

ANISHINABEK NEWS



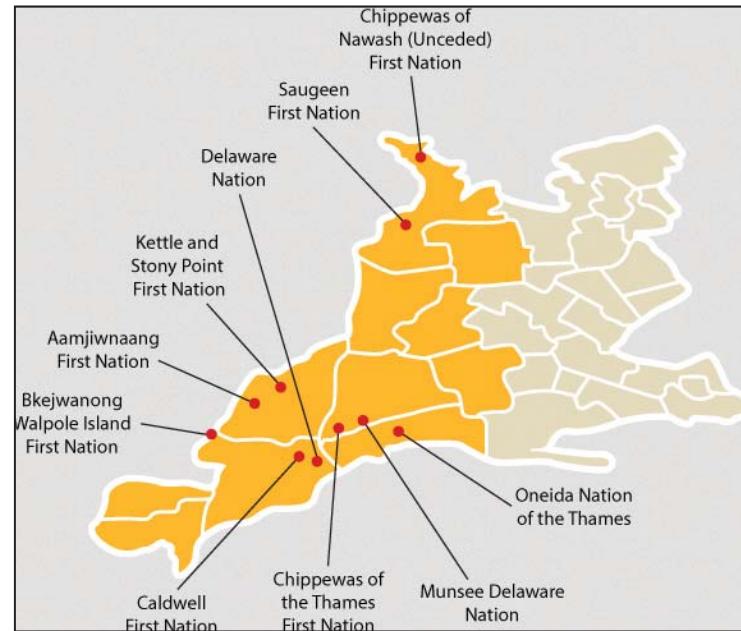
The voice of the Anishinabek Nation

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Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames. — Photo by Greg Plain

First urban reserve in Ontario

By Maurice Switzer

With files from Toronto Star

LONDON, Ont. – The Chippewas of the Thames First Nation will use a \$119-million land claim settlement to create Ontario's first urban reserve and contribute to a community plan to eradicate poverty.

"Our Comprehensive Community Plan is not money-driven – it's opportunity-driven," says Chief Joe Miskokomon, noting that proceeds of the Big Bear Creek settlement have been earmarked for four distinct areas: a \$60 million income stabilization plan that will see seniors in the southwest Ontario First Nation guaranteed \$600 indexed monthly incomes for 100 years; \$30 million for community development, which could include strategic land purchases; a \$19 million disbursement to current community members; and \$10 million to seed an education savings fund for band members pursuing post-secondary education.

"We hear a lot of talk about First Nations re-establishing our own jurisdiction," says Miskokomon. "We need the best people to do that. We've invested a great deal in capacity development to help us make our community healthier and stronger."

Chippewa of the Thames First Nation has a land base of 33 square kilometers and is located on the north shore of the Thames River, about 20 kilometres southwest of the city of London.

Under the terms of the settlement with Canada – which still has to be approved by band members – the First Nation will be able to purchase up to 21 square km. of additional land on a "willing-seller, willing-buyer" basis.

"We've changed the way the Addition to Reserve policy will effect First Nations in the future," says Miskokomon. "It took several years, but we negotiated out of our agreement that parcels of land we purchase must be located in specific areas, must be contiguous to our existing reserve, and the placing of time limits on our purchases."

registered population of 2500 citizens, of whom about 950 live on the reserve. Many of the off-reserve members reside in London, home to some 4500 First Nations people, according to the 2006 census.

"We told Canada 'You've had our property for 195 years – we want unlimited time,'" the Chief says, noting that the First Nation can purchase up to four land parcels within the traditional Chippewa treaty area.

"That reaches a number of places – the 401 and 402 transportation corridors, and a major Ontario power transmission line."

Miskokomon says his community's plan will determine the land purchases.

This may include parcels of serviced land in nearby London, that could be used to develop revenue-generating businesses for the band.

Miskokomon says he has had what he calls "healthy discussions" with Mayor Joe Fontana on possible economic partnerships.

The First Nation has a total

population of 2500 citizens, of whom about 950 live on the reserve. Many of the off-reserve members reside in London, home to some 4500 First Nations people, according to the 2006 census.

London Mayor Fontana is enthusiastic about Miskokomon's plan that could make his city the site of the province's first urban reserve.

"His bold vision and ours could lead to not only economic benefits for his nation, but for London and southwestern Ontario."

On March 9, 1819, Chippewas of the Thames entered into the Longwoods Treaty with the British Crown. A series of errors committed by the Crown and Indian Affairs resulted in the unlawful sale of Chippewas reserved lands known as Big Bear Creek.

Contrary to the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the reserved land was sold without consent of the



First Nation **Invitation to Honouring site ceremony March 25, 2013**

See Pages 12-13 for details.

ANISHINABEK

Munsee Tree Corporation launched

OTTAWA – Tree Canada, in collaboration with TD Bank Group and the Munsee-Delaware Nation, successfully established and completed the process of third-party verification on its first carbon plantation project under the Tree Canada Forest and Urban Tree Carbon Protocol in the fall of 2012. This project is part of Tree Canada's Grow Clean Air program.

The primary purpose of the project is to remove tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and sequester it in the biomass of the growing trees while, at the same time, providing carbon credits to TD. "Tree Canada is fortunate to have such a wonderful corporate partner as TD and a committed First Nation as the Munsee-Delaware who will help look after the planted trees," says Michael Rosen, Tree Canada President. "Our combined efforts in this historic undertaking cannot be understated."

The project also provided an opportunity for the Munsee-Delaware to officially launch the Munsee Tree Corporation – an educational and practical tool for the future, creating jobs for the community.

"As Aboriginal People, it is our duty to protect Mother Earth for future generations. First Nation People are the heart beat of Mother Earth," said Chief Patrick Waddilove.



A total of 52,666 hybrid poplar trees were planted during the spring of 2010 and the fall of 2011 on 27.80 hectares of Munsee-Delaware Nation-owned land.

It is anticipated that these trees will sequester a gross amount of 18,534 tonnes of CO₂ and a net amount of above-ground CO₂ of 11,241 tonnes over a period of 31 years.

Tree Canada is now at the forefront of Canadian-based tree planting initiatives under the voluntary carbon market. This pilot project was an important step in providing Tree Canada with the ability to lead in these types of projects – part of a brighter future where the planting of trees can assist in reducing CO₂ levels in the atmosphere, with the aim of helping mitigate climate change.

For more information regarding how companies and organizations can participate in the Grow Clean Air program by reducing their carbon emissions or by becoming carbon neutral with the planting of trees with Tree Canada, please visit the following link on our website: <http://treecanada.ca/en/programs/grow-clean-air/>.

Low water levels impact species at risk

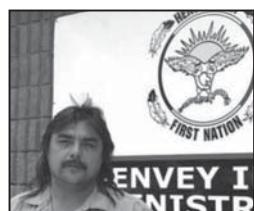
HENVEY INLET FN – Georgian Bay is in crisis due to low water levels. First Nations, Mayors and Reeves met in Parry Sound Feb. 6 to discuss and explore ways to address the issue.

Henvey Inlet First Nation Chief Wayne McQuabbie supports the resolutions from the meeting, including seeking intervention from the highest political levels in North America.

Among the urgent recommendations from the meeting are to request both levels of government to recognize that Georgian Bay/Lake Huron is in a crisis and to implement the Great Lakes Accord.

"It's nearly impossible at this point for people trying to access camps, cottages and marinas in Key Harbour," says Chief McQuabbie.

"In addition to the economic impacts as expressed by participants at the urgent meeting, I'm also equally concerned about how low water levels will impact the environment," he



Chief Wayne McQuabbie

says. "Low water levels heighten the potential for contaminants and will have an impact on Species at Risk and water quality."

Henvey Inlet First Nation will assist the working group in any way possible to achieve the common goal of remediating water levels.

Henvey Inlet First Nation is comprised of two parcels of land between Parry Sound and Sudbury. The southern parcel is 26,000 acres along Georgian Bay, Key Harbour and Key River.



E-Drumming

Whitefish River First Nation youth sent out 7,000 e-mails and faxes on the information highway in February to cabinet ministers in Ottawa. Chief Shining Turtle put out a call for youth on YouTube to take action on February 4 and be a voice of change, a voice of opportunity and voice for the future.

Stable funding for police services welcomed by National Chief

OTTAWA – Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo along with Quebec/Labrador Regional Chief Ghislain Picard and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Chief Gilbert Whiteduck met March 4 with Public Security Minister Vic Toews to talk about long-term funding for First Nations police services in the next federal budget.

This meeting was seen as encouraging and a good first step on improving public safety in First Nations communities.

"We welcome this announcement by Minister Toews. An immediate renewal of funding and then a commitment to working towards long term sustainability is very important. Now we must turn our attention to all ju-



Shawn Atleo

risdictions working together to strengthen and secure First Nations policing through partnership and innovation. It is essential that promote and deliver on safety and security for all of our communities," said AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo.

In the House of Commons, the Government of Canada announced that funding for policing agreements with First Nation and Inuit communities will be renewed under the First Nations Policing Program and further

committed to entering this funding into a multi-year agreement for the next five years

"Today's announcement represents a concrete and important step in the right direction for First Nations as there is First Nations police services in most of our regions," said AFN Justice Portfolio holder, Alberta Regional Chief Cameron Alexis. "As we continue this work, I would also like to offer our appreciation for the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association for their support for our communities."

AFN and Native Women's Association of Canada will host a National Forum on Community Safety and Ending Violence April 9 and 10. <http://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/events/forumendingviolence-kit.pdf>

Valcourt replaces 'inept' Duncan

OTTAWA – Prime Minister Stephen Harper shuffled his cabinet Feb. 22 after accepting the resignation of John Duncan as aboriginal affairs minister.

New Brunswick MP Bernard Valcourt is replacing Duncan. Valcourt had been associate minister of national defence, putting him in charge of buying equipment for the Canadian Forces.

Although he didn't then have responsibility for First Nations issues, Valcourt attended the Crown First Nations Gathering in January 2012. He had served as minister of state for Indian Affairs and Northern Development under then Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

In a statement, Valcourt thanked Harper for putting him

on the aboriginal affairs file.

"This January, the government committed itself to a high-level dialogue on the treaty relationship and comprehensive claims. I am firmly of the view that working together is the best way to achieve our shared objective of healthier, more prosperous and self-sufficient aboriginal communities," he said.

"I look forward to meeting with aboriginal leaders in the weeks and months to come."

Duncan resigned from cabinet, saying it was inappropriate for him to write to a tax court on behalf of a constituent more than two years ago. He will remain an MP for Vancouver Island North.

The minister was often criticized for his approach to the ab-



Bernard Valcourt

original affairs file. As the Idle No More movement intensified, Duncan was accused of poor leadership and failing to engage in meaningful discussions with First Nations leaders.

Pam Palmater, one of the leaders of the movement, said that Duncan was "the most inept" minister of aboriginal affairs in recent times.

ANISHINABEK

Basketball, leadership focus of tourney

By Jon Cada

MISSISSAUGA FN – The third annual youth basketball tournament for kids aged 8-15, was hosted by Mississauga First Nation in January.

Youth from Fort Albany, Sagamok, Batchewana and Mississauga participated in the two-day tournament.

Terri-Lynn Chiblow, Community Wellness worker for Mississauga FN, spoke about the participation from neighbouring communities and the support it's getting from First Nation communities near and far.

"I just do it to ensure the youth have something positive. It never feels like we're doing enough for them. So much can be done," said Chiblow.

Fort Albany's participation in the tournament shows that people, including youth, are all for the networking possibilities that it generates for future collaborative



Batchewana beat the host Rez Doggs in the final of the Mississauga tournament.

projects between communities.

Support from locals is always appreciated and that part is getting noticed as there are clear benefits that work out for everyone down the road.

Chiblow pointed out that it helps when you have something to feel part of. "We got funding from Jump Start and that's how we were able to get jerseys, shoes and uniforms for our team."

The tournament itself was part of Mississauga First Nation's

three-day event focused on youth leadership in partnership with Right to Play.

Batchewana grabbed first place in the tournament in a closely contested finals matchup against the hometown Rez Doggs.

Fort Albany secured third place. Tournament MVP honour for males went to 11-year-old Latrell Chiblow, who used a combination of skill, speed and three-point shooting to secure the nod.

The top female award went to

Rochelle "Rush" Nakogee of Fort Albany who led her team and all girls in tournament scoring.

Staff and local volunteers are working on several projects and events that aim to keep youth engaged and participating in the months ahead in both the spring and summer, as Chiblow explained.

"Together, we feel sports have helped our youth become more self-aware, confident and dedicated."



Health Educator Lisa Naponse speaks with youth and mentors in the community as a representative of the North Shore Tribal Council.

Youth get empowered through physical wellness

By Jon Cada

MISSISSAUGA FN – More than 40 youth attended a youth conference workshop on Mississauga First Nation that highlighted youth leadership training and skill development.

Right to Play helped coordinate the "Youth Empowerment through Physical Wellness" themed event.

The day-long workshop highlighted team building skills, critical thinking, brainstorming and various physical activities.

