



Anishinabek Educational Institute Registered Nursing student Amy Southwind of Sagamok Anishinawbek took National Chief Shawn Atleo's blood pressure during his visit to the Union of Ontario Indians Head Office on Nov. 3. Atleo met with Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee on issues including education, health, governance and economic development. Atleo told AEI's nursing students and staff that there will be major national health accord discussions happening between the federal government and the provinces in 2014. "It's our collective intention as First Nations leaders across the country to inject ourselves into that discussion because the time for other governments moving separately from us must be over. We have to return to the treaty relationship where issues like health or something that we feel strongly we have a fundamental right to, and we need to be fully involved. So we're going to need the expertise of our health practitioners helping to lead the way – explaining to us what exactly is needed so we as the political leadership can go away and accomplish that."

– Photo by Priscilla Goulais

Atleo, Madahbee agree on First Nations governance

UOI OFFICES - Coordination of effort was high on the list of priorities today as the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo met with Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee and Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse. The meeting was an opportunity to profile Anishinabek Nation priorities in health, governance, education and economic development and confirm linkages to broader regional and national efforts.

National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo was very supportive of the Anishinabek Nation process to reaffirm its nationhood. "I am very pleased with the National Chief's appreciation of our Anishinaabe Chi-Naak-nigewin. Our intention is that our constitution will provide a solid basis to reset the Nation-to-Nation relationship - the relationship our ancestors intended," said Anishinabek Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee.

Both Atleo and Madahbee are long-time proponents of resetting the relationship between First Nations and the Crown. "The Indian Act has to go. Look what it has done to divide our nations and pit us against each other over piecemeal funding," Madahbee stated. "But first and fore-

most, our constitution is for us: to unify and inspire us, especially our youth," Madahbee continued. "We must continue to move forward to establish our governments, implement our treaties, and exercise our inherent rights and jurisdictions."

"Our job at the national level is to stand shoulder to shoulder with First Nation governments advancing their rights and responsibilities based on the Treaties and First Nation jurisdiction," said AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo. "This means opening the doors for direct discussion between governments and Chiefs and intense advocacy efforts with all sectors of Canadian society. It is critical that we work together to support one another and increase the rate and pace of change for all First Nations peoples right across the country."

National Chief Atleo added, "With so many competing priorities and issues, it's critical that we have a plan of coordinated action and attention on all issues from our land and treaty rights, to housing, to youth suicide and violence against women and girls. All of these issues are critical and matters of life and death in many of our communities."

IN BRIEF

Bell answers UOI call

UOI OFFICES – Bell Canada has responded to the Union of Ontario Indians Nov. 1 media release reminding telecommunications companies like Bell Canada that we are HST exempt on reserve and PST exempt off reserve.

Bell is now working with First Nations that are on the Ontario/Quebec border such as Eagle Village First Nation residents near Temiscaming, Quebec, who are being charged HST by Bell Mobility for their cellphones, but not by Bell Canada for their landlines.

"It's the inconsistencies with Bell Canada that are really annoying," says Grand Council Chief Madahbee.

First Nations customers off reserve to send copies of their certificates of Indian Status and a refund form to FAX number 1-877-338-3013 and using the request form <http://support.bell.ca/Documents/General/Other/taxexempt%28en%29.pdf?ver=7.0>

Boycotting Air Canada

WINNIPEG – The member Chiefs of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) have ordered a six-month boycott of Air Canada.

Air Canada has failed to adequately address the concerns conveyed by the Chiefs in a letter to the airline, in October requested an apology from the airline for an internal memo which connected an increase in crime in downtown Winnipeg with displaced people from this year's flood.

"Our greatest concern," said Grand Chief Nepinak, "is that Air Canada's irresponsible remarks have created a situation where First Nation people, driven from their homes, are now being held responsible for the crime in downtown Winnipeg."



Political Office

To respect the sacred laws of the Anishinabek

A time for thanks

With Ontario's provincial election behind us, the political office at the Anishinabek Nation continues to move forward on several priorities.

The federal government has entered the second phase of passing the Matrimonial Real Property Law now called Bill S-2. We continue our efforts to oppose this bill based on jurisdiction and consultation issues, however, the majority of our work over the past few months has been aimed at promoting our own laws. Following the completion of seven regional consultation sessions, the Anishinabek Nation Matrimonial Real Property Law, a framework law, was developed and adopted by Grand Council Assembly in June of 2007. I want to urge each community to adopt their own MRP law using the framework law as a guide before Canada imposes its law on us.

Our social services staff and our legal department have stepped up their efforts to ensure that everyone has a chance to add input to the Anishinabek Nation Child Welfare Law. The wellbeing and identity of our children is vital to our nation and at the Anishinabek Nation our staff and leaders are doing their best to ensure that we get it right the first time. This may be one of our most important laws at the Anishinabek Nation as it may stop government agencies from taking our most precious resource- our children.

Garden River First Nation is our host for this fall's Annual General Assembly and one of our top priorities is the continued development of a contemporary constitution for our nation (now known as Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe). We would like the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe to be inclusive, comprehensive and thorough. Our Restoration of Jurisdiction staff has been working diligently with the Chiefs Steering Committee to implement a work plan that will make sure that our Chiefs, Councillors and citizens all have an opportunity to weigh in on this important process.

Recently I met with the President and the Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) in Toronto. The purpose of our meeting was to find positive areas where we could begin working together. Too often our organizations are divided when we are all aiming for the same goals- to do our best for Anishinabek citizens no matter where they live. It is true that federal and provincial funding often play a large role in how much we can and cannot do, but by working together we give ourselves the chance to maximize our opportunities.

We have many challenges across Anishinabek Nation territories. Every First Nation is unique and we have Anishinabek citizens who reside in cities from coast to coast. Our resources are little and the demands for resources are high. With that, I thought this would be a good time for me to take a step back and give thanks to the countless number of volunteers and staff members across the country. Here at the Anishinabek Nation head office it is the staff of the Union of Ontario Indians who are the backbone of our organization. Without them it would be difficult for our leaders, including myself, to defend our rights on technical merit.

The lands and resources staff do an excellent job of keeping our leaders informed on forestry, water and land issues. Intergovernmental Affairs have a tough job in keeping track of legislation, policies and other government actions that keep us all busy in our First Nation communities. Communications plays a vital role to keeping our citizens informed and the mass media in check. To our Health, Social Services, Education, Legal, and our Political staff, I want to say Chi-Miigwetch for your hard work and dedication to our Nation.

Patrick Madahbee
Grand Council Chief
Anishinabek Nation



Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee



Gift for Atleo

Union of Ontario Indians Chief Operating Officer, Walter Manitowabi and Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee present a thunderbird quilt made by Debbie Fox, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve to National Chief Shawn Atleo.
— Photo by Priscilla Goulais

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road
Cutler, ONTARIO
POB 1B0



Telephone:
(705) 844-2410
Facsimile:
(705) 844-2757

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY INTERNAL/EXTERNAL POSTING HOUSING ADMINISTRATOR Full-time, Permanent

Serpent River First Nation is seeking an individual for the position of Housing Administrator. The successful applicant will report directly to the Infrastructure Coordinator.

DUTIES and REQUIREMENTS are pursuant to specific areas of Serpent River First Nation in accordance with professional and federal laws, Serpent River First Nation Consolidated Governance and Operations Manual, and the Serpent River First Nation Housing Policy and Procedures Manual.

- The ideal candidate should possess a college diploma in public or business administration with additional credentials in architectural/civil engineering.
- A minimum of two years' experience in administering a subsidized housing program, property management and/or construction.
- Experience in Human Resource Management is considered an asset.
- Excellent skill using Microsoft Office applications.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Experience in financial management to ensure adherence to applicable finance and personnel policies.
- Knowledge of federal and provincial regulations that impact the housing program such as the Landlord and Tenant Act, the National Housing Act, and building codes.
- Knowledge and experience in construction of housing including plumbing, carpentry, electrical and septic system.
- Prepare an annual housing work plan in consultation with housing staff and in line with organizational goals and objectives.
- Prepare internal and external reports as required.
- Monitor the effectiveness of housing policies and recommend amendments or additions.
- Monitor new construction and renovation projects to ensure cost effectiveness and compliance to standards.
- Initiate and supervise housing contract work carried out for the Serpent River First Nation.
- Train new and existing staff in existing work methods to ensure conformance with accepted standards.
- Ensure that the housing staff maintain their required training certifications.
- Be able to submit a valid CPID upon conditional offer of employment, prior to commencement of work.

Interested candidates are to submit their resume and cover letter to:

Nashin Moonsigak, Community Development Manager
Job Posting # 2011-INFRA-1025-01
195 Village Road, CUTLER, Ontario, POB 1B0
Fax: 705-844-2757

Deadline to submit resume is Friday, November 25, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.
Late applications will not be accepted.

We thank you for your interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Our Vision: Serpent River First Nation will have self-sufficient people within a community of caring and compassionate families.

Our Mission: Serpent River First Nation will use all available financial, human, cultural, technological and cultural resources to achieve self-sufficiency through the efforts of all Community Members. Our strong and unique cultural and spiritual identity will drive us to ensure a healthy community that is safe and secure for all generations.



ANISHINABEK



Securing a future for the next generation

Quinn Meawsige, 18, and Miles Reid, 16, from Serpent River First Nation made a presentation at the Nov. 3 meeting between National Chief Shawn Atleo and Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee. Quinn and Miles brought issues such as discrimination, racism in the educational institutions, youth capacity and youth leadership in a new economy. "Education is key – as youth we need to step up and take the language," Quinn, who helped out with last year's fight against the HST and from there became more politically-involved in Serpent River. Miles believes that education is a right and students should not feel afraid to go to school. "You can't be afraid to get to the classroom. You can't be afraid to learn. It's your right to learn. All students should be treated equally, no matter their ethnicity, their culture, lifestyle or religion," said Miles. "Racism, it's in forms that are sometimes easy to see, and at other times it's difficult to see. I believe that there should be more education in schools about First Nations peoples. Why we have our rights and why we don't have to pay taxes, fishing and hunting."

– Photo by Priscilla Goulais

Serving sweet treats in the south

By Marina Plain
AAMJIWNAANG – Tiffany Gilbert helped Aamjiwnaang residents cool off this summer. 10 year-old Gilbert wanted to earn some extra spending money and started "Posey Snowies", a business that offers frozen treats. "I wanted to raise money to invest in this franchise to treat my family," said Gilbert. "My mom and grandpa helped me start it. My grandpa helped me raise money for buying the supplies for my business." In addition to starting her own business, Gilbert has also maintained and Grade A average for the 2010-11 school year earning her an award from the Aamjiwnaang Education Department. Gilbert also helps with community events and volunteering. So far Gilbert says that running a business has been easy



Tiffany Gilbert and fun. "I want to get a portable ki-ask and bring it to pow wows," said Gilbert.



Standing: Jeannette Bondy, Janice Nolan, Ellen Johnston, Blanche Pine, Barbara Burns, Vicki Pine, Noel (Skip) Jones, Carol Jones, Doris Boissoneau (instructor), Carolyn Barry, Margaret Hele. Front Row: Jeremy Desjardins, Andrew Pine, Chris Gagnon, Sammi Sayers, Laura Boissoneau, Alice Corbiere.

Nibaa-namang ze"gaajigan

By Margaret Hele
GARDEN RIVER FN – The Ojibwe language class in Ketaaganseebee show off their Nibaa-namand ze"gaajigan. Students of various ages have been learning the Ojibwe language and culture under the direction of Doris Boissoneau and Barbara Nolan. The theory of learning the language by listening is working. "I can remember the words, my mother used. They are coming back," said Roseanna McCoy. "I'm really enjoying this class." The classes are held during the day and evening at the Adults in Motion School in Garden River. Various activities are planned for an immersion weekend each month where the students: prepare a luncheon, listen to stories, play prize bingo, make dream catchers, or medicine wheels Not only students but others from the community join in on the immersion weekends to listen and speak in the language.

IN BRIEF

New home in London

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) and Habitat for Humanity London have worked together to assist Delia John, Oneida of the Thames and Michael Smith Kettle and Stoney Point FN in purchasing their own home. OAHS provided down payment assistance through the First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban & Rural (FIMUR) Assisted Homeownership Program supported by the Government of Ontario. The Assisted Homeownership Program was designed to assist individuals in families in their goal of attaining home ownership by providing a down payment and closing cost assistance in the form of a forgivable loan, up to a maximum of \$30,000.00.

Gray places at nationals

ALDERVILLE – Ron Gray placed third at the Canadian Horseshoe Championships held in Blainville, Quebec. "I've been playing horseshoes since age 12 on the reserve," said Gray. "Everyone had horseshoe pits in their yards. It was a great past time for everyone and I still have fun with this sport today." Gray is also the Ontario Champion in the Men's C Division.



Naponse film at world stage

ATIKAMEKSHENG ANISHINAWBEK – Director Darlene Naponse's feature film *Every Emotion Costs* was featured in this year's line-up at the 2011 imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, in Toronto on October 23. *Every Emotion Costs* is an exploration of the reality of returning home to the reserve to face family, community and the ceremony of death. As teenagers, June and Quilla ran away from their northern Ontario reserve, leaving behind a mentally-ill mother and their youngest sister, Ella. It is the family Quilla left behind on the reserve that allows her to discover herself amongst all the tragedy in her life.

ANISHINABEK NEWS

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Editor: Maurice Switzer

Assistant Editor: Marci Becking

Media Specialist: Lisa Abel

Coordinator: Priscilla Goulais

Contributors: Joyce Atcheson, Eden Beaudin, Dominic Beaudry, Becky Big Canoe, Sarah Blackwell, Holly Brodhagen, Wendy Debassige, Rick Garrick, Margaret Hele, Suzanne Keptwo, Christine McFarlane, Peggy Monague McGregor, Greg Plain, Marina Plain, Peggy Pine Sheldon, Beverly Roy-Carter, Chad Solomon, Richard Wagamese, Sharon Weatherall.

