injustices with a similar apology to child immigrants and Australian-born children who suffered in state care during the last century, a Cabinet minister says.

Families and Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin announced the apology on the anniversaries of Senate reports on child immigration in 2001 and on Australian children raised in institutions in 2004.

Both reports recommended that the government of then Prime Minister John Howard apologize for the abuses and assaults that many suffered in institutions and foster care.

The report on child immigration, titled Righting the Record, said that between 6,000 and 30,000 children from Britain and Malta, often taken from unmarried mothers or impoverished families, were sent alone to Australia as migrants in the last century. It could not determine the actual number because of scarce records.

# NISHNAABEWIN/CULTURE



Sylvia Tennesco with a section of her 20' mural "The History of Algonquin Language".

## Artist's mural to inspire children to learn Algonquin language

By K. Y. Hanewich

PIKWAKANAGAN – Algonquin artist Sylvia Tennesco has designed and painted "The History of Algonquin Language", a mural commissioned for the language room at Eganville Public School.

The turtle marks the location as Turtle Island, with the recording systems of pictograph, petroglyph images, birch bark scrolls and wampum belts depicted.

The mural shows the Seven Grandfathers as storytellers using the oral tradition to share with the children the teachings of: (in Algonquin- Ojibway-English)

- sa'gi'hidwin – zaagidwin – love
- so'ngideyewin – nangotaasewin – courage
- tebwewin – debwewin – truth
- kwayakoz-iwin – gwekwaa'dizwin – honesty
- tabasenindizowin – dibaa dendizowin – humility
- mana'dji'ya-nwin – mnaa dendmoowin – respect

• nibwa'kawin – nibwaakawin - wisdom  
Tennesco trained as a graphic artist at the High School of Commerce in Ottawa and St Lawrence College in Kingston.

She worked in the graphics design field in Ottawa and Montreal firms before returning to Golden Lake to work in fine arts as a painter.

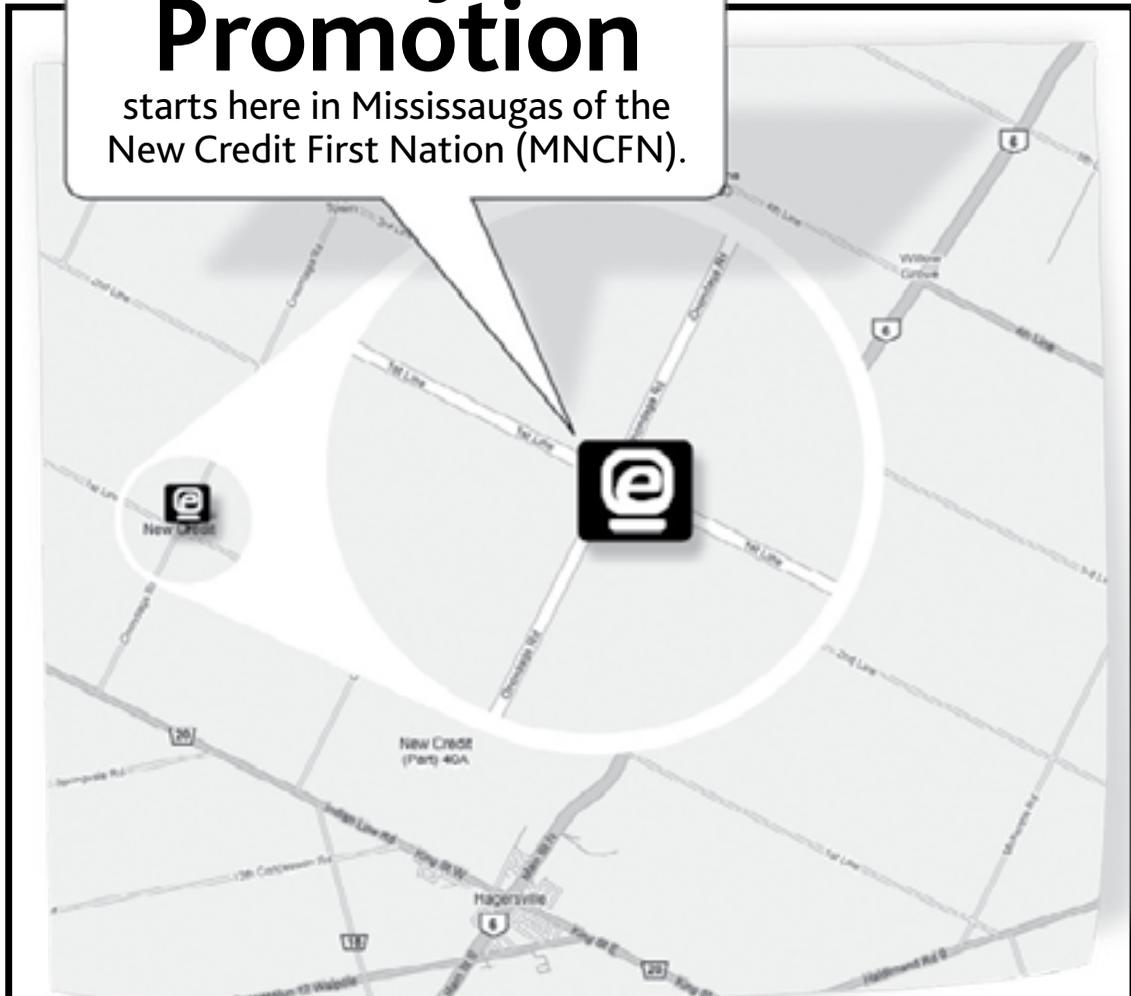
"Algonquin is known as 'the mother tongue' and Ojibway are known as 'the vowel droppers' for shortening their words. The languages are similar although there are differences," said Native Language Teacher Carol Bob from Sagamok First Nation.

Bob has been developing and instructing an Algonquin curriculum in the two elementary schools in Eganville since 2006.

"Part of the language program was a lesson about the Seven Grandfathers teachings and restoring pride in the children's everyday life through their language, culture and history has made the students very respectful in language class" she said.