Terri-Lynn Chiblow, Community Support Service Worker on the reserve, organized the event with assistance from Community Activator, Kim Cada.

Community and Right to Play Mentor,

Melissa Morningstar and her staff also contributed to the event's schedule and participation.

The North Shore Tribal Council, Debahmujig Theatre Group as well as local and regional health instructors contributed to the series of workshops designed to expose youth to new ways they can be leaders in their community.

Right to Play staff member, Katelyn Murphy noted the importance of youth leadership skills through the use of physical education.

"Teamwork is a huge part of learning how to be a leader. Team sports and teamwork activities are the best way I find for the kids to see those tools in motion and how beneficial

they can be."

Murphy spends a large part of her time in First Nation communities promoting youth leadership and gives kudos to people like Chiblow and Morningstar for bringing these programs to the kids.

"It's awesome when you see support from people who really care about the youth and the opportunities these events can provide for them. The organizers and volunteers are really what help bring a community together."

According to Chiblow, all of the workshops were interactive and engaged the youth to participate in physical challenges, brainstorm ideas and to step out of their comfort zones.

IN BRIEF

CAS removed

SERPENT RIVER FN – Chief Isadore Day wants to end his First Nation's relationship with non-native children's aid services.



Chief Day

"People have concerns about children being removed from the reserve without a full understanding of First Nations values."

Day said the community wants to have a local First Nation agency provide child welfare services instead of those provided by both Algoma and Sudbury CAS, depending on the case.

But until Nogdawindamin Family Services is certified by the province, Serpent River will use a Native children's aid agency – Dilico Anishnabek Family Care – based out of Thunder Bay.

Building named

CHATHAM – The federal building in downtown Chatham is being named the Tecumseh Building **Tecumseh** in recognition of his contributions during the War of 1812.



New musician

NIPISING FN – Up and coming musician Anthony Beaucage is trying to become CBC's best new artist. Support him at <http://music.cbc.ca/#/artists/Anthony-Beaucage>



Anthony Beaucage

Ten times higher

OTTAWA – The incarceration rate for First Nations Aboriginal adults in Canada is estimated to be 10 times higher than the incarceration rate of Grand non-Aboriginal adults.



Grand Council Chief

Patrick Madahbee

Aboriginal people represent four per cent of the population in Canada and 23 per cent of Federal prison inmates.

"Unfortunately, this is nothing new to First Nations," says Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee. "There are systemic problems in Canada's justice system that discriminate against First Nations citizens."

"Our citizens need to be more aware of their rights when they get involved in the justice system. In the long term, an increase in the number of First Nations judges and jury members will be key remedies to this injustice."

ANISHINABEK NEWS

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PUBLISHING CRITERIA

GOAL

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

OBJECTIVES

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

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

Honesty: Debwewin – speaking the truth – is the cornerstone of our newspaper's content.

Sharing: Providing opportunities for people from the four corners of the Anishinabek Nation to tell stories and record achievements, and to keep our citizens informed about activities of the Union of Ontario Indians.

Strength: To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation that celebrates our history, culture and language, promotes our land, treaty, and aboriginal rights, and supports the development of healthy and prosperous communities.

The current circulation of the Anishinabek News is 7,000 copies, with 6,000 mailed and 1,000 distributed at various events. Annual subscriptions are \$25.

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Advertising and News submissions:

March 20

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

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MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

Harper has picked some real wieners

Spring is a time when I usually find myself pondering life's big questions.

Like, if cops are clamping down on drunk driving, how come they don't stop those free samples being poured for shoppers on their way to the parking lot?

Is there a reason that stores sell wieners in packages of ten and hot dog buns in packages of eight?

Why in God's name would Stephen Harper appoint Patrick Brazeau to the Senate?

It might not be readily apparent, but these issues are related.

During his tenure as boss of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), Brazeau was accused – among other things – of routinely using his corner office to serve cocktails to friends and colleagues.

As for the wiener connection, that's what Brazeau looked like last year after getting his nose bloodied in a three-round boxing match with a somewhat scrawnier-looking Justin Trudeau. Brazeau claims to be a black belt in karate, but it looked like the only belt he had ever held was out of a bottle of Canadian Club.

Despite being burdened with a lot of personal baggage – missed child-support payments, sexual harassment charges – Harper's talent scouts had tagged Brazeau as an ideal Aboriginal voice for the Conservative Party caucus. The PM is especially fond of finding Indigenous patsies to act as mouthpieces for a legislative agenda that is decidedly unfriendly and disrespectful of First Peoples.

He made Inuit Leona Aglukkaq his health minister, responsible for overseeing an Uninsured Benefits Program that takes so long to approve treaty-guaranteed services that some First Nations sufferers have been known to pull out abscessed teeth with pliers.

Then he engineered Plains Cree Rob Clarke to be the back-bench sponsor of a private member's bill to "reform" the Indian Act, as much an attempt to impose government will on Indians as the original legislation in 1876.

And who better to ensure that Parliament's chamber of "sober second thought" contained a supportive Conservative voice than Patrick Brazeau, a citizen of Kitigan Zibi whose first

language is French.

Brazeau first caught the PM's eye in 2006 when CAP endorsed the Conservatives in the campaign leading up to the first Harper win. The organization, of which Brazeau was vice-president at the time, had endorsed the Kelowna Accord, a comprehensive \$5 billion, ten-year commitment to close the gap in the quality of life between Aboriginal Peoples and the rest of Canada. The Accord, the result



Maurice Switzer

of 18 months of negotiations, had resulted in a rare display of unanimity between the federal, provincial and territorial governments, as well as the five national organizations representing First Peoples in Canada.

Two weeks after the Conservatives won the January, 2006 election, Dwight Dorey resigned as CAP chief and was succeeded by Brazeau. Speaking to a parliamentary committee that was discussing the accord in November 2006, Brazeau argued that, while the process that led to the agreement seemed inclusive, in fact, "Kelowna provided false hope for grassroots people – real people, in real need – while enriching organizations and the aboriginal elite."

Shortly thereafter, the new Harper government increased CAP's annual budget from \$5 million to \$6.3 million.

Like so many federal promises before it, the Kelowna Accord faded from the government agenda. Two years later, Harper appointed Brazeau, then 34, to the Senate. In the four years since, he has parroted the Conservative party line about alleged lack of First Nations financial accountability.

He grabbed some national limelight in January, poking fun at Chief Theresa Spence's hunger-strike near Parliament Hill, and mak-

ing some snotty comments about her weight.

It looked like clear sailing for Brazeau to his 2049 Senate retirement finish line, at an annual \$132,000 salary – plus merit pay and cost-of-living adjustments, of course. Until Feb. 7, when he was released on bail after being charged with assault and domestic assault after an incident at his home in Gatineau, Quebec. Apparently he throws punches at women more effectively than he did at Justin Trudeau.

Harper said he was "appalled and disappointed...and very let down", then kicked his protégé out of the caucus, which means Brazeau gets to keep his salary but not attend all those boring meetings. As conditions of his bail, Sen. Brazeau cannot possess any firearms, must notify police of any change of address, and demonstrate good behaviour. (It's a bit late for the latter provision, wouldn't you say?)

One key Conservative advisor who was on the same wavelength on aboriginal issues as Brazeau was former Harper campaign manager Tom Flanagan. A transplanted American academic who once bragged that he had never set foot on a First Nation reserve, Flanagan suggested that Ottawa could eliminate all 633 of them by gradually eliminating federal funding. This brainwave sounded a lot like Duncan Campbell Scott's suggestion that sending Native kids to residential schools would make their Indian-ness disappear.

Flanagan has also fallen out of favour with the PM, by virtue of his remarks at a recent speaking engagement at the University of Lethbridge where he told his audience there is no need to jail people who watch child pornography because they really don't harm anybody.

With two former cronies out of commission, guess there'll be no more stag parties in the PM's office – you know, crack open a two-four, watch a couple of flicks – or maybe just some still photos. About the only things left to do for kicks is pull the wings off flies or dream up some bills to make it even tougher for First Nations youngsters to dream of brighter futures.

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.

Chicks dig honesty more than cover-ups

I cut my hair a few years back. It used to hang to my waist and my wife said that it was hard to live with a man who had better hair. I don't know about that, but I do know that there came a time when it just didn't fit who I was trying to become.

Nowadays my hair is short like the brush-cut I used to wear and hate when I was a teenager. It feels good, I feel grown up and mature and there isn't all that fuss and bother getting out of the shower with four feet of hair to dry and brush out.

When I go to new barbers the first thing they see are the scars on my noggin. There's a few of them and there's a particularly nasty one on the back. It was never stitched and they always say, "Wow. Must have been a whack."

In the old days I was known to have said, "Yeah but chicks dig it." The truth is, they don't. That scar came from falling in a drunken haze and splitting my head open on a rock. Nothing romantic or tough about that



Richard Wagamese

and a chick would definitely not dig it.

But back then I really needed a way to cover up the shame I felt about that. Humour is always a good device and I used it well through the years. But jokes never really help you see things any differently.

There are a lot of scars on my body. They all have a story and for the most part, those tales are sad and hard to tell. Some came from bats and pipes and knives. Others came from

fists or foolish blunders with tools.

There are a lot of tears to go along with those scars because when they happened my skin became broken territory and my heart went along for the ride. It takes a man to tell real stories and it took me a long time to become one.

Even if I don't exactly cherish my scars, they teach me something every time I see them. They teach me that we wound ourselves the most when we don't share the real stories of our time here. When we don't own our hard times and share them.

It takes a man to get honest and do that – and you know what? Chicks dig it.

Richard Wagamese is Ojibway from Wabase-mong First Nation in Northwestern Ontario. His new book, Indian Horse is available in stores now. Trade Paperback \$21.95 ISBN 978-1-55365-402-5

MAANDA NDINENDAM /OPINION

Reminding settlers about relationship

By Catherine Murton-Stoehr

The problem that settler Canadians face when they read the stories in the newspapers about Idle No More is that when they try to put what they read into the context of their everyday lives it doesn't make any sense. Most of their settler friends and relatives are nice, kind, fair people – so how can it also be true that they are responsible for the terrible inequality and suffering that First Nations people are calling out? And when they try to learn more about it they get lied to.

Twenty years ago Brian Mulroney's government established a Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples that condemned the Canadian government's policy of assimilation. The commissioners said that the relationship between First Nations people and settler Canadians began as a partnership, but after 1812 or so the Canadian government started pretending that First Nations people were inferior to settler Canadians and had fewer, not more rights than the newcomers. At this time they developed a policy of assimilation. Assimilation was and is at the heart of Canadian Aboriginal policy.

The RACP Commissioners said that if settler Canadians want to repair our relationship with First Nations we must return to dealing with them as partners rather than subordinates. I will go one farther than the commissioners – I believe that First Nations have been and continue to be our benefactors – and that the wealth and peace that we enjoy are direct gifts from their hands.

The number one priority for settler Canadians today is to learn the terms of the treaties by which we acquired the right to live on our land. I know that there are people who say that the land is ours by right of conquest – we were stronger and we took it – but that belief is what we in history refer to as "total nonsense".

In fact, when the British settlers first came to the territory that is now called Ontario they followed their own legal rules about land acquisition which they laid out under the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

They acknowledged then, as our courts still do now, that all of the territory of Canada BELONGS by right to First Nations people and must be left undisturbed unless they make a treaty to share it.

This is why we have treaties. And when we made the treaties we made promises about what we as a nation state would do in return for the land.

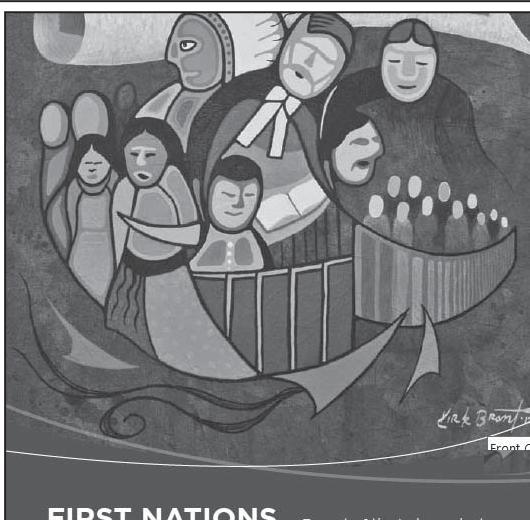
Sometimes people say that the treaties were made a long time ago and so the promises no longer apply. I would suggest that this is a dangerous line of argument from a settler perspective.

If our treaty promises no longer apply then neither do theirs and we lose the right to live on this land.

Catherine Murton Stoehr holds a Ph.D. in Canadian history from Queen's University and has been teaching Canadian and First Nations history at Nipissing University for six years. This article is excerpted from her presentation at a Feb. 15 Canadore College Teach-in.



Catherine
Murton-Stoehr



FIRST NATIONS REPRESENTATION ON ONTARIO JURIES

Report of the Independent
Review Conducted by
The Honourable Frank Iacobucci
February 2013

Jury system in crisis

TORONTO – First Nations in Ontario face a justice and jury system in a state of crisis that requires urgent action, former Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci reported Tuesday.