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

FX: 705-497-9135

WEB: www.anishinabek.ca

E-MAIL: news@anishinabek.ca

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



PUBLISHING CRITERIA

GOAL

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

OBJECTIVES

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

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

Honesty: Debwevin – 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 NOVEMBER

Advertising

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Final Art: Oct. 10

News

News submissions:

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

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MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

Governments don't do reconciliation

If they are serious about creating a new relationship with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples, Elijah Harper thinks Canadians need to stop relying on their elected representatives to do the job. They need to start educating fellow citizens about the past if they want to build a better future.

The Cree leader was keynote speaker at an Ottawa conference staged to promote the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Commission has a five-year mandate to learn the truth about what happened in Indian residential schools and "to promote reconciliation and renewed relationships between First Peoples and Canadians based on mutual understanding and respect."

A survivor of three Manitoba residential schools, Harper told his audience that Canadian governments have had countless opportunities to create what some members of Kairos – the coalition of churches that organized the event – refer to as "right relationships" with First Peoples.

He mentioned the \$60 million Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples – a five-year exercise in the wake of the 1990 standoff between 3500 Canadian troops and 63 Mohawks near Oka, Quebec that produced over a million words in five volumes, and put forward 440 recommendations. Harper challenged anyone in attendance to point to one recommendation that has been a federal government action item.

He might have mentioned the 1998 Statement of Reconciliation, an apology of sorts to for the horrific abuse visited upon the 150,000 children forced to attend residential schools. The statement – which conceded that governments in Canada had acted with "attitudes of racial superiority" towards First Peoples – was delivered by then Indian Affairs Minister Jane Stewart in a parliamentary committee room. Prime Minister Jean Chretien, who as Indian Affairs Minister in 1969 tabled the infamous White Paper that proposed to erase treaty rights, was not even in attendance.

Harper did refer to the June 11, 2008 apology delivered in the House of Commons by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who conceded that "The treatment of children in Indian residential schools is a sad chapter in our history."



Maurice Switzer

But, he reminded us, more conciliatory-sounding words from Canadian political leaders have done little to mend the damage created by a system that was established to "kill the Indian in the child", and that has left a horrific legacy of socio-economic damage in its wake: over-representation of First Peoples in negative statistics dealing with poverty, unemployment, diabetes, and youth suicide, and under-representation in statistics about education completion rates and economic opportunities and success.

A former Member of Parliament himself, Harper was in the gallery on the day of the historic Harper apology, seated directly above

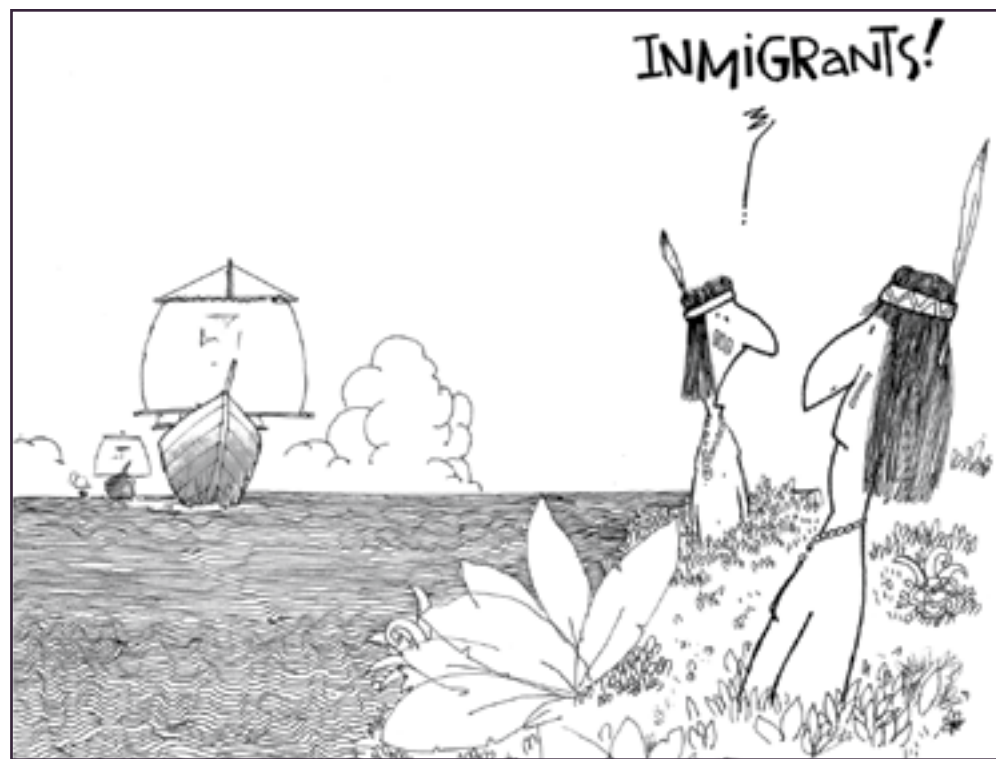
Speaker Peter Milliken. What he remembers more than the Prime Minister's speech was what happened when a delegation of national aboriginal leaders were allowed to enter the Chamber and sit in the Centre Aisle. National Chief Phil Fontaine, a residential school survivor, had negotiated the opportunity to respond to the apology.

"The Speaker got out of his seat and sat on a step leading up to it," Harper recalls. "This meant that the House of Commons was not in session – they were sitting in committee. This is not done when foreign leaders like Bill Clinton are allowed to address Parliament."

"This ignored our nation-to-nation relationship," said Harper.

"We were still being treated like second-class citizens."

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



Playing Old Waylon lets soul roll out

I'm learning to play a Waylon Jennings song on guitar. I've been a Waylon fan for a long time and I always wanted to try and learn one of his songs. It's an honour really to sing something that a hero wrote and I'm working hard at it.

Guitar doesn't come easily to me. I have a damaged left arm and hand from childhood abuse and it takes a lot of work to get chords right and to make the changes in time. But the feeling of making music itself is so freeing that I keep struggling with it.

Sometimes, when I get it right and the rhythm and the melody work I feel uplifted and joyful. That's the point of playing music, really. To take that feeling of liberation and set it free in the air for others to hear and feel as well, no matter how gifted or ungifted you might be. Joy expressed is joy expressed.

So I'm plunking away at one of Waylon's



Richard Wagamese

songs. People sometimes say that country music is simple. Well, I can tell you it's not. There's a depth of feeling, sentiment and heart within it that it takes real work to capture. The Waylon song is showing me that.

At first I learned the chords. Then I muted the strings with my left hand and worked out the strumming pattern with my right. When I had that down I played the chords and heard the backbone of the music eke out. After a few hours I added some melody notes, a bass run and the song was there.

Singing it was a whole other matter. Waylon did what was called Outlaw Country. It meant he didn't follow the strict rules of the genre. He threw in blues, roadhouse, jazz and Western Swing and he sang like a man who'd walked a lot of hard roads. That feel is hard to capture.

But I listened to that song over and over and over. I opened myself to its intent and its feeling. When I got that I added the lyrics to the guitar work. Now, I'm not a gifted singer or a player but I feel good when I perform it.

That's the trick of life – open yourself to the intent and feeling and feel the music of your soul roll out of you. Old Waylon taught me that.

Richard Wagamese is Ojibway from Wabasingong FN in Northwestern Ontario. His new book, The Next Sure Thing is available in stores now.

MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

25 Years Later: The United Church of Canada's Apology

By Martha Troian

Alberta Billy, whose request to the United Church of Canada sparked official apologies to aboriginal peoples from denominations nationwide for their role in the residential schools system.

Much has been made of the historic 2008 apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper to aboriginal peoples about the residential schools system. But long before that there were Alberta Billy and Canada's United Church.

August 15, 2011 marked the 25th anniversary of the apology to aboriginal peoples from the United Church of Canada, the first denomination to do so. In 1981, Billy, a member of the Laichwiltach We Wai kai Nation in British Columbia, stood before the leaders of one of Canada's largest churches and asked for something that few had even discussed before.

"The United Church owes the Native peoples of Canada an apology for what you did to them in residential school," she told the stunned members of the United Church Executive General Council.

Billy, a lifelong member of the United Church, attended the Executive General Council to represent aboriginal church members interested in participating in the church's political body. However, it was Billy's own idea to ask for an apology.

At the time, Billy says, prejudice was alive and well in the United Church.

"The church had no idea they were going to be asked for an apology. They hadn't a clue," Billy told Indian Country Today Media Network in an interview. "All I remember is when we got there, the non-Natives looked at us like, Who let you in the door?"

Although Billy herself was not a student, both her parents attended residential schools. Her mother mentioned it occasionally, but her father adopted a code of silence that Billy says was common in aboriginal communities.



"Healing Spirit" by Leland Bell.

"Thirty years ago you couldn't even talk about residential school, you couldn't even say the word. Our own people would say, 'No, don't talk about it!'" Billy said. "I realized we hadn't dealt with it somehow. That was the reason I asked for the apology, so there would be reconciliation."

The United Church of Canada officially apologized on August 15, 1986, for its role in the schools.

"We accepted [the apology] in principle," said Billy. "We were not happy with it because it didn't say, 'We the United Church of Canada.'"

Instead, the apology addressed issues relating to the church's role in imposing European culture onto the aboriginal people.

But while Billy thought the first apology was too vague, the United Church offered a second apology in 1998, this time clearly addressing the legacy of residential schools.

The church has advocated for aboriginal causes in Canada, including harvesting rights, land claims and the plight of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

Noting that aboriginal art and symbolism can now be found in many United Churches-including her own-Billy said it's a small sign that both sides are trying to make reconciliation a reality.

Indigenous Peoples' youth suicides in the State of Canada

Letter sent October 12, 2011 to the United Nations

On 1 February 2010, the General Assembly declared via a resolution that starting on the 12th of August 200 until the 12 of August 2011 would be the International Year of the Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. The resolution called on member states to take advantage of the Year to build national, regional and international levels to promote the youth. These are very lofty and admirable goals for the future of young people. We are writing this letter to your offices to assist us - the Indigenous Peoples of Pikangikum.

Our Peoples made Treaty with the British Crown to share our lands and resources. In return, we were to receive certain treaty rights for as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow and the grass grows. On a daily basis, the state of Canada benefits from our lands and resources. We do not get our due. As a result, we are living in fourth world conditions in a first world state. We have no access to fresh drinking water, no sewage, inadequate housing, poor access to education, health and other necessities of life. Let us give a small snapshot: there are 450 homes in the community for 2,400 residents that leads to overcrowding. In addition, 340 homes have no running water. The school, government buildings and 43 homes are connected to a sewage lagoon. We have to collect our water from distribution posts and carry it home. Since the 3rd of October 2011, we had to declare four

state of emergencies due to the lack of potable and running water. These hopeless and desperate conditions have resulted in many suicides among our youth. From 2006-2009, there were 16 children who committed suicide. The Chief Coroner's office in Ontario requested a review of the youth suicides in our community. This report was completed and submitted to the Chief Coroner on June 1, 2011.

We are sad to report that since July 15, 2011, Pikangikum has lost another seven of our young people to suicide. These are our future generations who have lost their will to live. Our Nation is thrust into a constant and persistent grief making daily tasks a burden on everyone. We are reaching out the United Nations for assistance. Our Nation needs to be able to see a future for our children.

During the International Year of the Youth there were no programs for our Youth. There was no planning by the state of Canada to assist our youth. When our Youth attempted to access funds to assist them, there was no program or services to assist them. Our First Nation is not alone in dealing with the crisis. We cannot do it alone. We did not cause this situation alone. When our forefathers concluded treaties with the British Crown, these treaties were to last.

Gordon Peters,
Signatory to Treaty 4

Navajo VP talks rights

Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim was invited to participate as a panelist member on the international workshop: Moving the UN DRIP to Action hosted by the National Congress of American Indians at their 68th convention.

This workshop discussed how indigenous nations could use the declaration as a powerful tool to affect change for their citizens. In his speech, Jim emphasized how the Navajo Nation has taken steps to incorporate principles of the declaration in education, natural and cultural resource protection, and improving relations with towns and cities bordering the Navajo Nation.

"Inherent sovereign rights are not given to indigenous nations. They're part of the fabric of our very existence. The Navajo Nation supports the declaration," Jim said. "One of the outcomes of these negotiations was to create the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission."

On the issue of protecting natural resources, Jim reaffirmed the Navajo Nation's moratorium on uranium mining.

"Corporations are challenging this moratorium because they want access to uranium. Our response is no uranium mining," he said.

Jim asked indigenous nations to implement the declaration in their own communities.

'Indian giver' comment made

LOS ANGELES – When Kris Jenner, Kim Kardashian's mother was asked on Good Morning America if her daughter should return Kris Humphries' \$2 million engagement ring after their 72-day marriage ended, Jenner responded with a laugh, saying: "Well, I hate an Indian giver. Don't you? It's a gift. Keep your gift."

"Once again American Indians have been misrepresented by a single misinformed statement," Jacqueline Johnson Pata, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians, said on the organization's website.

"The phrase 'Indian giving' is wrong and hurtful," she said. "The cultural values of Native Americans are based on giving unconditionally and empowering those around them. Instead this cultural value is forgotten when negative stereotyping of Native people occurs."



MAIL



Changing landscape

A recent *Sudbury Star* article about the wind farm project in M'Chigeeng First Nation includes a photo of an Industrial Wind Turbine Crane. The two 100 meter turbines plus blades are next, the size of a spinning 747 jet spinning around when the wind blows.

A historical change to the landscape and the culture and heritage of Manitoulin. Not a place of destination on the Great Spirit Circle trail. The years of promoting Manitoulin and its pristine landscape has come to the beginning of the end in my opinion.

