Ginoogaming Healing Walk ends journey in Fort William

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The 2017 Healing Walk for all people from Ginoogaming to Fort William was an extension of the 10-day healing walk held last year from Thunder Bay

"This second group walking for seven days ties in with what we did last year," says Fred Thomas, a Lac Seul citizen who organized last year's healing walk and participated in this year's walk. "It's a peaceful walk. It has nothing to do with violence or protests. We're just trying to educate the general public that this is our way of doing

The 2017 Healing Walk was focused on a different issue each day: Drugs/ Alcohol Addictions; Cancer; Missing Women/Men; Residential School/Day School Survivors/Descendants; Suicide; Land, Water and Air; and Racism.

"It was very uplifting, emotionally, spiritually, mentally, (and) physically demanding," says former regional chief Charles Fox, noting that he developed blisters on his feet on the second last day of the walk. "But to honour each day with a different theme is good."

The walkers were honoured with a song and dance at the Fort William Powwow after completing the 320-kilometre walk on July 1. The walkers began their journey on June 25 in Ginoogaming.

"It's a good feeling to be here at the powwow," says Cecil Mendowegan, one of the Healing Walk organizers from Ginoogaming. "We did quite a few healing songs along the way. We did a smudging ceremony every morn-



The spirit walkers on the 2017 Healing Walk raised the issue of racism while walking from City Hall in Thunder Bay to Fort William on the last day of the June 25-July 1 walk.

ing before we started the walk."

Fox says the special walk over the Nipigon bridge was an "awesome"

"You had a couple of hundred people walking across," Fox says. "A lot of people came to join us from the surrounding area, so that was nice. And they blocked off the bridge for us to do that. They stopped traffic both ways, so that was awesome."

Judy Desmoulin, a Healing Walk

organizer from Long Lake #58, says it was "very difficult" for the walkers to walk through two days of rainfall on the fifth and sixth days, but they persevered because of the the fifth day's Suicide issue.

'Our community is one community that doesn't have a high rate of suicides, but we always feel for other communities who are going through that," Desmoulin says. "So yesterday (day five), when we walked through the rain it was extra hard and our youth really pushed themselves because they really wanted to make a mark in showing how much they really care for the other youth in the other communities."

About 40 walkers were participating in the walk when they reached the Terry Fox memorial near Thunder Bay

on the sixth day. "The walk was amazing — I learned a lot, I overcame a lot," says Gavin Eveleigh, a Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging

Anishnawbek youth who grew up in Geraldton. "You keep on pushing it because we are walking for this cause for everybody. That is why I feel fulfilled right now, because when I wanted to quit, I kept going so that was an amazing experience."

Eveleigh joined the walk in Gerald-

"Thank you to the organizers who set this all up and the funding (that enabled) us to eat every day and to sleep in a safe, dry place," Eveleigh says. "Thank you to the reserves who helped us and encouraged everybody to come and join."

Eveleigh enjoyed walking with the

other youth during the walk.
"It warmed my heart to see (them), because lots of youth don't really want to do stuff like this," Eveleigh says. "But the more youth come out, then everybody comes and joins."

The walkers passed the communities of Longlac, Long Lake #58, Geraldton, Jellicoe, Aniimbigoo Zaaging Anishnawbek, Beardmore, Bingwi Neyashi Anishnawbek, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishnawbek, Red Rock Indian Band, Nipigon, Red Rock, Hurkett, Dorion, Pearl and Pass Lake on the way to Thunder Bay and Fort William.

"We're walking not only to heal for ourselves, but to heal our communities that are struggling with alcohol and drug addictions," Mendowegan says.

The Healing Walk organizers look forward to participating in another healing walk next year.

'We're hoping another First Nation community steps in next year and does the same thing," Thomas says.

Indigenous youth preparing for NAIG 2017

Rick Garrick

Wawatay News

Two First Nation runners who train on Mt. McKay in Fort William are looking forward to competing at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) 2017 in Toronto.

"Last year I went to the Aboriginal Summer Games," says Sandy Lake's Cory Goodman, who is running in the 1,200 and 2,000-metre track and 3K cross-country races. "I had fun meeting new people. I had a great time out there and hopefully I get to meet more people from all over North America (at

Goodman qualified for the Aboriginal Team Ontario (ATO) Athletics U16 team at an Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario (AWSCO) tryout in Thunder Bay.

"It was kind of nervous for me - (I was) worried that I wasn't going to make it," Goodman says. "But I made

Goodman began running in January 2016 after moving to Thunder Bay the previous summer.



submitted photo

Sandy Lake runner Cory Goodman will be competing in the 1,200 and 2,000metre track and 3K cross-country races at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) 2017 in Toronto.

"I just run two kilometres a day, almost every day," Goodman says.

Goodman says the 3K cross-country race is the first event he will be participating in. It is scheduled at the University of Toronto Scarborough on July 17.

"I'm just going to take care of that right away," Goodman says. "And the rest is all track."

The track races and other Athletics events are scheduled from July 19-21 at the York Lions Stadium at York University. NAIG is being held from July 16-23 at about 16 venues across the Toronto area.

Cheryl Suggashie, Goodman's mother, says he also does some longer training runs with his father on Mt. McKay and at Kakebeka Falls.

"He had a hard time at first, but I think he has more endurance now," Suggashie says.

Suggashie looks forward to Goodman's upcoming races at NAIG.

"I'm pretty proud of him, happy that he has opportunities like this now," Suggashie says. "They never had that when I was a teenager."

Suggashie adds that Goodman's family and friends have been "very supportive" of his trip to NAIG.

"We've been accepting donations from extended family up in Pikangikum and all over," Suggashie says. "Even the kids at school are supportive

Fort William's Kyra Anderson-Morriseau is looking forward to competing in the 100, 200 and 300-metre and 400-metre relay track races at NAIG. She qualified for the ATO Athletics U16 team at an AWSCO tryout in Thunder

"It's very exciting — I've never been able to do something this big," Anderson-Morriseau says. "I've always loved running.'

Anderson-Morriseau trains by doing some runs as well as full-pace runs for the three distances she will be compet-

"And we have Mt. McKay, and I run up and down the hill," Anderson-Morriseau says. "Your first steps (in short distance) are supposed to be fast, so running up Mt. McKay gives me that extra push that I need."

Anderson-Morriseau enjoys the training aspect of running.

"It not only helps you when it comes

to race time, but it's also just doing what you love," Anderson-Morriseau

Anderson-Morriseau says her family and friends have been "very supportive" of her trip to NAIG.

"They've been supporting me with every step of the way," Anderson-Morriseau says. "Everyone has been doing everything they can to make sure I get there with what I need and everything

The NAIG opening ceremony kicks off at 7:30 p.m. on July 16 with a starstudded lineup of musicians, dramatic performances and presentations at the Aviva Centre.

NAIG will also feature two weeklong cultural festivals, which will be open to the public to showcase a variety of Indigenous artists, traditional learning, vendors, food, cultural performances and nightly entertainment.

More than 5,000 athletes from all 13 provinces and territories in Canada and up to 13 regions from the United States are expected to compete at NAIG 2017.



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Applicants must be:

- between the ages of 18 and 25
- a member of one of the First Nations served by Tikinagan and currently living in one of those First
- able to travel to meetings without an escort

Role and Responsibilities

The role of the Youth Representatives is primarily to work with the Tikinagan Child and Family Services Board. The Youth Representatives have the following specific responsibilities:

- attend the Annual Chiefs Assembly
- · participate in committees and attend meetings as the Board may determine
- be consulted and provide input into Tikinagan Child and Family Services policies and procedures

Application Requirements

- · your resume
- a letter of interest in serving as a Youth Representative to Tikinagan's Board of Directors
- · a letter of recommendation from your Chief and

Honorariums will be paid to Youth Representatives for participation in Tikinagan meetings or events. Related travel costs will also be covered by Tikinagan.

You may send your application package by e-mail, fax or mail to:

> Selection Committee Tikinagan Child & Family Services Box 627, Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1B1 Fax: 807-737-3543 E-mail: info@tikinagan.org

We thank all applicants for your interest. However, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Closing Date: Thursday, August 31 @ 4:30 p.m.



Treaty Three wrestler seeks to slam the competition

Kyle Derosier

Special to Wawatay News

Justice Bruyere is a wrestler from Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation who will be competing at the upcoming North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). The event takes place in Toronto from July 16-23 and will feature 14 sport categories and host over 5000 partici-

Bruyere started wrestling in her first semester of grade 11 at Dryden High School, but didn't originally think much of the

"First of all, I was like that's a weird sport [and] no one's going to join it," said Bruyere in a recent interview. But her friends convinced her when they said they would get into the sport as a group. "So I ioined.'

Quickly, Justice became an accomplished high school wrestler and has competed at the provincial level. In grade 11, she won her second match 10 to nothing with a pin. That was, in her words, "pretty sweet".

She wasn't able to attend provincial competitions this year due to other commitments. Her upcoming appearance at NIAG will be her first appearance at a national level, and Bruyere has mixed feelings about that.

"It feels pretty good [but] it's my first and last because next year I'll be too old," said

Justice is proud to be Ojibway, and says her culture follows her into the ring.

"It feels like a big reward to be able represent Treaty 3 and especially my reserve, Wabigoon Lake," Bruyere said, adding that she thinks of those who came before her. "It just gives me motivation to push for what you want," said Bruyere.

Her father Tyson Gardner



Justice Bruyere of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation celebrates another sporting victory with her father, Tyson Gardner, by her side.

is happy with the growth his daughter has shown over the

"Justice has always been rough and tough growing up," Gardner said, adding that one of his daughter's strengths is her openness to change. "She's never been one to be shy or not try anything out of her comfort zone, and her willingness to

learn and try new things always amazed me.

Gardner finds it impressive that his daughter can juggle several things, including preparing to leave home for several

"She's focusing on [NAIG] while still working her summer job and preparing for Fanshawe College this fall," Gardner told

Wawatay News. "I'm super proud of all she's accomplished so far in life, education and athletics. She has a bright future ahead of her."

Though there is no wrestling program at Fanshawe College, Justice still seeks to compete and plans on joining the wrestling club in nearby London.

Thank You, Airlines!

Your fast, courteous delivery of Wawatay News to our northern communities is appreciated.













Education

Joy and worries at graduation

Joshua Baxter Special to Wawatay News

Henry Coaster Memorial School honours its students with a graduation ceremony to congratulate them for their hard work and success, in Marten Falls Fist Nation.

Students from kindergarten to grade 8 celebrated ending the school year with a party in the school's gymnasium. Parents, teachers and students gathered and laughed with each other during the celebration. Students received gifts and certificates of achievement for their successes in the school year. The community came together to share food and treats with one another.

Sylvie Slootweg, the grade 7 and 8 teacher, had been working at Henry Coaster Memorial School since the winter. She said she is pleased with how much the students learned and achieved in the time she had been teaching them in her class-

"I've been here since the beginning of January and met all the students. I say we had a really good year. We improved attendance in the grade 7 and 8 classes. Every student went up reading levels. They tried really

Slootweg said she will miss each and every student she met and hopes they will achieve higher success in the coming years. She also enjoyed her time teaching in Marten Falls. She cared a lot for her students. "I didn't know what to expect. I didn't expect to really come to appreciate the kids so much, to really care about them as much

Many students met the school's expectations and will be passing to the next grade which means the grade 8 students will have to leave their homes and families behind to pursue post-secondary education in the city.

Breanna Baxter, 14 years old, will be attending the Geraldton Composite High School in Geraldton, Ontario in September. She will be leaving home. "I feel nervous and excited at the same time," she said. "I feel proud of myself for completing grade 8. I think my mom will be happy I'm leaving the house."

Waylon Achneepineskum Jr., 13, was also among the students who completed grade 8 and will be leaving home to attend high school in the fall.

"I feel excited about finishing grade 8," he said. "I feel a little bit happy about leaving home. There will be different people to meet. There will be more work at school. My parents will be happy and sad," he said of his departure from his parents.

Paulette Baxter, Breanna's mother, hopes her daughter will do well in her first year of high school. "I want her to go continue her education. I hope she completes it. I hope she doesn't come back home," she said. "I hope she doesn't get discouraged if she finds it get too hard for her. I hope she toughs it out."

Brenda Baxter, Waylon's mother voiced her concerns her son's looming about absence from her home and for the other students that will be

'There are a lot of things I feel right now. He's at a young age right now. He just turned 13 years old. I hope someone carries on being a parent to him, wherever he is staying. When they leave here they're leaving family, love, their grandparents. Do your best. We will always be here. We're a phone call away. Just follow the rules they give you in high school," she said.

America Baxter, 15, a returning student, has finished her first year of high school and said she had difficulties but managed to persevere through the two semesters she attended. 'I guess it was okay. It wasn't hard and it wasn't easy, either. I was really quiet my first year. I didn't really talk to anyone and just kept to myself."