In a strong indictment of the current setup, Iacobucci warned the issue threatens relations between aborigines and non-aboriginals.

"There is not only the problem of a lack of representation of First Nations peoples on juries that is of serious proportion," his report states.

"It is also regrettably the fact that the justice system generally as applied to First Nations peoples, particularly in the north, is quite frankly in a crisis."

In August 2011, the Ontario government asked the former justice to investigate after inquests and criminal trials ground to a halt over the lack of on-reserve aborigines on juries.

In his research, Iacobucci said he found a state of conflict between the justice system and the ideologies and approach of First Nations peoples.

Aborigines experience "systemic discrimination" when it comes to criminal justice or child services and the courts, he said.

The Union of Ontario Indians identified three prevailing messages that arose from its engagement process.

One was general apathy to be involved in the jury process. The second was that First Nations prefer to develop and implement their own justice-related institutions as a means to reduce the number of people in jail. Last was that cultural competency was needed in the Ontario justice system.

Grassroots activism key to moving forward

By Johanna Lazore

In the past few months we have witnessed an unprecedented level of grassroots leadership in the struggle for Indigenous survival through the Idle No More movement.

These activities come as no surprise to those more spiritually attuned among us. The Maya, the Hopi, and other Indigenous nations predicted that a great shift in human consciousness would occur at this particular time.

They likewise saw the challenges we would face at this time, with false leaders in positions of power and the difficult, yet necessary upheaval of the materialistic and egocentric class.

The "grassroots" is an ambiguous sounding term: it means the "ordinary" or "common" citizens,

the "regular" folks, the non-elite. Unfortunately these terms tend to convey a sense of average-ness, something each of us as unique individuals could never be, although we are numerous.

For the purposes of this discussion, the indigenous grassroots will refer to everyone connected to a community, regardless of where they reside, but not in a position of political leadership sanctioned by the Settler State.

One of the most pressing reasons the indigenous grassroots has taken action is because we have no widely-accepted and legitimate Indigenous governments through which our voices can be heard and our goals acted upon.

None of this should be taken as an all-encompassing criticism of those currently working as Band Councillors or Chiefs. Many of these individuals struggle with the system, facing constant assault by legislation aimed at taking away what little rights and benefits First Nations have. Chiefs often find themselves in

the position of having to simultaneously defend against further encroachments while at the same time appeasing the encroachers themselves in order to maintain much-needed funding.

Active and engaged citizens are the necessary building blocks, the foundation of a revitalized indigenous society. We need to continue putting our minds together to envision a way out of this hole.

J.M. Lazore, B.A., LL.B., L.L.L., Snipe Clan Kanienkehaka (Mohawk)/Sturgeon Clan Anishinaabe (Ojibway) is the principal consultant at Indigenous Renewal Consulting. She has worked at every level of "Aboriginal" government, from the international level to the grassroots level. jlazore@indigenousrenewal.ca

Idle No More: Right movement, wrong target

By Byron LeClair

Some of Canada's First Nations are amongst the richest communities in their respective regions. There are very good examples of First Nations who in spite of a history of poverty, have broken free from this cycle of despair and have succeeded in re-creating their communities as vibrant economic success stories contributing to regional and national prosperity Osoyoos FN in BC, Pic River FN in Ontario.

The average unemployment rate in northern Ontario First Nations is twice the national average. That breeds a continued reliance on government transfers to maintain even a modicum of community infrastructure. I have long wondered if the basis of First Nation despair is not the policies of government, but rather, how communities choose to engage those policies themselves. This thought has underscored many uncomfortable and heated discussions amongst my peers and is a concept that many First Nations leaders and people simply will not accept. The next logical step would be the realization that if we are the root of our own problems, then we are also the source of our own solutions.

From the First Nation perspective, the responsibility of encouraging and managing government to government relationships rests with the elected Councils of each First Nation.

If our leaders choose how our communities engage Canada/Ontario policies to support community aspirations, then Idle no More has given First Nations leaders a pass on this failure of basic government function. While the movement is correct in asserting the problem is symptomatic of bad government, the movement is wrong in its understanding that it is Canada's government that is responsible for this failure. The real failure of government is our own, our own governance, the people we elect, and their ability and qualification to get the job done.

How else can the movement explain those successful communities who elect capable and competent leaders, who oversee capable and competent administrations, versus the chaos of those communities so actively portrayed in news stories across the country? The core issue is one of capacity. The capacity of our leaders to recognize the opportunities in their traditional territories.

Byron LeClair is director of energy projects at Pic River First Nation. These are his personal observations, not those of the First Nation.



RESPECT THE WATER

ABOUT the CAMPAIGN

As a result of the recent drowning's in the Anishinabek Nation territory over the past few years, the Anishinabek leadership identified that there is need for an education and awareness campaign – "Respect the Water".

The Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishinabek people, who believe that living a good life can only be accomplished through these fundamental values of this campaign.

As Anishinabek we must Respect the Water (Nbe) and the elements (weather). Our people have been on the water for thousands of years – we need to stay focused on how our people have traditionally taken care of self, and community. Along with Respect, safety is a key message, we are deeply concerned for the safety of all of our Citizens across the Anishinabek Nation while they are exercising their rights to fish, and provide food for their families, community and ceremony.

PHASE 1

Keep watch for riveting topics to be covered.

PHASE 2

Safety Awareness Workshop for Fisherman – promo items: manual inflatable lifejackets

PHASE 3

Follow-up – Evaluation – produce results of 2013 campaign



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS CAMPAIGN CONTACT LANDS AND RESOURCES
Ph: 705-497-9127 Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200 Website: www.anishinabek.ca



Stanley Cup champion John Chabot tutors youth at Thunder Bay clinic.

Teens in trouble can dream on ice

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY – Stanley Cup champion John Chabot says the hopes and dreams of youth can take them a long way.

"You know, a smile can go so far — just the hope and ability to dream," says the Anishinabeg Algonquin citizen from Kitigan Zibi in Quebec and nine-year National Hockey League veteran with the Montreal Canadiens, Pittsburgh Penguins and Detroit Red Wings. "That's taken Jonathan Cheechoo from Moose Factory, Jordan Tootoo from Rankin Inlet, it's taken Ted Nolan from Garden River. That smile is hopefully the start, and that's what we want to work on."

Chabot, his son Kyle, and a team of certified Hockey Canada trainers and Right To Play staff put a group of Aboriginal youth through their paces during a Hockey for Development clinic in February at the Justice Ronald Lester Youth Centre. The centre is one of nine correctional facilities in Ontario for juveniles who are con-

victed of crimes.

"The drill always starts off a little ragged, but as the drill progresses they get better and better and better," Chabot says. "It's just like you're working with junior guys — the level of hockey is good, the level of acceptance and understanding is good, and so they accomplished what we wanted to accomplish."

The program is part of Right to Play's Promoting Life Skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) program, connecting youth with positive role models and helping them to develop skills that can be used when reintegrating in their home communities.

"We want to change the kids and help them for the better," Chabot says. "We want to see them enjoy it, and if we can get them to enjoy it, then they might make that better decision next time about what they are going to do with the rest of their lives."

Chabot says every community has it within themselves to support and give their youth a good chance to succeed.

"We were built on it takes a village to raise a kid," Chabot says. "If we get back to that, we won't need people like me to come up to your community — you'll be able to do it and have people from your own community to supply the expertise."

Chabot says the goal of the Hockey for Development program is to create role models that can go back and help youth in their own communities.

Staff at the Justice Ronald Lester Youth Centre were also encouraged to train as Hockey Canada certified coaches so they could help youth in custody to build hockey and leadership skills.

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Garden River First Nation

The Creator's Garden



Seniors of Garden River were given a special viewing of the Stanley Cup by Jordan Nolan in the Garden River Log Building known as the Community Centre.

— Photos by Margaret Hele



Rita (Bell) Valiquette demonstrates the dog-training techniques that she teaches. Baxter, her Jack Russel Terrier, shows what he has been trained to do.

Entrepreneurship keeps Garden River ticking

By Margaret Hele

Chief Lyle Sayers' basic vision is "to create an economy within our community. The construction of a hotel and conference centre to go along with the existing golf course would provide at least 100 meaningful jobs. Everyone in our community would have an opportunity, from the ground up to management. Eventually a casino and that again would benefit our citizens, not only with employment, but also create monies to affect other areas," he says.

Entrepreneurship is not new to Garden River First Nation.

The territory of Garden River, which now has over 2,000 citizens on and off-reserve, acquired its name from early travellers whose highway was the St. Mary's River. Fresh vegetables, grown in gardens near the mouths of the tributaries that run through Garden River, along with other merchandise were available for purchase.

On September 9, 1850, the signing of the Robinson-Huron Treaty defined our area as Garden River Reserve, No. 14.

The history of our gardens continued into the 1930's. Annual agricultural fairs took place where prizes were given for the largest produce in various categories, crafts were sold and historical displays were available for viewing. The descendants of these earlier tradespeople have evolved into entrepreneurs - loggers, crafts people, consultants, storekeepers, guides, carvers, musicians, athletes, caterers and teachers.

The "Perreault Strip Mall" was set in motion by the late Albert Perreault, a logger in the 1950's, who sold logs and firewood. A lumber mill evolved and in the 1970's, Albert opened the first gas station in Garden River. Son Gerry currently looks after the lumber business, Adam runs the gas station and a convenience store, Quick Stop, and a laundromat, Della operates The Family Tree, where local craftspeople's wares are displayed. Sherman, a brother-in-law, is in the process of opening a hamburger joint.

Barbara Nolan and Doris Boissoineau are also entrepreneurs helping people acquire the Ojibwe language by teaching and storytelling. Currently Barbara is working at Christian Island and Doris in North Bay.

Turtle Concepts, run by Dave Jones, is geared towards developing confidence-building for all ages by eliminating negative behaviours. He has run workshops across North America. During the summer months Turtle Concepts focuses on "boot camps" held in Garden River and other communities.

Garden River has produced world-class athletes.

Fastball pitcher Darren Zack was inducted into the International Softball Congress (ISC) Hall of Fame in 2010; received the Tom Longboat Award, in 2000 and was honoured with a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 1997.

Community pride overflowed when Jordan Nolan, son of Ted and Sandra Nolan, brought the Stanley Cup to Garden River in the summer of 2012.

Jordan, was chosen to replace an injured Los Angeles Kings' player in the NHL play-offs and subsequently contributed to winning the Stanley Cup.

Ted Nolan received the Jack Adams Award as the NHL coach of the year for his 1996-97 season with the Buffalo Sabres. The Sault Greyhounds went to the Memorial Cup three times with Ted as their coach, winning on their third try.

Leadership camps formed by the partnership of the Tim Horton and Ted Nolan foundations benefit community youth each year and the Rose Nolan Scholarships assist Aboriginal women to further their education.

Rita (Bell) Valiquette, owner of "Dogs North" School, is a professional dog trainer. Apart from teaching she has trained, groomed and shown her Standard Poodles to their Best In-Show Championships, Masters Obedience Trial Championships, and master Agility Trial designations.

She has had the top Obedience Doberman Pinscher, Irish Setter and Standard Poodle in Canada. Rita had the first tracking dog in the Algoma District, and trained the first Senior Water Rescue Newfoundland dog in Canada.

Garden River members proved to be tough negotiators when they dealt with the Provincial and Federal Governments in the 1990's under Chief Dennis Jones. Four agreements were signed in 1994 involving lands, construction of a four-lane highway, maintenance of the highways through Garden River and the forming of a Community Trust.

Garden River citizens were provided with training and employment, gravel for the new highway was purchased from Garden River's gravel pit, snow-plows were purchased and a five-bay garage was built to maintain the equipment.

"The Community Trust still has its \$4.9 million in capital which generates interest to pay for projects that the Garden River band members approve at annual votes. The five-bay garage was one of the projects approved by the people," says Trust Manager Alanna Jones.



Ron Jones, Truck and Coach Technician and Jeff Lariviere, Mechanic Helper, in the five-bay garage.

Restoration of Jurisdiction

Implementing the Anishinabek Declaration of 1980



COMMUNITY CONSTITUTIONS



Nipissing First Nation constitution meeting: Virginia Goulais, Arnold May, Evelyn Chevrier, Brenda Restoule, Doug Chevrier and Fran Couchie.

Chi-Naaknigewin to be ratified for Nipissing FN this year

By Jon Cada

The Nipissing First Nation Constitution Committee is excited to move its First Nation Constitution through a ratification process. At their recent meeting, the committee asked the Restoration of Jurisdiction department to attend and highlight some of the key features that the Constitution can provide to their community. The Grand Council's Chi-Naaknigewin was one of the key talking points that were discussed to help highlight how both documents will work to strengthen the laws that First Nation communities will develop.

ROJ Director, Mike Restoule spoke about the importance of this new law and how it's up to people to move forward. "It's up to us to decide how to do things. The government won't do it. We have the land. Our (Nipissing First Nation) fishing law was made by us, for us. This is one direction we need to go and we have to put that in their face."