There is another 26 MW planned for this area or nearby as well as an offshore Industrial Wind Turbine in the Bay of West Bay by Manitoulin's only high school as per preliminary mapping.

Studies show that industrial noise also affects learning.

These are Industrial Wind Turbines that regularly wear out, cannot be recycled and have cumulative detrimental effects to the environment for several generations to come.

Raymond Beaudry, Little Current

Open letter to Occupy activists

It seems that ever since we indigenous people have discovered Europeans and invited them to visit with us here on our land, we've had to endure countless '-isms' and religions and programs and social engineering that would "fix" us. Protestantism, Socialism, Communism, American Democracy, Christianity, Boarding Schools, Residential Schools,... well, you get the idea. And, it seems that these so-called enlightened strategies were nearly always enacted and implemented and pushed upon us without our consent. And, I'll assume that you're aware of how it turned out for us. Yes. Terribly.

Which brings me back to your mostly-inspiring Occupy Wall Street activities. With great excitement, I eagerly read your "one demand" statement. Hoping and believing that you enlightened folks fighting for justice and equality and an end to imperialism, etc., etc., would make mention of the fact that the very land upon which you are protesting does not belong to you – that you are guests upon that stolen indigenous land.

JohnPaul Montano, Pokégnek Bodéwadmik
Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan





*Pane mkwenmadaanig
zhimaagnishag (our sacrifice)*
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Lest We Forget
Jamais nous
oublierons

Michael Mantha
MPP/Député
Algoma-Manitoulin
mmantha-co@ndp.on.ca • 1-800-831-1899

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zhimaagnishag (our sacrifice)*

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Lest We Forget

*Jamais nous
oublierons*



Carol Hughes
MP/Députée
Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
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Honouring our veterans

Canadian Rangers from 14 First Nations from across the Far North of Ontario held a ceremony to observe Aboriginal Veterans Day. The ceremony was held in Ojibway Provincial Park near Sioux Lookout. It included a drum, an Eagle Staff carrier and a colour party from the Royal Canadian Legion.

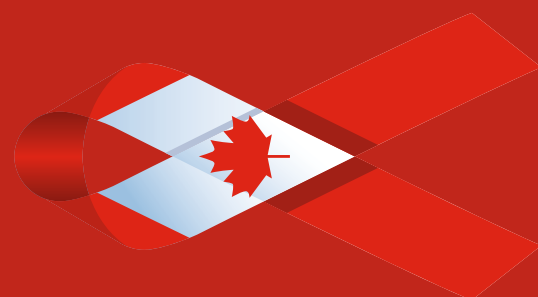
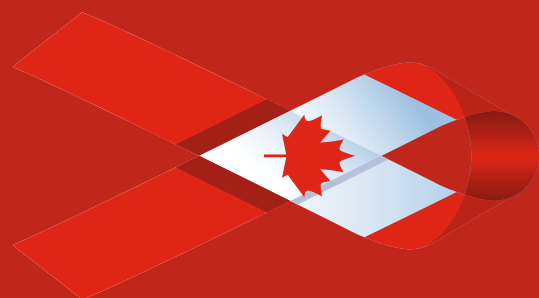
– Photo by Sgt. Peter Moon

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our
Zhimaagnish**

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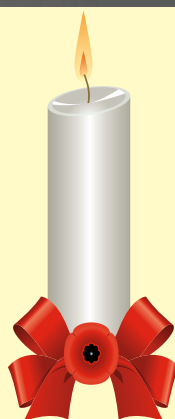


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OGITCHIDAA/WARRIORS

Winnipeg mural honours memory of Sgt. Tommy Prince

WINNIPEG—Sgt. Tommy Prince, one of Canada's most decorated First Nations soldiers, has been honoured with a mural in Winnipeg's north end.

The art work was unveiled on a wall overlooking the intersection of Sgt. Tommy Prince Street and Selkirk Avenue.

Prince served in the Second World War and Korea, earning 12 medals.

Tommy Prince Jr., Prince's son, said the ceremony and mural were a great way to honour his father.

"The Prince family would like to say thank you to everyone for recognizing my father and giving him the respect he deserves," Prince said at the ceremony.

Daring actions by Prince's unit behind enemy lines prompted German soldiers to call it "the Devil's Brigade."

After being honourably discharged, Prince was decorated by King George VI at Buckingham Palace with both the Military Medal and, on behalf of U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Silver Star with ribbon.

He died in 1977 at the age 62 and is buried in the Field of Honour at Winnipeg's Brookside Cemetery.

Thomas George Prince was born in 1915 and was a citizen of the Brokenhead First Nation located about 80 km north of Winnipeg. He was the great-great-grandson of Chief Peguis who played a prominent role in the early history of the Red River settlement. As a young man, Prince helped support his family and community as a hunter, trapper and farm labourer and earned a reputation as an honest hard worker. Prince received his formal education at the Elkhorn Industrial School where he developed a strong interest in the military through his participation in the school's Cadet Corps.

With the onset of World War II, Prince enlisted and served in the Royal Canadian Engineers, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and the 1st Canadian Special Service Battalion-part of the 'Devils Brigade'. Prince's courage and disregard for his own personal safety inspired his comrades, earning him the military metal for 'exceptional bravery' and the Silver Star (United States) for 'gallantry in action'. King George VI awarded these medals to Prince at an investiture at Buckingham Palace in 1945. Prince also served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian light infantry during the Korean War, for which he received the Korean, United Nations, and the Canadian volunteer service medals.

One year before Prince passed away in 1977, the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood awarded Prince with a certificate of merit "for his years of dedicated service to the Indian people of Manitoba".



A mural honours the military service of Sgt. Tommy Prince, one of Canada's most decorated First Nations soldiers. (CBC)

Adam Beach to play hero role

WINNIPEG – Actor Adam Beach wiped away tears as he spoke about the honour of portraying Canadian aboriginal war hero Tommy Prince in an upcoming film.

"I'm going to be bringing forth a hero that I hope a 16-year-old will recognize and actually step up and say, 'I want to be a hero also,'" he said.

"So that's where all this flooding of emotion comes," said Beach, a Manitoba-born aboriginal. He was at the Thunderbird House on Main Street to make the formal announcement about the movie.

The film and TV star was flanked by Prince's relatives, Manitoba aboriginal leaders, and representatives from Vancouver-based Bay Film Studios.

Beach, 37, said he hopes the movie will help fight negative stereotypes of aboriginals.

"History has created a timeline for our people that shows defeat, struggle, famine, residential



Adam Beach

schools and it's left us with generations that are picking up the pieces," he said.

"I want to introduce the timeline that has not stopped, that has not changed — that's our culture and traditions."

Prince, from Manitoba's Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, was a hero of both the Second World War and the Korean War and is Canada's most highly decorated First Nations soldier.

Beach said the role is a chance to play one of his idols.

"It's like I get to play a Captain America," he said. "I hope that I can put my heart and soul into someone that needs to be seen in that hero quality."

Tommy Prince: Prince of the Devils will focus on Prince's experiences fighting in the Second World War.

Daring actions by Prince's unit behind enemy lines prompted German soldiers to call it "the Devil's Brigade."

After being honourably discharged, Prince was decorated by King George VI at Buckingham Palace with both the Military Medal and, on behalf of U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Silver Star with ribbon.

He died in 1977 at the age 62 and is buried in the Field of Honour at Winnipeg's Brookside Cemetery.

The Canadian military is helping to ensure the action scenes are accurate, and Prince's remaining family members have given the film their blessing as well.

Papa Fred Pine was a proud warrior for Canada

By Peggy Pine Sheldon

GARDEN RIVER FN – Our Papa, Frederick Erskine Pine, was a direct descendant of Chief Shingwauk and proud warrior who fought for Canada in both the First and Second World Wars.

He would share many stories with us about his travels to France and the bonds he struck with fellow soldiers during his service. Papa was extremely proud to have fought, having been only 17 when he first served. The father of the Wabanosa family that raised him had to secretly sign him off to so he could enlist at such a young age because his own parents and sister had died of Tuberculosis.

Each year as Remembrance Day approached he would ensure that his clothes were pressed and hung the night before, then dress in the morning in excitement to

head to town to spend the day with his comrades, marching in dignity and later crying as he spoke of the many losses he endured in wartime. He would make his way home later in the evening, having one too many whiskeys, hug all of us and share more memories. It was always a bittersweet day, but his day. It is because of men like our Papa, who stood strong, took up arms and fought so we could enjoy living in the best country in the world. In his eyes there were no racial boundaries; he was a man with no colour, just a man, a soldier.

Papa would give his life for any one of his seven grandchildren or family because he had seen it all. He had seen death first-hand and was never afraid to die. He loved us unconditionally, humoured us with his wit and



Fred Pine

charm and spoiled us. He never failed to hug and kiss us at every opportunity. He was well known for favourite lines and jokes, one of mine being: "I believe you, honey. Thousands wouldn't, but I believe ya."

My heart still aches for Old Papa.

His first language was Ojibway and he spoke it at some point every day despite being illiterate his entire life. That's right, this man who couldn't read or write managed to travel and meet people from all walks of life.

He became good friends with Dr. David Suzuki who, after learning that Papa witnessed Halley's Comet as a child and was still living to see it again, featured his story on his popular television series The Nature of Things.

Papa was very funny and easy-going – he didn't need to discipline, as his humour would always win us over. He was a great cook and was called upon for years by the Ministry of Lands and Forest to oversee the kitchen for the northern firefighters, flying him off to a site on a moment's notice. He also cooked in war-

time, proudly telling us in all seriousness how he saved hundreds of men in the war.

"How?" we asked. "I shot the cook!" he would tell us.

On many occasions he would march around and salute, so we all played the game and began calling him Warden as we would salute each other. Papa and Warden became synonymous.

Today our family honours the memory of our Papa by proudly wearing the traditional red poppy, a very small reminder of the huge sacrifice Frederick Erskine Pine made for each and every one of us.

"In the sweet bye and bye we will meet on that beautiful shore" was one of his favourite hymns.

Till we meet again, Warden.
Baa Maa Pii, Papa



Social Services

To advocate on social issues affecting our people



Making the connection

By Sarah Blackwell

This column usually focuses on ways to assist you in your journey to living a more Earth conscious lifestyle. We all need reminders from time to time about how to live a 'greener' lifestyle, or ideas for healthier alternatives. The same conscious behaviour is important for parents to take with them into their role as a parent. Parenting is not an easy job, but if we learn about connecting with our baby/child right from birth, it may make the tough moments more manageable.



Sarah Blackwell

Last month I trained to become a facilitator in the parenting program called Make The Connection. As a result, I will travel to First Nation communities to deliver the program as either a 9 week program or as a series of workshops. The parenting program assists parents in attachment and bonding with their infant (0-1 years) or toddler (1-2 years). In the workshop, parents will learn ways to bond with their infant and/or toddler in a way that will promote and encourage secure attachment. The training is ideal for any parent that wants to strengthen and enhance the bonding and attachment with their baby and/or toddler. The attachment and bonding that occurs at this young age will promote a positive self-esteem for parents, as well as build a strong parent/ child relationship. The program will:

- Provide hands on parent/child activities
- Parent discussion;
- Social time;
- Review of parent/child interaction

Each workshop can be tailored to fit the unique needs of the parents of your community.

If you are interested in learning more about having a Parenting Program delivered in your community, contact Sarah Blackwell at: 705-497-5953 or email: sblackwell@cogeco.ca



Keeping our children safe

Nog-Da-Win-Da-Min Family and Community Services and Garden River First Nation hosted this year's 6th annual Child Abuse Prevention Walk in October. An enormous amount of support came from the community. Students from East View and St. Hubert schools made posters that demonstrated their understanding of Child Abuse Prevention. Special guests including Executive Director of Nog-Da-Win-Da-Min Family and Community Services, Rosalind Johnston and Chief Lyle Sayers spoke about the importance of educating our children and families about child abuse and keeping our children safe. Team Coordinator, Karen Kennedy and the Garden River Wellness Centre made this annual event possible.

By Wendy Debassige

Partnership to focus on support staff programs

Known as First Nation Band Representatives and referred to in section 10 of the Child and Family Services Act, the First Nation Child Welfare Advocate (FNCWA) provides advocacy for First Nation families and children.

They advocate, where possible to ensure that children-in-care have access to their Anishinabe Culture, Language, Spirituality and FN Community. Child Welfare Advocates also are responsible for ensuring that a child is placed with family, extended family, within their First Nation Community or within the Anishinabek Nation.

The partnership will focus on ensuring introducing specific educational programming and a consistent training model for First Nation Child Welfare Advocates. FNCWAs have long asked that post-secondary training be provided to them in a culturally relevant and accessible format that would allow them to continue full-time employment while addressing areas of skills development that are of critical interest and need to them and the children and families that they serve.

The program will also benefit all First Nation child welfare workers working for native child welfare agencies, mainstream CAS's and various family support workers both on and off-reserve.

The Anishinabek Educational Institute, the Union of Ontario Indians Social Services Department and a Community College partner will seek the introduction of a distance delivery program model for First Nation Child Welfare Advocates (FNCWA).

Canada appeals 60s scoop

OTTAWA –The Harper government is fighting a class action lawsuit by aboriginal children who argue the loss of their culture in foster and adoptive care was a wrongful act.

Although Ontario Children's Aid agencies took 16,000 children from their families during the Sixties Scoop, the multi-million-dollar lawsuit names only the Attorney General of Canada. Ottawa quietly appealed the lawsuit in a Toronto courtroom on Oct. 28 — a year after it was certified by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. As a result, the case hasn't gotten to court almost three years after it was filed.