America said she will work on being more present in the classroom when she begins her second year of school. "I'm going to try and focus more. I'm going to try and concentrate better this year and next year," she said.

Wanita Coaster spoke about her daughter America Baxter being away from home. "I feel like any other people would feel. Scared and worried. I just want her to succeed in school.'



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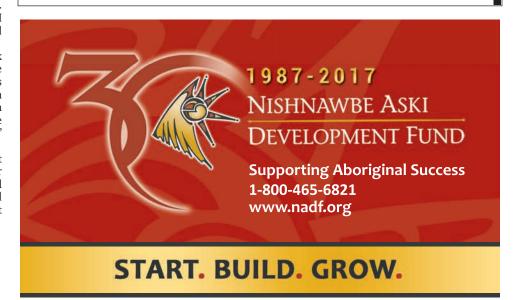
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Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority Annual General Meeting will be held September 12-14, 2017 at the Lac Seul Events Centre

For Chiefs from the First Nation communities in the Sioux Lookout area, registration forms have been faxed to your band office. If you haven't received yours, please go to our events page on our website at www.slfnha.com/newsevents/ for downloadable forms, or contact Delaine Fiddler, Communications Officer at <u>SLFNHA-Communications@slfnha.com</u> or 807-737-6520

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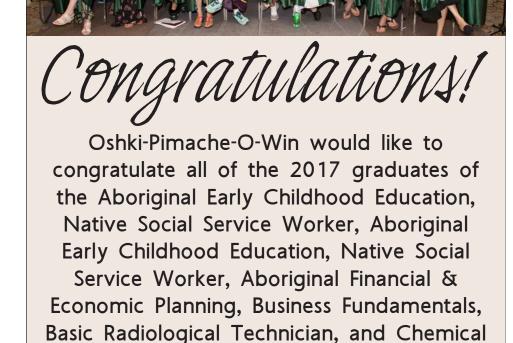
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Commentary

Talking to geese



Kataquapit UNDER THE ORTHERN SKY

Xavier

'n Kirkland Lake this past month, I had the opportunity to appreciate Niska (Canada goose) again. A couple of parent geese had decided to have their chicks on the edges of Kinross Pond, in the middle of town. I recently got back on my bicycle again and I have had the opportunity to watch this growing family almost on a daily basis. The geese had their chicks about a month ago and the four little ones are growing fast.

I am always amazed that I am able to watch them like this. As a boy with my father Marius and my brothers, we hunted these birds every spring and we never had the opportunity to be near them while they were

They were wild animals we could never approach closely. We rarely had the opportunity to sit nearby to watch their chicks or be near their nests.

I have some fun by calling the goose family at Kinross Pond with the classic 'honk'. There is actually a bit of skill in being able to make a goose 'honk' sound.

The sound comes from deep in the throat with plenty of forced breathe to project a strong tone that can be heard from a distance.

The sound you try to make is like 'A-Wook'. I am not the best at it. I able to make a good effort but I am not capable of projecting it loudly enough. My Mooshoom or grandfather James Kataquapit was a great

He could open his mouth to call geese that were tiny specks on the horizon and they would turn to follow his voice. My dad Marius and his brothers were also great callers and it came natural to them.

My family has a story that my older brothers Antoine, Mario and Philip actually recorded our elderly grandfathers voice on a tape recorder one year. They took the recording with them on a portable boom box and would play it to call geese. They said that even the recorded voice was enough to attract geese to their blind.

A great call is only the first step as geese are very intelligent in their ability to communicate.

If a hunter calls too often, too repeatedly, too fast or erratically, then a goose will quickly understand that it is a not another goose that is calling and it will fly away from the

Many hunters had methods that taught us younger people to be patient, to call in sets of three honks, then to slow down the repetition as the birds approached.

It takes practice because on the hunting grounds in the north, geese are very timid creatures.

One type of call that is rarely used is a sort of loon cry. It sounds like a long winded 'aaaaaa hawwwwwwww'. Geese use it sometimes mostly to attract distant birds they want to message.

A third sound is one that some hunters like to use as the birds are landing nearby. You project a sort of panting sound from deep inside your throat. It is sort of a deep repressed 'ha-ha-ha' sound that is pronounced quickly. Geese make this sound as a sort of sound off to let everyone know they are landing.

People on the James Bay coast have been calling these birds for thousands of years. To my people, this majestic bird is a symbol of salvation from the long cold winter.

We have relied on the return of Niska every year because they arrive at a time when food resources have run low. The new supply of food is also meant to give us a good stock of nourishment for the coming warm months of summer.

"We have relied on the return of Niska every year because they arrive at a time when food resources have run low..."

I don't hunt geese any more but I still feel a kinship to these birds when I see them. They have saved my people from s vation and famine for generations and I will always appreciate them for that.

I have grown familiar with the chicks at Kinross Pond. I call to them and they seem to take notice with the familiar sounds that I make. I noticed that three of them stay close to their parents while the fourth enjoys being away from the group. There is a rebel in the family and he (or she) is the one I appreciate the most.

I like to imagine that the three closest to their parents will be the ones to follow the crowds and fly with the other geese to great nesting grounds with hundreds of others.

The lone goose chick that likes to stay separate from the others will most likely be the one to return with a new family again next year to Kinross Pond. I look forward to seeing that goose and his family then too.

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Wabigoon celebrates graduates with style



photo submitted by Kyle Derosier

The community of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation recently celebrated a successful year at Waabshki Penasi School with drumming,

A legacy of love, laughter, art, music and dance



RTHERN SKY

have a good life and so much to be thankful for. Everything I am and any success or goodness I have in my life is tied directly to my mom and dad, family and friends. Many Elders, Native and non-Native have paused on their way to lift me up in some way or other with a teaching and acts of

When my friends Emily and Mike McGrath introduced me to Verna Turner on my arrival to Iroquois Falls 20 years ago, a wonderful, kind, creative and wise person came into my life. Verna, or Mere as everyone referred to her as, passed away recently and with her passing a little bit of Iroquois Falls died too. Verna, was the town's biggest cheerleader and more or less documented the people, land and buildings of the Falls over many decades in art work that hangs in homes throughout the north.

Verna was part of a special town art group that welcomed my cousin Ron Kataquapit into their projects and encouraged him to draw and paint. She was always devoting time to passing along her knowledge of art and she instilled the appreciation for the creative process in all of her children, grandchildren and great grand kids. They all knew her as Mere and someone they could turn to for comfort, guidance and always a boost of fun.

Verna liked to have a good time and to be around people. She loved to have music around and was thrilled when her son John came to visit with his guitar. John, who works in corrections in Lindsay Ontario, often gathered with Verna, his brothers Jim, Dan and sister Nancy and their families at the lakeside and around campfires under the northern sky.

I was very fragile, a bit lost and confused by life outside my remote First Nation of Attawapiskat when I arrived in Iroquois Falls and Verna was one of those people who went out of her way to make me feel at home and welcome. She truly loved every one and did not see people in terms

of colour or race but realized the spirit in all she met. I have such great memories of sitting around her table enjoying home cooked meals and laughing with a circle of close friends. Her words of encouragement and her kindness made a difference in my life.

It is so sad to lose people on my way but I was reminded at her wake recently that her kindness, generosity and creativity lives on in her beautiful family. Her son John has always made me feel like he has known me for years and he has encouraged me from very early on with my writing. He is an example of the kind of people we need working in corrections in this country as his strongest attribute is the kindness and creativity he inherited from Verna. Often when I visited Verna in her little house in 'the circle' in Iroquois Falls, she would tell me how proud she was of Nancy's two boys Darcy and Travis. They were lucky to be by her side and growing up at home with Verna after Nancy's passing.

At the wake I had the pleasure to see some interesting art in the corner that her grand daughter Cynthia and her children 'The Twins" had painted.

That art was cheerful, colourful and seemed just perfect in remembering Verna. I am quite sure the grandchildren will be making art and music as they grow with the seeds of creativity planted by Verna. How lucky I was to have met someone like Verna, who I never heard say a negative word about anyone or anything. She just loved everybody and that was contagious when you were around her. She made me feel special, strong and gifted by very much reminding me in encouraging words. I did not know her husband Lorne as he passed on many years ago but I saw an old black and white photo of Verna with him on their wedding day and I could tell by the smile on her face and light in her eyes that he was the love of her life.

I wonder just what can we do to keep Verna's spirit alive and honour her? I imagine her leaning over to tell me with those bright eyes and broad smile that the best tribute would be to make sure there is lots of room for love, laughter, art, music and dance in our lives. Surely, that is Verna Turner's legacy.

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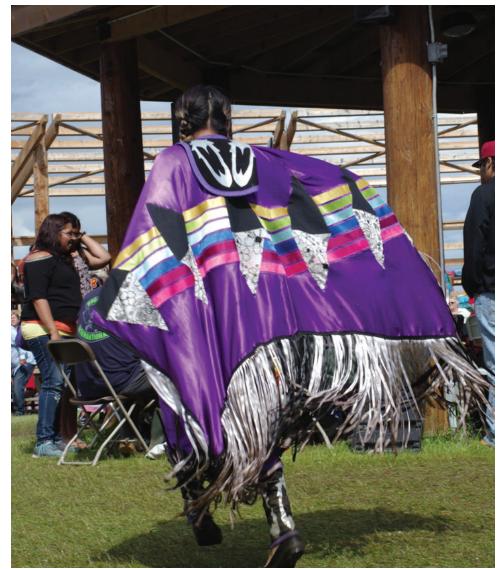
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Culture

Fort William First Nation hosts annual Canada Day Powwow









Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

TOP LEFT: A men's traditional dancer dances his style at the Fort William Powwow on July 2 on Mt. McKay.

BOTTOM LEFT: A fancy shawl dancer dances like a butterfly.

TOP RIGHT: A jingle dress dancer and a men's traditional dancer.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Dancers having fun.





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Culture



photo by Rick Garrick/Wawatav News

A men's traditional dancer dances his style at the National Aboriginal Day Powwow at Prince Arthur's

National Indigenous Peoples Day showcases culture

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

A group of seven Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program (AYLP) graduates were recognized with awards and an honour song at the National Aboriginal Day Powwow in Thunder

Bay.
"It's such an honour to be here to accept these awards and to take part in this program,"

says Farren Forbes, a Rainy River First Nations citizen. "It started out with a big group, but with the seven we have left here with us today, we really got very close with each other. We bonded and we grew with each other as leaders.

James Kiriak, another AYLP graduate, enjoyed working with the other youth in the program, which began last fall at a retreat in Dorion, a community located east of Thunder Bay.

"It was a little bit challenging working in a team," Kiriak says. "Once we figured it all out and connected, it all came together and here we are now today.

The AYLP met once a month at different locations in the Thunder Bay area, including City Hall and the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre (TBIFC).

"The one that stood out (most) to us was our last day," Forbes says. "We got to go up onto (Mt. McKay) and walk around and learn more about the mountain."

Kiriak encourages other youth to get involved with AYLP, which is currently looking for youth to be involved in this upcoming year's program.

"If there are any youth out there that are looking for a purpose and are looking for something to do, to take small steps, this could be the right step for you," Kiriak says.

The AYLP is a joint ve between Leadership Thunder Bay and the TBIFC. It is based on the seven grandfather teachings: wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility and truth.

"I'm just excited that we are continuing to graduate Aboriginal youth under the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program," says Frances Wesley, a TBIFC representative. "It's something that we really need to instil, pride and confidence, in our young people. With all of the negative things that are going on here in our community, it's really nice to see young people thriving and wanting to help others in the things that they've learned."

Wesley says application forms and information about AYLP is available online at: www.leadershiptb.com/aylp/.

"We're looking for partici-pants for September," Wesley

Thunder Bay's National

Aboriginal Day celebrations began with a sunrise ceremony at 5:45 a.m. at Prince Arthur's Landing, continued with the opening ceremonies at 11 a.m., the powwow at 12 noon, the feast at 5 p.m. and an open air concert with Classic Roots at 8 p.m. A teaching lodge organized by the Rites of Passage multi-cultural and multi-generational project was also held near the Spirit Gardens on Thunder Bay's waterfront. A wide variety of vendors and organizations also hosted booths around the Port Arthur's Landing field.

Although Constance Lake's Corey Wesley enjoyed the day, he wants all Canadians to have an opportunity to have the day off from work so they could also celebrate National Aboriginal

Day.
"I think National Aboriginal Day or the celebration of the summer solstice should be a national holiday for everyone," says Corey Wesley, who brought his Juice Monkey's concession trailer to the event. "It's just important because it is the first day of summer and the longest day of the year.'

The federal New Democratic Party's Georgina Jolibois, deputy critic for Indigenous and Northern Affairs, recently tabled a Private Member's Bill calling on the federal government to recognize and honour Indigenous Peoples by making National Aboriginal Day a national statutory holiday.