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## 4,000 movies portray Injuns

By Christine McFarlane

TORONTO – Neil Diamond has always been fascinated by Hollywood's fixation on Native Americans.

Now a film-maker himself, the Cree director from Waskaganish on James Bay decided to make a documentary about it.

"There is a lot of ignorance around Native people and who we are," said Diamond, following a Sept. 15 premiere of "Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian" at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival. "Hollywood has made over 4,000 movies about Native people and the stereotypes presented by these films made me question 'What is it about Native people that is so fascinating?'"

"I grew up watching film and enjoyed it," says Diamond, "but noticed that Indian people in the movies were not who they really were. Originally I had wanted to make a short funny documentary on 'I'm not an Indian, I Play One on Television', but found that research into stereotypes was far more fascinating."



Neil Diamond

His film focuses on some of the more common screen depictions of Native Americans – like the noble savage or spiritual Indian – and he wanted his film to depict Native people for what they are –human.

Activist Russell Means, and actors Adam Beach and Graham Greene make appearances in the film.

## Tobacco ties have voice

By Christine McFarlane

TORONTO – Graduate student Debby Danard has been researching the spiritual power of tobacco in a modern context.

At a symposium geared at bringing Aboriginal Graduate Students together, Danard, a Ph.D student at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, Danard co- presented her research on "Tobacco Ties: the relationship of the sacred to research," with Jean Paul Restoule, a professor and OISE colleague.

Danard, a citizen of Rainy River First Nations, specializes in Indigenous and Aboriginal Education.

Her doctoral thesis focuses on using a medicine wheel as

research methodology in her community to create a culture-based surviving suicide initiative.



Her research Debby Danard on tobacco aims to show that "tobacco works with the spirit and its spiritual connection must be respected."

"The tobacco itself is not payment for what you seek or want to know," she says. "It creates a relationship that connects the heart and spirit., and it connects you to who you are speaking with."

"Tobacco ties give voice to ancestral knowledge that is not readily accepted or acknowledged in the academic environment," and she began to see that while speaking with Elders in the Toronto community.



# Health Secretariat

Good Health for Our People



## Christian Island puts tooth ferry out of business

By Sharon Weatherall

BEAUSOLEIL FN – This Christian Island community is now one of only three First Nations in Ontario whose citizens have local access to dental service.

With the opening of the Christian Island Dental Centre this summer health services director Val Monague says she aims to “put the tooth ferry out of business”, referring to the water taxi service Islanders rely on to obtain services on the mainland.

The dental clinic is a service for those who do not currently have a dentist, for those who may rarely visit a dentist but may need some work done and for those who require emergency attention.

It is intended as a walk-in clinic and not to take away people who already have a dentist of their own,” said Monague.

“Two dentists will each be providing one day of dental service each month and Health Centre staff will facilitate intake

and appointments while dentists will bring their own assistants and will look after billing.”

A registered dental hygienist will provide service for the ‘Children’s Oral Health Strategy’ supporting optimum oral health for children aged 0-7 years of age working within the Day Care, Parent Resource Centre and at the school. She will apply sealants and fluoride varnish because since currently there is no fluoride in the reserve water.

The Children’s Oral Health Strategy concept was developed following a two-year dental study by former director of health –Peggy Monague. Alarming statistics indicated high numbers of tooth decay among children showing 38.5% of five-year-olds had early childhood caries (decay) affecting two or more of their front baby teeth compared to only 7% in mainstream society (Toronto); 84.6% of Beausoleil five-year-olds had one or more decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth. As well the study confirmed that dental decay affected nearly



Chief Rodney Monague happily took the ‘hot seat’ in the new Christian Island Dental Centre. Dental advisory committee members are joined by community members and, left, dental hygienist Nicole Brunelle, and, right, Director of Health Val Monague.

every 13-year-old in the BFN community, with 91.7% having at least one permanent tooth decayed, missing or filled compared to 1.7% in Toronto. Sadly most cases of decay have resulted in extraction before children were five years old.

The \$25,000 BFN study was funded through McMaster University’s Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environments and determined that by providing early assessment and oral health teaching to Beausoleil residents the need for visits to a

dentist will be reduced. Research also proves that good oral health practices throughout life contribute to overall excellent health.

Sharon Monague-Sylvester was hired for a three year term as Children’s Oral Health Educator to assist parents of young children in preparing for and maintaining excellent oral health.

“My job is to prevent links between families, dental professionals, day care, school and district health units. The main focus of the program is to aim for early prevention of tooth decay.

Using simple oral practices will lead to healthy gums, teeth and happier smiles,” said Monague –Sylvester.

The Christian Island Dental Health Centre made possible thanks to support, advice and the assistance from an advisory committee comprised of retired dentist Dr. David Boucher, David and Eleanor Walker who donated \$15,000 towards the clinic and Ken Crony from Henry Schein Technical Services – a dental company that donated all the equipment.



Trent University students participate in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder day events on September 9.

## Honouring mothers on FASD day

By Lynda Banning

THUNDER BAY – The Sept. 9 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Day “Honouring Mothers” Mini Pow Wow was a huge success. More than 200 participants enjoyed a beautiful September day at Marina Park in Thunder Bay. Event organizers are grateful to the many families and children who participated. It was a delight to see young children from local Day Care Centres entertaining participants with their dancing.

Elder Gerry Martin spoke about the importance of raising awareness about FASD and supporting mothers to abstain from alcohol during pregnancy. Women Hand Drummers Isabelle Mercier and Freda McDonald welcomed guests with song, honoured organizers, and closed with the Traveling Song. Participants were entertained by the humour of Master of Ceremonies, David Simard and the exceptional talents of many Drummers and Dancers.

Powerful words of support and encouragement came from: Ian Bannon for Chief Peter Collins-Fort William FN. The City of Thunder Bay Parks and Recreation Department was onsite to assist throughout the day. The Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre staff

generously assisted with set up and clean up.

A special thank you goes out to the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre, Anishnawbe Mushkiki, Thunder Bay District Health

Unit, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Ontario Native Women’s Association, Union of Ontario Indians, Been-digen Inc., and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek for making this event possible.