Doug Chevrier, a committee member of Nipissing's Constitution Committee agreed with the strength a First Nation law can possess. "That (law)

echoes across Canada. First Nations everywhere talk about it."

One concern raised was whether the Chi-Naaknigewin was a hierarchy law, which was clarified by Restoule stating that it does not have overall authority. First Nation law will always take precedence over the Anishinabek Nation Law in any dispute between laws.

The Constitution committee is aiming to have a ratification vote this year, although no set date is confirmed.

The constitution for Nipissing First Nation has been developed within the community over the last eight years, beginning in 2005. Nipissing has approximately 2500 band members living both on and off-reserve.

The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is written to express the inherent rights and treaty rights for First Nations in the Anishinabek Nation. It acknowledges the self-governing rights that First Nations possess. More information can be found at www.anishinabek.ca

Wiky's constitution to be ratified

By Faye Sabourin

Constitution Development Coordinator

As part of the First Nation Constitution Development Project, legal counsel and technical staff have met with the Wikwemikong Governance Committee to assist them with the wording of their draft constitution.

The ratification process started in January, with the mail-out of the Chi-Naaknigewin document, which needs input from the citizens of Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve.

Focus groups and community consultation will be needed both on and off-reserve.

Wikwemikong's Chi Naaknigewin is a legal

document which asserts its citizen's rights to nation-building by implementing its own laws, without the need for consent or approval of other governments.

Wikwemikong will also be seeking to implement an Election Code, an Alternate Dispute Resolution process, a Membership Code, an Administrative Code, a Financial Code, and a Citizenship Code. This is an example of First Nation Self Governance.

Any community members wishing to get involved or needing assistance in the development of their community constitution should contact Faye Sabourin – Constitution Development Coordinator – faye.sabourin@anishinabek.ca.



Inez Knott speaks to participants at the Jan. 22 Curve Lake Community Engagement Strategy session.

Curve Lake hosts first engagement session

By Kelly Crawford

"Everyone used to help one another to do everything. Don't be afraid of the changes," shared Curve Lake Elder Inez Knott. Elder Knott shared wise words about working together with the participants at the recent Curve Lake First Nation Community Engagement Strategy session.

Curve Lake First Nation hosted a CES session on Jan. 22. Approximately 30 community members were in attendance to engage in discussions concerning First Nations Constitution development and the Anishinabek Education Agreement.

The community participants brought many vital questions to the floor. Discussions around the lack of resources and how curriculum will be developed were some of the key concerns. Community members also felt that a stronger effort to communicate with citizens is a priority. "There are 60,000 Anishinabek but we have reached over 2000, we have a long way to go," said Deputy Grand Chief Glen Hare speaking specifically about the CES sessions.

Elder Gordon Waindubence shared teachings of the Anishinaabe Dodemaag system of governance. This continues to be a successful component of the sessions.

Community Engagement Strategy (CES) sessions support Anishinabek Nation governance and jurisdiction initiatives through advocacy, coordination and facilitation. The Restoration of Jurisdiction Department of the Union of Ontario Indians will be visiting First Nation communities to conduct Community Engagement Strategy sessions.

The sessions this year focus on informing and collecting input on Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin, First Nations Constitutions and the Anishinabek Education System. The sessions include an opportunity to participate in traditional teachings on the Anishinaabe Dodemaag system by Elder Gordon Waindubence. Each session is a joint effort between the participating First Nation and the Anishinabek Nation.

Community Engagement Strategy Sessions have been scheduled for the following dates: Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve – March 19, 2013, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek - March 26, 2013, Red Rock Indian Band – March 27, 2013, Ojibways of Pic River – March 28, 2013. For more information on the Community Engagement Strategy and to register for events, please contact the ROJ Community Relations Officer at (705) 497-9127 or by e-mail at kelly.crawford@anishinabek.ca.

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Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin



Restoration of Jurisdiction



Dave Shawana, Working Groups Coordinator

Thinking outside the circle

SAULT STE. MARIE – The Governance Working Group met in Sault Ste. Marie on February 12 and 13, 2013 to provide input on the Anishinabek Nation Government.

"Give the power to the people," explained Darlene Naponse, Governance Working Group member. In addition, Naponse suggested putting a clear focus on communication practices. "Sometimes we are not getting the information back to our communities."

Governance Working Group members worked together to provide input regarding the purpose, structure and function of the Leadership and Advisory Councils. Each member of the Education Working Group provided valuable feedback.

The meeting also included a governance negotiations up-date from Chief Negotiator Martin Bayer and a fiscal up-date from Fiscal Relations Analyst Andrew Arnott.

If you would like more information please contact Dave Shawana www.anishinabek.ca

REC meetings continue

The purpose of the Regional Education Council (REC) sessions is to up-date leadership, educators, and citizens on the details of the Anishinabek Education System and the status of the current negotiations. The sessions provide participants with information on the structures, proposed functions and implementation plan of the AES.

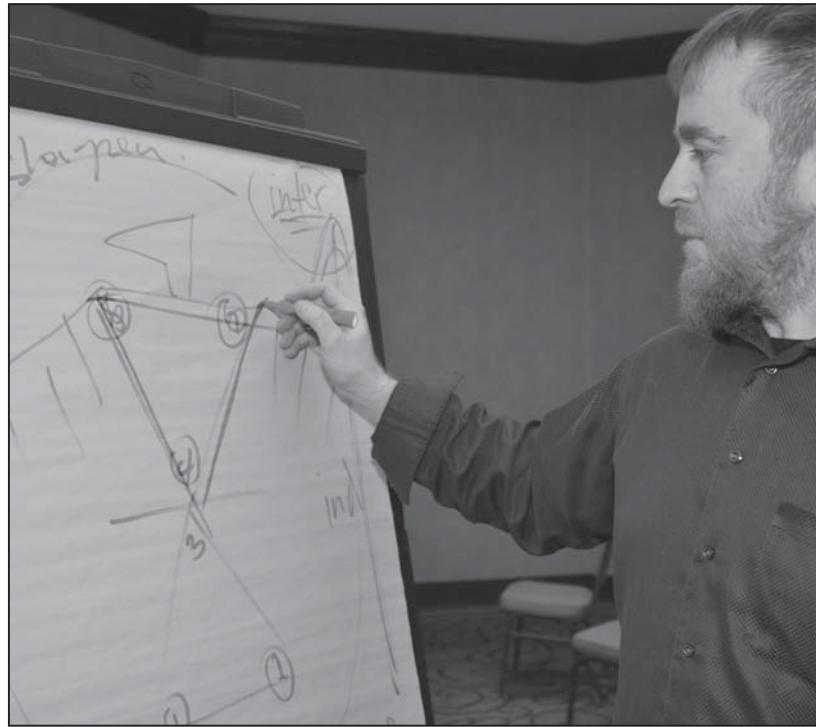
"I am amazed at how this education plan has come along," said Gert Nootchtaai, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. "When they first did the first resolutions, and I came to a few meetings... It is great to see where it has come. Tracy (O'Donnell) has helped me understand a couple of things as she clarified a couple of small questions I had. It is going to go. There will be some ups and downs."

During the sessions participants are asked to share their ideas regarding the proposed structure.

These recommendations will strengthen the structure and functions of the AES. In addition, participant recommendations will provide direction with regards to implementation. Next sessions: (HWY 69 corridor and North Bay) - March 20-21 - Dokis First Nation and REC 5 (Southwest and Southeast) - March 26-27 - Chippewas of Rama First Nation

For more information on the RECs please contact Robert Beaudin at rjbeaudin@hotmail.com

FIRST NATIONS OPERATED SCHOOLS CONFERENCE



Neil Debassige.

– Photo by Monica Lister

'We challenge the status quo'

By Kelly Crawford and Jon Cada

SAULT STE. MARIE – Neil Debassige, M'Chigeeng Education department manager and principal of Lakeview School, energized the participants during his best practices presentation at the First Nations Operated Schools Conference which took place on Jan. 30-31.

Debassige challenged the participants to recognize the necessity to use both sides of the brain. Explaining to the crowd that we are action-orientated.

"The difference between being good and great is what you do with your time."

Participants connected with the idea of implementing and nurturing a professional learning community. Lakeview has found great success in this strategy.

Debassige emphasized the need to teach holistically. "If we are going to deal with all those little spirits in our schools; we cannot just focus on one quadrant."

This approach looks at the student from all areas. Debassige recommends that educators need

to decide how students show them success. The relationship between learner and teacher needs to shift cohesively.

During the two-day event, attendees participated in a variety of discussions focusing on the Anishinabek Education System.

"We need to focus on moving forward. With the amount of talent we have in this room and in our communities, they will chart a system of education that is second to none," explained Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee.

The conference brought together approximately 80 leaders and educators to generate ideas on how First Nations both with and without schools could benefit from the Anishinabek Education System.

In addition, topics of discussion included First Nation Education Needs, Educational Priorities, First Nation Education Service Delivery and Best Practices.

For more information on the Anishinabek Education System please contact www.anishinabek.ca

Canada's initial fiscal offer

The Education Agreement fiscal offer was presented to Anishinabek Nation negotiators at a meeting on December 20, 2012.

Due to the complexities of the offer and the requirement for substantiating information from Canada, the Chiefs Committee on Governance has directed our negotiating and technical team to complete a formal assessment of the offer and report back on their findings.

The formal review, along with requesting the substantive information from Canada, will take a number of weeks.

As a result, we have convened a formal meeting of the Chiefs Committee on Governance in March 2013 to review the offer, as well as our team's assessment, in more detail.

We will also be developing a counter offer and a negotiating strategy at this meeting.

Intergovernmental Affairs

Protecting Aboriginal and Treaty Rights



Lawyer Kim Fullerton described some of the issues with the Robinson Superior Treaty during the Feb. 22-23 Robinson Superior Treaty First Nation Gathering.

Treaty overlooked all but three

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY — Elders forced to purchase land for their community to live on was one of the issues raised at the Robinson-Superior Treaty First Nation Gathering, held Feb. 22-23 in Thunder Bay.

"Our Elders, or the people before us, bought that piece of land for us," says Pic Moberg Chief Johanna Desmoulin. "It wasn't given to us by the government. (The) treaty commissioner didn't come down to our area. Apparently we were known as inland Anishinabe; we were basically out on the land all the time."

The Elders bought the land the Pic Moberg community currently lives on at White Lake in the early 1970s.

In the past, community members used to gather during the summer by lakes in the area for marriage ceremonies, feasts and other activities.

"In 1992, with the government, we went into negotiations and they said, 'you do the framework and within two years you will have your larger land base,'" Desmoulin says. "Well, it's like 22 years later."

Desmoulin says an agreement in principle was completed in 2002, but her community is still waiting for a larger land base to build housing and other community buildings and to create economic development opportunities.

"Right now we have a health centre, but there is so much more that needs to be (built). We're very tight squeezed; there is no room to move or develop."

The Robinson-Superior Treaty Gathering featured a number of presentations, including a "What went wrong with the Robinson-Superior Treaty" presentation, as well as open forum discussions on issues important to Robinson-Superior citizens.

"You had almost as many members at the time as were in the Robinson-Huron Treaty," Fullerton says. "(But the) Robinson-Huron Treaty, with roughly the same number of members, got 17 reserves, some of which were huge compared to the reserves that you received."

Although the treaty states the boundaries of the reserves in mileage terms, Fullerton says research indicates the chiefs had asked for reserves based on actual geographic descriptions.

"The chiefs said 'We want our territory to be from here (to here), in point-to-point descriptions,'" Fullerton says. "The chiefs weren't thinking in terms of miles or leagues; they were thinking in terms of territory."

Fullerton says many bands were also left out of the treaty negotiations.

"One of the big problems with this treaty is the people who signed the treaty did not represent all the Indians who lived in the area," Fullerton says. "No chief from the Pic Indians showed up in Sault Ste. Marie, but Robinson went ahead and signed the treaty anyway. They said it included Long Lake #58; there was no one there from Long Lake #58 to sign the treaty."



Pic Moberg Chief Johanna Desmoulin

Fullerton says the treaty has "a lot of flaws," stressing that only three reserves were promised at Fort William, Gull River and Michipicoten.

"You had almost as many members at the time as were in the Robinson-Huron Treaty," Fullerton says. "(But the) Robinson-Huron Treaty, with roughly the same number of members, got 17 reserves, some of which were huge compared to the reserves that you received."

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THE ROBINSON-SUPERIOR TREATY

In the mid-1840's, the Crown granted mining licences to various companies on lands north of Lake Superior unceded by the First Nations. Following visits by Crown Commissioners in 1849, and in the face of ongoing Native protests and obstruction, it was agreed that land would be ceded by treaty to clarify the situation.

However, the Commissioners only consulted with Chiefs at Fort William and did not know of the nations living on traditional lands north of Superior. William Robinson was sent to negotiate the treaty in 1850, and was provided with funds collected by the Crown from the mining licences with which to pay for the lands taken.

— By David Shanahan, PhD.