Child Welfare advocate urges everyone to bear witness

By Peggy Monague McGregor

WHITEFISH RIVER FN –“We are going to take a bit of a journey today. It's going to be a powerful journey, because it's going to be led by the children of our community. It's going to be a message for you to help our collective cause to "Do the Right Thing" for the kids in our communities.” This riveting opening message was delivered by Cindy Blackstock, Ph.D., at a child welfare conference in Whitefish River First Nation on Friday, October 14, 2011. Over 150 participants from Mniidoo Mniising First Nation communities flooded through the doors at Whitefish River's Community Centre.

Blackstock is a child advocate and Executive Director for the First Nations Caring Society of Canada (FNCSC). She is a world-renowned speaker, lecturer, professor and writer who has presented before the United Nations (UN) concerning the UN Rights of the Child.

She revealed the fact that the majority of Aboriginal Child Welfare cases in Canada have stemmed from “neglect.” This neglect is not due to poor parenting skills or abuse. Rather, it's from regressive policies of the Indian Act and the very fact that the most very basic human needs continue to be ignored in First Nation communities. Most First Nation families are dealing with some real challenges like black mold, lack of potable drinking water, substance abuse and poverty. “Being poor is exhausting,” Blackstock shares in earnest. “A single mother who has the choice between entering a workshop on parenting skills versus getting her laundry half way across town with three children in tow is a real choice for us today.” “27,500 of our

children are in care in Canada. This is a conservative estimate, considering that no evidence-based information has been produced or recognized by the Government of Canada.” This is disturbing, she describes because it is three times more children in care than at the height of the residential school era. Aboriginal Child Welfare in Canada has become a government business. For those of us delivering children's services in communities we know that this government business comes without the funding support at the local level. The Government's failures have been well-documented in the Auditor General's Reports (Sheila Fraser, 2011) and in UN and the World Health Organization (WHO) documents. In 2005, Cindy cites, the Federal Government had a \$22 billion surplus. They had the chance to “Do the Right thing” in relation to equitable funding for Aboriginal Child Welfare. Instead, they chose to walk away claiming “fiscal restraint” and “jurisdictions” which are terms that hide the fact that First Nations face racial discrimination not just in Child Welfare but in all other top priority areas like health, education and culture.

Blackstock urged everyone to bear witness, to watch the Supreme Court case on February 13-15, 2012 and make up their own minds about whether or not Canada has been treating First Nations children fairly. The “I am a witness” campaign is on-line www.fnwitness.ca.



Cindy Blackstock

Health Secretariat

Good Health for Our People



Medical Transportation for Curve Lake

Curve Lake First Nation's purchase of a Medical Transportation access bus was made possible in discussion with Health Canada to address client mobility requirements, better access for seniors and ill clients and those who are physically challenged. The bus will also be used to transport clients to medical appointments and has space for four individuals in wheel chair and seat six others. Curve Lake and Health Canada cost shared the purchase. Council accessed their portion of the cost through the Gaming Revenue Funding.

IN BRIEF

Sarnia's air Canada's worst

SARNIA – The World Health Organization released an unprecedented compilation of air quality data in October, covering nearly 1,100 cities in 91 countries, tracking levels of particulate matter, which can enter the bloodstream causing cardiovascular and lung disease, cancer, and asthma.

While Canada ranks third in the world when it comes to air quality, Sarnia was ranked the worst city in the country, with the most particulate matter per cubic metre of air.

"To my knowledge, very little has been done to remediate this situation. And so you have the Aamjiwaang community; you have people living downwind from these refineries, you have the industrial workers in these plants getting these daily exposures, and the consequences of it are pretty serious," said Jim Brophy, health researcher and former executive director of the Point Edward-based Occupational Health Clinic for Ontario Workers.

Diabetes Wampum Belt walk

BATCHEWANA FN – A Diabetes Wampum Belt, created after Joe Jacob of Kahnawake dreamt the word "Teiakonekwenhsatsikhe:Tar" meaning in the Mohawk language "Our Blood is Sweet", made its way on foot to the North Shore where the next First Nation to receive the belt is Thessalon.

The belt, being walked to Thessalon with citizens of Batchewana, is a testament of the determination of First Nations to beat diabetes through good diet and exercise.

Running for the health of it

By Greg Plain
AAMJIWNAANG – Crowds cheered, clapped and even rang cowbells as they gathered to support people who took to the streets in the Detroit Free Press half marathon.

Vicki Ware, citizen of Aamjiwnaang First Nation and current sitting Councillor ran the half marathon which is 21 Km and came in at 3 hours and 11 minutes.

"I was extremely proud of myself and my accomplishments; running is what helped me to drop the weight and get my diabetes under control. I started out walking and worked my way up to a half-marathon. I plan to train

for a full marathon in the near future," said Ware.

Ware's sister Michele Koglin who is an avid runner, ran the entire Marathon 42 Km coming in at 5 hours and 25 minutes.

Ware found that she was a diabetic 10 years ago, and made the lifestyle choice to stay in control of her body and not let diabetes take control of her future.

Ware lost a total of 70 pounds in one year is no longer considered a diabetic. Vicki continues to run all around her community to get better and better times with her running.

Ware was recently nominated for the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative Award for



Vicki Ware making positive lifestyle changes that are inspirational to others who suffer from diabetes.

Dad's drinking can affect a fetus

By Laurie McLeod-Shabogesic
Many people believe that Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is a woman's issue. In a way, that's true, as FAS refers to a broad and complex range of birth defects that are directly caused by the drinking of alcohol during pregnancy.

But what about men? Can male alcohol consumption affect the development of his unborn child?

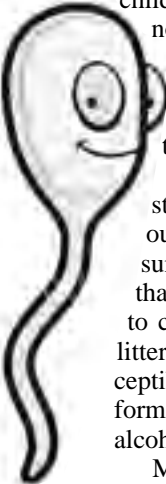
It used to be thought that only the mother controlled the health of her unborn baby so that if any problems in fetal development arose, they must be traced to her alone.

This has created a lot of stigma and guilt for women, as alcohol can begin to affect a developing baby long before she even begins to suspect that she is pregnant.

In a research article by Christina Jeffery, published by FAS Alaska: "New studies, however, have broadened this idea, showing that the blame for some problems in fetal development can also be placed on the father. A male's lifestyle, such as the use of alcohol, cigarettes, and other drugs, as well as exposure to certain industrial chemicals, has been shown to affect characteristics of sperm cells in ways that harm the fetus."

Although, a man's drinking cannot specifically cause FAS. This does not mean that the baby isn't affected by its father's drinking.

According to Jeffery: "Alcohol consumed by the male can lead to a variety of problems in the reproductive system. Unlike females, whose eggs are all made during pre-birth development, males continuously make sperm throughout their lives. Some studies have shown that alcohol consumed by the male can enter the testicles through the bloodstream. The drug then seems to mutate some



characteristics of the sperm. After exposure, they can end up with deformed heads or tails, hindering their mobility. Alcohol could also be transported to the ova via the semen and expose the embryo to levels of this toxicant. In addition, alcohol-affected semen could alter embryo maturation.

These mutations can lead to birth defects, miscarriage, or illness in the resulting baby. When children with fathers who are heavy drinkers and non-alcoholic mothers are compared with those with FAS, the children of the drinking fathers are not grossly malformed, but they do have certain intellectual and functional deficits, and they are also more likely to be hyperactive."

Further to this, she states: "A number of studies involving animals have been carried out, looking at the effect of paternal alcohol consumption on the offspring. Studies have shown that exposing a male animal to alcohol can lead to changes in embryonic and fetal development, litter size, offspring viability, and increased susceptibility of the offspring to infection. Infant malformation and mortality also resulted from paternal alcohol consumption."

Modern medicine is now discovering that the secret to a healthy family is in the hands of the father as well as the mother.

"Alcohol consumed months before conception can cause defects in the sperm," says Jeffery. "Since sperm cells are made continuously throughout a man's life, they are at more risk of mutation, thus increasing the chance that the baby may have problems. A male should plan ahead for a healthy family. Good steps would be to quit smoking, drinking, and using drugs, and also do as much to protect oneself from exposure to harmful chemicals at work. Such actions will not only lengthen a person's life span, but will also increase the possibility of having healthy children in the future."

STAFF

Union of Ontario Indians - Curve Lake Office, Ph: 705-657-9383 Fort William Office – Ph: 807-623-8887 Munsee Delaware Office – Ph: 519-289-0777

Janine McCue AHWS Community Support Worker janine.mccue@anishinabek.ca	Mindy Taylor Aboriginal Health Initiative Officer mindy.taylor@anishinabek.ca	Crystal Cummings Healthy Babies, Healthy Children crystal.cummings@anishinabek.ca	Chochi Knott FASD Regional Worker chochi.knott@anishinabek.ca	Lynda Banning FASD Regional Worker - Thunder Bay lynda.banning@anishinabek.ca
Union of Ontario Indians - Head Office, P.O. Box 711, North Bay, ON, P1B 8J8, Ph: 705-497-9127 Toll: 1-877-702-5200 Web: www.anishinabek.ca				
Jamie Restoule Director resjam@anishinabek.ca Ext. 2242	Laurie C. McLeod AHWS Policy Analyst mcllau2@anishinabek.ca Ext. 2314	Lisa Palangio Policy Analyst lisa.palangio@anishinabek.ca Ext. 2306	Laura Liberty FASD Regional Worker liblau@anishinabek.ca Ext. 2319	Patricia Campeau Administrative Assistant patricia.campeau@anishinabek.ca Ext. 2310
Tony Jocko Policy Analyst jockton@anishinabek.ca Ext. 2313	Jody Cotter HIV/AIDS Coordinator cotjod@anishinabek.ca Ext. 2231	Laurie McLeod-Shabogesic FASD Coordinator mcllau@anishinabek.ca Ext. 2296	Karen Linklater Administrative Coordinator linkar@anishinabek.ca Ext. 2239	





'Waab-shki-makoons' featured in touring OSA exhibition

By Sharon Weatherall

BEAUSOLEIL FN –A collaboration exhibition of the Ontario Society of Artists (OSA) and pARTners opened at the Woodstock Gallery November 19 featured the work of Waab-shki-makoons meaning 'new little white bear' - spirit name of Clayton Samuel King. The show runs through January 2012.

The talented Christian Island artist is one of eleven selected emerging artists involved in the touring exhibition which is part of the 140th Anniversary celebrations of the OSA that will visit five other galleries in Ontario during the next year.

"Last spring I was fortunate enough to be one of eleven selected emerging artists to be apart of this wonderful opportunity. The partners involved in this exhibition worked on their collaborative art piece during the summer of 2011. Their shared works, as well as one previously completed artwork from each individual artist, will be displayed in this exhibition," said King.

'pARTners' is an educational opportunity for both emerging artists and for practising professional artists. The initiative is a vision developed through a partnership between the OSA and the Woodstock Art Gallery will assist in filling the gap between the education of young artists and their ability to enter the arts network.

King's "Chief Speaker" – an ink on Japanese paper drawing will be included in collaboration with OSA member Robert Montgomery. The installation being displayed is called "G20 Toyland" and was inspired by the horrific events that took place at the G20

summit in Toronto back in 2010.

"When creating this piece I started by staining Gampi, Japanese paper with red rose tea. The use of tea is meant to mirror the history of colonialism enforced by the British Empire so many years ago. This enabled the paper to change dramatically, by both colour and age. When applying ink wash to this paper, attention to detail was specifically important. The use of an eraser was out of the question when outlining the drawing because it would take away the layer of tea stain," said King.

King's "Three Fires" done last year was selected by the O.S.A. to show in the exhibition. The acrylic painting outlining a Thunderbird acts as a gateway into a pristine romantic landscape. The Thunderbird is known to the Anishinabek people as a very powerful winged spirit of good, which was put on Turtle Island to keep domain over the storms, thunder and lightening; so it can battle evil in this earthly realm.

"The three fires in the lodges represent the Three Fires Confederacy of the Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomi tribes of the woodlands surrounding the great lakes. According to the earliest of birch bark scrolls, this alliance has been dated back to 796 A.D. The Ojibway are known as the keepers of the faith, the Odawa's the keepers of the trade, and the Pottawatomi's the keepers of the fire," writes in his artist statement.

"Now in contemporary times, most bands of these three tribes are still united and are known as the Anishinabek Nation, a nation that has been extended by the inception of the Mississauga's, Algonquin's, and the Delaware that consist of



Waab-shki-makoons with "Chief Speaker".

39 member First Nations that stretch along the northern side of the great lakes, central Ontario and south western Ontario at Walpole Island. With over 55,000 citizens to date, the alliance of these First Nations help bring political advocacy to the prosperity of life, equal rights, traditional practices, protection and identity etc. This painting is a dedication to all the Anishinabek and the rich history and heritage that has always been and will forever be."

King attended the Fine Arts program at Fanshawe College where after the first year he made the president's honour roll and

went on to receive scholarships and prestigious awards including an Aboriginal Education Incentive Award from Canada Post won by only 20 First Nation students a year throughout Canada.

Last Nov.-Jan., King's work was featured in the "Gathering of the Clans" at Museum of Ontario Archaeology in London - a special exhibition featuring three First Nation Artists including King who is a member of the Eagle Clan, Moses Lunham of the Fish Clan Kettle and Stoney Point First Nation and Jeremiah Mason of the Wolf Clan Kee-way-win First Nation.

Curator gearing up for spring exhibits

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY –The Thunder Bay Art Gallery's newly appointed Aboriginal curator in residence is gearing up for an upcoming exhibition on land, place and wilderness.

"Where people see their home and where we imagine ourselves to be," said Suzanne Morrisette, a Metis curator, artist and writer from Winnipeg whose grandparents are Cree from the Interlake and Metis from the Red River Valley. "What is wilderness; what is bush. What are our dreams about. How do we project ourselves against the landscape."

The idea for the exhibit, which will open next spring at the gallery, is very preliminary right now, but Morrisette is excited about discussing it with artists.