## BIIDAABAN HEALING LODGE Program Dates

### Anger Management

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

### Grief & Abandonment

• Oct. 19-28/09 • Jan. 11-20/10

### Sexual Abuse Survivor’s

• Nov. 16-25/09

### Community Wellness Conference

Oct. 6-9/09

Biidaaban Healing Lodge, P.O. Box 219, Hwy. 627  
Pic River First Nation via Heron Bay, ON P0T 1R0  
Via: Heron Bay, ON P0T 1R0  
**Ph: 807-229-3592 Fax 807-229-0308**  
**Toll Free: 1-888-432-7102**

## Facing mental illness

Mental Illness Awareness Week is a national public education campaign that takes place October 4 – 10 2009.

Each year, the “Face Mental Illness” campaign selects five Canadians living with a mental illness and maintaining healthy, happy and fulfilled lives.

This year, Brian Nootchtai of the Whitefish Lake FN is one of our National Faces of Mental Health.

As a child, Brian experienced the devastating psychological effects of sexual abuse and sought help through traditional Aboriginal healing methods

Brian is a mental health case worker for the North Shore Tribal Council.



Brian Nootchtai



# DNAKMIGZIWIN/SPORTS

## Fast and female

By Jody lee Johnston

In August, 30 young female participants from Chippewa of Nawash First Nation, Saugeen-Ojibway Nation and Georgian Bay Nordic took part in Fast and Female, a program dedicated to empowering young female athletes through sports.

This event was hosted by Anishinaabe Nordic Racers and Georgian Bay Nordic-two ski clubs at Cape Croker Park. Each applicant participated in a four-day dry-land training session, viewed inspirational presentations



Fast and Female ambassadors Sekwan Trottier and Marika Cockney surrounded by Saugeen and Nawash skiers.

about self-assurance, goal-setting, and embracing one's culture. The event differed from non-Native Fast and Female camps in that it also included a fancy dance workshop led by pow-wow dancer Le-

anne Stevens.

Founded in 2005 by Olympic Gold Medalist in Cross-Country Skiing, Chandra Crawford, this organization marked the first ever multi-day camp that en-

gaged members from the local Aboriginal communities, and had Aboriginal Fast and Female ambassadors. Inuk skier, and former Canadian champion Marika Cockney of Canmore, Al-

berta flew in with Saskatchewan champion and member of Lac La Ronge Cree nation skier Sekwan Trottier to lead the event as Fast and Female ambassadors.

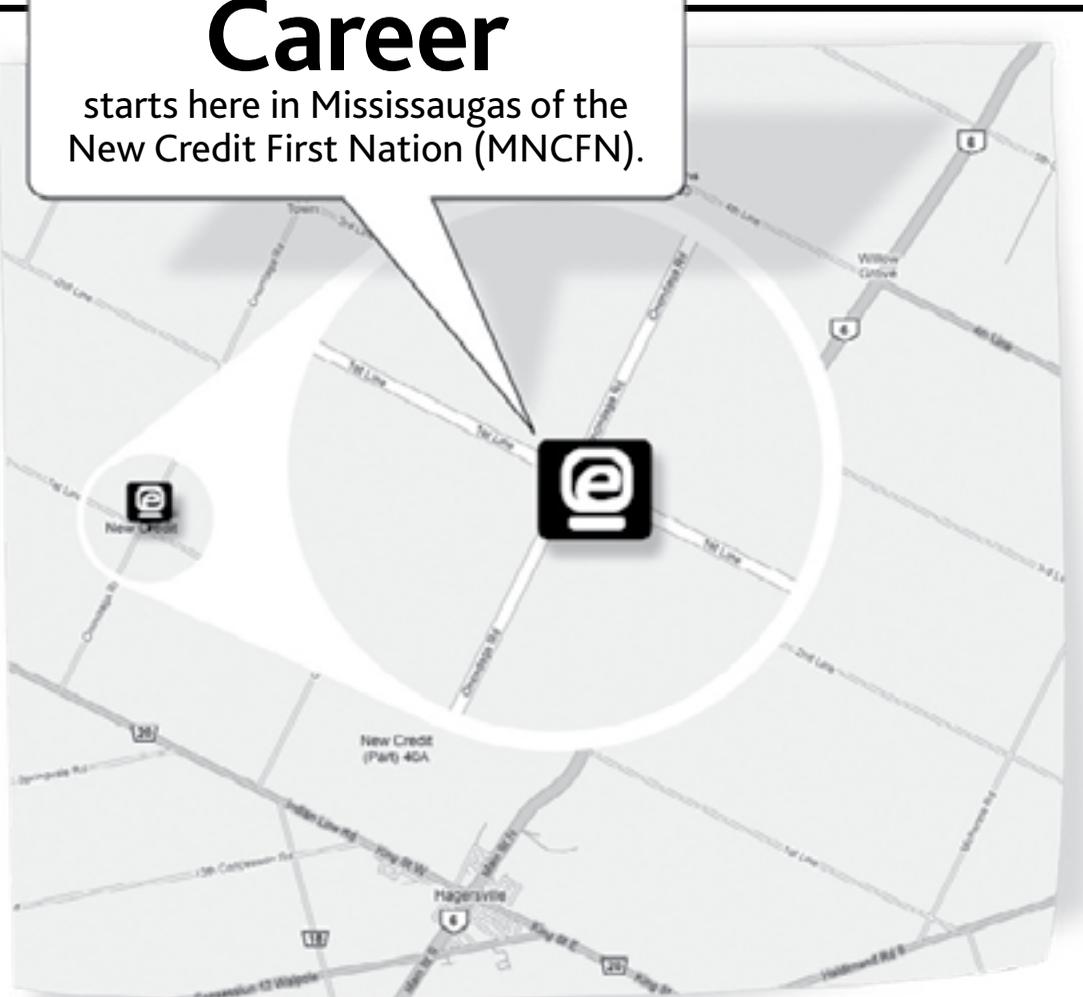
This was the first time that two past event participants took over as head instructors. Trottier attended Fast and Female as a skier in 2007 while Cockney attended in 2008. Each person involved made sure the young women left the event with the motto "share the love, dominate the world" for motivation.