"This bill is inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission call to create a statutory holiday to honour residential schools survivors, their families and their communities," Jolibois says. "This holiday will further ensure the public's recognition of this history, legacy and the treaty relationship which remains a vital component of the reconciliation process,'

Bearskin Lake's Rosie Mosquito also noted that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his intention to change National Aboriginal Day's name to National Indigenous Peoples Day.

"I think it is important," Mosquito says. "Events like this are intended to create awareness of our peoples, to promote awareness and support and to create a better understanding of who we are, what we are and our world

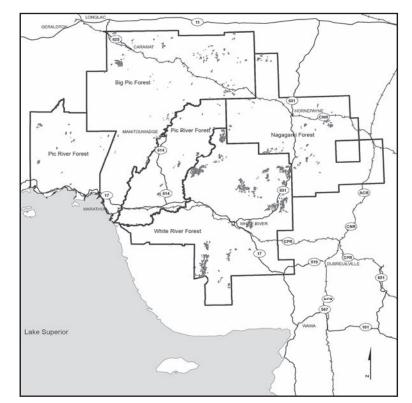
INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Spraying Big Pic, Pic River, White River and Nagagami Forests

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) invites you to inspect the MNRFapproved aerial herbicide spray projects. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the Big Pic, Pic River, White River and Nagagami Forests (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about: August 2, 2017. The herbicide VisionMax, glyphosate, registration P.C.P. # 27736 Pest Control Products Act will be used

and project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available for public inspection at the Jack Fish River Management Ltd. Office, the Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFMC), and on the MNRF public website at ontario.ca/forestplans beginning August 2, 2017 until March 31, 2018 when the Annual Work Schedule expires. The ServiceOntario Centre at the Wawa District Office, 48 Mission Road provides access to the Internet.

The approved project description



Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff at the MNRF District or Area Office to discuss the aerial herbicide project.

For more information, please contact:

Jerry Smith

Jack Fish River Management Ltd. 10 Becker Road Hornepayne, ON P0M 1Z0 tel: 807-686-2370, ext. 223

Brian Harbord, R.P.F.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry P.O. 1160, 48 Mission Road Wawa, ON POS 1K0 tel: 705-856-4736

Sylvain Montpellier, Silviculturalist Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFMC) P.O. Box 1479, 22 Peninsula Road Marathon, ON POT 2E0 tel: 807-229-8118, ext. 15

or call toll free: 1-800-667-1940 and ask to be forwarded to one of the contacts above.

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



Culture

Indigenous culture highlighted at Keeshigun 2017



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

ABOVE LEFT: Clifford Whitefish shares some information about the sturgeon with four visitors at the Anishnawbe Keeshigun Festival, held June 11-12 at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay.

ABOVE: Munsee Neekan shows his winning fried bannock to the judges during the bannock making competition at the Anishnawbe Keeshigun Festival, held June 11-12 at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Clifford Whitefish lifts up a sturgeon to show how its mouth is shaped during the Anishnawbe Keeshigun Festival, held June 11-12 at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay.

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The preparation of a sturgeon was one of the traditional activities featured at the Anishnawbe Keeshigun Festival, held June 11-12 at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay.

"We're going to cut it up, boil it and fry it up," says Lac La Croix's Clifford Whitefish, who shared information about the sturgeon at the Native Encampment. "Over there where I live, that is the best fish there is. It tastes pretty good. You can smoke it too."

Whitefish usually skins the sturgeon for frying and cuts it crossways with the skin on for boiling.

"It has kind of a reddish colour," says Naicatchewenin's Tommy Councillor, who also shared information about the sturgeon. "It's kind of greasy, even if you boil it."

Councillor says sturgeon is good for eating at any time.

"For me, whenever I feel like I want some of it, that's when I will (catch some)," Councillor says.

Whitefish says he has seen some sturgeon over six-feet long during spawning season

long during spawning season.
"Maybe bigger too," Whitefish says. "My grandmother
used to tell me those bigger
ones, like the 200 pound ones,
they only spawn in the nighttime"

Whitefish and Councillor were among a variety of traditional knowledge keepers who

participated in the festival. Other activities included a bannock making competition, powwow drumming and dancing and the preparation of a rabbit. Wild rice and corn on the cobwere also available during the festival.

"I love it," says Mishkeegogamang's Munsee Neekan, who won the bannock making competition. He says his bannock was "really good." "It's very soft, it's perfect."

Neekan says he mostly makes breads at home. He credits his Elders, friends and family members for teaching him the skills he needed to fry up the winning bannock.

"I grew up making bannock, watching mom," Neekan says.
"I used to like cooking in the kitchen with my mom and my grandmother."

Bridget Grant, a visitor from Iowa, also enjoyed participating in the bannock making competition

"It was great," Grant says.
"Everyone was really fun to work with."

Grant says her bannock didn't taste very good because she mistakenly added lard to the dough.

"I didn't know you were supposed to just cook it in the lard," Grant says. "It was crunchy, so that was good."

Moose Factory's Delaney Gustafson shared her fancy shawl dance style during the powwow sessions.

"Ever since I was young I really enjoyed dancing fancy,

because I really just loved the movement and how glorious (the fancy shawl dancers) look when they dance," Gustafson says. "It feels like a good way to show the Indigenous culture and do it through performances."

Gustafson enjoys travelling to different communities on the powwow trail.

"I feel like getting to the destination is the best part, because you get to make memories," Gustafson says. "The long road trips, the different kind of climates, the different land-scapes are definitely mesmerizing."

Mishkeegogamang's Maxine Baer says this was her seventh year of sharing her knowledge of skinning animals and preparing hides for tanning at the festival

"My son makes hand drums because I make deer hides," Baer says. "It's like material, kind of soft. (We tan) it for four days in the smoke. It's great."

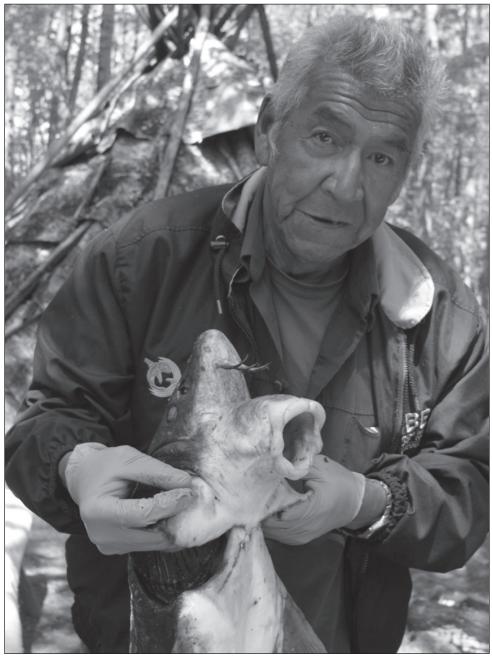
Baer says she was seven years old when she skinned her first animal, a rabbit.

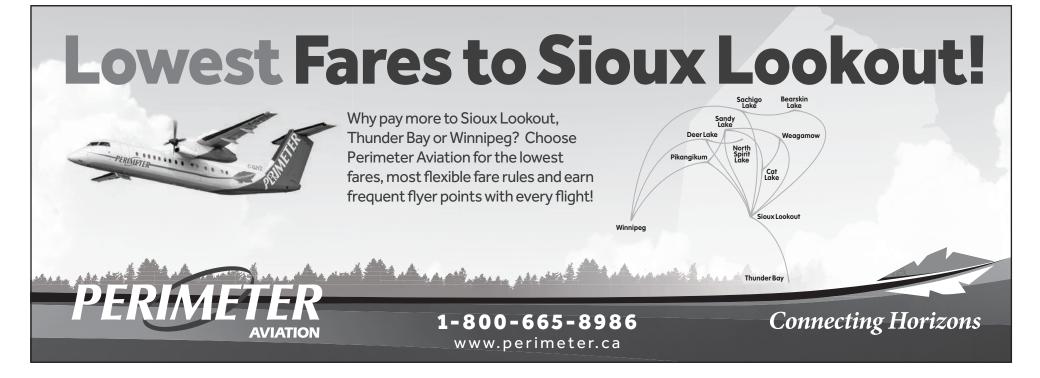
"My mom was teaching me how to skin a beaver and martens and minks, muskrats, squirrels," Baer says.

Baer also shared how the Anishinabe used to make a traditional bone tool for scraping hides

"That's a deer bone — you're going to cut it here," Baer says. "You have to use (it to) clean those hides."







Arts and Entertainment

Marten Falls First Nation student wins Matawa Rotary Club writing contest

Joshua Baxter Special to Wawatay News

Desiree Wesley, 11, travelled with her mother to Thunder Bay, Ontario to receive the award for her winning story, which was inspired by a family hunting trip. The ceremony, held at the Victoria Inn, celebrated the winners of series of writing contests held by Matawa First Nations Management and the Bowmanville Rotary Club.

Wesley's story was entered into the competition by her teacher, who told her about the contest two days before the deadline.

"There was a bunch of things you can enter for, like writing. Creative writing means you can write a story. That's what I entered into. And there's also different kinds of stories. But it's all about writing," said Wesley. "I wrote about a goose hunt. It's kind of about how I dreamed I killed my first goose."

Wesley said she did not think her story was good enough but got positive reactions from the readers that read her work. "I thought it was a bit cringe at the end. But everyone else loved it. I felt happy but also embarrassed," Wesley said of her story.

Wesley won a cash prize for her story. "I won \$500.00. I have \$100.00 in my purse and the rest of it is on Bruce's tab."

Wesley explained what it meant to have money on 'Bruce's tab.' Bruce Achneepineskum is the owner of one of the two stores in Marten Falls, as well as serving as Chief.

"I wrote about a goose hunt. It's kind of about how I dreamed I killed my first goose."

– Desiree Wesley

"When I cashed my cheque I asked if I could keep my money there. So I put \$400.00 in there and every time I go I could spend on there and it would minus what I spend."

"It was a very long award ceremony because they were awarding graduates and there was a bunch of adults who got awards because they wrote stories about their lives. They had dinner and that took longest," Wesley said of the ceremony.

Wesley describes the moment she heard her name as she was called to the podium to claim her award, "Well at first I felt shy and scared but I just acted confident when I got on stage"

Wesley had help from her teacher when writing the story at school. "I was the one saying the words and Ms. Jane wrote it down while I was talking," Desiree said. "I went to school. I was the only one there but I finished all my work. Then Ms. Sylvie told my teacher about [the contest] and Ms. Jane helped me. She told me to brainstorm."

"We wrote the story and Ms. Jane said it was lunch time. I went home, had lunch, came back. I was still the only one at school. So she (Ms. Jane) let me on her laptop and I had to write the story," said Wesley.

Jane Summers, Desiree's teacher, commented on the contest and what it was like to have Desiree in her classroom. "We found out on Monday after school that this contest was going on and we had until Wednesday morning to get the submissions in. So Tuesday morning I asked if anyone wanted to take a shot at it and Desiree said she did. So we sat down and spent all Tuesday morning. The idea was hers, the story was hers and she was real excited about it."

"Desiree is very, very bright. She has a lot of promise. She always comes to school with a smile on her face. She's an absolute joy to have in class"

Desiree graduated from grade 6 on June 20, 2017.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Resilient Hearts project artists Jayal Chung and Selena Baxter share their Colours of Hope art activity with some children during the Community Arts and Heritage Education Project launch of the Resilient Hearts Book on June 20 in Thunder Bay

Community Arts Project launches new resilient hearts book

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Community Arts and Heritage Education Project launched its Resilient Hearts Book with a film screening and a Colours of Hope art activity in Thunder Bay.

"I created the art activity to get people talking," says Selena Baxter, a youth artist from Marten Falls. "I tried to relate it to the book, so I thought of putting hope and peace in there because people need that in their life to have balance."

Baxter created the art project with support from Jayal Chung, a visual arts, written and spoken word artist who participated with the Resilient Hearts community-driven arts project over the past year. The book launch was held at the Baggage Building Arts Centre on Thunder Bay's waterfront.

"It was very calming and I really enjoyed it because I was with like-minded people but also people who aren't like-minded but are open to new things," Baxter says. "I feel very accepted here and when I feel accepted, it just brings good vibes."

Baxter participated in about five or six project workshops over the past year. The project ran from June 2016 to March 2017 in under-represented neighbourhoods across Thunder Bay with about 14 participating local artists, including Chung, Ma-Nee Chacaby, Bar-

bara Benwell, Carol Kajorinne and Michelle Richmond-Saravia. About 40 workshops were held with about 435 participants.

Chacaby, who conducted the book launch opening ceremony, enjoyed working with the youth during the project.

"My first activity was at Minnesota Park with lots of schools," Chacaby says, noting that she worked with about 200 students, from Kindergarten and on up for the day. "They built a little fire and I was doing storytelling for each group that

Chacaby says a couple of the students told their own stories during the storytelling sessions, including a 12-year-old student from Fort William who told a story about the beaver and muskrats saving the planet.