"We can bring light to things that have not been seen in a while and renew scholarship and renew interest in the public," Morrisette said. "Morrisseau's work is what originally drew me to do the show — I originally found his piece, Coming Away, which is the larger drawing, ink on kraft paper, and I thought that is really curious, something I personally hadn't seen before."

Morrisette is interested in how Morrisseau works all over the kraft paper in Coming Away with "this idea of a simultaneous series of moments happening all at once but everything is connected."

Morrisette has come a long way since studying at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design University in Vancouver and completing her Master in Fine Art at the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto.

"I came to this position in a lot of very different ways," Morrisette said. "Mentorship is what has guided me here. Originally, I was an artist, just an artist; today I am an artist and a curator."

Morrisette has interned at the Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art Gallery and aceartinc., an artist run centre in Winnipeg.

She is currently working on a research project on the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's mandate study from 1994 for presentation at an upcoming Aboriginal Curatorial Collective conference in Toronto.



Suzanne Morrisette



G'zaagin Gallery goodness

Located at 17 Bay Street in Parry Sound, G'zaagin art gallery has been Tracey Pawis vision and was created for everyone to enjoy. G'zaagin art gallery has created an opportunity to showcase artwork in gallery space for Native Artists and Native Art. This gallery Pawis' approach to define and present traditional Native Cultural Art within today's society. The unique experience of G'zaagin art gallery offers an opportunity of full exposure through hearts of beauty and boldness. The mission is to create a space that offers more than just art, but also, diversity through different mediums that are vibrant and filled with great energy. Plans for the future are sculptures, wood carvings, stained glass, silver jewelry. Currently artists are renting floor and wall space to display their artwork rather than the traditional consignment/commission format type agreement.



Anishinabek

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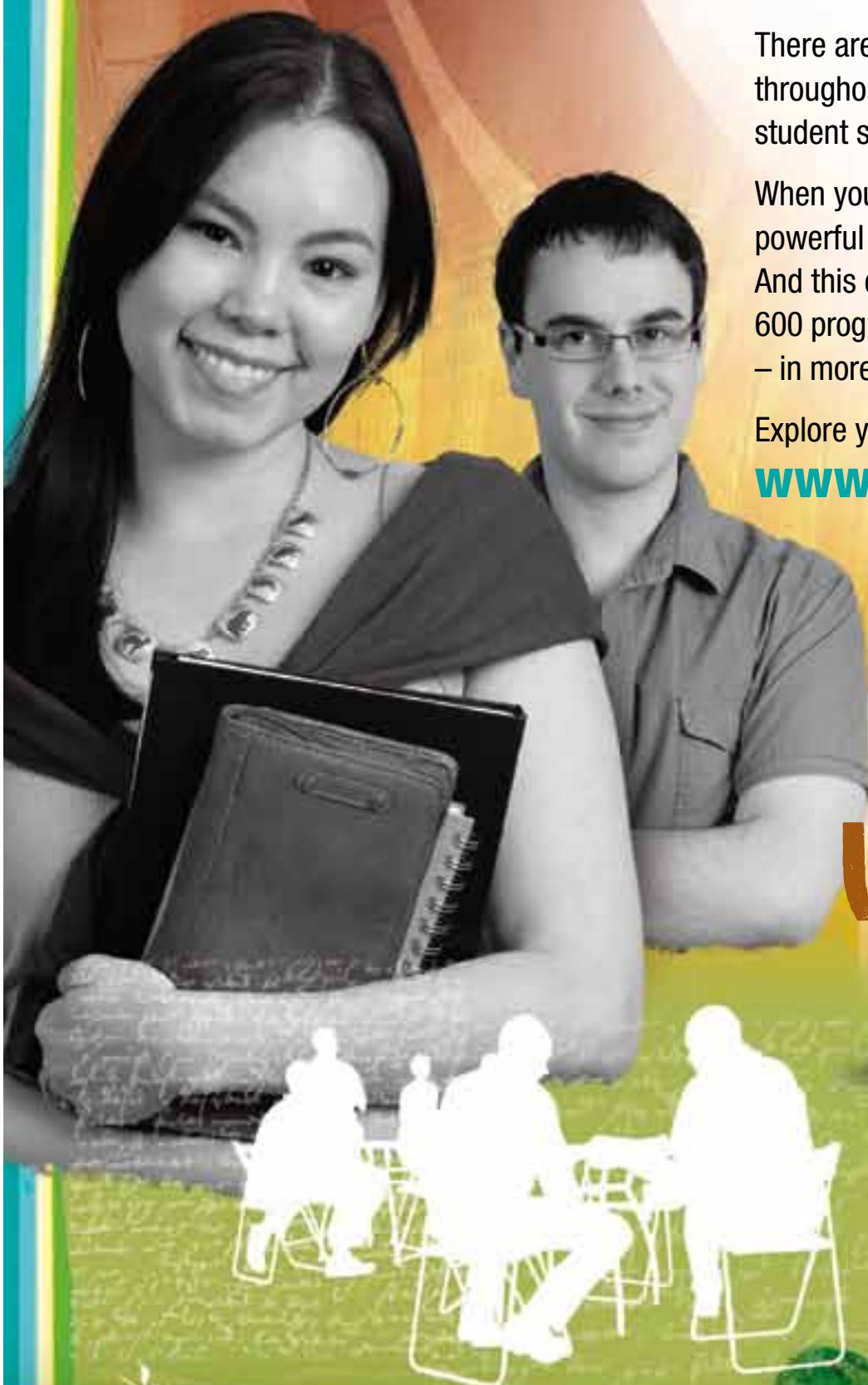
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COMMUNITY PROFILE

MOOSE DEER POINT FIRST NATION



Infrastructure, development top of priorities for Chief King

By Becky Big Canoe

Moose Deer Point, near Mactier Ontario, is home to the Pottawatomi/Ojawa people of the Three Fires Confederacy of the Anishinabek Nation.

The First Nation territory has historically consisted of three parcels of land, totaling 619 acres along the Georgian Bay shore adjacent to the O'Donnell Point Nature Reserve.

The people of Moose Deer Point first settled there in the late 1800's and were officially granted reserve status in 1917.

Currently there are approximately 450 status band members with around 200 of the citizens living on the territory.

The community opened an arena in 1969 which was the first First Nation-owned and operated marina in Canada and is currently one of the largest marinas on Georgian Bay.

Moose Deer Point First Nation also holds the distinction of being the first in Ontario and the second in Canada to sign an Alternative Funding Arrangement which provided the community with control of their own finances.

The community enjoys a great deal of political stability with former Chief Edward Williams serving nine terms and more recently Chief Barron King who this month was elected to serve his fourth consecutive term. Moose Deer Point has had a long history of highly-participatory, consensus-based decision making.

The community pursues a policy of economic development that is not just environmentally-friendly but which offers the community long-term stability, diversity and prosperity.

They also believe in a deliberate, broadly-based and multi-faceted quest for social health and individual well-being.

Finally, they support a concerted, long-term program to clean up the environment and to conserve and enhance the community's natural assets of land, water, air and living things.

These policies and goals are in keeping with Anishinabek values and to that end they inform many sustainable community initiatives.

From Early Years Learning programs to providing public internet access, as well as instituting a ban on

smoking in public buildings and maintaining a Health and Wellness Clinic, the First Nation has developed resources to meet the community's social and health needs.

Their environmental programming includes nature trails, a "green" marina monitoring program, sustainable housing technology, recycling, community and roadside clean-up and comprehensive environmental assessment and protection laws.

In 2010 Moose Deer Point and the federal government were pleased to announce the completion of a water treatment plant to provide the community with access to clean and safe drinking water which is still an issue in many First Nations.

Prior to that, the community had endured for longer than a decade under a boil water advisory. "Our new water treatment plant is an investment in the health of our community," said Chief King. "Safe, clean drinking water is a necessity of life that our membership is now guaranteed." The new water supply system features an intake and a wet well located in the Twelve Mile Bay section of the reserve.

It also includes a slow sand filtration treatment system allowing water production that meets the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. The Government of Canada contributed \$18 million to the water treatment plant under Canada's Economic Action Plan and First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan.

Along with successfully operating one of the largest marinas on Georgian Bay for over 40 years, Moose Deer Point has had other noteworthy economic development achievements.

In 2001 Moose Deer Point partnered with The Schad Foundation and the federal and provincial governments which produced the development of a world class injection molding facility called Niigon Technologies Ltd.

The business is a showplace of manufacturing automation, efficiency and environmental responsibility.

The company is wholly-owned by the First Nation, with all dividends being reinvested in social, environmental, wellness and infrastructure projects. The company currently employs 23 individuals with over 50% being First Nation.



Moose Deer Point fire hall.



Chief Barron King re-elected to fourth consecutive term.



Moose Deer Point administrative office.



Moose Deer Point water tower.



Intergovernmental Affairs

..... Ensuring access to natural resources

National Chief: Teach the treaties



National Chief Shawn Atleo. – Photo by Priscilla Goulais

OTTAWA – Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo stated his support for new teaching materials and resources on Treaties and Treaty Relationships created by the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba in collaboration with three Manitoba First Nations Organizations and the federal government.

"I fully support this effort as it will help ensure Canadians learn about and understand First Nations and the history of the relationship between our people and Canada," said AFN National Chief Atleo. "I encourage all schools across Canada, whether First Nations or provincial, to look at these materials and resources and use them as a national teaching tool for K-12 students. This country was built on Treaties and we have made Treaties and Treaty Rights one of our main priorities here at the AFN. These materials will help Canadians understand that we are all Treaty People."

The Treaty Education Initiative pilot project was tested last year for grades 5 and 6 in eleven different schools across Manitoba and was a success in urban, rural, on reserve, and off reserve schools. The Treaty Education Initiative has three objectives:

- Increase the knowledge and understanding of the Treaties and the Treaty Relationship among all students;
- Ensure students understand the impact of the Treaties and the Treaty Relationship on the creation of Manitoba;
- Build bridges between all peoples in order to strengthen Canadian society and prosperity.

KI calls on government to honour dispute panel

KITCHENUHMAYKOOSIB INNINUWUG –KI is calling on Ontario to honour a promise made by the McGuinty government in 2008 and create a joint panel to resolve longstanding issues regarding mining exploration on their homelands.

"In 2008, just before we were jailed, Ontario promised us a joint panel to resolve our outstanding issues with mining companies. We are still waiting for them to honour that promise" said Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig Chief Donny Morris.

Minister Michael Gravelle has been reported as saying that he has accepted an invitation to visit the community and discuss matters, but he has made no clear commitment to the promised joint panel.

"In 2008, the joint panel Ontario promised was never created, we went to jail, no discussions took place following our release by the court of appeal and now we find ourselves in the same situation with Gods Lake Resources threatening a sacred area and Ontario nowhere to be seen," said Chief Morris.

On September 28, KI issued an eviction notice to mining exploration company Gods Lake Resources when the community learned that the company had ignored community warnings and began work in an area containing a cemetery, numerous burials, and other sacred sites.

Peru president signs prior consent law for Indigenous Peoples

PERU – Peruvian President Ollanta Humala signed his country's long-awaited law of free prior and informed consent with indigenous peoples, the Law of the Right to Prior Consultation with Indigenous or Tribal Peoples, Recognized in Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization.

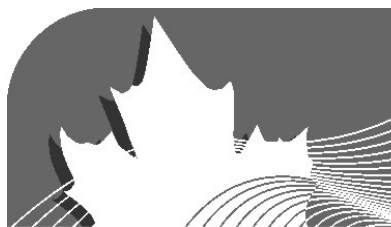
The principle of FPIC requires that indigenous peoples be informed, in a culturally appropriate manner, about government projects that will affect them, and that they be given the opportunity to object to these projects moving forward. Although Humala acknowledged that changes for Peru's indigenous peoples would not occur overnight, the passage and signing of this law marks a major step forward in recognizing many of their rights enshrined in the International Labor Organization's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention and the American Convention on Human Rights, to both of which Peru is a state-party, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In late spring 2009, the long-standing marginalization of indigenous peoples in Peru by the government and private corporations became newly apparent, as protests erupted in Bagua province, in

northern Peru, against the proposed expansion of drilling, logging, and hydroelectric dam projects in rain forest territory. The violence that ensued finally prompted the Peruvian Congress to pass the FPIC law. Despite concerns by former President Alan García that the law would hinder economic growth by preventing foreign investment, President Humala and indigenous rights activists argued that the law would actually facilitate economic growth. By working with indigenous peoples to reach an agreement on economic development projects, conflicts like the situation in Bagua will not occur.

Regardless of the potential economic effects of FPIC, Peru is now obligated under both international law and domestic law to consult with indigenous peoples on projects that may affect them.

FPIC as a right is intrinsically linked to many other rights protected under international human rights mechanisms, especially the right to participation, the communal right to property, and the right to cultural identity. Projects for which indigenous peoples must be consulted, inherently affect their cultural life because indigenous culture and traditions are so connected to the land on which they live.



Summer Student Notice of Job Opportunities

Sudbury Tax Centre/Tax Services Office Summer Student Employment and Aboriginal Student Employment

Students currently enrolled in an accredited secondary (Grade 12 or higher) or post-secondary institution and who are returning to full-time studies in the fall of 2012 are invited to explore summer and Aboriginal student employment opportunities by visiting our website at: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/careers.

This Notice of Opportunity is for Summer and Aboriginal Students. Candidates will be asked to provide proof of their enrollment as a full time student and proof that they will be returning to full time studies in September 2012.

The Canada Revenue Agency is an equal opportunity employer committed to building a skilled, diverse workforce reflective of Canadian society. Applicants applying for Aboriginal Student Employment **must** indicate if they are an Aboriginal person.

We thank all applicants for their interest however only applicants selected for further consideration will be contacted.