Jessica Pedoniquott, an 11-year-old participant from Saugeen First Nations enjoyed the experience that Fast and Female had to offer. "All the little practices and running were fun, but the rollerblading was even better."

"I practice after school at home and when I ski I use my uncles trail that he made with his snow shoes."

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## Daisy credits her water

By Jody lee Johnston

CAPE CROKER – Daisy Johnston of Nawash, took her fourth gold medal in a row at the 7th Annual Nawash Invitational Bike Race and Picnic at Cape Croker Park.

Some 50 youth from Owen Sound, Warton, Nawash and Saugeen First Nations gathered Sept. 12 to compete in age categories for boys and girls. Each contestant took part in a 1 to 12 km race.

Johnston first entered this event in 2006 in the Under Six category and rode to a spectacular finish in Girls 8-9. "I really didn't do much for this year's race," says Johnston. "Woke up, had bacon, French toast, eggs, brushed my teeth and went to the race. I mainly was running, playing on the climber, riding my bike and taking lots of water before my race."

Medals for the top three contestants in each category were awarded but this event wasn't just about winning prizes. Levenia Thorpe, Community Activator for Saugeen says. "I believe overall the day was a great success. We were greeted enthusiastically with jovial yelling 'Is that Saugeen? Alright!' by some of the more outgoing Nawash youth.

The events ran smoothly—this was a diverse group of caring adults with the single intention of supporting youth. We were all having fun while I sensed that there was instilling a sense of tradition that was open to all. With this commitment it can only get bigger and the youth that have



Daisy Johnston

been involved will get more confident with the adults!"

Fourth place winner Hunter Sands, 11, says "the bike race went good, and I think there should be more activities like this." His brother Chase, 13, added "the racing was a lot of fun, I got along with the rest of the kids and I think more people should join these events and get active."

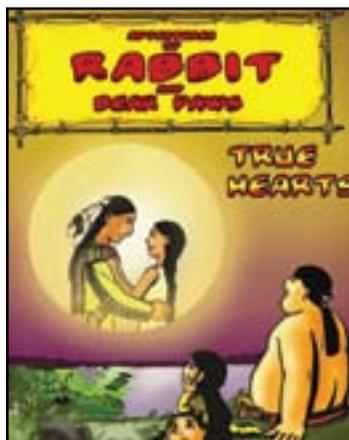
So will more activities occur and make a positive impact on individuals? You bet, Anne Thorpe says. "I am excited to be a part of this tradition and honoured to be invited. I feel that these events are much needed. It is our responsibility as adults to support, nurture and provide for our children.

There is power when we do it collaboratively between our communities—Cape Croker, Saugeen and the surrounding area. We would all benefit in the long run with these socials where there is competitive fun and challenge.

"The benefit comes from the deep internal mechanisms that youth need in order to make healthy choices. We need to revisit our motto 'It takes a community to raise a child' guiding them in these fast hectic technological days where physically playing together is becoming an endangered pastime."



# Rabbit finds love



Adventures of Rabbit and Bear Paws Vol 3: True Hearts! is based on the Grandfather Love (Zaagidwin), One of the Seven Grandfathers (respect, bravery, love, honesty, humility, wisdom and truth) of the Anishinabek Teachings.

Rabbit and Bear Paws is set in 18th Century colonized North America and follows the stories of two mischievous Ojibwa brothers as they play pranks and have amazing adventures using a traditional Ojibwa medicine (spirit powder) that transforms them into animals for a short time.

Adventures of Rabbit and Bear Paws Vol 3, is a compila-

tion of all 60 comic strips of the story line "True Hearts". Book Three contains 60 comic strips, jam packed onto 30 pages of comical adventures that will tickle the heart.

Rabbit and Bear paws is a syndicated comic strip, both in print and web based media. Little Spirit Bear, publisher of the Adventures of Rabbit and Bear Paws series is an Anishinabek, Ojibwa Multi-Media company. For new comical adventures every week visit us @ [www.rabbitandbearpaws.com](http://www.rabbitandbearpaws.com)

## Rabbit & Bear Paws



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Danika, Bellissimo, 7 and sister Dakota, 4, of Nipissing First Nation with their laptop lunch kit.

## Laptop lunch kit green way to eat

By Kelly Crawford

NORTH BAY – Sarah Blackwell, a citizen of Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation and owner of Bugaboo Baby & You, is offering a school fundraising program that promotes healthy eating and provides children with a solid way to save the environment.

“Schools can use environmentally friendly products that promote health and wellness, while also earning money that can be used within the classroom.”

Blackwell explained how schools can use this program to send a strong message to the public. “Promote the school as one that makes a strong statement... We believe in healthy children and a healthy earth.”

The “green fundraiser” program’s main product is the Laptop Lunch Kit. The kit itself is a BPA-Free, Phalate Free bento style lunchbox that fits into an insulated bag. This is a compact way in which to pack a healthy and perfectly proportional lunch. There is an array of colours to choose from that prove to be quite appealing to school-aged children.

“My laptop lunch kit is pink. I think it is good to use at school because of all the containers that fit in like a puzzle. I have never had anything spill like other lunch bags. I do not have any garbage at school.” explained 7 year old, Nipissing First Nation citizen, Danika Bellissimo.