"That was really good," Chacaby says. "He said his grand-mother was teaching him and that he was going to be a story-teller."

In addition to the Minnesota Park workshop, Chacaby also participated in other workshops across Thunder Bay.

"I tell stories and I talk about way back," Chacaby says. "I tell the funny stories and they laugh about it and they really have a good time. And they ask different questions, like what was it like when you were young."

Sierra Nowegejick, a youth mentorship program facilitator at the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association and a Resilient Hearts emerging artist, enjoyed helping out with the collage and picture journalling work-

shops.
"It's interesting seeing how young people interact with each other," Nowegejick says. "I'm really grateful to be a part of this project."

Tiffany Jenkin, from Sandy Lake and Deer Lake, participated along with her children in a mixed media mobiles workshop at Faye Peterson House.

"They did the hearts and the painting on the wood," Jenkin says. "They really enjoyed it. They really like the arts."

The Resilient Hearts Book was designed by artists Eleanor Albanese and Betty Carpick, who included examples of the artworks created during the project as well as quotes from artists and participants.

The film screening featured I Am SINCERE, an animated expression of the Resilient Hearts Project created by Shayne Ehman and Zoe Gordini.

"Our hope all along is to celebrate resilience and to encourage storytelling and community building among the participants," says Albanese, project coordinator for the Resilient Hearts project. "We're hoping in a way that the book and the film continue the legacy of celebrating community building. Many new friendships were formed out of this project."





Arts and Entertainment

City Art Gallery opens 150 artists from the North

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Shaman Zen performance art piece was a hit at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's June 23 opening reception for The Perspective From Here: 150 Artists from the North exhibition.

"I really hope people feel it, I really want it to be an experience," says Elliott Doxtater-Wynn, an artist from Six Nations who created the performance art piece based on his

artwork. "(I'm) using sound and light and movement and using different senses, even the trees and the cedar have a smell, so that everybody here is hopefully mesmerized by the experience and take away what they feel is important about it."

Doxtater-Wynn says Shaman Zen is like an allegory on the use or misuse of nature.

"You have this hunter being doing what it does and there is this majestic forest spirit moving through this landscape who is keeping the land alive," Doxtater-Wynn says. "And the forest beings that are watchers, they are the ones who are validating and seeing it and recording it, letting it be remembered."

Anthony Esquega, an artist from Gull Bay, says his performance was about letting out some frustrations.

"Sometimes not being who you really are is frustrating when you are not allowed to let it show," Esquega says. "So this was an opportunity to let it out,

let it show, sing in a positive way with artistic expression. So every time I get to play on stage or play in an art performance, that is what I am doing - letting it out in a positive way so no one gets hurt and people can be influenced by it to do positive things."

The Perspective From Here: 150 Artists from the North exhibition, which runs from June 22-Sept. 24, features the contemporary artwork of 150 artists who are from or once lived

in northwestern Ontario. The exhibition is designed to offer a glimpse of the recent artistic past and present, while asking viewers to imagine the future. The artwork ranges from ceramics and textiles to paintings and photography.

'All this artwork here looks really nice," says Darryl Big George, an artist from Big Island. "It's amazing."

Big George says his painting of four wolves represents the four directions.

"On the ground on the wolves, you will see faces," Big George says. "Everything that lives goes to the ground, so that is the reason why I drew faces on the ground. And also on the ground there are rocks, for when you go to a sweat lodge."

Cree Stevens, an artist from Red Rock Indian Band, says her Raven of Copper art piece started out as a wearable art piece.

see ARTISTS page10

Youth artwork featured at Thunder Bay Art Gallery

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Sachigo Lake's Matthias Kakeeway was one of the Kingsway Park Public School students featured in the Our Voice exhibition at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

"I made a paddle and I also did something called Scrafitto and I used acrylic paints and paste to make the birch art," says the Grade 8 Kingsway Park student. "For the Scrafitto we had bark, and we wet the bark and we used a nail to sort of outline (the design). Either we could colour in what we outlined or we coloured around what we outlined. So it's sort of like the shadow of the thing that you chose to do."

The Our Voice project was created through the Kingsway Park Public School Fine Arts Academy. The students worked on the project with George Price, a Salish artist and carver originally from B.C., and local artist Deena Kruger through the school's Artists in Residency Program. In addition to artwork, the students also worked on a birchbark canoe.

Kakeeway says he used the paste and a palette knife to do the birch art.

"You scrape the palette knife across the painting," Kakeeway

Kakeeway says it was fun working on the different art projects

"I really like the hands-on experience we got to have with the work, like using the bandsaw at (Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute) and cutting out our own wood," Kakeeway says. "I also liked having that experience of new techniques to use. When I grow up I (will) know these techniques and I can use them in daily usage of making crafts."

The Our Voice exhibition features art works on canvas, paddles, birch bark and drawings inspired by nature. It ran from June 1-18 in the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's Community Room exhibition space.

"All of my grandchildren have been in some kind of art show, but Matthias is on his way to being an artist," says Marlene Tait, Kakeeway's grandmother. "And with the canoe, they all pitched in working on that canoe."

Bryton Rattee, a Grade 8 student at Kingsway Park Public School, also created a paddle and helped gather spruce roots for the canoe.

"We picked a piece of wood, we cut it into the shape of a paddle, ground it down, sanded it and then painted our design onto it," Rattee says about the paddle. "My design is a bear. I picked the bear because it is a big strong animal and I like

Rattee says it was "cool" to make a canoe and a paddle in

"I got to learn skills that I wouldn't have been able to learn if I hadn't gone through (the Fine Arts) Academy," Rattee says. "I came out with a great piece of art."

Kinsway Park Public School principal Darren Lentz says the Fine Arts Academy ran through the second semester with a focus on music, culinary arts and art, including the Artist in Residency Program.

"We have different artists coming in, and that is what the (Our Voice exhibition) has displayed, some of the students' artwork from those various artists," Lentz says. "So it's been a great culmination for the whole semester.'



Rick Garrick/Wawatav News

Kingsway Park Public School students Matthias Kakeeway and Bryton Rattee created two of the paddle art pieces on exhibit from the school's Fine Arts Academy at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's Our Voice exhibition.

Family Empowerment Forum & Gospel Sing 37th Annual

Workshops

Friday and Saturday Evening

1. "Parenting Teens"

Goyce & Lucy Kakegamic 2. "Marriage: Moving beyond

Woundedness" Ivan & Faye Wapenisk

3. "God's Intention for Sexuality" Reg Froese (Journey Canada)

- 4. Elders' Workshop
- 5. Youth Workshop
- 6. Childrens' Workshop **BLC Staff**

Sunday Messages Brian Wind



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Singers

Please no camping before August 3.

16 Singers/Groups Including:

- Gospel Harmony (MB)
- Rising Above (MB)
- Mary Longchap Semple (ON)
- Kene & Milly Jackson (AB)
- Alive Quintet (MN)
- Joel Jolly (ON)
- Carl Crane (SK)



Arts and Entertainment



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Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Anthony Esquega, with hand drum, keeps the drumbeat going as the other performers act out their roles during the Shaman Zen performance art piece at the June 23 opening reception for the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's The Perspective From Here: 150 Artists from the North exhibition.

Artists share meaning in art

from page 9

"This year I decided I wanted to work with copper, and I wanted to work with a bird," Stevens says. "I considered a Thunderbird, but I am really drawn to ravens. I wanted to mix the idea of different materials that are important to Indigenous peoples, such as copper and the raven, but take it to a

sort of contemporary level."

Leanne Marshall, an artist from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, says the two jingle dresses shown in photographs in the exhibition were a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"My mom spoke at the TRC and it was really difficult for me to hear some of her stories," Marshall says. "So that jingle

dress project came as a direct response to that. The response to the jingle dresses and to those photographs has been very positive."

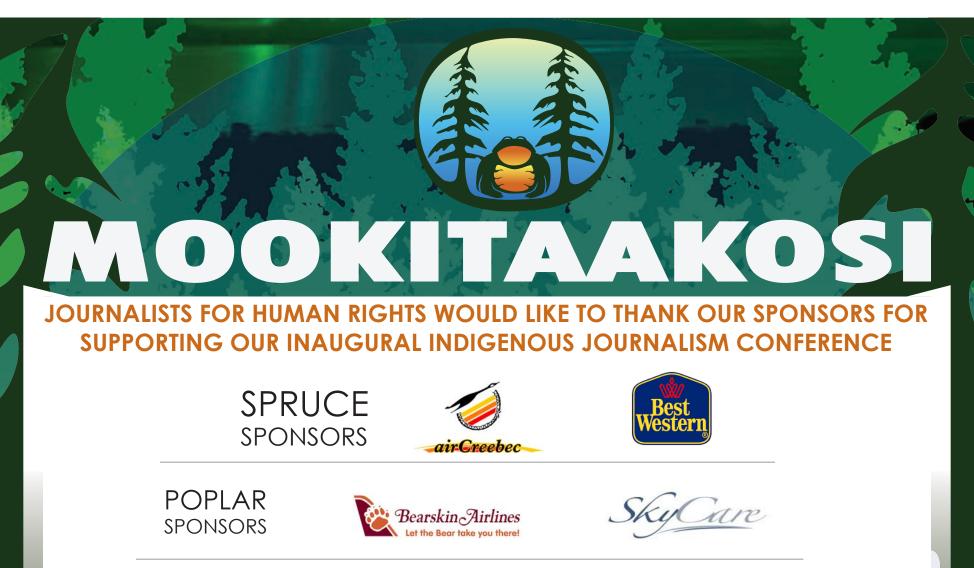
A roster of public events and online opportunities are scheduled to enliven and engage audiences with the thematic threads found throughout the

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Sioux Travel



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Aboriginal Management Board

Health

Canadian Rangers move in to assist in Wapekeka suicide crisis

Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers Special to Wawatay News

In an unprecedented move, the Canadian Army has sent Canadian Rangers to Wapekeka to provide help in a suicide crisis

"This is an immediate response to a crisis situation," said Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Richardson, commanding officer of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, which commands the Canadian Rangers, who are part-time reservists, in the Far North of Ontario.

"We aren't counsellors. This isn't a mental health response," he said. "We are there as a stop gap for the other government agencies to develop their response to the critical situation. We're hoping to buy some time so other agencies can get there to help before there is another death."

Wapekeka First Nation, an Oji-Cree community with a population of about 400 located about 600 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, declared an emergency on June 19 and asked for outside government help in response to the third suicide of a 12-year-old girl this year. In addition, the community has tried to deal with an unprecedented epidemic of attempted youth suicides, including suicide pacts.

During a telephone conference call organized last week by the Ontario Government, Wapekeka Chief Brennan Sainnawap, was told there were a handful of Canadian Rangers from the neighbouring community of Kitchenuhmaykoosib already assisting his troubled community.

"Somebody said you've got four to six Rangers there now," Colonel Richardson said. "He said, "I don't need four to six. I need 20. He said it in exasperation. He needed help. He was desperate. I told him we'd try to

do something."

The army responded by authorizing Canadian Rangers to fly into Wapekeka to help.

"What we are doing has the support of the Canadian military from the highest on down," Colonel Richardson said. "To me this is a military operation and we are there to save lives and hold the fort until help from outside agencies arrives. We save lives in forest fire and flood emergencies and in our search and rescue operations in Northern Ontario. In 25 search and rescue operations last year we saved 32 lives."

There are currently two army warrant officers and 19 Canadian Rangers in Wapekeka. They are conducting suicide prevention patrols and organizing activities to engage the community's youth. The Rangers, who are all Indigenous, are from Kitchenuhmaykoosib, Muskrat Dam, North Caribou Lake, Sandy Lake, and two of them live in Wapekeka.

"The Rangers are in uniform and are not acting as police," Colonel Richardson said. "They are not demonstrating authority, they are acting as approachable community citizens, mentors, and friends who can go and talk to the kids. They're going to areas where the kids congregate and to the places where a suicide might occur, just to make sure there's nobody in the act."

One of the Rangers in Wapekeka is Ranger Pauline Greene, who is a band councillor in her home community of Sachigo Lake First Nation. "I lost my 18-year-old son to suicide 15 years ago," she said. "When someone commits suicide in one of our small communities the whole community is traumatized. This community is like one whole family. And this suicide crisis has traumatized everyone in Wapekeka.

"The community needs all

Fax: 807-475-8040

Website: northstarair.ca

E-Mail: reservations@northstarair.ca

the help it can get and I understand their frustrations, their feelings. They feel nobody's listening to them, understanding them, or helping them. They feel nobody outside is listening to them.

"They know the Rangers are here to help them, to do what we can for them. We're the Band Aid until someone comes in to help."

Warrant Officers Barry Borton and Daniel Stortz arrived in Wapekeka by plane on Sun-

day and immediately found the police dealing with two suicide attempts.