Canada Revenue Agency

Agence du revenu du Canada

Canada

STAFF

Allan Dokis
Director
dokall@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2251

Mike Sawyer
Treaty Research Clerk
michael.sawyer@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2237

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

Theresa Stevens
Administrative Assistant
theresa.stevens@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2327

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

Kevin Restoule
Policy Analyst
kevin.restoule@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2304

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



Anishinabek/Ontario talk harvesting, culture

By Arnya Assance

UOI OFFICES – The Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council's Harvesting Task Team has participated in two Inter Treaty Harvesting sessions – Lake Huron Region in March and Northern Superior in August.

At the Sagamok Anishinawbek Fall Gathering, we saw a community “just doing it” By hosting the fall gathering, the community ensures that traditional knowledge is passed down from Elders and harvesters to the youth and children. Whatever is harvested is shared in the community.

They have asserted their jurisdiction in the with respect to Inter Treaty Harvesting. A key element to harvesting in Anishinabek Nation is we are moving toward developing our inter treaty harvest protocol.

At the Lands Task Team they've identified two key priorities, updating the Harvesting Guide and CD, and to have a session on Lands issues such as the long-standing item, incidental cabins

Natural and Cultural Interests Task team met in the Southeast Region talking about cultural sites, species at risk, invasive species, and wild rice harvest. A key theme from this gathering is harvesting does occur in the Southern region.

The goal of the Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council (AORMC) is to improve communication, dialogue, and relations between the Anishinabek Nation and its 39 member First Nations, and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The RMC purpose is to provide opportunities for Anishinabek First Nations and the MNR to discuss resource management topic, exchange information, facilitate a common understanding, and collaborate on the resolution of policy-level issues. The intention in creating the AORMC was to provide First Nations with a formal, common table through which priority matters could be discussed

Three key priorities identified by AORMC are: Harvesting, Lands and Natural & Cultural Interests.

The AORMC has evolved to a streamlined approach of a steering (management) committee with regional representation.



Chinese delegates meet Madahbee

Chinese Delegates with Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee during visit to Sagamok Anishinawbek during the annual Fall Gathering.

Learning about harvesting wild rice, the American Eel and turtles

By Maurice Switzer

ALDERVILLE FN – The 60 participants in an Oct. 19 Natural and Cultural Gathering came away with a good sense of some of the foundations of Anishinabek teachings.

“This is our history,” Ron Bernard told the gathering, displaying a collection of points and pottery shards dating back as far as 8,000 years. A slide presentation showed ochre pictographs on the Mazinaw Rock, which have survived over 1,000 years on the huge cliff that towers 325 feet above Mazinaw Lake and sinks to the same depth beneath the surface. The Pikwakanagan councillor said First Nations have to fight for access to artifacts such as the ones he displayed from the Ottawa Valley watershed, only to learn that the museums and institutions that so jealously hoard them often toss them into landfill sites.

Chief James Marsden welcomed visitors to his community, noting his involvement in many discussions about heritage issues in his role as Southeast Region Chief for the Anishinabek Nation. The gathering attracted citizens from the 39 member Anishinabek First Nations, as well as staff members from Parks Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The event was hosted by the Anishinabek/Ontario Resource Management Council.

Alderville naturalist Rick Beaver spoke about his pet project, a preserve of Black Oak Savanna and Tallgrass Prairie. Beaver said the First Nations' 50-hectare site is included in the estimated 1 per cent of such vegetation that survives across Canada. His presentation indicated that First Nations territories are literally the last refuge for many species of vegetation and wildlife that fall victim to urbanization and pollution.

Jeff Beaver, Alderville's Archaeological Liaison, and longtime champion of restoration of wild rice populations, presented a film on the life cycle of Manomin. Beaver said the already scarce plants

are further endangered by cottagers, who often pull them out by their roots because they think they are weeds.

David Mowat, a councillor for the First Nation and its unofficial historian, presented on the Williams Treaty, which Alderville and six other Mississauga and Chippewa First Nations are pursuing through the courts as a result of the 1923 document costing them their traditional harvesting rights. Mowat noted that the First Nations were not allowed to have legal representation when the treaty was discussed with them, and were not even provided copies of the document for eight years.

Maurice Switzer, director of communications for the Union of Ontario Indians, spoke to the importance of wampum belts, including the 1764 Treaty of Niagara Covenant Chain – which he said recognized that North American Indians were Nations and that their lands were inviolable. The 1701 Dish with One Spoon Belt, by which the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek agreed to share fish and game in their traditional territories, “is the only inter-treaty harvesting permission we need.”

Bill Allen and Christine Luckasavitch presented on the American Eel, once a food staple for First Nations communities across southern Ontario, and now facing extinction, largely due to mortality rates created in traditional migratory routes by the presence of hydro-electric dams. Allen said the eel “comes from the East, like the Anishinabeg”, and wondered if the creatures were the snake-like figures depicted on the Teaching Rocks at Peterborough's Petroglyphs Provincial Park and in the Serpent Mounds burial site at nearby Hiawatha First Nation.

Noting displays about endangered turtle populations and other species mounted for the event by Parks Canada, Elder Gordon Waindubence concluded the gathering with the observation that environmental degradation is making “humankind the most endangered species.”



Protesting the Oilsands

Hundreds protest against the tar sands on Parliament Hill in Ottawa September 26, 2011, with many climbing over a fence between them and police in a mass act of civil disobedience. Here, one of the organizers of the event, President of the Communications, Energy and Paper Workers Union, Dave Coles, is the first to climb the fence and be arrested. Maude Barlow (far left) was in the first wave over the fence and was led away by police. –Julie Oliver, Ottawa Citizen

STAFF

Jason Laronde
Director
larjas@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2263

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

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

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

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

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

Marlene Bilous
L&R Policy Analyst
marlene.bilous@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2183

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.





WENJI-BIMAADZIYING/ OUR ENVIRONMENT



ASK HOLLY

BY HOLLY BRODHAGEN

askholly@gmail.com



Heating with wood

More than one million families heat their homes with wood. The number of people heating with wood is increasing as a means of lowering their energy costs and providing themselves with alternative in times of resource shortages. The art of heating with wood has three important factors: fuel, stove and technique.

Before we talk about the wood itself, we will talk about the stove. Whether you are using an older stove or a new stove it is important that it is installed according to code to keep your family and home safe. Before buying a used stove, think about whether it is safe meaning that it will not allow smoke or gases to vent into the heating space instead of the chimney. If you doubt its safety do not purchase it. There are many resources available to help you determine if your stove is installed properly. These resources have information about distances from stove and stove pipe to combustibles. If unsure of the safety of your stove then it is a good idea to call in a WETT (Wood Energy Technology Training) inspector/installer. For a fee, they will evaluate your stove and the set up or set it up for you.

Living in northern Ontario it is a familiar sight to see a pile of wood waiting to be stacked for drying and then for storing. Since green wood is high in moisture the idea is to dry the wood over the summer while keeping it protected from the rain and then storing it under cover for the winter. To dry wood efficiently, you want air to pass through the logs to whisk away moisture while allowing the sun to dry the pile. Avoid piling wood in the shade and do not pile it directly on the ground. It is a good idea to have a variety of wood types such as softwoods for kindling and for fast, hot burns during the fall and spring and hardwoods for long fires on cold winter days.

I have heard the advice from many veteran wood stove users that the secret to a good fire is being able to start the darn thing and keep it lit. Personally I have tried the paper twists, paper balls, log cradles and every other method suggested with varying degrees of success. The Canadian Home Mortgage Association has a pamphlet out that describes the best way to light fires and keep them burning efficiently. Personally, my stove did not read the pamphlet and won't perform to their specification so we do what works for us including regular chimney cleaning.

Safety with a woodstove is important. It comes down to common sense. Do not hang clothes from the wood stove, don't store flammables beside the stove, be careful of sparks when opening doors and properly dispose of ashes.

There is nothing quite as wonderful as coming in out of the cold and warming up with a hot cup of cocoa while sitting beside a woodstove. I hope you enjoy the comfort of your woodstove in the cold months to come.



Did you know that a microenvironment is established on this log? A microenvironment is a small specific area, distinguished from its immediate surroundings by such factors as the amount of incident light, the degree of moisture, and the range of temperatures. For Example, This small log that is partly submerged underwater is a microenvironment that typically supports a somewhat different community of organisms than is found on the log not submerged underwater. This is also called microhabitat.

— By Rhonda Gagnon

Indigenous foods go digital

PORT ALBERNI, B.C. — A new resource about harvesting and preparing traditional foods shares the experiences, language, and knowledge of Nuuchah-nulth elders. The Nuuchah-nulth Traditional Foods Toolkit—a six-booklet collection now available online—teaches that food security begins at home.

Developed by the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council fisheries department (Uu-a-thluk), the booklets contain exclusive content for harvesting, preparing and eating traditional foods found on Vancouver Island's west coast. These foods include sockeye salmon, herring spawn, goose barnacles, sea urchins, chitons, wild roots, and eelgrass.

"Our ancestors have harvested wild foods for over 10,000 years and a number of our people still harvest wild food today," says Nuuchah-Nulth Tribal Council Vice-President, Priscilla Sabbas Watts. "This knowledge is more important than ever in the face of global food instability. Sharing this wisdom will make it more accessible to future generations."

Today nearly two billion people struggle to feed themselves due to war, drought, flooding, and disease. Vancouver Island residents live in one of the richest natural paradises on the planet, yet 90 % of our food comes from elsewhere. The Nuuchah-

nulth Traditional Foods Toolkit recalls a time when people made food choices based on what they found in their natural habitat, and not on supermarket shelves.

Encompassing a wealth of user-friendly information, the Toolkit includes six booklets:

Eelgrass: "Candy of the Sea"
Tips for Drying and Smoking
Salmon
Steam Pit Cooking
Low Tide Foods
Herring Spawn
Reference Guide

Additionally, the booklets contain activities suitable for integrating into school curricula.

"The toolkit offers a tremendous opportunity to pass on traditional knowledge, which teaches self reliance, nutrition, pride for one's heritage, and sustainability—all important to developing food sovereignty," adds Sabbas Watts.

The booklets are on sale through the Uu-a-thluk website in downloadable formats. Proceeds go towards education and training programs for youth and others in Nuuchah-nulth Nations. To learn more about the booklets or to purchase copies, visit www.uuathluk.ca.



GREENING

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ANISHINABEK



NEWS

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



Elijah Harper and Algonquin Elder Annie St. Georges at the Oct. 28-29 Covenant Chain Link II Conference in Ottawa.

Covenant Chain Link II

Colonization, Decolonization and Reconciliation

By Suzanne Keptwo

The Building Bridges Partnership Project (BBPP) organized its Covenant Chain Link II Conference, Ottawa, Oct. 28 and 29. The theme Colonization, Decolonization, and Reconciliation united an impressive panel of speakers from each group of Aboriginal Peoples - opening with Elijah Harper, the renowned Cree MP who blocked the Canadian constitutional amendment of 1990 due to insufficient participation of Aboriginal Peoples.

He reminisced about political beginnings in Manitoba "Door-to-door canvassing and asking for five dollar membership fees [from a historically self-governing people] was totally foreign to my community".

He referred to the Sacred Assembly he initiated in 1995, Justice Inquiries, the Royal Commission, the National Apology, and the Truth and Reconciliation process. But "there is no political will to make change. What will become of the Truth & Reconciliation process when it doesn't have a mandate?" Harper lamented.

A film "The Experimental Eskimos" followed, revealing a 1960s federal government social engineering project which brought children to Ottawa to determine if Inuit could academically and socially learn on par with Euro-Canadians. Although the experiment produced articulate advocates for Inuit rights, panelists Peter Itunaru, Zebedee Nungak, and Eric Tagoon - featured in the film - personally suffered due to a six year estrangement from their families, language & culture.

Maurice Switzer, citizen of Alderville FN, displaying a replica of a 1764 Covenant Chain, emphasized the sacredness of the agreements. Guest presenter LuAnn Hill-Macdonald (Six Nations) reinforced that "Peace, Friendship, and a Good Mind

were symbolized by three links representing the relationship agreed upon between nations. These principles are needed to restore our relationships". Maurice Switzer explained "silver links need to be polished and renewed" just as the terms of treaty agreements need to be revisited for purposes of reconciliation.

Lobbyist and negotiator, Toni Belcourt (Métis), helped gain official recognition of Métis Peoples in the Constitution Act of 1982. Although the traditional role of his people was to bridge two encountering cultures, he expressed how "the Indian Act and treaties were made to divide people. Covenants were never intended to be upheld. The only recourse is to go to court, but there is no money."

The KAIROS Indigenous Rights Circle (where the BBPP originates) includes faith-based and secular Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples from across Canada. Says, Kairos' Indigenous Rights Program Coordinator and conference organizer, Ed Bianchi: "The systemic discrimination and racism existing in our society - acting as an obstacle to justice and reconciliation - is rooted in ignorance."

Few Canadians know anything about Indigenous people. This makes them susceptible to racial stereotypes, myths and misconceptions - a vulnerability that is often manipulated by the federal government".

The conference was largely intended for educators responsible for educating all Canadian youth in Ontario about First Nation, Inuit, and Métis perspectives. But as one commentator from the audience pointed out: "Where are the [non-Aboriginal] educators and administrators responsible for the implementation of the Aboriginal Education Policy?"

The BBPP strives to honor Covenant Chains and address how much the education system in this country does not teach.



Pottawatami Cree Theland Kicknosway.



Restoration of Jurisdiction

..... Implementing the Anishinabek Declaration of 1980



Use education to bring youth home

By Andrea Crawford – ROJ Communications Officer

SAULT STE. MARIE – There's nothing more important than building strong communities that Anishinabek youth can thrive in. This was the message that came from Chief Lyle Sayers at a recent Education Working Group meeting in Sault Ste. Marie.