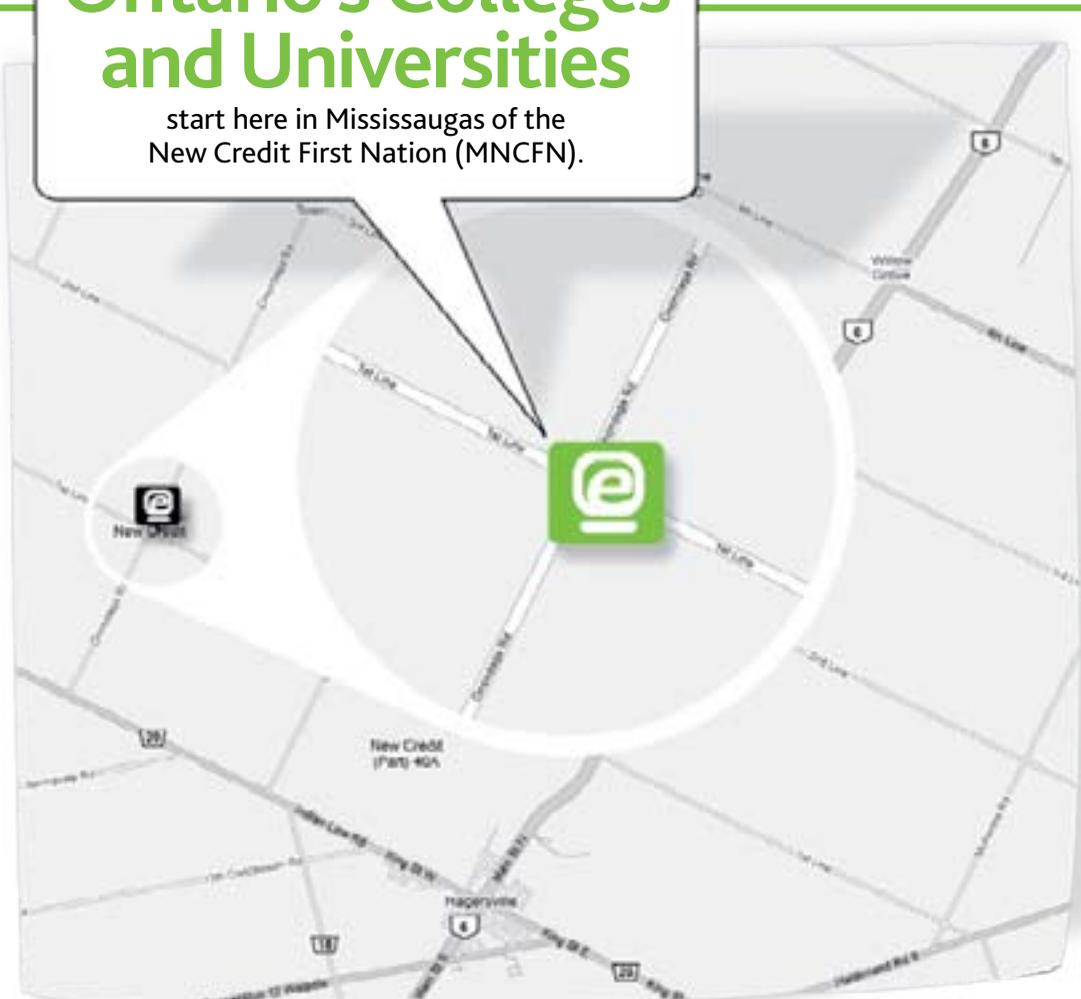
The use of the kits reduces lunchtime waste drastically. The pamphlet for the programs states that, “a school-aged child will generate approximately 67 pounds of waste.”

“This program creates awareness as well as earning money for classrooms,” explains Blackwell. “It is a great opportunity for students to take part in something that is about health and wellness in addition to the earth.”

Visit <http://www.bugaboobabyandyou.com/> to view the Laptop Lunch Kits and other Earth Friendly products for families.

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# EDUCATION

## Kinoomaagewin



A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANISHINABEK NEWS  
September 2009



Katherine Dokis-Ranney wins Mnaaj'in Gechi-wiidookang Nishnaabe-Gchi-Kinoomaagzwin.

## Teacher's passion earns top honours

By Kelly Crawford

SUDBURY—Katherine Dokis-Ranney says she has a passion for helping teach students for whom education doesn't come easily. Her passion has been recognized with her selection as a recipient of the 2009 Mnaaj'in Gechi-wiidookang Nishnaabe-Gchi-Kinoomaagzwin (Native Education Person of Distinction Award) from Laurentian University.

"It was really emotional because I was recognized by my colleagues in the Native community," said Dokis-Ranney.

"The Laurentian University Mnaaj'in Gechi-wiidookang Nishnaabe-Gchi-Kinoomaagzwin was created to recognize individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to Native education in northeastern Ontario," said Dominic Giroux, president of Laurentian University.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher since I was four years old. That was always going to be my path," explains Dokis-Ranney. "I have a passion for trying to help the kids that just have a tougher time in school."

Dokis-Ranney, a member of Dokis First Nation, is currently the principal of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education at the Rainbow School Board. In her role, Katherine is responsible for the implementation of the Ontario Ministry of Education's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework from Kindergarten to grade 12, to ensure success for all Aboriginal students.

## Manitoulin teaching trio going island-hopping

By Kelly Crawford

M'CHIGEENG—The Lakeview/Laurentian Teacher Education Partnership (LLTEP) will travel to Newfoundland to share their expertise about university/school partnerships this October. The group will share their research project entitled, Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Making a Difference with a First Nations/School of Education Collaboration.

"In October, three teachers from Lakeview School (Gayle Payette, Karen McColman and Dianne Glasby-Debassige) and three teachers from Laurentian University (David Buley, Jan Buley and Patricia Danyluk) will be traveling to St. John's, Newfoundland to share and celebrate this research project at the Inspiration and Innovation in Teaching and Teaching Education 2009 Edge International Conference, sponsored by Memorial University," says Jan Buley.

The research project has a focus of "examining more closely the interactions, benefits and challenges of a university/school partnership."

"We were delighted to have our conference proposal accepted and will be part of an international teacher education forum, examining and discussing issues and ideas related to pre-service education and innovative teaching and learning initiatives," says Dr. Jan Buley.

The partnership between Lakeview School in M'Chigeeng and Laurentian University School of Education started three years ago. "Dr. Pam Toulouse, at Laurentian's School of Education introduced the Buleys on a visit to Kenjgewin Teg Education Institute. From there a partnership blossomed with Lakeview taking on a mentorship role for several Laurentian teacher candidates," explained Neil Debassige, Principal of Lakeview School located in M'Chigeeng First Nation.