Communities need treaty education

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY — Red Rock Elder Terry Bouchard raised concerns about how the federal government's omnibus budget Bill C-45 will affect First Nations people during the Robinson-Superior Treaty First Nation Gathering, which was held at the Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Specialized Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre in Thunder Bay. "It's not taking away our rights little bit by little bit — the 1969 Chretien White Paper is coming into effect. They're doing it by the Harper government on this omnibus bill."

"It's definitely woken the Sleeping Giant and we have to come together as one people to fight the issue," Bouchard said during the Feb. 22-23 gathering, which was held at the Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Specialized Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre in Thunder Bay. "It's not taking away our rights little bit by little bit — the 1969 Chretien White Paper is coming into effect. They're doing it by the Harper government on this omnibus bill."



Red Rock Elder Terry Bouchard

The Red Rock consultation point-person says his community is "pushed up against the wall" by the omnibus bill. He also has concerns that First Nations people will be assimilated and dragged into mainstream society and the treaties will be eliminated.

"We're going to be all living in tar paper shacks," Bouchard says.

Bouchard says more community education is needed on treaty issues.

"People don't even understand exactly what the 1850 treaty is, what it represents," Bouchard says. "I'm going to suggest the forum here comes on every reserve and does a presentation on the Robinson-Superior Treaty issue because the people don't understand the significant impact it is going to have them."

Bill C-45, the Jobs and Growth Act, 2012, was passed by parliament and received Royal assent on Dec. 14, 2012. In its 400 pages it changes legislation contained in 64 acts or regulations, including the Indian Act.

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Lands and Resources

Ensuring access to natural resources



Red Rock Indian Band member Sean Ruth holds a 72 lb Lake Sturgeon from Lake Helen. Though not the largest Sturgeon the A/OFRC has hauled in, it was definitely in the top 10!

Red Rock First Nation finds more Lake Sturgeon in Lake Helen

By Maureen Peltier

RED ROCK – Sean Ruth and Michael Blakely III, of the Red Rock Indian Band, completed a Lake Sturgeon Study this past October and were able to gain quality on-the-water netting and fish sampling experience. This project was in cooperation with the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre who completed a similar study in 2010 with four Lake Sturgeon tagged and released.

Eight to twelve inch multifilament Lake Sturgeon gill nets were set at different depths throughout Lake Helen. All captured Lake Sturgeon were sampled for length, weight, and an external identification of sex and maturity.

During the 2012 study, there were 65 Lake Sturgeon gill nets set in Lake Helen and a total of four

Lake Sturgeon tagged and released. The average total length of captured Lake Sturgeon was 1280 mm (approx. 50.5 inches or 4 ft.) The average weight of the captured Sturgeon was 20,750 g (approx. 46 lb).

The set locations were determined through Traditional Ecological Knowledge gathered from local First Nation Elders and fishermen. Using this Traditional Knowledge for site selection had proven to be a success in capturing Lake Sturgeon.

All successful catches were in the areas immediately adjacent to where the Nipigon River drains into Lake Helen. This area is unique both in terms of hydrodynamics (created by the outflow) and the fact that the area is subjected to a significant amount of sediment deposition – key factors for Lake Sturgeon seasonal movement patterns.

Pit River Tribe of California to protect Medicine Lake Highlands from development

BURNEY, CA – On Feb. 15, 2013, the Pit River Tribe unanimously affirmed a resolution opposing geothermal and other industrial developments in the sacred Medicine Lake Highlands.

The resolution affirms that geothermal development would threaten the underlying aquifer and would result in the injection of toxins into the atmosphere and waters. Further the Tribe maintains that the construction and development of even a single geothermal power generation plant would result in irreversible impacts to the sensitive cultural resources of the highlands and devastate the habitats of plants and animals. The

Tribal resolution calls upon the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to reject all proposed geothermal development in the sacred Medicine Lake Highlands.

The Pit River Tribe has been in court since 2002 over proposed development of geothermal energy in Medicine Lake Highlands. The Tribe has successfully challenged the extension of leasing of their sacred areas in decisions in the 9th Circuit Court in 2006 and 2010. The lease holder, Calpine Energy, must reapply for extensions of the leases that the Tribe maintains were illegally issued by the BLM in 1988. Such

applications for lease extensions are expected to trigger an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act. In the mean time, the applicant has scrapped the original plan to build a 48 megawatt power plant and is reported to be leaning towards building several 100 megawatt plants in the sacred highlands.

The Pit River Tribal resolution indicates that the new proposals are incompatible with the use of the Medicine Lake Highlands as a sacred area. Geothermal development in such a sensitive hallowed place will despoil the environment and harm the Pit River Tribe.

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MISSION

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



KEARNEY GRAPHITE MINE

Ministries meet with Highway 69 Chiefs

By Marlene Bilous

MAGNETAWAN FN – Chief Joe Noganosh hosted a Feb. 28 meeting of Chiefs from the Highway 69 corridor, Union of Ontario Indians and Ontario ministries to discuss steps to take to work with Ontario Graphite Limited (OGL) towards reactivating the Kearney Graphite mine.



Chief Noganosh

"We're not here to frustrate the process, but we want to be consulted appropriately," said Chief Noganosh. "We want to uphold our Aboriginal and Treaty rights, protect our environment and work towards a higher standard of living for our people."

The Ministries of Environment, Natural Resources and Northern Development and Mines made presentations to the group of 25. MOE presented on the quality of surface and ground water, the land and air and stated that their intent was to protect the whole river system.

MNR presented on the species at risk and on the safety of the dams and MNDM focused on the process for withdrawing Aboriginal cultural sites from mining activity.

Chief Robert Tabobondung of Wasauksing First Nation, Chief Denise Restoule of Dokis First Nation and Chief Noganosh together with Councilor Cliff Meness of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Councillor Gerry Duquette of Dokis, together with members of UOI discussed the process towards facilitating a meeting with OGL on the mine re-activation.

The Highway 69 corridor First Nations concluded that the Chief of the Magnetawan First Nation would host a "meet and greet" with OGL and report back.

Chief Noganosh concluded "We are in favor of economic development but not at any cost. We are committed to protecting our water, land and air."

Leaky windows lose a lot of home heat

Windows waste plenty of energy and money.

Experts say as much as 25% of your home's heat can escape through leaky windows.

Here are a couple of tips to help keep your home heating environmentally sensitive! Install weather-stripping on drafty doors and windows.

Storm doors and windows should have weather-stripping on all movable joints.

Use stretch-seal, heat-shrink plastic sheeting kits for windows as an inexpensive and easy way to seal warped or single-glazed

windows. Use window quilts or shutters over your windows to keep the cold out in the winter and the heat out in the summer. A non-insulated drape can cut window heat loss by one-third.

An insulated drape can reduce it by half. Remove, clean, and store window air conditioners. If this isn't possible, wrap the unit with a thick layer of fiberglass insulation and seal it with plastic sheeting and duct tape to keep out moisture.

Apply glazing compound to leaky wooden windows where the glass meets the frame and seal where the frame meets the house.

If you have aluminum windows, you may need to replace the weather-stripping, available at most hardware stores.

Nuclear Shipment through the Great Lakes

Bruce Power hasn't given up their quest to use the Great Lakes to ship nuclear materials. Make your voice heard, let the Minister of Energy know that you are against this shipment, and the shipment of any

nuclear waste in the Great Lakes.
Hon. Bob Chiarelli
MINISTER'S OFFICE
Hearst Block 4th Flr
900 Bay St
Toronto ON M7A2E1

Anishinabek

*The Anishinabek Nation respectfully requests
your presence at the unveiling of the
honouring monument site and launch of
educational resources about Indian
Residential Schools in tribute to all former
Anishinabek students and their families.*

Date: Monday March 25, 2013

Time: Ceremonies begin at 10:00am

*Location: Union of Ontario Indians Head Office
1 Miigizi Mikan, Nipissing First Nation*

Lunch will be served.

*Please RSVP no later than March 15, 2013 by 4pm to
irscp@anishinabek.ca or by telephone at 705-497-9127 ext. 2308.*

Elders and Mental Health support services will be available.



'Legacy of Residential Schools must be told by us'

Dear Anishinabek Nation citizens,

These are very exciting times for our Nation as we work to address many of the injustices that our people have experienced. We are also educating other Nations and peoples about who we are, our history, and our rights as Anishinabek, the first people of this land.

One such area where injustice gravely occurred and where education is needed, is the Indian Residential School System, a system forcibly imposed upon our people for decades with the blatant intention of assimilating us.

Sadly, we know that it has only been recently that the truth about the Indian Residential School system has started to be told and documented. We also know that provincial and federal schools have limited and inconsistent curriculum on Indian Residential Schools, and that the curriculum often does not embrace the technologies by which children communicate and learn today.

And, we realize that there is a significant amount of learning and understanding required in the educa-

tion system, mainstream society, and even our Nation, about the inter-generational trauma caused by the Indian Residential School System.

Above all, we know that the legacy of Residential Schools, must be told by us, in our voices and with our truth, in order for reconciliation and healing to occur and with the goal that this type of atrocity will never occur again.

In this spirit, I am very pleased to inform you that the Union of Ontario Indians has successfully secured funding from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada for the "Honouring Our Children, Families, and Communities Affected by Indian Residential Schools Project."

At the heart of this project is fostering healing and reconciliation for our Nation by constructing a legacy monument to honour our citizens who attended Indian Residential Schools we will be developing much-needed educational resources that document the truth about those schools, the children who attended them, and the inter-generational trauma that resulted.

We will be unveiling this monument here at the

Union of Ontario Indians head office on Nipissing First Nation on Monday, March 25, 2013. Part of this ceremony will be the launch of a narrative picture book and online education resources.

We believe that these are very important first steps in honouring the Anishinabek children who attended Indian Residential Schools and their families – sharing the truth about these schools, and working towards the healing and reconciliation that must occur.

Further information about these initiatives and about Indian Residential Schools is available on our website at www.anishinabek.ca, by email at irscp@anishinabek.ca, or toll free at 1-877-702-5200 ext. 2308.

We look forward to honouring the survivors and to sharing their stories.

Miigwetch,



Patrick (Wedaseh) Madahbee
Anishinabek Nation
Grand Council Chief



'Not forgotten'

– Painting by Donald Chretien

Artists and musicians gather at Nbisiing

By Monique DuBray

NIPISSING FN – Dozens of local and visiting Anishinaabe artists gathered Feb. 23 to put their talents on display in the auditorium of Nbisiing Secondary School.

Librarian and organizer Glenna Beaucage was delighted with the first of what she hopes will be an annual event.

"I really want to promote our cultural artists and support our local artists, and get them exposure. We are just testing the waters this year, but hopefully it's something we can continue doing in the future."

"It's a great time to celebrate art and be together... and to eat and socialize, of course."

Over 20 tables were set up around the gymnasium, featuring the work of a range of area artists, including Wikwemikong's Leland Bell, Charlie Hebert from Dokis First Nation, and James Bay carver-painter Jack Smallboy.

Shirley Restoule from Nipissing First Nation had a booth set up selling dream catchers and community member Cheryl Beaucage was selling an assortment of beaded jewelry.

Work on display included oil and acrylic paintings, beadwork, regalia, and wood carvings. Most of the artists were local, but some had travelled from as far as Garden River and Wikwemikong to take part in the event.

Later in the day, Elder Dan Commanda of Nipissing welcomed visitors with a drum song. Afterwards, entertainers such as Marty Restoule of Dokis Bay, Brian Simon of Wikwemikong, and local singer Nathalie Restoule, all confidently took to the stage to perform a few songs while guests shopped and socialized.

Commanda, whose table featured his paintings and regalia, as well as partner Brenda Lee's hide and bead crafts, was thrilled to see so many families coming out to the gathering.

"It's a great experience for the young ones to come out and learn the confidence the older generations show while performing. We don't have a regular avenue to get artists to come together and perform, so it's important to have events like these. Artists are the ones who are going to make a difference in this world."

The day also included a potluck dinner, and a draw for a pair of hand-made moccasins to help raise money for Nipissing's 25th annual powwow.

Dot Beaucage-Kennedy, an elder dedicated to supporting Nipissing events, was very proud to see her friends and family showing off their creative side.

"It's very simple. We came out today because we are a family. We support each other in an Anishnaabe way. Grandfather teachings are a big part of how we live our life. Art is art, whether it's a painting or a song."

Awareness workshops offered

THUNDER BAY – Public cultural awareness workshops entitled "Residential School System and Unfamiliar Impacts" will be offered on March 20, April 26, May 29 and June 20.

All four of these workshops are being conducted in the Auditorium of the Waverly Public Library and run from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The workshops are co-facilitated by Sam Achneepineskum, Elder of Marten Falls.

The first 12 years of Sam's life were spent on the trap line in the Ojibwe community of Marten Falls in Northern Ontario.

Sam has worked in the Social and Health field for the past 20 years; he has worked mostly with Residential School survivors and



Sam Achneepineskum

uses the teachings of the Elders and Ceremonies in his work. Sam recently retired in 2012 from Nishnawbe Aski Nation where he worked as the Residential School Program Coordinator for six years.