"Dan and I looked at each other aid said what have we got ourselves into," Warrant Officer Borton said. "We have been going non-stop ever since. There's not enough words in the dictionary to describe what we're been feeling and going through.

"I spent eight months in Iraq with the United Nations and I saw some pretty awful stuff over there. But I never expected to see this kind of situation in my own country.

"I don't understand the mind set of the kids who want to commit suicides. We find suicide ropes hanging from trees on our patrols and we take them down. We've found situations in which we've had to ask the police to come and help kids who seemed to be preparing to commit suicides. It's hard on all of us and hard on the Rangers. It affects you."

In a prepared statement, NAN said: "We are grateful for the assistance of the Canadian Rangers, who have mobilized to assist with the suicide crisis in Wapekeka. This response is unprecedented, and we are certain the Rangers' presence will bring a sense of great comfort and security to the community."

So far this year there have been 14 reported suicides in NAN communities. Six of them were children aged 10 to 14.



Congratulations to the Graduates!

Message from the Director of Education

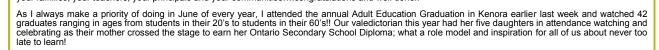
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To the Graduates and Your Families:

As time goes on and with each passing year, I find that with the seasons and certain milestone events, it sometimes can present a bit of a challenge to write something meaningful for achievements and accomplishments, as important as graduation. The end of June in education often is synonymous with just such celebration and pride. With each year also comes new experiences for myself, the meeting of new people, and the learning of incredibly resilient stories of our students, this year's graduates...."The Class of 2017".

This past year in the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board, has been one of incredible change and remarkable energy; changes as result of staff taking on new challenges, others entering the profession, and in the case of a few senior level staff, saying goodbye. What does this have to with graduation? Maybe nothing to some, but perhaps worth considering for a moment is this thought: "With every goodbye and conclusion, comes opportunity for new challenges and renewal." As we say goodbye to staff that we have known for many years, we welcome new staff who only a few short years ago, were graduating from Keewatin-Patriciaand to the Graduating Class of 2017, we say CONGRATULATIONS, grab hold of this next step, and we hope you will come back with fresh ideas, rejuvenated hopes, and youthful energy!

Whether you are graduating in Pickle Lake, Ignace, Red Lake, Kenora, Dryden or Sioux Lookout, make no mistake about it, your graduation means something more than any monetary value can determine! On behalf of your families, your teachers, your principals and your communities....congratulations and well done!!



I was also able to participate in the always impressive high school graduations where alongside many parents and families, I saw young people receive, with a hand-shake from their principals, their Diplomas; and with that symbolic event the trepidation of what the future now holds. My message to all graduates in Northwestern Ontario is this: if you have made it this far, then I hope you will go further. We need strong leaders in Northwestern Ontario; we need trades-people, professional people in the areas of business, law, and social services. We need teachers and educators; and we need you to remember where home is.

Living and learning in Northwestern Ontario brings with it challenges of its own, but it also defines us and our character. Living and learning here, also means leading. If you go away and leave home to continue school, remember that home is always home, and we will always be here. If you return, I encourage you to bring with you new ideas, strong vision, and the dreams that a new generation of Northern Ontario leadership can inspire.

Graduation always represents significance, in different ways for different people. For you graduates, well done. For your parents and families, gratification

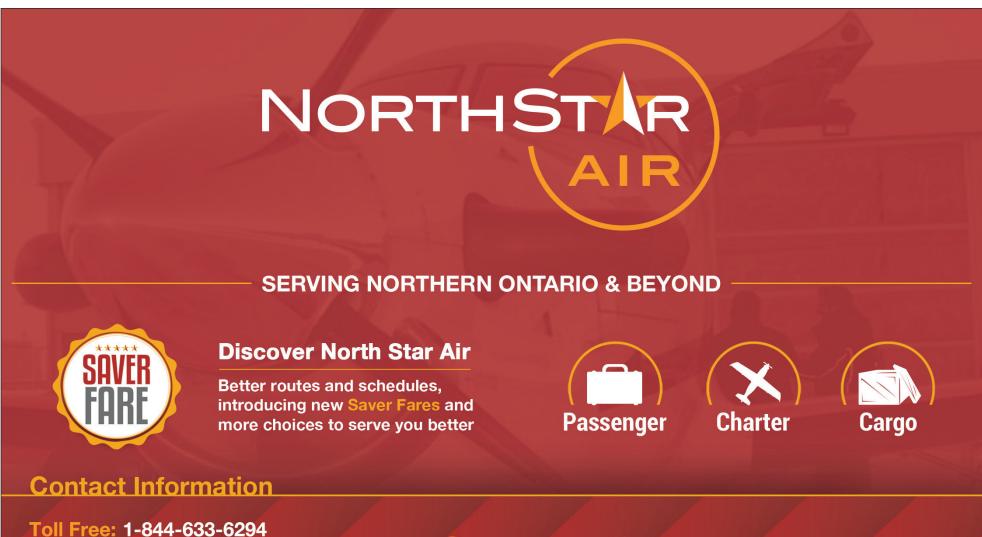
Graduation always represents significance, in different ways for different people. For you graduates, well done. For your parents and families, gratification that you have succeeded and that new beginnings now await. For your teachers, assistants, and principals...thank you for a job well done. From myself to all of you, this day has been well earned, and I hope you will enjoy it, as you should.

Congratulations

Sean Monteith, Director of Education

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All stakeholders create a culture of learning so that students come first



Connecting

People.Businesses.Communitie



Conducted: Training and audits of watercourse and river areas where we know youth frequently go (Recommendation 115)

Maamawe: All Together

The inquest into the deaths of seven First Nations youth began on October 5, 2015. It ended on June 28, 2016 when the jury gave its verdict.

The Seven Youth Inquest resulted in 145 recommendations. Thirty-one were directed to the City of Thunder Bay, mostly along with other partners. The City responded with a report to Council on June 12.

The inquest investigated the deaths of Jethro Anderson, 15, Reggie Bushie, 15, Robyn Harper, 18, Kyle Morrisseau, 17, Paul Panacheese, 21, Curran Strang, 18, and Jordan Wabasse, 15.

"We got to work even before the recommendations were handed down," said Norm Gale, City Manager.

"We've been thoughtful, formal, and

collaborative. We share in the grief that the families and our community are feeling."

The recommendations address the needs of First Nation youth who come to Thunder Bay to attend high school, away from their families and home communities. While the recommendations are not legally binding, the inquest's main purpose was to prevent more deaths.

"We are acting on the recommendations," said Karen Lewis, Director of Corporate Strategic Services and lead on the City's response.

"They are aimed at putting in place programs that improve the physical, social, and cultural infrastructure. We want everyone who comes to Thunder Bay to feel included, engaged, safe, and have opportunities to succeed."

Also, the City's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee is seeking support from the federal and provincial governments to help the City and its partners put the recommendations into action.

The City of Thunder Bay in partnership with Fort William First Nation support the recommendations of the inquest. The City of Thunder Bay has been built on the traditional territory of Fort William First Nationsignatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850.

"The purpose of an Inquest is to look for lessons that can be learned from the deaths that may contribute to a safer future for the living."

- Ontario Chief Coroner Dirk Huyer, MD



Held: Youth Partners Forum in January 2017 to explore how to best co-ordinate city-wide youth recreation programming (Recommendations 100, 105, 107)



Posting this summer: the Declaration of Commitment to Urban Aboriginal People in all City buildings (Recommendation 111)



Introducing: First Nation Secondary School Transit Pass pilot program for the 2017 - 2018 school year (Recommendations 78, 102)



On June 12, City Council unanimously approved the City's Annual Report on our response to the Seven Youth Inquest. Here are some of our efforts so far:

- The City continues to take part in orientation events for students who are new to Thunder Bay and is planning for the September 2017 semester. We are meeting with the education sector to work together on ideas (Recommendation 49).
- Under Council's leadership, we are working on requests for help with student living centres for Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School and Matawa Learning Centre (Recommendation 60).
- The City sent a letter of intent to Public Safety Canada for a Youth Inclusion Program. This will address youth safety, youth crime prevention, and youth well-being. It will focus on the right kind of supports and mentorship opportunities for Indigenous youth going to school in Thunder Bay (Recommendation 75).
- The City has enhanced support from the Aboriginal Liaison Office to our partners helping families and the community when the missing person protocol is activated (Recommendation 91).
- We held a Youth Partners Forum in January 2017 to explore how to best co-ordinate city-wide youth recreation programming (Recommendations 100, 105, 107).
- The City launched a "Youth Opportunities TBay" Facebook page in February 2017. There, community groups can share opportunities and supports for youth (Recommendation 100).
- We met with partners to promote P.R.O. Kids, which opens up opportunities to take part in City and community programs. This resulted in more applications (Recommendation 104).
- The City approved a grant in January 2017 for a sports equipment lending library, hosted by Matawa Learning Centre. This will be

Nishnawbe Aski Nation

- open to all First Nations youth going to school in Thunder Bay (Recommendation 107).
- We are reviewing our processes for hiring youth. We are also looking at ways we might improve the City's Aboriginal cultural sensitivity training (Recommendation 109).
- We will be posting the City's Declaration of Commitment to Urban Aboriginal People in all City buildings this summer (Recommendation 111).
 - We have created an anti-racism resources section on the City's website at thunderbay.ca/ antiracism (Recommendation 112).
 - We launched Incident Reporting on June 27. This is a partnership between the City of Thunder Bay's Anti-Racism & Respect Committee and Diversity

Thunder Bay. People who experience or witness racism are able to tell their story and be referred to resources for support (Recommendation 112).

- The City has conducted training and audits of watercourse and river areas where we know youth frequently go (Recommendation 115).
- City Council has approved a First Nation Secondary School Transit Pass pilot program for the 2017-2018 school year. This is a subsidized pass, meant to help students from the north overcome barriers getting to and from school, City programs, and recreational opportunities (Recommendations 78, 102).
- The City's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee has met with various federal and provincial ministers to talk about the funding we need to support our Indigenous residents (Recommendation 120).











SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WORKING TOGETHER ON THE WATERCOURSE / RIVER SAFETY **AUDITS. (RECOMMENDATION 115)**























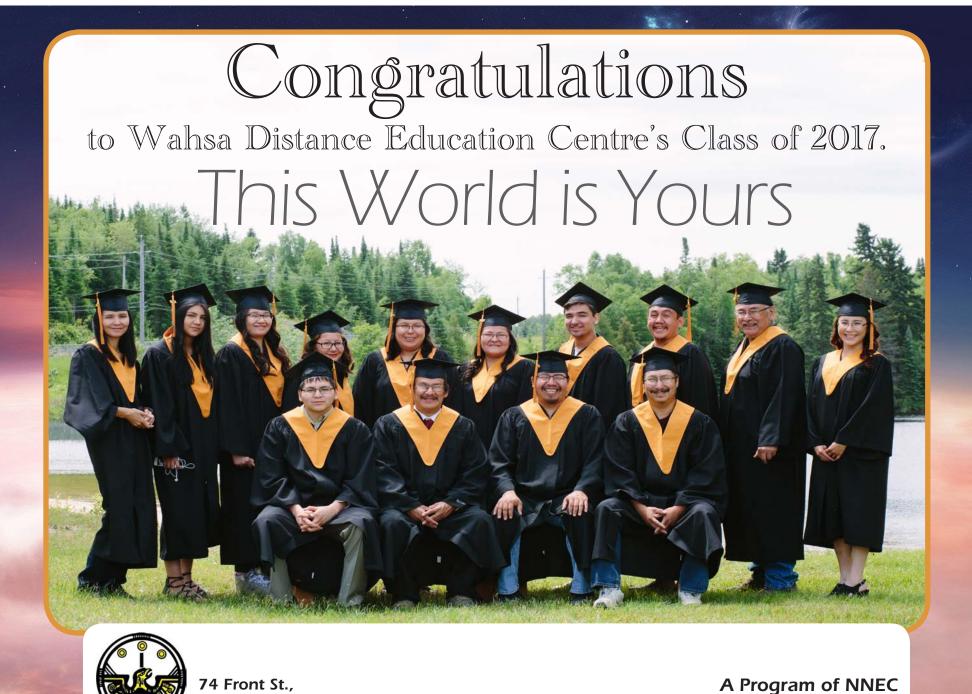
Wabigoon Lake holds raft building contest



photo submitted by Conan Pitchenese

www.nnec.on.ca

Riley Currier won first place at the Aboriginal Day cardboard raft competition in Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation



Sioux Lookout ON, P8T 1B7

NAN raises thousands for SOS fundraiser

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation's June 16 BBQ and Yard Sale in support of Shelter House Thunder Bay's SOS program was a success with about \$19,440 raised and an additional \$15,000 in matching donations.

"It was a little over \$34,000 - that was after NAN's matching \$10,000 (donation)," says Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, adding that the Joseph Esquega Health Centre - Family Medicine Clinic also made a \$5,000 matching donation. "There was also, I understand, some other individual donations that were made online on that day."