"We have come a long way in developing education for Anishinabek and I can see a change taking place in our young people," said Chief Sayers. "They are learning who they are and they're starting to come home again and we need to be able to offer them something worth coming home for."

This message was reiterated by twenty-five Education Working Group members throughout a three-day meeting that focused on reviewing the elements of the Anishinabek Education System (AES), the Kinomaadswin Education Body (KEB) and the Fiscal Transfer Agreement (FTA).

After more than a decade of negotiating with Canada for jurisdiction over First Nations education, the negotiations are nearing a close and the Anishinabek will soon start preparing for the ratification and implementation of the Anishinabek Education System, in April 2014.

The administrative bodies of the AES and the KEB were closely reviewed by the working group members, who gave input in order to ensure the best possible structure is established at the time of

implementation.

Fran Couchie, KEB board member, gave participants an update on the status of the corporation, which elected interim officers to the Board of Directors in May 2011.

Couchie informed the working group that most of the KEB's work plan has been stalled because funding for the corporate entity was declined this fiscal year.

The Board of Directors will submit a new funding proposal for next year, in order to move forward with its implementation plans for the education system.

Anishinabek Nation Fiscal Negotiator Andrew Arnott also presented the group with the details of the Fiscal Transfer Agreement, in which the purpose of the fiscal arrangement, the main goals of the negotiations and the Education Funding Gap Analysis were all discussed at length.

While the Anishinabek Nation is still waiting for a fiscal response from Canada regarding the amount of funding that will be allocated to the Agreement, the working group did have the opportunity to discuss the elements of the FTA and receive clarity on funding conditions.

A complete fiscal proposal is expected from Canada in December 2011, and negotiators expect to present the proposal to the Education Working Group at its next meeting in January 2012.



Education Working Group member Darlene Monet, from Thessalon FN, listens closely to the details of the Fiscal Transfer Agreement that will support the Anishinabek Education System once it is implemented in April 2014. The fiscal arrangement of the Education Agreement was an important topic of discussion at the Education Working Group meeting, which took place October 18-20, in Sault Ste. Marie.

Anishinabek Nation E'Dbendaagzijig Conference

"Those who Belong"

December 13 & 14, 2011
Munsee Delaware Nation

The Anishinabek Nation is hosting a two-day conference to discuss the challenges and the way forward in the implementation of the Anishinabek Nation E'Dbendaagzijig Naaknigewin. The potential impacts of Bill C-3 and the proposed Anishinabek Nation E'Dbendaagzijig Naaknigewin will also be examined.

Keynote Speaker

Jeannette Corbiere Lavell

Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on Citizenship

To register for this event, please contact:

Andrea Crawford—Union of Ontario Indians

Email: andrea.crawford@anishinabek.ca

Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200

Visit our Facebook page for more information on this event:

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?id=230471363672679>



FIRST NATION CONSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

"Drafting a Constitution"

December 6 & 7, 2011
Delta Hotel, Sault Ste. Marie

This workshop is designed for First Nations that are in the beginning phases of constitution development. The main focus of the workshop will centre on how to draft a constitution that addresses the individual needs of a First Nation and is representative of its citizens.

In this workshop, constitution committee members will learn, among other things:

1. What to include in a First Nation Constitution
2. How to consult with community citizens
3. How to prepare for ratification and implementation
4. How to maximize communications with citizens

For more information and to register for this workshop please contact:

Lorie Young

First Nation Constitution Coordinator

youlor@anishinabek.ca

Phone: (705) 497-8127

Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200





Kinomaadswin Education Body

Board of Directors



Merle Pegahmagabow – Chairperson, KEB Board of Director

Merle Pegahmagabow is a member of Wasauksing First Nation who has dedicated the majority of his life to the fields of education and culture. As the education counsellor in his community, Merle fought for the inclusion of Anishinabe studies in the curriculum and was involved in the development of the Ontario Native Education Counselling Association.

Having spent more than 15 years as the former Head Negotiator for the Anishinabek Nation in the restoration of jurisdiction over education, Merle was recently appointed as the Chairperson for the KEB Board of Directors, and he continues to act in an advisory capacity to the Education Working Group. In addition, he is a fluent speaker of Anishinaabemowin who strongly believes that the work we do today will ensure the survival of Anishinabe culture and language and secure a better tomorrow for future generations.

Linda Peterson – Vice-Chairperson, KEB Board of Directors

Linda Peterson was raised in Wikwemikong, but now resides in Wawa. She is a member of Michipicoten First Nation, where she is currently serving in her second term on Council and works as the Community Services Supervisor in Health, Education, Library Services and Indian Registry Administration. Not only is she a certified teacher of the Ojibwa language, but Linda also sits on various Native Educational Working Groups and is a strong advocate for advancing educational issues. She has strong traditional beliefs and promotes traditional community togetherness through her role as a wife, a mother and a Nokomis of five grandchildren.

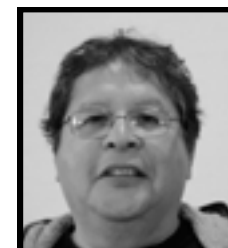


Fran Couchie – Secretary, KEB Board of Directors

Fran Couchie is a citizen of Nipissing First Nation with an extensive professional background in education. She has been employed as the Education Director for Nipissing First Nation since 2007, and began attending regular Education Working Group meetings almost immediately. Her long-standing professional experience is what guides her in her contributions to the restoration of First Nations jurisdiction over education. In her time with the Education Working Group, Fran has been impressed with the years of dedication, commitment and thoroughness that have been put into developing the Education Agreement and the Anishinabek Education System.

Matthew Armstrong – Treasurer, KEB Board of Directors

As a citizen of Mississauga First Nation, Matthew Armstrong has been a dedicated member of the Education Working Group for over three years. In learning about the underfunding of education programming among First Nations and the inequalities that exist in First Nations education, Matthew has become a staple contributor and strong advocate for restoring jurisdiction over education to Anishinabek First Nations. He considers himself as a life-long learner who has a keen interest in the area of First Nations education and believes that investing in Anishinabek youth will enhance the future of all First Nations.



Sharon Goulais – KEB Board of Directors

Sharon Goulais was born and raised in Toronto, and is now a residing citizen of Dokis First Nation. After moving home to Dokis several years ago, Sharon became the Education Administrator for Dokis First Nation. She has occupied this position for more than six years now, and she sincerely enjoys her work, always looking forward learning new ways to improve the future for First Nations youth. As a member of the Education Working Group, Sharon has been contributing to the development process of the Education Negotiations for over six years. In her additional role as one of the KEB Board members, Sharon will be a major contributor to the establishment of the Anishinabek Education System over the coming years.

Judy Desmoulin – KEB Board of Directors

In her community of Long Lake #58 First Nation, Judy Desmoulin is the Councillor who holds the education portfolio. She has demonstrated her commitment to this field through her many accomplishments. With a B.A in Education and a Native Teachers Certificate, Judy has fought for better education standards among First Nations for years and she played a key role in developing an appropriate school system in Long Lake #58. She has been a dedicated member of the Education Working Group for six years and as testimony of her commitment to the restoration of First Nations jurisdiction over education, Judy is now serving her community as a member of the KEB Board of Directors.



Loretta Roy – KEB Board of Directors

Loretta Roy is a member of the turtle clan from Sheshegwaning First Nation. Loretta has always had an invested interest in the education of Anishinaabe children, especially in the area of traditional culture and language, and she has been contributing to the Education Working Group for roughly 12 years. In addition to her extensive contributions to the development of the Anishinabek Education System, Loretta also sits on the Board of Directors for Mnaamodzawin Health Services, she is a member of the UCCMM Elders Advisory Council and she recently joined the MWT steering committee in the area of cultural advisory.

Della Meness – KEB Board of Directors

Della Meness is the Education Manager for the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan and she has been a member of the Education Working Group for roughly four years. In her role as the Education Manager, Della oversees the daily operations of all Education Programs and administers all program expenditures: develops program budgets & long-term plans, negotiates tuition agreements & bussing contracts, as well as supervises staff. With her professional experience and her countless contributions to the field of Education, Della and her belief in building a brighter future for Anishinabek youth are a highly valuable asset to the Education Working Group.



DOHM-NUK/LET'S PLAY

Patience pays in pulling

By Marci Becking

NORTH BAY – Think twice before picking on the Bosum family. Dad John and children Faith, 10 and Casey, 8 are competitive arm wrestlers. Originally from Oujé-Bougoumou



John Bosum

First Nation in Quebec, they now live in North Bay where John is studying forestry at Canadore College.

"My wife is our number one fan," says John, who placed fifth in September's Canadian National Armwrestling Championships in Ottawa. Casey was also fifth in the 9-10 age category.

"I pull their arms – make them work," says John.

The kids arm curl 25-35 pounds. John does 100-150 pound dumb bells. His biceps are 12 and a half inches round.

"I started when I was about 12, my older brother Rusty used to downsize me all the time," says John. "It made me self-motivated. I turned all the negative energy around and proved him wrong. Three years ago I challenged him to an arm wrestle. He used both hands and lost."

At the age of 14, John was too strong to compete in any youth categories so he would enter in men's categories.

"I placed second in all of Quebec," says John. It's not all about how big you are – it's technique and the strength of your tendons. Arm wrestling takes a lot will power and mental training. You have to learn how to lose before you start winning."

Most of John's sponsors come from Quebec, but he's starting to be known in the North Bay area.

"The sport has taught me how to be patient and meticulous. I use the same things when I craft my snow shoes."

John's snow shoes are traditionally-made, usually out of caribou and moose hide. He has been doing the craft for eight years.

"I make the shoes out of birch, tamarack or black ash," says John. "It usually takes me a good two weeks to make a pair."

John's snowshoes are selling for \$375. He has samples of his work on his Facebook site or he can be reached at 705-491-1516.

Staying healthy involves goals

By Eden Beaudin

When you are healthy, you can do almost anything you can possibly think of.

Your mind can learn and be focussed when you have had a healthy and full breakfast. Your ability to jump high, run fast, and play hard would be incredible! Not just that -- you will feel amazing!

The first thing is to eat healthy. Eat the four food groups: fruits and vegetables, meat and alternatives, milk and alternatives, and grains. Having a fruit salad in the morning with toast and an egg and a cup of orange juice will fill you up.

Another thing: eat the portions that your age can handle. Check it out in Canada's Food guide. Meat and alternatives give you protein. Milk gives you strong bones, 3-4 cups for 9-18 year olds girls and boys. Grains, like granola bars, make a good snack to give you a little more energy.

"Junk food" is good once and a while but not every day.

Another thing is physical activity. It's very important for your body. Ninety minutes of physical activity every day, regular exercise is very important. Hockey, soccer, football, and basketball are all great sports. Gymnastics, cross-country running, and bike riding around the country are also good. If you don't like running or any competitive sports you can always walk every day, but you should always try new things.

Making a goal for yourself is important because you always try harder to get to that goal or even higher. An appropriate goal is something you think you can do, but not too easy. In your goal, you want to have an amount of time not too long but, not too short, either. A week to a year is a good way to start. Some people can only go day to day, and that is all right.

Trying to exercise and eat healthy is the way to go. Your body will love it and so will you!



Eden Beaudin

Rabbit & Bear Paws

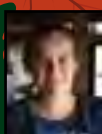


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4th Annual Pegasus Literary Writing Award



Eden Beaudin with Emily Southwind, Sagamok First Nation



EDEN BEAUDIN is 12 years old. She is a young author of the book the *Adventures of Pegasus and I with all of our Friends*. She is the founder of the Pegasus Literary Writing Award. In 2008, she won Junior Citizen of the Year award. Now she works as a columnist for the Anishinabek News. She is a student at Lakeview school.

On behalf of the Anishinabek Nation, congratulations on another successful year.

"Your education is important to our future. We want our young people to continue to have the right to education, as our Treaties have guaranteed us."

Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee



Anishinabek

EDUCATION

Kinoomaagewin



A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANISHINABEK NEWS
NOVEMBER 2011



AEI Early Childhood Educator Resource Teacher graduates: Claudette Rondeau, Sarah Assinewe, Fernie Copegog-King, Rose Hunter, Susie Guanish, Bonita Eshkawkogan, Darla Owl-Jones, Cheryl Shawanda, Sharon King, Angela Williams, Julie McLeod, Kerry Kaboni

AEI responds to needs for Early Childhood Resource Teachers

By *Melanie Tambeau and Marci Becking*

NIPISSING FN – Some Anishinabek parents won't have to move to urban centres travel or travel to receive special needs services for their children.

The first students of the Anishinabek Educational Institute's Early Childhood Educator Resource Teacher post-diploma program graduated on Oct. 1 and they are now working in communities.

12 graduates who made the commitment to complete many hours of work both in the classroom and on field placement are now seeing the benefits of continuing their education.

Susie Guanish from Kawawachikamach First Nation and Kerry Kaboni from Nipissing First Nation have already found employment in their field as Educational Assistants working with children with special needs.

Fernie Copegog-King from Beausoleil First Nation has been promoted to Kindergarten Teacher with the movement of the early learning in the school in her home community.

"The Resource Teacher program has better my awareness and understanding to what it take to ensure the children get what they need for learning" Fernie

Claudette Rondeau from Temagami First Nation relocated to a different community New Liskeard where she has been promoted to the Early Learning teacher and cultural teacher for the children.

Bonita Eshkawkogan, citizen of Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, has been promoted to a supervisor position at the Wikwemikong Daycare.

"I was so happy AEI had this program, even though I had my ECE I wanted to know more about how to help our children who have special needs. It also allowed me to get more education on the IEP which gives me the knowledge to receive my promotion" Bonita

Sarah Assinewe from Wikwemikong has considered taking the next step in her education and returning to receive her degree in the Early Childhood Education field.

"AEI made me feel successful knowing that I can achieve a higher level of education," says Sarah Assinewe.