M'Chigeeng teachers Karen McColman, Dianne Glasby-Debassige and Gayle Payette travel to Newfoundland.

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Allan Moffatt  
ANCU manager



## Love shared and lost

By Joyce Atcheson

In *The Colour of Dried Bones* by Lesley Belleau, we hear, taste, and feel the fear, joy, doubt, physicality of love, and become witnesses to violence and brutality through the voice of a young woman, her siblings and lovers.

Belleau is Ojibway, a graduate of the University of Windsor, who resides with her family in Garden River First Nation.

Her book, a collection of interrelated short stories, is about one woman's life: her family, her lovers, her pregnancy, her chil-

dren, and most of all her feelings.

Belleau portrays relationships from inside. With one man sex is wonderful but the balance of the relationship is empty, contrasting the emotions of that with those of two young women who are jolted when they realize they are no longer attractive to younger men.

Shadows of lovemaking play on closed curtains, enhanced by the woman's knowledge that her former lover watches from his spot in the trees, smoking and waiting for her to join him.

In the midst of love, the story of her grandmother's experiences at residential school bring us back to the reality of life. Grandmother was gang-raped by three priests and two older boys along the shore of lake. The nuns can see



the blood on her legs and they blame her for cavorting with the boys. Grandmother goes to bed and seeks solace in memories of home and comfort.

*The Colour of Dried Bones* – Lesley Belleau (Kege-donce Press, Warton, 2008, ISBN 978-09784998-0-8, 152 pages, \$16.00).

## Love, more than flesh

By Joyce Atcheson

Gregory Scofield anoints love. He baptizes it in Native spirituality; he restores the pleasure, the connection, the beauty that is far beyond moist slapping thighs and bellies.

Like an honour drum beat, Schofield's words strike the spirit within.

Gregory Scofield's book of poetry, *Love Medicine one Song*, is extraordinary, written with Cree words to convey meaning. Scofield, a Métis writer of Cree, Jewish, Polish and German descent, talks of love in a language rarely heard today – the language of all our relations.

The *Birthday Gift*, in part says: "But it's merely metaphor, this sacred hour. The hour Sky Grandfather wipes the stars from his eyes, stretches between moon and sun, releases the birds to sit on the day's lips."

The final verse continues:

"And we, my love and I sneak to your doorway like Christmas children – she in my robe, dreamy as the sky's breaking, and me determined as yesterday to fill your ears with one sweet song."

Take his erotic images in *Hunger*: "This is the mouth's madness. This is my tongue, my plaything collecting dew, drinking with all its sense; air spiced with rain and you, unbathed, sweet swamp, muskeg in June"; this book is like no other.

Scofield talks about two-spirit-ed love anointing it with the same gentleness and eroticism: "Under his arms, my mouth's buzzing firefly hovers and lands the wet swamp grass heavy with dew, releasing the muskeg's secret scent so he bends, breaks beneath tongue tracks so the ducks fly up".

Scofield does not label love "straight, gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual", he simply conveys its spirit connection to all that is. He brings us back to nature's gift of pleasuring in a way that opens us to images of more than measurements of stereotyped body flesh.



I found the 10-page introduction by Warren Cariou lengthy and academic, but skipped past it to relish the poems. After having drunk from the well of Scofield's images with my own ears, eyes, tongue, nose, heart and soul I returned to the introduction with a greater understanding of why Cariou had to speak as he did.

Scofield restores love to how it can be seen, from our Native spirituality.

*Love Medicine one Song*, Gregory Scofield, 112 pages, Kege-donce Press, Warton, (2008). Available at [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca).

## Comic book nominated

Joe Shuster Awards has nominated *Adventures of Rabbit and Bear Paws Vol 2: The Voyageurs* in the Comics for Kids Award.

Works were chosen based on Writing; Art; Quality as a Kids book, including appropriateness, entertainment value and positive messages; Overall Impression.

The committee decided on works which they would happily give to students to read because they would not only enjoy reading them but also get something out of them.

In *Adventures of Rabbit and Bear Paws Vol 2: The Voyageurs!* Rabbit and Bear Paws join the Voyageurs to take the Furs from

Lake of the Woods to Montreal and experience all the trials and tribulations of being a Voyageur. Our young heroes face the life of a voyageur with bravery, as they are confronted by thieves and dangers around every river bend.

*Rabbit and Bear Paws* is set in 18th Century colonized North America and follows the stories of two mischievous Ojibwa brothers as they play pranks and have amazing adventures using a traditional Ojibwa medicine (spirit powder) that transforms them into animals for a short time.

*Adventures of Rabbit and Bear Paws Vol 2: The Voyageurs* is based on the Grandfather Bravery (Aakdehewin), one of the Seven Grandfathers of the Anishinabek Teachings.

*Rabbit and Bear paws* is a



syndicated comic strip, both in print and web based media. Little Spirit Bear, publisher of the *Adventures of Rabbit and Bear Paws* series is an Ojibwa Multi-Media company. For new comical adventures every week, visit us @ [www.rabbitandbearpaws.com](http://www.rabbitandbearpaws.com)

## McGregor wins writing challenge

By Kelly Crawford

WHITEFISH RIVER FN –Kigen McGregor, a citizen of the Whitefish River First Nation, won third place in this year's "Our Story" Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge (14 -18 age category). The contest encourages Aboriginal youth (14-29) to write a short story about a defining moment or event in Aboriginal history. This year the announcement was made on June 15th by the Dominion Institute.

"My Mother notified me of the "Our Story Aboriginal Writing Challenge". She let me know about it after reading my story herself. She's the one who encouraged me to enter," explained the 17 year old.

"I write many short stories on



Kigen McGregor

my own. I just showed my mother one, and she found it perfect for the challenge, so that's the one I entered. I have 14 of my own stories in total. I just like writing."