Gary Mack, executive director of Shelter House Thunder Bay, says the SOS (Street Outreach Services) fundraising campaign was at about \$140,000 as of June 27 after being at about \$95,000 before the NAN fundraiser.

"We did receive a \$10,000 cheque in the mail from someone in B.C. who wanted to remain anonymous," Mack says. "And other monies have been flowing in as well. So it really has rejuvenated our fundraising efforts, for sure. Our goal is to raise \$200,000, so we are almost there. We are super grateful to NAN for putting on that barbecue, because not only did they host the event and pay for all of the food and everything, but they did match the first \$10,000 in donations. It was very generous of them and it is great to have their support."

Mack plans to speak with the board of Shelter House Thunder Bay during the last week of June about when to re-start the SOS program.

"It is looking really good, so we are really optimistic that we will be starting the program soon," Mack says. "An announcement will be made about that shortly."

Mack says the SOS fundraising campaign also includes the purchase of a new van for the program.

"We need a new van," Mack says. "Our van is on its last legs, so it is time for a new van and some upgrades to the pro-

Mack says the SOS program provides support to homeless people who are in crisis in the community. The program has operated for about five years, but was suspended for the sum-

"So if someone is intoxicated, the SOS team will be onsite to help them out and take them to wherever is appropriate for them," Mack says. "It saves ambulance services, it saves police services, it saves hospital services and it is also a very respectful way to provide service to this population because our SOS team has built relationships with street-involved people."

Mack says the SOS team also visits encampment areas and areas where homeless people tend to congregate in the com-

"We provide service there - we engage people and hopefully we bring them back to the Shelter," Mack says. "That's the goal, to get them sheltered, safe, fed, and even hopefully eventually housed."

The NAN fundraiser included the sale of bannock burgers, bannock dogs, hotdogs and drinks as well as games and prizes, face painting, live music and a silent auction.

"We just want to give back to the community of Thunder Bay to support the Thunder Bay Shelter House fundraising efforts to try to revive the street outreach program," Fiddler says. "We think it is very worthwhile and can be a lifesaving program, so we want to do our part to ensure that they reach their goal. It's also a great opportunity for the community to come together and spend a few hours here and enjoy a bannock burger and maybe do some visiting on the side."

Shelter House Thunder Bay previously received \$10,000 donations from a former home-



less person who wished to remain anonymous, an anonymous donor from an agency in Toronto, the community of Eabametoong, Matawa First Nations, Goldcorp and the Knutson family.

"The generous donation that this individual made is just inspiring," Fiddler says about the former homeless person. "It's amazing the action that he took, and that should inspire all of us to take action as well."

Fiddler gave a shout out to the former homeless person for making the \$10,000 donation.

"Meegwetch for your generous act and we hope that it inspires others to consider making a donation in supporting this very important program," Fiddler says, noting that he learned the former homeless person was a client of Shelter House Thunder Bay. "He considers the staff here and others that are with him as his family.



Rick Garrick/Wawatav News

TOP: Face paintings were one of the popular activities during Nishnawbe Aski Nation's BBQ and Yard Sale in support of Shelter House Thunder Bay's SOS program in Thunder Bay.

ABOVE: Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and Shelter House Thunder Bay executive director Gary Mack check out the festivities at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's BBQ and Yard Sale fundraiser in support of Shelter House Thunder Bay's SOS program in Thunder Bay.

That is how we should treat our families, is with generosity and

kindness, and he showed that in a very humble way.'

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North Star Air donates \$30K against animal cruelty

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

North Star Air recently donated \$30,312 to the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) for support and services to remote First Nation communities.

"We do everything we can to support the animals for their health," says Frank Kelner, president and CEO of North Star Air, during the June 13 donation ceremony at the Thunder Bay Airport. "Hopefully people can see what we are trying to do and hopefully I can get the support from everybody else around us."

Kelner says North Star Air has been transporting food and animals from community to community at no charge.

"For myself personally, I love animals," Kelner says. "An animal is like a person and they've got feelings too and they like to be loved.

North Star Air teamed up with the OSPCA, local groups, Indigenous communities and Humane Societies across Ontario over the past two years to help find homes for more than 140 dogs from northern Ontario communities.

"Maintaining this partnership is very important to the team at North Star Air," Kelner says. "One of the challenges our partner communities face is managing the population of dogs which comes as a result from lack of access to veterinarians or adoption homes. We are proud to assist by providing transportation for the dogs in order to find new homes with coordination from Indigenous communities and the Ontario SPCA.

North Star Air also provided transportation for 13 dogs and five cats from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug to Thunder Bay and for a volunteer team of veterinarians to and from KI to provide a spay and neuter clinic in the remote First Nation community.

The 18 animals were transported by vehicle to southern Ontario, where they will be put up for adoption by the Peterborough Humane Society.

"We are so pleased to be working along side North Star Air Ltd. and Indigenous communities to provide animal welfare services," says Judi Cannon, associate director, Indigenous Programs and Community Outreach, OSPCA. "We are so grateful for the contribution of financial support and the airline's hard work and dedication to these communities. Without them, transfers and access to veterinarian care would not be possible. They are truly making an impact in these communities and animal welfare.'

Tammy McConomy, one of the veterinarians, says it was an 'awesome experience" to participate in the spay and neuter clinic in KI.

"This is actually the second time we have been there," McConomy says. "We had a team of vets with us, some volunteers, and some community citizens helped out."

McConomy says the community does not have access to veterinary care and the cost of living in KI is "very expensive."

"So to feed an animal is even more expensive," McConomy says. "So we like to help out the community and find these animals good homes.'

North Star Air usually flies the animals out from the remote communities on their cargo aircraft.

It is a service that is needed right at the community level," says John Beardy, community relations with North Star Air. "North Star Air is really proud to assist in this manner.'

Judy Decicco, chair of the Northern Animal Services Committee of the OSPCA, says the overpopulation of dogs and cats in the north is a concern to the communities due to health and safety issues.

"The communities have realized this and they have approached the OSPCA for assistance," Decicco says. "We are so thankful to North Star Air, who have just been right there every time we have asked and willing to work with us and help us.'

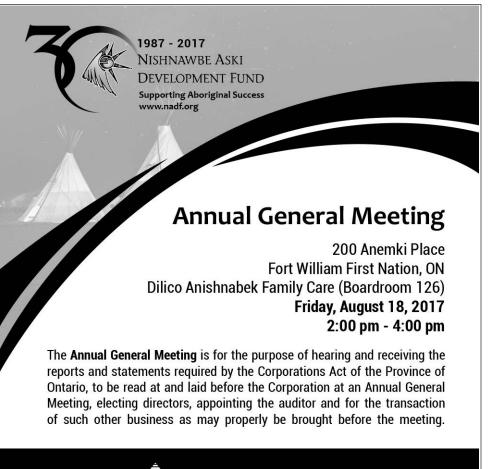
The team of veterinarians spayed and neutered 73 animals during their four-day trip to KI.





TOP: North Star Air's Frank Kelner, centre left, hands over a \$30,312 donation for the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) to Judy Decicco, chair of the Northern Animal Services Committee of the OSPCA, and a group of volunteer veterinarians.

ABOVE: A group of volunteer veterinarians and North Star Air staff unload 13 dogs and five cats from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug off a North Star Air plane at the Thunder Bay airport.





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Leadership Thunder Bay honours award winners

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre's Frances Wesley and Anishinabek Employment and Training Services's John DeGiacomo were recognized with Leadership Thunder Bay ACE (Acknowledging Community Engagement) awards on June 15.

"I am very honoured to receive this award from the alumni of Leadership Thunder Bay," Wesley says. "I've participated in Leadership Thunder Bay for a number of years now and I'm really glad they are recognizing me tonight with the ACE award."

Wesley was recognized for the work she has done over the years in Thunder Bay, including her recent efforts to help establish the Indigenous Peoples Court at the Thunder Bay Courthouse.

'When you become leaders in the community you are setting an example for the young Aboriginal people or any Aboriginal people who would like to participate in this group," Wesley says. "That is why I was adamant and advocated for the Aboriginal youth leadership to be part of Leadership Thunder Bay. And I want to see more young leaders get involved in some of the community action plans within Thunder Bay, particularly with the number of incidents that are happening now. I'd like to see more young people being part of the whole community and feel like a belonging."

DeGiacomo has been the co-

DeGiacomo has been the cochair of the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program since it was established in 2014.

"I'm humbled by the award and certainly as a recipient it makes me think back about how it is only possible with the help of others to receive this type of award," says DeGiacomo, executive director of Anishinabek Employment and Training Services. "So I'm accepting it on behalf of others that I've worked with and served with."

DeGiacomo says the Leadership Thunder Bay program is about building capacity of community leadership.

"It helps us to stay in tune with what is going on in the community and to work on community action projects that make a difference in the lives that really need it," DeGiacomo says. "Leadership Thunder Bay has grown, not only in numbers of graduates, but it has grown in its programming and the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program is one such example."

Michael Villella, president of Leadership Thunder Bay, says that Wesley and DeGiacomo played key roles in the creation of the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program, which focuses on youth between the ages of 15 and 30.

"(The AYLP participants) go through a 10-month program as well where they learn the seven grandfather teachings," Villella says. "They become leaders in their own right in the community."

The ACE awards were created in 2012 to recognize the contributions and connection of Leadership Thunder Bay alumni

to the community.

Recipients are nominated by fellow Leadership Thunder Bay alumni according to one or more of the following characteristics: demonstrating leadership and supporting team efforts through work or volun-

teer activities, valuing and recognizing the contributions and perspectives of others, making diversity, inclusiveness and col-

laboration a part of their work and serving as a role model for leadership and community involvement. The achievements of 19 Leadership Thunder Bay program graduates who completed a 10-month leadership journey

over the past year were also celebrated during the event.

"They learned about com-

"They learned about community leadership, they learned

about working in a team and they also learned about growth and development in themselves and in the community," Villella says.

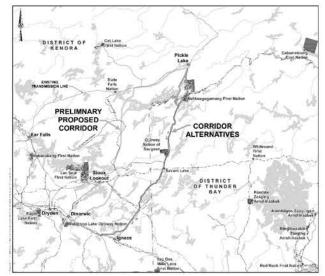


NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Phase 1 New Transmission Line to Pickle Lake Wataynikaneyap Power L.P.

Wataynikaneyap Power L.P. (Wataynikaneyap) is a licenced transmission company owned by 22 First Nation communities and FortisOntario Inc., with the objective of connecting remote First Nation communities currently serviced by diesel generation in Northwest Ontario. This initiative has been identified as a priority by the Government of Ontario, and Wataynikaneyap has been selected as the designated transmitter to connect communities. Phase 1 encompasses a new transmission line to Pickle Lake (the Project). The Project includes a 300-kilometre, 230 kilovolt transmission line and associated Project components from Dinorwic (east of Dryden) to Pickle Lake. Phase 2 will connect 17 First Nation communities north of Pickle Lake and Red Lake with an estimated 1500 km of new transmission line.

The Project is going through an Individual Environmental Assessment under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act.* Wataynikaneyap has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Report based on the Amended Terms of Reference (ToR) approved by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in February 2015, and engagement activities carried out during preparation of the draft EA Report. The Draft EA Report contains effects assessments on three corridor options (Dryden to Pickle Lake, Ignace west around Mishkeegogamang, and Ignace through Mishkeegogamang). Based on an evaluation of the EA, cost and constructability, and technical criteria, the Dinorwic (east of Dryden) to Pickle Lake corridor and associated Project components was identified as the preferred corridor.



Wataynikaneyap is seeking comments on the Draft EA Report. Members of Aboriginal communities and groups, the public, and agencies, are encouraged to actively participate in the review of the draft report. Beginning June 30, 2017, the Draft EA Report will be available for viewing at the locations listed below (during regular business hours) and on the Wataynikaneyap website at www.wataypower.ca. Aboriginal community meetings will also be held to gather feedback on the Draft EA Report and will be advertised in communities as they are scheduled. Interested parties are invited to attend Public Information Centres (schedule below) to review the Draft EA Report and provide comment.