The cost for this workshop is \$75 per person (or \$25 per student). www.greywolfteaching-lodge.ca/pdf/ResidentialSchool-SystemAndUnfamiliarImpacts.

Land of the Voyageurs Rubber Boots Festival

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Nipissing Elder Dan Commanda



Hand-crafted jewelry on display at artists gathering.



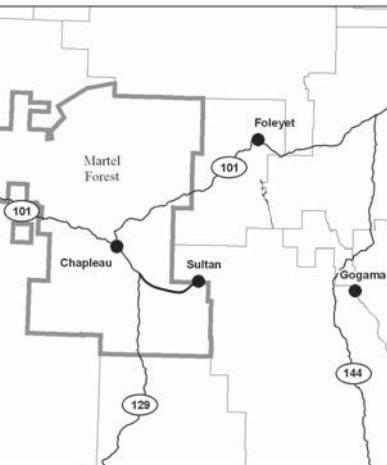
GREENX2
2nd Annual ENERGY AND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

GREENX2 is an opportunity for Northern Ontario First Nations to move forward with other communities, Energy Development Corporations and Suppliers to plan and identify economic opportunities in the north.

Topics to be covered at this year's Annual Event

- First Nations Taxation Issues and Land Management Framework Agreements
- Consultation and Accommodation
- 1850 Robinson Treaty & Treaty Based Partnerships
- How the Aboriginal Loan Guarantee works
- Corporate Structures and Better Business Practices
- First Nation to First Nation Partnerships
- Off-Reserve Partnerships and Investments
- Access to Training & Labour Market Demands
- Decreasing Nuclear Power Strategies
- Practical Home & Office Conservation Practices & Products
- Benefits to Building Energy Efficient Homes & Resources

This conference is being coordinated by MWSI-Manitoulin Wind & Solar Institute, a non-profit Institute



INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved 2013–2014 Annual Work Schedule Martel Forest

The Chapleau MNR District Office of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has reviewed and approved Tembec's April 1, 2013–March 31, 2014 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the Martel Forest.

Availability

The AWS will be available for public inspection at the Tembec office (address below) and the MNR public website at ontario.ca/forestplans beginning March 15, 2013 and throughout the one year duration. The Ontario Government Information Centre at the Chapleau MNR District Office provides access to the Internet.

Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest management activities such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

Tree Planting and Fuelwood

Tembec is responsible for tree planting on the Martel Forest. Please contact the Tembec office for information regarding tree planting job opportunities.

For information on the locations and licence requirements for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please contact the Chapleau District Office. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the Tembec office.

More Information

For more information on the AWS or to arrange an appointment with MNR staff to discuss the AWS or to request an AWS operations summary map, please contact:

Mike Liukko, RPF
Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources
Chapleau District Office
190 Cherry Street
Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
tel: 705-864-3173
fax: 705-864-0681

Sarah Sullivan, RPF
Planning Superintendent
Tembec
175 Planer Road
Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
tel: 705-864-3021



Health Secretariat

Good Health for Our People



Sherry Milford of Soggy Creek Seed Co. and Jamie Board from Boards Honey Farm.
— Photo by Melanie Alkins

Seedy Saturday teaches us roots

By Sarah Blackwell

In February I attended the Seedy Saturday event and Eco-fair in North Bay. Seedy Sunday and Seedy Saturday are public events held throughout Canada most often held at the end of winter. It is a grassroots event organized for the public and Wikipedia reports that in 2012 there were 100 events throughout Canada.

I am reminded that long ago, our ancestors most likely would gather in such a way to share stories and ideas related to food, wild foraging, hunting and surviving.

This event was an example of how a community can come together to benefit each other in growing food, which in turn addresses the problem of food insecurity. Traditionally, the Anishinaabe people would plant a garden and have enough food for each family. They would plant corn, pumpkin and squash and then harvest the food in late summer. If families were to do this now and share stories and learn from each other's successes and failures, food insecurity may not be an issue for First Nations children and families.

The heart of the Seedy Saturday event is the Seed exchange program, where everyone can sit and learn about the heirloom seeds, share stories,

share successes and failures with local gardeners and farmers and exchange seeds with each other.

As a gardener, you learn the history of the seed before you plant it in your garden. Once again, this reminds me of how our Anishinaabe ancestors would get together in the spring to socialize, tell stories and celebrate.

The North Bay event also included an eco-fair with local vendors selling honey bee products, herbs, Chaga Mushroom tea, herbal teas, locally raised meat and chicken and also a kid's area with crafts. The event is organized for families and communities to share, grow and learn from each other. Guest speakers covered topics like dealing with garden pests, and herbal medicines.

I highly recommend you attend the Seedy Saturday event in your local community the next opportunity you get. For more information you can visit Seeds of Diversity website at www.seeds.ca
Sarah Blackwell, M.H.S., B.A. (CYC), Aundeck Omni Kaning, is a Parent & Child Consultant living in North Bay. See <http://www.sarahblackwell.ca> and <http://tinyurl.com/SarahonFacebook>.



Sarah Blackwell



Marie Pine and Jody Cotter.

Pine honoured for work

By Jody Cotter

GARDEN RIVER FN — Dedication and outstanding work for critical HIV/AIDS work in Anishinabek Nation communities was honoured in January.

Marie Pine, citizen of Garden River First Nation, was presented an award by Jody Cotter, AIDS Program Coordinator for the Union of Ontario Indians.

Pine has enjoyed planning annual AIDS education activities each year in her community.

"I remember in my early years as a CHR, I, too, was ignorant of this disease," says Pine. "I thought it was important to learn about it. I attended many HIV/AIDS training workshops sponsored by the UOI and other organizations. I was especially happy when UOI communities received monies to help with the expenses of developing community education programs."

Pine says that over the years, Garden River has had many walks for AIDS and this year was the 16th year.

"At each activity, I thought it was important to have a Sacred Fire," says Pine. "We wanted to be able to offer prayers for the people who had HIV/AIDS and

also to pray for our community to understand this disease."

Pine also invited local drum groups to come and sing some songs for this special day.

"We invited some jingle dress dancers from the Indian Friendship Centre to come and dance for those who were affected with HIV/AIDS," she says.

Pine also included her husband, Elder Willard.

"Willard has a gift to counsel people in need of help and he also has a gift to make people laugh.

"It is a good thing to become familiar with people who work and provide a service specifically for HIV/AIDS," says Pine. "I also feel proud to say we invited a few resource persons from the Ontario First Nation HIV/AIDS Education Circle."

Other activities included HIV/AIDS karaoke night in December which coincided with Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week.

"I hired BJ the DJ and he would play requested songs. Anyone who got up and sang a song would win a novelty prize," says Pine. "There was also HIV/AIDS trivia. Anyone who answered correctly received a novelty prize. It was very entertaining to see the young ones get up there and sing. Even the older ones would get up and sing the oldies but goodies."

One year, Pine planned a World AIDS Candlelight Vigil at the Dan Pine Sr. Healing Lodge.

"It is very encouraging to see our band councilors take the time to attend our annual walks on occasion. It shows that they are interested in our work and want to be involved with the people."

Pine thanks the citizens of Garden River who have attended the walks over these past 16 years.

The UOI AIDS Program will continue to hand out awards to our workers in our communities and feature them in the Anishinabek News so if you or someone you know is doing good work in HIV/AIDS Education and Awareness please let the AIDS Program know by e-mail at jody.cotter@anishinabek.ca

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Battle of York remembered

By Brian Charles

TORONTO – A ceremony will be held to commemorate one of the major battles of the War of 1812.

On Saturday, April 27, 2013, the public is invited to gather at Old Fort York in downtown Toronto to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of York.

On April 27, 1813, American ships were seen from the highlands to the east of the Town of York, the area known today as the Scarborough Bluffs of Toronto.

The American force had sailed from Sackett's Harbour, New York, with 12 ships and 1400 soldiers to attack the Garrison at Fort York. Winds from the east blew the ships off-course and they were forced to attempt a landing west of the fort.

British Regulars were dispatched from Fort York to engage the Americans on landing but became lost in the many forested trails that led from the fort.

The militia struggled to form ranks in a ravine, also near the fort. Chippewa and Mississauga Chiefs

and warriors, who had been dispatched first, were left to defend against the landing of the 1400 American soldiers.

Some historical accounts say from 50 to 250 "Indians" were among the defenders of York. Others say as few as 75 to 140 Chippewa and Mississauga warriors – armed only with muskets – repelled three landing attempts by the Americans.

The Americans eventually positioned their ships broadside to the shoreline and began firing grape shot (think of a series of canonized shotguns being fired from the ships!) on the Chippewa and Mississauga position.

This barrage of firepower enabled the American soldiers to advance on land. The battle was then carried toward Fort York.

The retreating British blew up the fort's magazine, killing 38 American soldiers – including commanding officer, Gen. Zebulon Pike – and wounding 222.

The American forces subse-



Suzanne Howes and Andrew Big Canoe accept a commemorative medal and military colours on behalf of their community, Chippewas of Georgina Island, for the ancestors' participation in the War of 1812. Prime Minister Steven Harper, left, and Governor General David Johnston, right, made the presentation in a special ceremony Oct. 25 at Rideau Hall. – Photo by Canadian Forces

quently carried out several acts of arson – including torching Upper Canada's Legislative Assembly – and looting in the town before withdrawing.

A sunrise conducted jointly by members of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, Chippewas of Georgina Island, Rama and Beausoleil First Nations

will launch the commemoration April 27.

The day will end with the unveiling of a new memorial plaque at 3pm.

The ceremony will focus on the dedication of this new plaque to honour First Nations warriors, followed by a poetry reading by Stace LaForme of the

Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

Fort York National Historic Site has a day-long series of events planned for this bicentennial commemoration.

For more information please see their website at: <http://www.toronto.ca/1812/events.htm>

INSPECTION

Approved Forest Management Plan Inspection Pic River 2013–2023 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), GreenForest Management Inc. (GFMI) and the Pic River Public Consultation Committee (PRPCC) would like to advise you that the 2013–2023 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Pic River Forest has been approved by the MNR Regional Director and is available for inspection. The Pic River Forest is formed from the former Pic River Ojibway Forest and Black River Forest through an amalgamation process.

The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately two years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public and Aboriginal involvement are provided. The fourth opportunity (Stage 4) for this FMP occurred on September 25, 2012–November 21, 2012 when the public was invited to review and comment on the draft FMP. This 'Stage 5' notice is to advise you that the MNR-approved FMP will be available for inspection for 30 days.

FMP Inspection – Final Opportunity

During the 30-day inspection period, you may make a written request to the Director, Environmental Assessment Approvals Branch, Ministry of the Environment for an individual environmental assessment of specific forest management activities in the FMP. A response to a request will normally be provided by the Director, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, Ministry of the Environment after the completion of the 30-day inspection period.

The MNR-approved FMP and summary are available for inspection during normal office hours for 30 days from **February 20, 2013–March 22, 2013** at the following locations:

- GreenForest Management Inc. office, 470 Hodder Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON, Tel: 807-343-6418
- MNR public website at ontario.ca/forestplans. (The Ontario Government Information Centres in Toronto at 777 Bay Street and Manitouwadge, Nipigon and Wawa provide Internet access.)

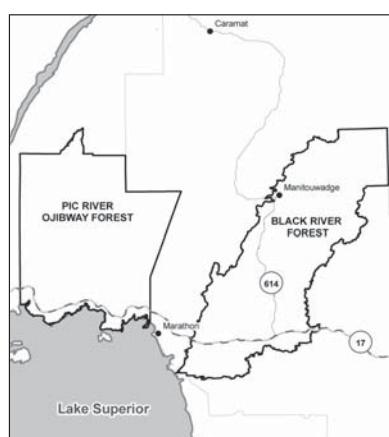
Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNR staff at the appropriate MNR district or area office to discuss the FMP.

For further information, please contact:

Tim Reece, RPF
Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources
48 Mission Road
Wawa, ON P0S 1K0
tel: 705-856-4717
fax: 705-856-7511

Jeffrey Cameron, RPF
Plan Author
GreenForest Management Inc.
P.O. Box 22004
470 Hodder Avenue
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 8A8
tel: 807-343-6418
fax: 807-343-6424

Grant Goodwin
PRPCC Chair
Manitouwadge, ON
tel: 807-826-3875



The approved FMP will be available for the 10-year period of the FMP at the same locations listed above.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is collecting your personal information under the authority of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about use of your personal information, please contact Doris Zagar at 705-856-4745.