First Nations are finding that there is a greater demand for resource and special needs teachers for children under six. In this position, teachers advocate for the children and families to have their needs met.

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KTEI's 2nd Annual Fall Harvest Huge Success in Learning

By Beverly Roy-Carter

M'CHIGEENG - The smell of sweet pickles, cattail cookies, moose meatballs, and high-bush cranberry jam were but only a few of wonderful smells at the 2nd Annual KTEI Fall Harvest held on September 21 and 22nd in M'Chigeeng First Nation. While the event's preferred location is outdoors, like the success of a crop or harvest, hosting a successful outdoor event also depends largely on the weather; but it seemed the booths and visitors to the 2nd Annual Fall Harvest had no trouble improvising though, as the overcast and damp weather didn't seem to hamper the smiles and taste buds of neither the young nor old. In only its second year, KTEI event organizers estimated 750+ visitors attended this two-day event!

Visitors and school children alike learned how to prepare and preserve many foods, such as beets, jams, and jellies. Keeping well stocked samples at the corny corn station and Katy's Wild Rice station were hard to keep up with – but not to be outdone, Patsy's scone "rocked", as one young taste testers remarked; and so, helpers were quickly enlisted to help Patsy keep up to the demand! Rock painting, male and female drumming, and medicine wheel teaching activities rounded out the Fall Harvest's culinary experience.

"This year, we focused on providing both teachers and students ideas and lessons to take back to their classrooms after taking in all the events at the Fall Harvest. As a former classroom teacher, the experiential hands-on learning

method is always an effective way to capture the attention of young minds", said Debbie Debassige, KTEI's Director of School Services.

Kenjgewin Teg Educational

Institute is located on Mniidoo Mnising (Manitoulin Island, ON) is one of eight members within the Aboriginal Institutes Consortium in Ontario. KTEI and its AIC members are dedicated to provid-

ing relevant, community based education for Aboriginal students of all ages. For more information on KTEI go to www.ktei.net or facebook.com/Kenjgewin-Teg-Educational-Institute.



Participants at the 2011 Education Conference held in Wikwemikong.
– Photo by Raymond Madahabee

Student success focus of education conference

By Dominic Beaudry

WIKWEMIKONG –The Wikwemikong Board of Education hosted the 2011 Education Conference at the Wikwemikong High School in October

The conference theme was First Nations Student Success with a focus on Literacy, Numeracy, Student Retention, Student Assessments and School Improvement Planning.

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahabee spoke of the need to educate all students with excellence and that the federal government should fund First Nations schools with equity in mind. The First Nations demographic is rapidly increasing and our students will be part of Ontario's and Canada's future.

The two-day conference featured four keynote speakers which included: Tom Hierck a former principal and vice principal from British Columbia, Susan Stephenson an author and former principal from Toronto, Dr. Anthony Muhammad an education consultant from Southfield, Michigan and Dr. Lorna Earl an educator, scholar, and former member and implementer of the EQAO.

The workshop presenters included: Sue Griffin, Marjatta Longston, Louis Mahon, Sue Corke, Melanie Dixon, Julie Balen, Angie DeMarco, Theresa Hoy, Doreen Peltier, Dylan Shigwadja, and Barbara Peltier. The music and entertainment was provided by Mr. Eugene Manitowabi a recent inductee into the Northern Ontario Country Music Hall of Fame and on Friday The Wiky Boyz Band provided country rock music.

Some 400 participants came from all over Ontario and including British Columbia, and Michigan. The presenters focused their keynotes on Professional Learning Communities, Humour and Laughter in the Classroom, PLC's and accountability and student data driven school improvement planning, and Assessments for student improvement. The seminar presentations included: First Nations Teachings, Anishinabemwin Curriculum Development, Special Education and Student Accommodations, Information Technology for the Classroom, Literacy Coaching Strategies, Numeracy Coaching Strategies, First Nations Student Success Program Open Forum, and the Early Childhood Educators Information session.

The conference allowed educators that teach Early Childhood, Kindergarten and to Grade 12 classroom teachers to network.

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Aboriginal Emerging Writer winner inspired by experience

By Christine McFarlane

Nathan Adler, 30, from Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation (Nezaadiikaang-Place of the Poplars) and who now resides in Orangeville was one of eight 2011 recipients of an Aboriginal Emerging Writer grant funded by the Canada Council for the Arts.

The grant allowed Adler to take part in the Aboriginal residency program at the Banff Centre for Performing Arts. While in the two-week residency portion of the program, Adler worked on a novel called *WRIST* – a thinly veiled history of the process of colonization and *Monsters: A family of Anishinaabe descended from a Windigo*, and a collection of poetry called “In the Long Grass, which is about family stories.”

Adler who studied English and Native Studies at Trent University and Integrated Media at OCAD University, which is located in the heart of downtown, Toronto has a love for writing because he always liked to read and wanted to write something like the books he loved to read and because he like to tell stories.

“I’ve never had this kind of support before in any writing project and it has been a really inspiring experience, and I am thankful that I got this opportunity.”



Nathan Adler

Book Reviews by Joyce Atcheson



Being brave

Jamie, a 13-year-old First Nations youth, is hired to assist a group-guiding experience and becomes entangled in the biggest adventure of his life, one that makes him a far more experienced guide than most adults.

The party taking the trip includes a brother and sister duo who are of the British royal family with their two body guards who insist on giving orders. Ray, the guide, refuses to take them on the trip and the entire group gains a lesson in expertise.

Roy's and Jamie's leadership in the bush is established and the fun begins.

The city dwelling royals live with all the comforts, servants, and niceties of life and find themselves facing bugs, bears, surviving, being lost, shooting rapids unwittingly, and being forced to hike miles of game trails to stay alive.

Royal Ransom – Eric Walters (Penguin Books, Toronto, ON; 2003; ISBN 0-12-331214-6; 215 pages; \$23.00)

Facing fear

Traditionally, becoming a Crow Chief was dangerous; it wasn't an election process.

A Crow warrior could only become chief if he could fulfill four different deeds, of counting coup. The first was to steal a prized horse; the second, to touch the first enemy to fall in battle; third, to take an enemy's weapon; and fourth, to lead a successful war party.

All of these coups took courage, belief in one's medicine, and planning. Warriors who were unsuccessful died in their attempts.

Winter Man, whose Christian name is Joseph Medicine Crow, attended a local Baptist school, boarding school, learned white man's religion, and met the challenges given to him by his teachers.

Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond – Joseph Medicine Crow with Herman J. Viola (National Geographic, Washington, DC; 2003; ISBN 0-7922-5391-4, trade; 128 pages, \$21.95)

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Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux

Getting out the First Peoples vote

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY –Providing polling stations at Aboriginal-friendly locations is one suggestion to get more Aboriginal people out to vote in municipal, provincial and federal elections.

“I think the friendship centres would be a good alternative, because the friendship centres are friendship centres and everybody goes there,” says Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, keynote speaker at the Ayaminaaniwan — Having a Voice roundtable discussion on Aboriginal participation in municipal elections, held Oct. 12 at Lakehead University’s Avila Centre in Thunder Bay. “You have to think of locations that are accessible. That’s why they go to churches and schools, because they have big hallways.”

Concerns were raised during the roundtable discussion about First Nations people finding poll stations in churches or schools uncomfortable due to their or their family member’s painful experiences in residential schools, which were operated by a number of churches.

A Liberal Party candidate in the May 2011 federal election and University of Toronto assistant professor from Chippewas of Georgina Island, Wesley-Esquimaux suggests trying out friendship centres and post-secondary

campuses during upcoming elections to see how the voting process goes.

“The colleges would be excellent, because again, big hallways and they could involve the student councils,” Wesley-Esquimaux says. “Go where people go, because a lot of people do not have transportation. They don’t have cars and even some cannot get on the bus.”

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INSPECTION

Notice of Slash Pile Burning Nipissing Forest

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)** invites you to inspect the MNR-approved prescribed burn plan for slash pile burning that will be carried out in the **Nipissing Forest** (see map).

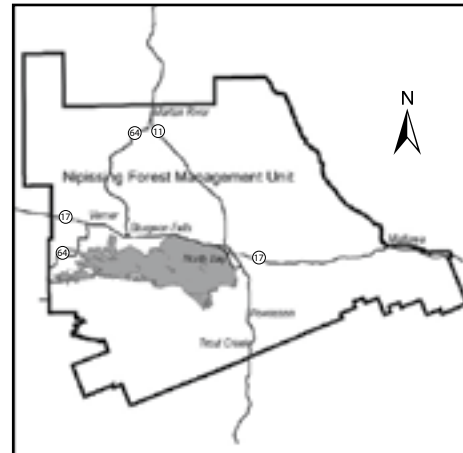
As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, some recently harvested areas have been selected to be burned under the strict guidelines of the MNR *Prescribed Burn Planning Manual*. The prescribed burn will reduce the area covered in slash piles while increasing the area available for regeneration and reducing the fire hazard. The burn is scheduled for ignition between **November 14, 2011**, and **November 25, 2011**.

Information about this prescribed burn project, including specific locations and maps, is available for public viewing at the office of Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. during normal business hours and the MNR public website at ontario.ca/forestplans beginning **November 1, 2011**. The ServiceOntario Centre, located at 447 McKeown Avenue in North Bay, provides access to the Internet.

For more information, please contact:

Guylaine Thauvette, Nipissing Area Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources
North Bay District Office
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Chippewas of the Thames 14,000 square foot business centre.
– Photo by Greg Plain

Open for business

CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES – The Chippewa of the Thames First Nation is pleased to announce a new and affordable option for businesses looking to set up shop within the London and Strathroy areas.

“Our new business centre will not only offer competitive rates and top notch services for local businesses, but it will also act as a catalyst for economic development in our community, providing much needed jobs,” says Joe Miskokomon, Chief of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

The Chippewa Business Centre has developed seven commercial lots for office space and light manufacturing. All of the lots available are deemed ‘shovel-ready’ with access to hydro, natural gas, phone and internet service. The Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre has already claimed one commercial lot, where it occupies a 14,000 square foot office building and greenhouse, built by the Nation.

Miskokomon says the development of the Chippewa Business Centre marks a major step forward for his Nation’s return to self-governance and self-reliance. He says the centre was created without the financial support of the federal and provincial governments. “We’re proud to say that we’ve financed this endeavour all on our own,” says Chief Miskokomon.

The new 25-acre business park, just south of Melbourne, features seven serviced industrial lots clustered around a building that houses a health care centre.

Miskokomon said the venture was launched with no government funding and brings the promise of new businesses and jobs.

“Our young people leave for the cities to find employment. We are trying to get people back home here. You have this idea, but there is really nothing to test it against. You have to figure out how it will work”.

The business park will aim to attract light industries with good access to Hwys. 401 and 402.

Miskokomon said the park was financed by the Bank of Montreal instead of a government program because the band is aiming at economic independence.

“The Indian Act is such a huge impediment to development, and we simply couldn’t wait,” he said.



Cameco’s Blind River plant manager Chris Astles, Mississauga First Nation Chief Douglas Daybutch, Mississauga First Nation education director Laurie Jacques and Cameco’s vice-president of corporate social responsibility Gary Merasty pose with the band’s new school bus.

Cameco teams with Mississauga First Nation to buy school bus

By Kevin McSheffrey
Elliot Lake Standard

MISSISSAUGA FN – Students on Mississauga First Nation are now heading to class in style and comfort thanks to contributions from Cameco and Mississauga First Nation.

The band’s 12-year-old school bus was showing its age, and the band needed a new one.

In the spring, they asked Cameco for help in getting a new school bus, says Laurie Jacques, Mississauga First Nation education director.

She says July 5 was a good day. That was when Michel Lafreniere, the band’s school bus driver, drove up with the shiny new yellow school bus.

“I would like to thank Chris (Astles - general manager at Cameco in Blind River) for having an open mind when it comes to our First Nation,” says Jacques.

She expressed her appreciation to Karin Pilon, of Cameco for her assistance.

Mississauga First Nation Chief Douglas Daybutch also expressed his appreciation to Cameco and Astles for their assistance in acquiring the school bus.

Daybutch said the First Nation has a good working relationship. Cameco has been keeping Mississauga First Nation updated on what is going on.

“It makes things a lot smoother for everybody,” explained Daybutch.

The chief also presented gifts to Astles, Pilon and Gary Merasty, Cameco’s vice-president of corporate social responsibility for their efforts.

Jacques says, “This one’s the cat’s meow.”

The bus’ price tag is just under \$100,000, says Jacques.

The bus has an intercom system, a stereo, tinted glass, folding seat and more. However, it will not only be students using the bus.

Jacques says it will also be used by groups in the community travelling to and from events.

This is not the first time Cameco assisted the First Nation with its transportation needs.

In the spring, it helped Mississauga First Nation to acquire a bus for the Elders and those with disabilities.

“The First Nation really appreciates all the contributions that Cameco makes,” says Jacques.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Helping entrepreneurs

OTTAWA – At the October Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business' Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Conference, the Government of Canada and its partners announced investments towards three projects and one investment fund that will help Aboriginal entrepreneurs to expand and grow their businesses and create jobs across the country.

“Aboriginal business is growing at a significant rate, despite recent downturns in the economy. We were pleased to host this conference that identified major opportunities for Aboriginal business across the country, and we had an opportunity to review the necessary tools for success,” said Clint Davis, CEO of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.

Rose on National Board

PETERBOROUGH – The Economic Development Association of Canada elects Kevin Rose, Mississaugas of New Credit, as a National Board member.



In 2007, Rose created history by being the first First Nation person in Kevin Rose history to earn the prestigious Professional Economic Development Designation as well as the Professional Aboriginal Economic Development Designation He will now assume a critical role as an International and First Nation Liaison as well as an EDAC professional accreditation and Ec.D examination committee member.

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