	Public Information Centres		
Windigo First Nations Council 160 Alcona Drive Sioux Lookout, Ontario Tel: 807-737-1585	Cat Lake Band Office Cat Lake, Ontario Tel: 807 347-2100	Sioux Lookout Library 21 5th Avenue Sioux Lookout, Ontario Tel: 807-737-3660	Dryden Monday, July 24 4:00-7:00 pm Regional Cultural Training Centre
Eabametoong Band Office Fort Hope, Ontario Tel: 807-242-7221	Wabigoon Band Office Site 115, R.R. #1 Dryden, Ontario Tel: 807-938-6684	Pickle Lake Municipal Office 2 Anne Street Pickle Lake, Ontario Tel: 807-928-2034	Sioux Lookout Tuesday, July 25 4:00-7:00 pm Forest Inn and Conference Centre 11 May Street, Sioux Lookout Township of Pickle Lake Wednesday, July 26 4:00-7:00 pm Pickle Lake Community Hall 2 Anne Street, Pickle Lake Ignace Thursday, July 27 4:00-7:00 pm Ignace Silver Tops Senior's Centre 300 Pine Street, Ignace
Mishkeegogamang Band Office 1 First Nation Street Mishkeegogamang, Ontario Tel: 807-928-2414	Eagle Lake Band Office Migisi Sahgaigan, Ontario Tel: 807-755-5526	Township of Ignace Municipal Office 34 Highway 17 West Ignace, Ontario Tel: 807-934-2202	
Saugeen Band Office Savant Lake, Ontario Tel: 807-928-2824	MNO Region 1 Consultation Committee 311 – 75 Sherbourne Street Toronto, Ontario Tel: 416-977-9881	Dryden Public Library 36 Van Horne Avenue Dryden, Ontario	
Lac Seul Band Office – Frenchman's Head Hudson, Ontario Tel: 807-582-3503	Slate Falls Band Office 48 Lakeview Drive Slate Falls, Ontario Tel: 807-737-5700	Dryden Municipal Office 30 Van Horne Avenue Dryden, Ontario Tel: 807-223-1147 Tel: 807-223-1475	
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change 135 St Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor Toronto, Ontario Tel: 416-314-8001/ 1-800-461-6290 Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm	Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Thunder Bay Regional Office Suite 331B, 435 James Street South Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 6S7 Tel: 807-475-1205/ 1-888-875-7722 Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm	Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Kenora Area Office 808 Robertson Street, PO Box 5150 Kenora, Ontario P9N 1X9 Tel: 807-468-2718/ 1-888-367-7622 Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm	

We kindly ask that your comments on the Draft EA Report be provided to the contacts below or submitted on the Wataynikaneyap website (www.wataypower.ca) by August 4, 2017.

Callum Squires, Project Manager for EA

John Reid, EA Engagement Coordinator

Nancy O'Neill

New Economy Development Group

FortisOntario

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Cell: (905) 630-1712
Email: Nancy.oneill@dnvgl.com

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for the purpose of transparency and engagement. The information is collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

Published June 28, 2017



Canadian Rangers from Six First Nations conduct joint exercise



photo submitted by Warrant Officer Barry Borton

Master Corporal Kathleen Beardy of Muskrat Dam clutches a carabiner clip attached to a rescue rope during swift water rescue training.

Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers Special to Wawatay News

Rain and damage caused by a marauding black failed to deter a group of Canadian

Rangers from completing a successful training exercise in Northern Ontario.

"It was a good exercise," said Warrant Officer Barry Borton, a Canadian Army instruclearned a lot.'

tor. "They enjoyed it and they

see WET page 19

PATIENT NAVIGATOR PROGRAM SIOUX LOOKOUT ZONE DISTRICT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (INTERNAL/EXTERNAL) PATIENT NAVIGATOR CASUAL/ ON-CALL WORKER

Patient Navigator Program Description

A Patient Navigator is employed on a full-time basis and the program is reviewed annually. The Patient Navigator reports directly to the Executive Director. The Patient Navigator is responsible for managing, developing and implementing the patient liaison services for the Sioux Lookout district First Nations clients The Patient Navigator is part of the Health team that is working towards fulfilling the vision and mission the SFNC mandate and its policies while ensuring compliance with the overall Patient Navigator program requirements for the Sioux Lookout District. The Patient Navigator program will implement casual relief/on-call workers for the program.

Shibogama First Nation Council will employ on a casual basis, Casual Relief/On-Call Worker(s) to be located in Sioux Lookout. The Patient Navigator Program is under the direct supervision of the SFNC Executive Director. The Casual Relief/On-call Worker (s) will be hired for the purpose of relieving and assisting the Patient Navigator. The workers will assist in the advocacy and support services provided for the First Nations Clients who are having difficulties with their patient services under the Non-Insure Health Benefits (NIHB) Program. The Patient Navigator oversees and coordinates the patient navigator services program. Patient Navigator Job Description is available for reference

\$4.00 (reg. \$6)

- Communicate, document, and submit all incident reports
- Carry the Patient Navigator cell at all times and answer incoming calls and texts
- Be available to respond to the clients in person • Visit the hospital and the hostel on a regular basis
- Provide liaison and advocacy for the clients i.e NIHB, Chief and
- Council, and/or Tribal Councils
- Start an appeal process when necessary

Education & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum Grade 12 Secondary Education
- Experience in working with First Nations clients • Willing to learn the federal and provincial policies and services,

Term -Casual and On-call

Application

including most recent employer, certificate of qualification and a Shibogama First Nations Council recent criminal conviction check. In accordance with the Freedom P.O. Box 449 of Information Act, applicants must provide a signed and dated Sioux Lookout, Ontario P8T 1A5 statement authorizing SFNC personnel to contact references.

Application Deadline: August 4, 2017 4:00 p.m.

- Knowledge of computerized management information systems and literacy
- Proficient written communication skills and good organizational
- Be self-motivated, innovative and proactive with the ability to multi-task, prioritize tasks, demands and work independently. · Strong interpersonal skills and ability to advocate and support
- Ability to understand medical terminology and a willingness to learn and interpret
- Oath of Confidentiality to be signed and required • Possess a valid Driver's license.

Anticipated Start Date: Immediately

Applications must be directed to: Margaret Kenequanash,

PH: (807) 737-2662 ext. 2233 FAX: (807) 737-1583

E-MAIL: margaretk@shibogama.on.ca Website: www.shibogama.on.ca

Email and faxed resumes along with required documentation will be accepted. Only those interviewed will be contacted. We wish to thank in advance all those who submit applications.

ONLY THOSE SELECTED FOR AN INTERVIEW WILL BE CONTACTED

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Wet conditions, brevity is only complaint

from page 18

The five-days of training took place at Quicksand Rapids on the Windigo River, near Muskrat Dam First Nation, about 575 kilometres north of Thunder Bay. The Rangers, who are part-time army reservists, reached it by boat from the six First Nations of Bearskin Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Muskrat Dam, North Caribou Lake, Sachigo Lake, and Sandy Lake.

"A big thing for them was just getting to the camp," Warrant Officer Borton said. "They had to plan their routes through different waterways, organize their boats, and how they were going to load them.

"It rained on us the first day. We were soaking wet and it took us a while to get our kit dried. Then we had a couple of nice days and after that it rained a lot on us. The rain slowed down the training. But the only complaint I had from the Rangers was that they wanted the exercise to be longer."

An advance party set up part of the training camp but when they left it unattended a black bear wandered in and caused considerable damage, including ripping several of the tents and bags and dolng a lot of other damage. The bear was never sighted.

A highlight of the training was swift water rescue, conducted in the rapids. "(Master Corporal) Emily Beardy of Muskrat was the first one to put up her hand and go into the water," Warrant Officer Borton said. "The Rangers enjoyed the swift water training immensely. It was the highlight for them. There were smiles on all the Rangers faces, from ear to ear."

Other training consisted of search and rescue, navigation using both GPS and compass, a shooting range, and skeet shooting to improve shotgun accuracy. "They loved the skeet shooting," Warrant Officer Borton said. "They were blasting away until we said: 'Enough, guys are trying to go to sleep."

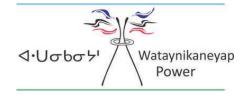
"There was a lot of fishing," he said. "Every night we had enough fish to feed everybody. The Rangers do know how to fish."

Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Richardson, commanding officer of the Rangers in Northern Ontario, attended the exercise and was impressed by the Rangers' competence in the bush.

"When you see them in action," he said, "you realize how good they are on the land. Being in the bush, on the land, that's their territory, their natural habitat. What the Rangers do is totally different from what anybody else in the military does.

"This time we had 37 Rangers working together but normally in a real-life search and rescue operation it's usually just two or three of them, and they are out there by themselves trying to save a life with no backup to the rest of the army. "So on this exercise they were having fun but they were practicing core Ranger skills, skills they use to save people's lives when they are called out." In 2016 Rangers in the Far North of Ontario were involved in 25 search and rescue operations and saved 32 lives.

(Sergeant Peter Moon is the public affairs ranger for the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces Base Borden.)



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Chiefs of Ontario host meeting in Lac Seul

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler addressed the loss of youth to suicide on the second day of the 43rd All Ontario Chiefs Conference in Lac Seul.

"I was given an opportunity to speak to what we have seen

across the NAN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation) territory over the last year or so with the loss of our youth to suicide," Fiddler says, noting there is a need to

work with communities in crisis and to work towards longerterm solutions. "Our goal is to move beyond the crisis stage that we've been in and we need

move beyond that."

The AOCC was hosted by NAN in Lac Seul, with a theme of Determining Our Path: Sta-

to see how we can begin to bility for Future Generations. It included sector updates and information on energy and infrastructure, policing and climate change.

Fiddler says it was important for the chiefs and other leaders to meet in Sioux Lookout and Lac Seul, which are further north than many of them have been before.

"For many of our communities. Sioux Lookout and Lac Seul is still very much south,' Fiddler says. "So when we talk about the cost of living, the cost of doing business (or) delivering a service or program, the costs are very real. When you talk about remoteness factors adding on 10 or 12 per cent to a program or service, it is not nearly enough to actually meet the needs of our communities, especially those that are in remote, isolated settings.'

Regional Chief Isadore Day says the AOCC included "a lot of collective issues and concerns' from chiefs across Ontario.

"It became quickly a sentiment that unity is the most important principle that we have to build on at this point in time," Day says. "We saw again some tragic news coming out of the remote First Nation northern territories, and again we stand in solidarity with the Nishnawbe Aski Nation communities and those that continue to face these terrible challenges."

Day says there were a number of important resolutions raised during the AOCC, including boycotting the Canada 150 celebrations.

'We know for sure that the plight of our people, the history of our people and the rights and jurisdictions of our people and our nations have not been recognized to the degree that they should be," Day says. "For the majority of our leaders across the Ontario region, most are saying there is nothing to celebrate. But we must take the opportunity at Canada 150 to remind Canadians that prior to Canada becoming a country, there were treaties that were established with the Crown and First Nations across the land."

Day says there was also a declaration to ensure safety and a good life for young people.

'That was mainly driven by our young people, who were very assertive and very articulate about what was important to them coming out of this assembly," Day says.

Day says meetings were also held with the Elders on the day prior to and throughout the

"We took that time to consult our Elders, to listen to them and to provide them a space to have dialogue amongst themselves about how they would like to see themselves be formally engaged in the Chiefs of Ontario on a number of different levels, including the All Ontario Chiefs meetings," Day says.

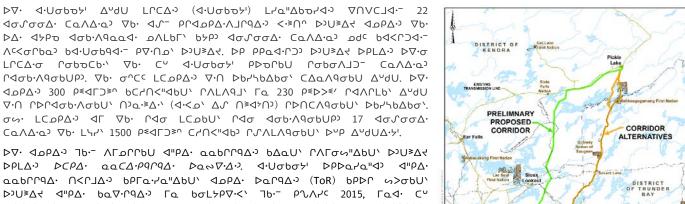
"What we saw come out of our assembly was a very clear statement saying to Canada that the issues and the shortfalls within the current inquiry process are not enough for our women," Day says. "We need to be doing more. So there are some very stern and clear voices that are saying that something more needs to be done outside the inquiry process."

The AOCC was sponsored by Ontario Power Generation, Forrest Green RMC, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers. Maple Leaf Strategies, UNIFOR, First Nations Financial Management Board, RICHTER and Hydro One.



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Politics

Resist 150: no cause for celebration

Stephanie Wesley Special to Wawatay News

While the country celebrated the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the formation of both Canada and the Province of Ontario, across the nation on July 1st, the day was also met

with resistance and objections due to the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day said that for First Nations in Ontario, the 150th anniversary of Confederation is "little cause for celebration."

"First Nations people were the First Peoples to govern this land, now known as Canada, and were present for thousands of years prior to Confederation as self-determining Nations with distinct cultures, languages, laws, traditions, and a unique understanding of the land and environment," Day

"While we acknowledge the formation of Canada and Ontario 150 years past, our true and shared history goes much further to a time when we First Nations were the driving force and held the balance of power prior to the creation of what is now known as Canada," he

Day explained that for First Nations in Ontario, the 150th anniversary represents 150 years of assimilation, genocide, neglect, and marginalization.

"Ultimately this makes it very difficult for us to come out and celebrate and embrace these last 150 years of colonialism,' Day said. "We share a history that is painful and is filled with raw memories, which remain in our communities from our Elders through to our youth that must never be forgotten."

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler also stated on behalf of the NAN executive council that the 150 years of Confederation was no cause for celebration.

"This country has prospered, but our First Nation communities remain impoverished, our youth are denied their rights to education, and our people continue to suffer," Fiddler said.