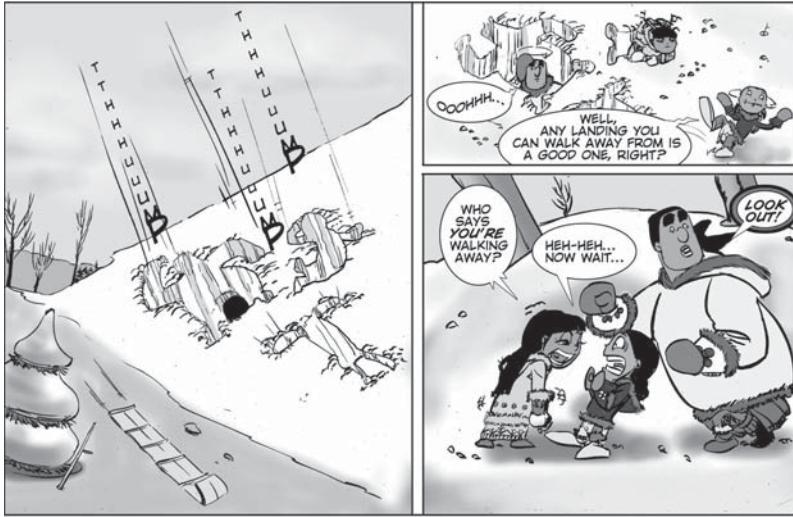
Renseignements en français : Jennifer Lamontagne au 705-856-4747.

Social Services

To advocate on social issues affecting our people



Rabbit and Bear Paws



© CHAD SOLOMON AND LITTLE SPIRIT BEAR PRODUCTIONS, 2013.

End funding discrimination for kids

TORONTO – The Government of Canada appeared before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal to respond to allegations that it is discriminating against First Nations children and families by under-funding child and family services on reserve. The tribunal is expected to hear arguments until May.

The Harper government reportedly spent over \$3 million and five years fighting to have the Canadian Human Rights complaint, originally filed in 2007 by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCS) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), dismissed on legal technicalities.

The FNCFCS and the AFN allege that the

Government of Canada under-funds child welfare services for First Nations children on-reserve, leading to lesser or no service compared to the provincial standard.

The inequities in First Nations child welfare have been well documented by the Auditor General of Canada and others. The Government of Canada funds and is actively involved in the on-reserve program.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Convention on the Rights of the Child are instruments of international human rights law that contravene the continued discrimination in funding.



ASK HOLLY

By Holly Brodhagen
askholly@gmail.com

Let's talk mental health

Recently I was asked my opinion about the Bell "Let's Talk" day. My answer? A resounding, "wonderful". Anything that supports the chance to share and educate about mental illness is a wonderful thing. It opens up dialogue and without many people knowing it they could be reaching out to someone who has a mental illness, who was once afraid to talk about it.

So I am willing to reach out to you as my readers and share with you something I feel no shame about. I have an anxiety disorder called Agoraphobia, diagnosed by a psychiatrist when I was younger.

Agoraphobia is an anxiety disorder where the person fears being unable to escape the environment they are in and may suffer a panic attack. Usually the person avoids these situations which include malls, movie theatres, cars, wide open places and in extreme cases the person can become housebound

I have received treatment of many forms over a great many years a number of health care and mental health professionals. I used to be a silent sufferer who turned to medication as a way to hide it from friends and family. Then with the help of my mother and a wonderful doctor I was able to break that cycle. Now I feel no shame about my disorder but acceptance that it has helped to form me into the person I am today.

My own struggles with my disorder makes me support such an initiative as Let's Talk day. Anything that can get people talking has the potential to unlock the silence surrounding mental disorders. I am open and honest about my disorder with friends, family and employers. I make them aware of how I handle my disorder and what they can do to assist me.

My openness about my disorder is also helping my children to grow up with an understanding that sometimes people are different and it is okay. As a parent, I feel proud that my children will share with others without having to make excuses or hide their mommy's differences. I am raising little advocates.

When situations arise where people have problems with my disorder, it is an opportunity to educate them. In rare occasions where I have suffered prejudice because of my disorder, I feel it is a reflection against that person or persons, not a reflection of me.

So I say to you, let's talk. Go sit in the lunchroom of your school or office and talk about mental illness and how it affects you. Let others hear what you think or feel. Give someone a chance to educate you. Without knowing it you might be opening up a safe space for someone to reach out to you about a mental illness. That person sitting at the next table who suffers in silence might be boosted by your words to feel safe and comfortable to share his or her story. Break the silence, open the doors and Let's Talk.

Holly Brodhagen is a citizen of Dokis First Nation and holds a masters degree in Sociology.

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OTTAWA – Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo welcomes unanimous support for the development of a special parliamentary committee on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada, with specific direction and interest in working with First Nations and other partners to propose solutions to address root causes of violence.

"We urge all parliamentarians to work together on this critical issue. We urge them to be fully inclusive of the voices of Indigenous peoples in order to bring forward solutions and commit to the action needed urgently to address violence and the conditions that lead to it and to ensure our peoples are safe wherever they live," said Atleo.



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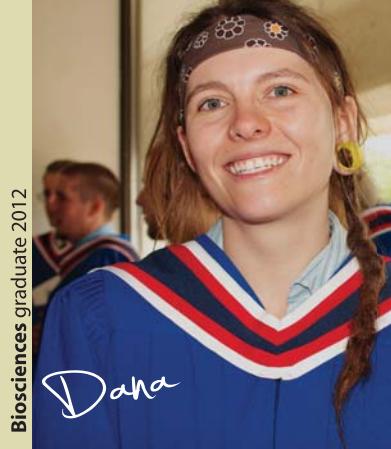
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Education

Trying to erase school failure

By Jennifer Lewington

SUDBURY – In her orange cotton dress adorned with rows of tinkling metal cones, Grade 1 student Sadie Turner skips to the centre of a large open classroom at Princess Anne PS to perform an Ojibwe “jingle dress” dance for visiting students, teachers and parents. With a student-built wigwam as a backdrop, the six-year-old rhythmically beats a drum, sings a “water song” and displays the nimble footwork she has perfected since the age of two.

Moments later, after a kindergarten chorus of “welcome to our coolest wigwam” to the guests, Grade 8 students Alex Nootchtaai and Zachary Tyson explain the difference between a wigwam (made from willow or cedar saplings and an integral part of Ojibwe culture) and a teepee (made from buffalo hide).

The performances, organized by First Nation and non-First Nation teachers at the school, were held over a three-week period to explain Aboriginal culture and traditions to the Princess Anne community in an informal, fun way — a supplement to Ojibwe language and Native studies, an Aboriginal-infused kindergarten and a weekly drumming class (with community partners) offered by the downtown Sudbury school through the Rainbow District School Board.

Scenes like the one at Princess Anne are playing out across Ontario, which has embarked on a series of initiatives to reverse, as in other provinces, a long history of failure in First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) education.

“Ontario is nibbling around the edges,” says Harvey McCue, an Ottawa consultant and nationally recognized commentator on First Nations education, and among those demanding system-level reforms. “The province needs to acknowledge that First Nations kids encounter serious difficulties in the provincial schools.”

In Ontario, 72.4 per cent of the province’s 46,000-plus First Nation students (on- and off-reserve) attend provincially-funded schools, as do more than 18,000 Métis and 700 Inuit. According to the 2006 Census, 37.6 per cent of Ontario FNMI aged 15 and older had less than a high school education compared to only 22 per cent of non-FNMI. As well, Aboriginal



A noon-hour drumming class for boys at Princess Anne Public School in Sudbury.

youth in the province were three times less likely than their peers to earn a university degree.

Inconsistent local efforts, a lack of data, high rates of family mobility and poverty, an absence of provincial mandates, incidents of racism and lingering stereotypes about Aboriginal learners are among multiple barriers to major change.

In Ontario, recent measures to address chronic underachievement date to 2007 when the Ministry of Education introduced a First Nation, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework that, with current funding of \$46.2 million this year, encourages school boards to promote student self-identification as a starting point to gather data, add Native language and Native studies courses, develop other curriculum resources, and hire Aboriginal teachers and support workers.

For their part, Ontario faculties of education are expanding efforts to embed Aboriginal content in the curriculum for all teacher candidates — part of a national commitment by deans of education on indigenous education.

Despite a proliferation of initiatives, results to date are uneven. “There’s been a significant level of progress,” observes Pamela Toulouse, a Laurentian University associate professor in education and author of Achieving Aboriginal Student Success.

Professor Toulouse, an Anishnaabe from Sagamok First Nation who has advised provincial

and national panels on education reform, warns: “As long as there are First Nation, Métis and Inuit students who don’t see themselves represented in the curriculum, so long as we have many who are dropping out and see their own learning styles and dialects are not being valued in schools, so long as that is happening, it is not equitable at all.”

With little evidence of a system-wide change, First Nations

Jennifer Lewington is an award-winning journalist who writes about education and urban issues for publications in Canada and the United States. Her article “The new face of Aboriginal Education” first appeared as the cover story in the March, 2013 edition of Professionally Speaking, official publication of the Ontario College of Teachers



Six-year-old Sadie Turner demonstrates the Ojibwe jingle dress dance she learned when she first started to walk.

—Photo by Jennifer Lewington

challenges for Ontario in coming to grips with First Nation, Métis and Inuit education. Sudbury has the fourth-highest concentration of Aboriginal residents in Ontario while self-identified FNMI make up nine per cent of students in Rainbow schools. By 2031, predicts Statistics Canada, Aboriginal residents could represent 13.2 per cent of Sudbury’s population — more than double the proportion in 2006.

Over the years, Rainbow negotiated tuition agreements with local First Nation bands, but since 2007, when the board began work on its FNMI policy, it has intensified efforts to reach out to communities that send students to the public board. One tool of engagement is an Aboriginal advisory council that includes 11 First Nations whose members give the board feedback on curriculum, hiring practices and school culture.

Dokis-Ranney early on asked students what they needed to succeed in school. Without hesitation, they pleaded for Aboriginal support workers to help with emotional, social and academic issues. Since then, with ministry funding, Rainbow has added four full-time support workers (with additional part-time support), increased its roster of Native language teachers to 11 from two, and hired a First Nations speech-and-language pathologist who works with elementary students on language acquisition and coaches teachers on effective teaching strategies.

With input from its advisory committee, the board is introducing Aboriginal-infused curriculum content so First Nation, Métis and Inuit students see themselves, and others gain knowledge as well. Through pilot projects, the board has experimented with interventions to engage students who could easily slip from school view.

Beyond individual success stories, some Aboriginal leaders want the province to mandate curriculum requirements (now expressed as “opportunities to learn”) that, as in other provinces, require all students to learn about First Nation, Métis and Inuit history, values and culture.

First Nations leaders are of a similar view about the teaching of treaties and other content. “It has to be mandatory,” declares Marianna Couchie, chief of Nipissing First Nation just outside of North Bay. “There are students who don’t understand us and if you scratch the surface, out will come the negative responses about Native people.”

In the meantime, school officials are happy to embrace small victories. At Princess Anne, where she watched the student presentations, Rainbow’s Kathy Dokis-Ranney was cheered that the event rolled out without any directive from the board. “It tells me our schools are getting more comfortable.”

The city is a microcosm of the

Education

Forever to the Seventh Generation



Teacher of Excellence recipient Mr. Travis Corbiere (Grade 4 Teacher, Lakeview School) and Teacher Excellence (3+ years of experience) Recipient Ms. Cheryl Miller-Martin (Grade 1/ Grade 2 Teacher, Shawanoswe School) at the 2013 "Inspiring Minds" conference hosted by Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute.

KTEI teachers receive excellence awards

SUDBURY – Inspiring – Confident – Caring – Creative – Dedicated. These are just a few of the words that describe two fantastic teachers who were awarded \$500 VISA cash and other gifts during KTEI's annual Principal/Educators Conference held on Feb. 1, 2013.

This is the tenth year in which KTEI has hosted this annual conference of Anishinabek educators with this one-day professional learning event offering an array of workshops geared specifically to pique the knowledge and interest of teachers, principals and Native language teaching professionals alike.

And undoubtedly, the 75 education professionals in attendance would agree that one of the main highlights of the "Inspiring Minds" Conference were the two awards presented to two lucky recipient teachers. Award winners had to be nominated by either parents, teachers, support staff, principals or vice-principals, and education directors/coordinators of their First Nation School.

The "Teacher of Excellence" award (3+ years of experience) was awarded to Grade 1 / Grade 2 teacher Mrs. Cheryl Miller-Martin of Shawanoswe School in Whitefish River FN.

The nominee letter had many words and examples to demonstrate her enthusiasm for learning, contributions to the school community, inspiring students to take on new challenges and reach their full potential, and creating innovative and challenging opportunities that help students learn.

"If you drive by Shawanoswe School late at night, you will see Mrs. Miller-Martin's vehicle still parked outside. That's because she is dedicated and committed teacher...if you sat in her class for any length of time, you would think that they are expertly choreographed, like a fine dance. Ms. Miller-Martin possesses a highly-interactive and welcoming approach to learning that is second to none!"

The second award given is titled the "New Teacher of Excellence" award. Grade 4 Teacher Mr. Travis Corbiere (Lakeview School in M'Chigeeng, FN) received his nomination by a parent and included such words of praise as, "Mr. Corbiere has always been honest, helpful, creative, intelligent, successful, considerate of others, patient, and most importantly, a great role model...he inspires his students to learn. Lakeview School is so fortunate to have such an intelligent, respectful and caring teacher!"