In McGregor's short story, "The Hunter", the main character Chinook goes against the rule of "Catch only what is needed". He then gets transformed into a wolf. Through his fear that he will not return to his human form, Chinook learns from his greed and comes to be more thankful.

Kigen will receive a prize amount of \$500 for placing third.

## Wagamase telling stories

Smoked Fish, Bannock and Indian Tea – Bringing the Stories Home

In this rousing 90-minute performance storytelling presentation, acclaimed Ojibway author and storyteller Richard Wagamese highlights the importance and value of storytelling to our homes and communities. It's a healing-based extravaganza that's wildly hilarious, touching, spiritual and educational all at the same time.

Through the use of recognizable and compelling characters Wagamese shows how the act of sharing our stories can bring communities, cultures and people together.



Richard Wagamese

Perfect for schools, conferences, workshops or as a special event, *Smoked Fish, Bannock and Indian Tea* is a time to reflect on the crucial role storytelling plays in all our lives. Wagamese believes, and this performance shows, that or stories are our greatest treasure as cultural peoples and as individuals.

It's an engaging event that's like sitting at the knee of a great old storyteller and perfect for all audiences.

Please contact Richard at [richardwagamese@yahoo.com](mailto:richardwagamese@yahoo.com).

## Two spirit voice heard

TORONTO—Periodically banned, always controversial and utterly riveting, *Two Spirit (Gay) Native American* Writer, Poet and Artist, J. Spencer Rowe has once again astounded the literary world by his latest book *AGOKWE: A Two Spirit Voice*, the final work in the *Two Spirit Trilogy* which began with *The Last of the Dodo's: Voice of the Two Spirit*, (the first book published about the *Two Spirit Native American* experience written entirely by a *Two Spirit Native American*) which was then followed by the book *Half Breed – RAW*.

In *AGOKWE: A Two Spirit*



*Voice*, J. Spencer Rowe takes readers on a series of truthful, harrowing, shocking, astounding yet ultimately inspiring tales through a collection of short stories and first-person narratives (creative non-fiction) *AGOKWE: A Two Spirit Voice* is available at <http://www.amazon.com>.

# KINOOMAAGEWIN/EDUCATION



Curve Lake First Nation School grade three students and staff were presented with an Award of Participation for their involvement with the health careers poster contest.

## Young Anishinabek artists promoting health careers

By Autumn Watson

CURVE LAKE FN –Smiles and giggles filled the gymnasium at the Curve Lake First Nation School as students marched into an assembly that was organized September 11.

When Janet Evans, principal of the school informed the students that there was a special announcement all eyes became larger and silence filled the room as they all waited in anticipation to hear the great news.

Mindy Taylor, Aboriginal Health Initiative Officer for the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) informed the children that the Grade 3 class at Curve Lake School last year had participated in a “health careers poster contest” which made the school eligible to be entered into a draw for a chance to win a Nintendo Wii. Screams echoed throughout the gymnasium as the children shouted and jumped for joy when they were told they were the lucky winners of the Nintendo Wii. Ms. Evans says the Nintendo

Wii “will be used as an incentive for work well done, assignments completed early and rainy day activity”.

Murray Maracle, UOI Director of Education presented the school with an “Award of Participation” and was honoured to be a part of a regional yet community-grassroots initiative that left smiles on the future leaders of the Anishinabek Nation. Congratulations Curve Lake First Nation School!

The Union of Ontario Indians and the Anishinabek Educational Institute (AEI) would also like to congratulate the individual winners of the Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative (AHHRI) Health Careers poster contest which was open to various on-reserve schools across Anishinabek Territory.

Three young artists received a 1GB Apple iPod Shuffle for submitting their artwork reflecting a career in health. Each of the posters will be used to spark interest



Cassidy Dumont, Grade 3, Migizi Wazisin Elementary School in Long Lake #58.



Lana Sandy, Grade 6, Christian Island Elementary School in Beausoleil.



Renae Coppaway, Grade 3, Curve Lake First Nation School in Curve Lake.

and encourage Anishinabek youth to pursue a future career in the health field.

This year’s winners are: Cassidy Dumont, Grade 3, Migizi Wazisin Elementary School (Long Lake #58 First Nation); Lana Sandy, Grade 6, Christian Island Elementary School; and, Renae Coppaway, Grade 3, Curve Lake

First Nation School.

The UOI and AEI would like to say Chi-Miigwetch to all students and schools that participated in the AHHRI Health Careers poster contest and we look forward to submissions on upcoming initiatives.

Good luck on your future educational endeavours!

For more information on the AHHRI program please contact the Union of Ontario Indians and speak to; Mindy Taylor, Aboriginal Health Initiatives Officer (taymin@anishinabek.ca) or Autumn Watson, Health Retention & Support Officer (wataut@anishinabek.ca) at (705) 657-9383.

## Newest crop of native lawyers...and Justice Linden



New lawyer Austin Acton plans to start his own law practice on Nipissing First Nation and was recently elected a councillor on the North Bay Métis Council.



Lisa Del Col is from Timmins, and while attending Osgoode Hall Law School, was an active member of the Osgoode Indigenous Law Students' Association.



Shaunna Kelly from Sudbury is a graduate of Queen’s University where she was the head of the Aboriginal Law Students Association.



Emma Taylor is from Curve Lake FN. She works for the Department of Justice on the Aboriginal Advisory team and the Indian Residential Schools section.



Justice Sidney Linden received an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree for his work as Commissioner of the Ipperwash Inquiry.





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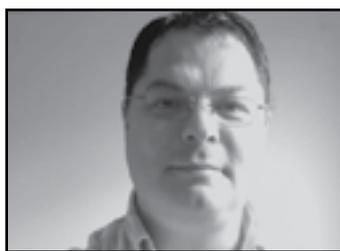
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Kevin Restoule

## New treaty researcher

My name is Kevin Restoule. I am married to my loving wife Julie and have two beautiful children, Kaitlyn, 7, and Cobin, 1. I am a citizen of Nipissing First Nation

I have previously worked for Fred McLeod on the Nipissing 1907 Lands Surrender and Cancelled Cheques research projects. This led to an interest in Treaty Research, and am now filling in for Alicia McLeod who is on maternity leave.