Prior to the Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, a group from Sault Ste. Marie known as the Bawaating Water Protectors set up a tipi as a "reoccupation" to help bring attention to the history of Indigenous people in Canada.

One of the group members, Candace Day Neveau, explained the group's actions at a press conference in Ottawa.

"Being Indigenous in this day and time, you're born into a legacy, a legacy of abuse, and trying to find our way out of that is really difficult," Day Neveau said. "We are in a day and time where people know about human rights and equality. So why is it that we have to



submitted photo

Candace Day Neveau.

forcefully do things for people to listen? Our purpose here is to educate people. We are always educating people on our racism, our oppression. We have to prove that it's real."

Day Neveau said that celebrating Canada 150 is a hard thing to do for Indigenous peo-

"We are here to say that celebrating Canada 150, it's difficult for our people. Because of what we've been through, it is celebrating our pain.'

Originally, the group had troubles erecting the tipi on the grounds of Parliament Hill. Nine people were arrested, but were eventually released with 6-month ban from Parliament Hill. The tipi was set up near the stage where the Canada Day celebrations were to take place.

She explained that with all talks about reconciliation between the country and Indigenous people, the way the police were "intimidated" by the group proves much more is needed to help educate people.

"They should know we are here in peace, and we aren't going to hurt anyone. Why is it that there had to be such force against us?" Day Neveau questioned of the treatment they received.

Day Neveau said that the amount of money that went into celebrating Canada 150 was "absolutely ignorant" when considering the issue of clean drinking water in First Nations communities.

In July 2010, The United Nations General Assembly

passed a resolution declaring safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right essential to the full enjoyment of life and all other human

As of June 2016, there were 37 boil-water advisories in 22 NAN communities.

"I use our common sense and I say I'm not gonna be treated like a fool and sit there and watch Canada be celebrated and feel so ignored because this is absolutely ignorant the way Canada is investing so much money into this celebration. It's absolutely disgraceful when there are children out there who have no clean drinking water," Day Neveau said.

The federal government spent \$500 million on Canada 150 celebrations.

"Shame on the government for doing this, for not considering how we would feel about this celebrating," Day Neveau

On June 30, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited the water protectors inside the tipi, and had a discussion with the group about why they were there. The Prime Minister sat with the group for thirty minutes, with a 9-minute video being live streamed on Day Neveau's Facebook profile.

In a series of "tweets" posted on his Twitter account after the meeting, the Prime Minister said of the group's demonstration that "the painful fact behind this protest is that for too long, there's simply been no space for Indigenous Peoples to be heard in Ottawa."

"We took some steps to fix that last month by dedicating 100 Wellington Street, across from the Hill, as a space for Indigenous Peoples," he tweeted. "Our government is committed and dedicated to moving forward on reconciliation, myself and everyone in cabinet. And we have a lot of work to do."

"Breaking free from colonial structures is something we'll do together, with respect for Indigenous leadership. We might not always agree in discussions or on the path forward, but we will always be a partner, accompanying you in this process," Trudeau concluded.

Fiddler said that on Canada Day, they would instead celebrate other factors.

"We will honour all those we have lost and those who persevere in the face of adversity, including our brothers and sisters camped out on Parliament Hill. We will give thanks for the resilience of our people, the wisdom of our Elders, the aspirations of our youth, and the strength of our leaders," Fiddler said. "That is something worth celebrating."

INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Spraying Dryden, English River and Wabigoon Forests

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved aerial herbicide spray projects. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the Dryden, English River and Wabigoon Forests (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about August 1, 2017. The herbicides VisionMax and Weed-Master registration P.C.P. # 27736 and 29009 Pest Control Products Act will be used

project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available for public inspection at Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd. for the Dryden Forest, Resolute FP Canada Inc. for the English River Forest and Domtar Inc. for the Wabigoon Forest and on the MNRF public website at ontario.ca/forestplans beginning June 30, 2017 until March 31, 2018 when the Annual Work Schedule expires. ServiceOntario Centres at the Dryden District Office and the Ignace Field Office provide access to the Internet.

The approved project description and

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff at the MNRF District or Area Office to discuss the aerial herbicide project.

For more information, please contact:

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES & FORESTRY

Dryden District Office

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Politics

NAN holds emergency meeting on education

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

An action plan to improve student safety and education outcomes for students was developed at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's July 5-6 Emergency Chiefs Meeting on Education in Thunder Bay.

'Our children should not have to choose between their education and their safety, and many families are in fear of sending their children to school in Thunder Bay in September," says Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler. "We have developed a plan of action, at the direction of Chiefs-in-Assembly, which will be presented to families and students who are waiting to learn where they will attend school in the fall...'

see MEETING page 23

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Kashechewan Chief Leo Friday speaks at the Emergency Chiefs Meeting on Education, held July 5-6 at Dennis Franklin Cromarty First Nations High School in Thunder Bay.

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Politics

Meeting focuses on immediate needs and longer-term goals

 $from\ page\ 22$

"Our students, their families and communities are facing challenges that need immediate attention. These concerns are reflected in this approach, which addresses immediate needs and longer-term goals."

The action plan includes the development of an Emergency Education Task Force to address six main issues, including identifying immediate steps to address the safety and wellness of the youth attending school away from their home communities and identifying existing education options for high school students who decide to stay in their communities.

The task force will also work at ensuring resources are available to accommodate students who wish to continue their education in other urban centres and creating a Student Safety Plan with short-term measures to protect youth who come to Thunder Bay in September.

Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox raised the comments of a Dennis Franklin Cromarty First Nations High School student who spoke at the Emergency Chiefs Meeting on Education, which was held at DFC.

"She said our students and parents deserve the right to choose where they want to go to school," Fox says. "We need to have every option available: if they choose Thunder Bay; if they don't want to come to Thunder Bay; if they want to go to Dryden, Kenora; if they want to stay home; (or) distance education. Whatever they want to do, every student has that right. We need to ensure that we present them with options, and that is the point of this action plan that we've been given the task to implement. The (task force) group has not (been) determined yet but we are hoping to have that as soon as possible."

Norma Kejick, executive director of Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC), says the student's comment was the key point during the Emergency Chiefs Meeting on Education.

"We need to be listening to our students and we have to make the youth voice be heard and we need to consult with our youth on any decisions that we make," Kejick says. "There are safety considerations in the City of Thunder Bay right now and I understand the fear that parents have. NNEC will continue to work hard to do whatever the chiefs direct us to do at the Keewaywin Conference to ensure that there is a safety plan in place for our students."

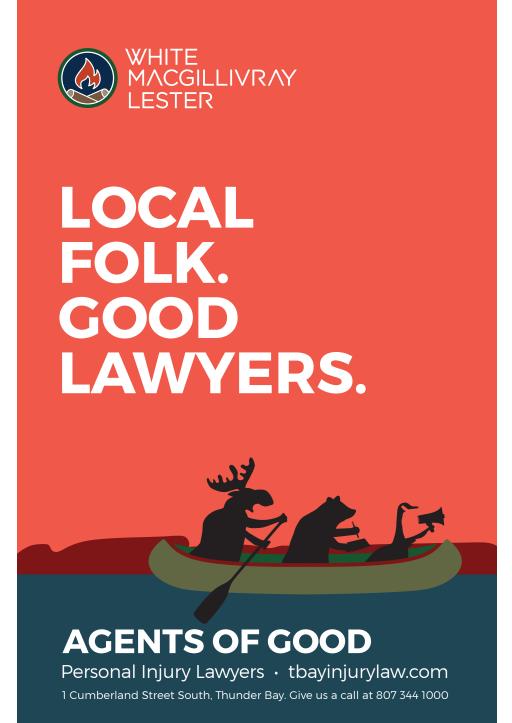
Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum says there are many people in the communities who are debating about whether they are going to send their children back to school in the fall.

"We have an increase in people applying to go to Pelican (Falls First Nations High School) and a few First Nations are also considering other options, including schooling their children back in the communities," Achneepineskum says. "So this is a crisis situation. We are talking about the wellbeing and educational opportunities for our children. They can't be deprived, and it is very unfortunate that it has come to this point. But it needs to happen, because (these safety issues) have been happening for years now."

Concerns about safety in Thunder Bay increased after two NAN youth were found dead in the McIntyre River in May. Seven NAN students also died in Thunder Bay since 2000.

The task force will also look at the creation of an environmental scan of education facilities and services, and identification of possible positive adjustments; and the securing of the mandate to develop and negotiate reverse-tuition agreements to allow all NAN First Nation students the option to attend NAN First Nation schools, and schools operated by NAN-affiliated organizations.

"Two of our education people had spoken on (reverse-tuition agreements) and that is an ongoing long-standing issue that we have been advocating for for years, well before my time, so there will be talks about this also," Fox says.



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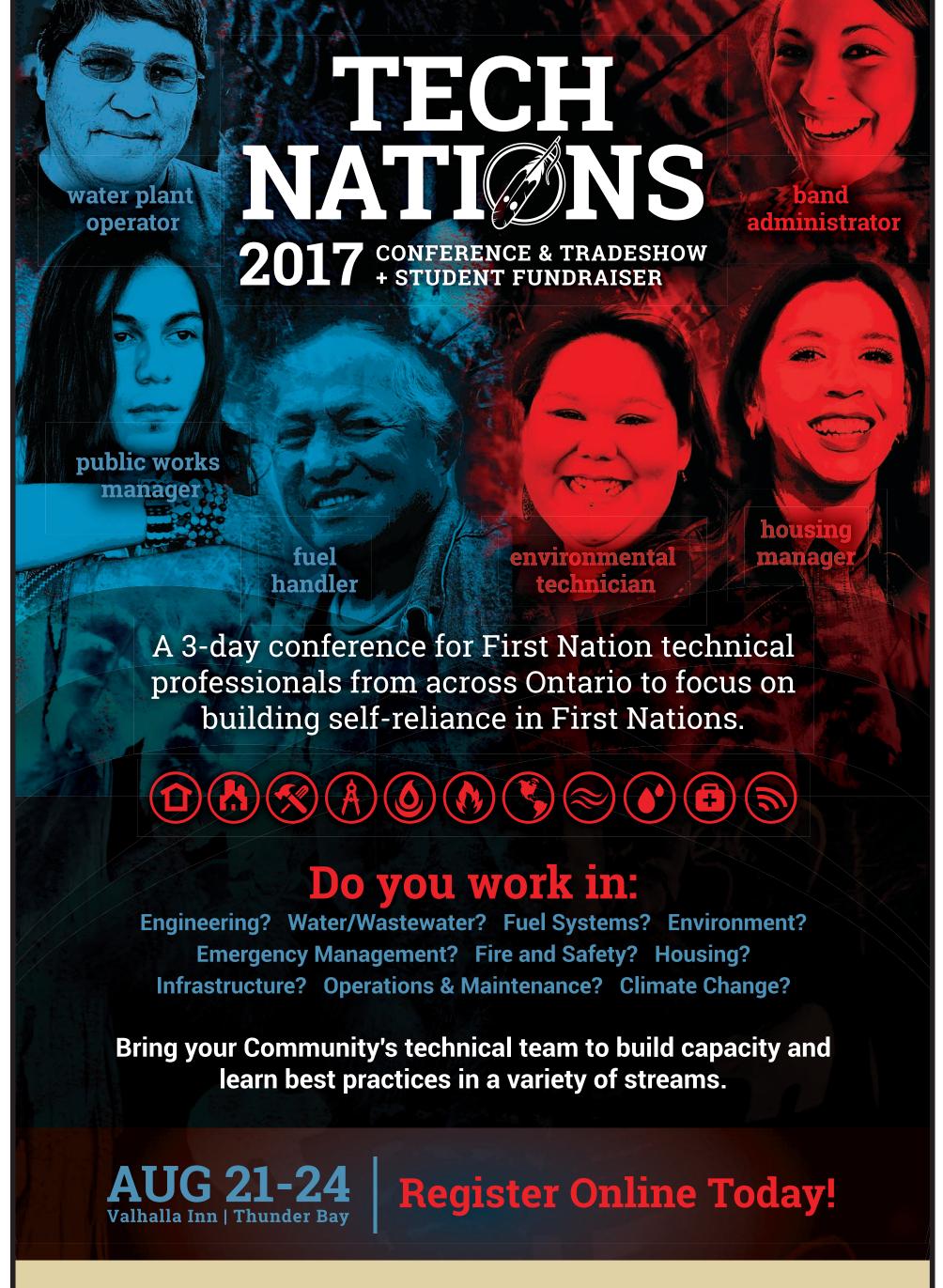
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Mishkeegogamang First Nation Access Coach in Pickle Lake	September 26th-27th
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Onigmaing First Nation - Health Centre	October 18th
Naicatchewenin First Nation (Northwest Bay) - Health Centre	October 20th
Couchiching First Nation	October 24th
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