The lunchtime award presentations would not be complete without a traditional honour song. Led by KTEI Traditional Knowledge Faculty member Gloria Oshkabewisens-McGregor, it was easy to recruit volunteers from the audience as they joined in leading the crowd with the Mgizi song – words which were deeply heartfelt by the two award winners.

And don't think it's too early to start thinking about nominees for that deserving teacher next year in your First Nation school - there are many teachers out there who deserves this extra peer recognition for their dedicated and tireless work to our goals in Anishinabek Education.

Ottawa scraps name

By QMI Agency

OTTAWA - So long TomaHawks. Only hours after announcing the name of the newest franchise in the National Basketball League of Canada on Tuesday, the team decided to scrap its name after public outcry that TomaHawks might have perceived racist undertones.

Team president Gus Takkale said a new name will be chosen

as soon as possible.

"I'm not blaming anybody," Takkale said. "I take full ownership."

He said prior to launch he spoke with a few Native "individuals" to get some sense of how the public would feel about the name. A combination of positive responses and his own attraction to the name is what made him decide to go with it.



Ottawa TomaHawks president Gus Takkale.

Takkale said he had written to Native groups but still hadn't received any guidance

Idle 'Know' More teach-in at KTEI

By Beverley Roy-Carter

M'CHIGEENG FN – "We need more people to see our issues through our eyes, from our perspectives - and not just 'white eyes'...far too often media and history has portrayed us as Aboriginal people in ways that are just not true", said Chief Joe Hare of M'Chigeeng First Nation during his opening and welcoming address to over 100 people who attended KTEI's first Idle "Know" More Educational Teach-in event held on February 15, 2013.

But first, for the benefit and learning experience of new learners in the audience, many of whom who were non-First Nation citizens of Manitoulin who would not have experienced Anishinabek traditional practices before, the morning began with a traditional thanksgiving and short teaching on the significance of tobacco offerings by KTEI Elder in Residence J. Eshkawgonagan.

Each participant was provided cloth and tobacco to make their own tobacco tie which was then used to symbolically tie everyone together at the end of the learning day to demonstrate peace, unity and care for Mother Earth.

In his opening address, Chief Hare provided a synopsis of 200 years of legislative history which has impacted Aboriginal peoples, ranging from the Royal Proclamation of 1763 to the Indian Act to the new First Nations Education Act expected to take effect in September, 2014.

While linking historical events to modern-day events and experiences of First Nation communities, Chief Hare succinctly and methodically dispelled many of the myths and stereotypes of First Nations peoples that unfortunately many non-Aboriginal people still have to this day.

"But that is the purpose of today", said Chief Hare. "Many of these stereotypes and attitudes are often still held today because of lack of awareness, proper in-



Chief Joe Hare speaks at 'Idle know more' teach-in.

– Photo by Patrick Kiley

formation and lack of accurate resources in our provincial educational systems about Aboriginal peoples; so today, we are here to begin sharing and learning a new history from the perspective of our 'brown eyes', from our Anishinabek peoples' perspective".

After Chief Hare laid the foundation for the day's learning, four concurrent seminars, each with specific learning objectives, gave participants the chance to select a subject area directly and indirectly relating to the Idle No More movement that they wished to learn more about.

Many younger and older audience members alike chose to hear from three impressive youth and their perspectives on the Idle No More movement. Miss Summer Beaudin, Miss Asia Francis and Miss Serena Kaiser – all of whom are students under the age of 13 from M'Chigeeng First Nation – impressively shared their knowledge and insight from a new generational perspective.

Art Jacko, the Lands and Resources Manager of the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising Tribal Council gave a factual and historic account of First Nation treaty intent of resource sharing of the land with settlers and new governments.

Art also provided partici-

pants with an overview of government's fiduciary duty to consult First Nations. For those who could not make this first teach-in, the duty to consult doctrine was adjudicated by the Supreme Court of Canada which says that governments making decisions that may have an impact on Aboriginal rights or treaty rights have a duty to consult the potentially-affected Aboriginal communities even prior to final proof of the rights in court or final settlement on the rights in negotiation processes.

Alan Corbiere, KTEI Traditional Knowledge Holder faculty member, and renowned source for Anishinabek history, provided learners an introductory treaty history lesson affecting Manitoulin Island – the intent then and the reality of now. The Manitoulin Treaty of 1862 and the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 were but only but a few of the topics that Alan touched upon in his seminar.

Elder and oral history knowledge-keeper Gordon Waindubence captivated his listeners with an introduction to the prophecies of the Seventh Fire

Planning is already underway for the next quarterly educational teach-in event to take place during Education Week in May 2013.

Education

Forever to the Seventh Generation

Students protest law course changes

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY — Fort William's Stephanie MacLaurin plans to continue sitting in at Lakehead University until a full-credit indigenous course is reintegrated into the new law school's curriculum.

"We are not going until we have our (full-credit) course back," the LU political science pre-law student said on the afternoon of March 2. "This has been an amazing experience — I've grown so much in a week. Sebastian (Murdoch-Gibson, an LU indigenous learning student) and I have been here day and night and we have four or five other people who are here all the time. Some days we have anywhere from 20 to 30 people sitting in the office."

The LU students began their sit-in next to LU president Brian



Lakehead University students Stephanie MacLaurin and Sebastian Murdoch-Gibson launched a sit-in with up to 20-30 other students next to the university president's office over changes to a full-credit indigenous course at the university's new law school.

Stevenson's office since the morning of Feb. 25 over the law school's plans to change the full-credit Native Canadian World Views course to a half-credit Native Canadian World Views and Law course.

The students feel the change conflicts with LU's successful proposal to create the law school with the full-credit course after its first proposal without the full-credit course failed.

MacLaurin says the full-credit course, offered through the Indigenous Learning Faculty, might not have a law name but it is "heavy law."

"Most of Native Canadian World Views is law," MacLaurin says. "It breaks down the constitution, it talks about the criminal code, it brings into consideration the Royal Proclamation, any acts that have affected Canadian Indi-

ans over hundreds of years."

MacLaurin is also concerned about comments from the law school dean, Lee Stuesser, that the full-credit course is only a second-year undergraduate course.

"I think he's taking away from the course by saying that," MacLaurin says. "He's going to put into people's mind the idea that because it is a second-year, and only a second-year undergraduate

program, that it might not be worth it. We disagree with that."

Stuesser says the suggestion that Native Canadian World Views was intended to be taught in the law program is not correct.

"What is correct is that a course on Native Canadian World Views was to be taught," Stuesser said in a Feb. 28 media release. "It is important to the credibility of the course and the law program that Native Canadian World Views be taught as a law course, subject to the standards, evaluation and regulation of the Faculty of Law."

Stuesser says no other law school in Canada would require a mandatory non-law course as part of its first year program.

"Characterizing it as a law course is the approach that best respects the indigenous perspective and means that indigenous legal traditions receive the same respect and are placed on an equal footing with the common law," Stuesser says.

Stuesser says the half-credit course and the half-credit Foundations of Canadian Law course, which presents a western world view, would provide students with an interesting comparison between the common and Native world view.

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Beausoleil hosts FN Public Library Week

BEAUSOLEIL FN – Kathleen Peters says that it was exciting for her community to host the 11th annual First Nations Public Library Week since there are still communities who don't have public libraries.

Peters, who is Beausoleil's librarian, organized the launch event held Feb. 11-16 at Enjimaunjiding – The Gathering Place.

"The launch event was a lot of fun," says Peters. "We had dignitaries from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, representatives from the Ontario Library Association, Southern Ontario Library Service, a representative from our Chief and Council. We had art workshops with local artist Clayton King, who also designed this year's poster image."

King donated his painting to the group, taught different forms of painting in workshops with the children, and printed off pictures of his artwork for students to take home with them.

"Everyone who spoke at the launch was also able to interact with the kids, and we had a great reading session with Patty Lawlor, from the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOL) who read the book 'I Lost My Cat' written by Phillippe Beha, to the children in Grades 1 to 6."

First Nations Public Library Week is a multi-level, multi-purpose program that was developed in 2000. First Nations Public Libraries use one week every February to raise awareness of their resources, services, programs and activities.

It is a celebration of First Nations public libraries and the role they play in each of their communities. It encourages all Ontario librarians to join in its celebration.

"The event as successful as it was, could not have taken off without the help of the staff at the library here in Beausoleil, and I want to say a huge thank you to them and to everyone who came out to help us celebrate," says Peters.

Other First Nations communities held events throughout First Nations Public Library Week, which included readings, book giveaways, open houses and games.



Kathleen Peters



Clayton King painting.

Author appointed as writer-in-residence

TORONTO – Drew Hayden Taylor's writer-in-residence appointment to Ryerson University is not something new to him.

"My first appointment was with the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the University of Western Ontario and then I was at the University of Lueburg in Germany," says Hayden Taylor who is originally from Curve Lake First Nation.

At Ryerson University, Taylor will be continuing with his writing, meeting with various students, lecturing in English classes and highlighting the work the Ryerson English Department does to the community. He believes his role as a writer in residence is important because it will allow him to bring his experience to students who are interested in writing.

"I fashion myself to be a modern storyteller," he says. "I have gone from telling stories around the campfire, to the stage and then onto the page. I can bring the experiences I have to the student body and I am delighted to be the first writer in residence here at Ryerson University."

Currently Hayden-Taylor is working on a play "God and the Indian" that will be premiering in Vancouver in April of this year and writing a third draft to a novel titled "Chasing Painted Horses".



Drew Hayden



Annie Tait of Sachigo Lake First Nation tries her hand at puppetry, with coaching from Rabbit and Bear Paws creator Chad Solomon.

Aboriginal programs promoted at Ontario Library super conference

TORONTO – One of the tools that got everyone laughing an Aboriginal Awareness Circle at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference was a Bingo game.

"Everyone loves Bingo," says Kathleen Peters, librarian of Beausoleil First Nation. "We use Indian corn kernels as markers which is played in Anishinaabemowin. It exposes the children and community members to the language and the game is a lot of fun. You do not have to be accurate with the language while playing; you just do your best."

Peters was one of several Aboriginal Library resource people at conference roundtables.

Sheila Staats of Goodminds.com. gave resources to the attendees on "must have" First Nations books and Rabbit and Bear Paws author and illustrator Chad Solomon also spoke at a round table discussion.

"I'm very passionate about First Nations Public Libraries and First Nations Public Library week," says Peters. "I want to make sure that other public libraries know about the values we have, the traditions we have lost but are trying to bring back, and I hope that other libraries will run a good program themselves. It is my hope that Public Libraries will use Aboriginal program materials – especially during First Nation Public Library week and let their patrons know that we are here."

The Ontario Library Associa-

tion Super conference provides a great opportunity for all librarians to gather and meet with each other, but the First Nations library stream at the Super Conference has been growing bigger and bigger each year. This

is very encouraging because it also allows First Nations librarians to share their experience and expertise and bring the information they learn back to their individual communities.

Teaching through puppets

TORONTO – Chad Solomon, author/illustrator of the popular Rabbit and Bear Paws graphic novel series, hosted one of many round tables at the Aboriginal Awareness Circle at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference 2013.

Solomon spoke about how – through the use of his puppets Strawberry and Rabbit – he brings the Seven Grandfather Teachings to his readers in his primary and junior/intermediate series.

"As a kid, I loved the old stories, and I wanted to be able to get others into those stories," says Solomon. "A few years ago, we created the graphic novels and have done a series of five graphic novels so far. We created a graphic novel for each of the teachings. We created fictional stories based around real Anishinaabe teachings."

The Adventures of Rabbit and Bear Paws is a fresh and funny graphic novel series for the young and the young at heart. Passing his puppets around to the participants at the round table, it was easy to see through the use of puppets, how Solomon can bring the inner child out in everyone.

Aside from the graphic novels, Solomon does a series of puppet shows for the kids to discover those teachings and how they want to get into the stories. The puppets serve as a tool to get children involved in the telling of stories.

"After we come into this world, from the Spirit World, the first thing we do is we connect to the world around us through a physical contact – we connect to our mothers, fathers. The quickest way people learn is by tactile touch. After you give someone the ideas – the mental, emotional and spiritual ideas the most concrete way to learn is through touch, and the best way to learn is to put the tools inside the kids' hands."

Solomon has worked on a series of plays for ages from JK to Grade 10.

He is currently working on a free three-month loan multi-media program that will have him sending out hand puppets/animal puppets out to First Nations schools and libraries.



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STUDENT PROFILE
Miranda Pelletier

Aanni, my name is Miranda Pelletier and I am from Serpent River First Nation. I'm a mother of two beautiful children, and work as a full-time Registered Early Childhood Educator at our community's day care center. I am currently enrolled in the Business Administration program which is a continuation of the two-year AEI Business Program which I'm a graduate of. I first heard about the Business Program from the Anishinabek News a few years back and then again from a friend who is also my classmate. I always knew that I wanted to return to school, and when this opportunity presented itself I took advantage of it. I will be graduating in the fall with my Business Administration Diploma and am also currently my class representative. I am grateful for this program because it allowed me to keep my full-time employment and not be away from my family for too long. I plan on continuing my post-secondary education in the near future at the university level either in public relations or political science.



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