I am doing research work on specific cases and act as the liaison for our researchers, lawyers and the First Nations.

## Graduation



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
Lorie Pelletier-Bell, MSW

We are so proud of your courage and determination in realizing your journey of knowledge.

**LOVE**  
Leland Bell  
and family

## In memoriam



**ROGERS - William Ray -**  
December 27, 1933 - August 26, 2008

Pii ni-maa-jaa-yaan Bgidnishin  
Bgidnishik nibna geyaaabi temgad  
waamdamaan  
Minwaa-sh waa-zhichigoyaan.  
Gaiwii gdaabdemii pane  
Gchinendam nibna nso-bboon  
gi-mwendsagziyng  
Gi-minnin zaagidwin  
Ginnwaa eta gi-gkendaanawaa mnik  
zaagidwin gaa-milzhiyeg  
Migwech'nim kina zaagidwin  
gaa-zhinoomawzhiyeg

As translated by Anishinabek  
Nation Deputy Grand Council  
Chief Glen Hare and transcribed by  
Alan Corbiere

## Thank you



Cheryl Recollet would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by the:

### DREAM CATCHER FUND

The support helped in achieving my academic goals to pursue my Master of Science Degree in Environmental Assessment at McGill University. The knowledge and experience gained were truly remarkable experiences.

CHI-MIGWETCH!



Walter Manitowabi

## Walter new COO at UOI

Walter Manitowabi, from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, is the new Chief Operating Officer of the Union of Ontario Indians.

Walter brings over 20 years financial, organizational management and political experience to the position.

Walter plans on building on a strong administration by implementing a communication strategy for all stakeholders, thus increasing accountability and transparency. Walter also plans to seek ISO certification for the UOI.



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



# KINOOMAAGEWIN/EDUCATION

## Sault College sees studies as just part of student life

The Native Education department at Sault College has been a trailblazer in the area of creating unique academic opportunities for native people.

From the physical creation of a building designed to be warm and inviting, to programming that combines post-secondary education with a cultural worldview, Native Education successfully positioned itself as a leader.

We sat down with Carolyn Hepburn, who is the Director of Native Education and had a conversation about Native Education.

**How long has Native Educa-**

**tion been around?**

Native Education at Sault College has been around for approximately fourteen years. It started as a smaller dept in the early to mid 1980s and over the years has progressed into the department you see today.

**What makes Native Education a unique department within Sault College?**

I feel that the services we provide are more holistic in nature, in that we take into account the student as a whole. We understand that students have families, they have other commitments, [and] that academics are just one aspect



Carolyn Hepburn

of their lives in terms of their educational journey.

**Is the quality of education any different for students involved with Native Education as opposed to those simply attending Sault College?**

I think our department takes more of an active interest in our students' lives. We take into account what's going on beyond the classroom and how this may impact a student attending the College.

We understand that there may be challenges our students face when they're obtaining a post-secondary education - whether it's trying to find a place to live, needing someone to watch your children, [or] even transportation issues. We work with our students closely to ensure that they don't feel overwhelmed.

We also take into account what the students would like to see happening in Native education. Students have a strong voice in our department and we try our best to accommodate whatever suggestions they have for events and activities they'd like to participate in.

**The quality of academic programming is the same?**

The quality of the academic programming is on par with the rest of the college. We offer excellent programming in all our programs at Sault College. In terms of our Native-specific programming, what makes us somewhat unique is that we incorporate an aboriginal worldview throughout our entire curriculum.

**What unique courses or programs are offered through Native Education?**

One of the programs we do offer, it's the only one of it's kind in Ontario colleges at this point - is our one-year Anishinaabemowin program, and that's a one year certificate program where students can specialize in learning the Anishinaabemowin, or the Ojibwa language as many people commonly refer to it as.

About 90% of the course time is just used to speak and listen to the language so students have an opportunity to interact, use everyday language that's relevant to their lives when they go out into the community.

[The] other program that we do offer is our Social Service Worker Native Specialization Program, and that's a two-year diploma program offered at the college.

With a focus on teaching the essential skills of social work, so students again have an opportunity to learn in an environment that incorporates a native perspective and worldview.

**Can someone take a regular program, such as Aviation or Health Sciences and still benefit from Native Education?**

Our services offered through Native Education are open to anybody attending to Sault College, both native and non-native students, although our focus is primarily on First Nation students.

It's not uncommon to have Elders come in to do Teachings [or] come in and do our ceremonies as well. [Also], we have an annual powwow that goes on, [and] that's been quite successful over the past 15 years as well.

All Nominators who submit a complete nomination form are eligible to win a trip for two to the 2010 NAAA gala in Regina Saskatchewan.

Every one of us involved in education have visions of what we would like to do - an award like this is a confirmation that our work has been worth it.

Cecil King  
Education Recipient

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National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation  
Deadline • September 23 2009 • 416 987 0241 naaf.ca

**Attention readers! Is your community policed by the Anishinabek Police Service (APS)?**

**If so, APS needs your help! This is your opportunity to let APS know how you feel!**

**Go online and do a quick and anonymous questionnaire all about:**

- **Police Perception**
- **High Risk Offenders**
- **Victim Safety in your community**

Questions? Contact APS Headquarters at:  
1-800-438-5638, ext. 245  
705-946-2539, ext. 245

Take the survey online by going to:  
[www.apscops.org/surveys](http://www.apscops.org/surveys)





NATIVE EDUCATION  
SAULT COLLEGE

Carolyn Hepburn  
Director  
Native Education,  
Sault College

# OUR PEOPLE

The goal of Native Education at Sault College is to help our people get the credentials that will make them successful. We incorporate an aboriginal worldview throughout our entire curriculum, and our mission is to help eliminate whatever barriers exist between you and your goals. Call us any time or drop in if you're in the area. We'd be happy to show you around, give you a tour, and answer any questions you may have.

**We Understand You.** [www.nativeeducation.ca](http://www.nativeeducation.ca) 1.800.461.2260

