

BEAR FAX

JANUARY 2011



www.missanabiecree.com

Missanabie Cree First Nation



*Natural rock steps leading up
Manitou Mountain.*

Happy New Year 2011!

We are now into the second decade of the twenty-first century according to the western or Gregorian calendar. It seems a long time, yet long before this calendar came into existence, our people were living on this continent, taking care of their families, planting gardens, hunting, gathering food and medicines, telling stories, building shelters, making clothing, practicing our ceremonies, and trading with other communities and peoples.

Indigenous peoples of this continent were aware of the importance of sharing, and of not wasting the gifts of our mother Earth. These ways of doing were not written down, yet they were ingrained in our people from the teachings we received from our parents, and our ancestors.

The Earth has always been bountiful, yet in these times, greed is becoming rampant. Earth's resources are being wasted, the lands and waters are being polluted, and the future of our grandchildren is in jeopardy. Now is the time to remember what our ancestors learned, and tried to pass on to us, their children. Now is the time to put our teachings into action. This can be a time of renewal, if we put our minds and hearts together.

Events/Gatherings:

National Non-Smoking Week

January 16-22, 2010
<http://nnsww.ca/nnsww-2011>

Aboriginal Health and Intergenerational Relationships

January 17, 2011 Sudbury, ON
Ontario Hospital Association www.oha.com

Weesageechak Begins to Dance Festival

January 26-29, 2011 Toronto, ON
<http://nativeearth.ca/en/>

30th Annual Guelph Organic Conference 2011

January 27-30, 2011 Guelph, ON
www.guelphorganicconf.ca

Apex 2011 Connections for Economic Prosperity

February 1-3, 2011 Vancouver, BC
www.apex2011.com/index.php

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Message from the Chief

Wachay, All my Relations,

With the holidays behind us it is time to refocus on the tasks ahead of us. Our land transfer agreement has finally been signed by the Ministers of Natural Resources and Aboriginal Affairs, executing the agreement. The transfer of lands to the Missanabie Cree continues to be challenged by the Union of Ontario Indians on behalf of the Michipicoten First Nation. In spite of our efforts to come to a mutual understanding of our history within the region, Michipicoten continues to contend the lands being transferred are outside the treaty boundary and are encroaching on their land. A letter from Minister Bentley of Aboriginal Affairs to the Chief of the Michipicoten First Nation states that the province feels it has met its responsibility to consult with the Michipicoten First Nation and will transfer the identified lands to the Missanabie Cree First Nation.

Prior to Christmas, Council met with our lawyers in Ottawa to discuss our legal suit against the Crown for compensation of their neglect in fulfilling obligations under terms of treaty. Our legal team will continue to prepare to go to trial, with a court date set for April 27, 2011, in Toronto for hearing an Advanced Costs motion. We are suing the Crown to cover the legal costs of our suit. A successful decision may prompt the Government to seek a negotiated settlement, which could lead to a faster and cheaper resolution to our claim. Affidavits filed by Glenn Nolan and myself regarding Missanabie Cree's expenses and inability to cover our legal costs will be cross-examined at the end of January in Toronto.

The Specific Claims Tribunal may be another avenue for a faster and cheaper settlement of our claim. It is felt we meet the required criteria to file our claim with the tribunal. Our lawyers believe the tribunal could optimistically be operating as early as this spring. In order to file our claim with the Tribunal, our legal action will need to be placed in abeyance, after the Advanced Cost Motion has been heard, on the back burner until a decision is reached, at which time we would proceed with a court action against the province for the additional lands owed. All rulings by the tribunal will be binding.

There will be risks no matter how we proceed whether through the Courts or a binding decision by the Tribunal. Our Council is in support of the proposed strategy our lawyers have provided in moving our claim forward.

Regarding risk, I must tell you our proposal to the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs for infrastructure capital to complete phase two construction of the Multi-purpose facility has been denied. If you recall we were working with a MAA funding officer for an advanced approval of our proposal so we could apply for bridge financing with the bank. However, their accounting policy will not allow for approvals from one fiscal year to the next. They have assured us the proposal will be taken into consideration next year at this time.

I remain committed to complete the building for this year's Gathering. We still have proposals submitted to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, Trillium Foundation as well as a commitment from Tembec to assist in completion of the building. We certainly are not a community who hasn't faced challenges before and we will rise to meet this challenge, more on this in coming items.

Council has approved the selection of facilitators to assist in the development of a strategic plan; work we propose to do with your input at this summer's Gathering. I will be in contact with them and, after an initial meeting confirming their availability and willingness to work together, expect that the next steps would be development of an agenda.

We are also proposing that we focus on celebration this year, feasting the signing of the transfer agreement, celebration of the accomplishments of our leaders. I anticipate a call will go out for a planning committee for this summer's Gathering.

I wish to extend Happy New Year Greetings to all of our families and friends.

Kim Rainvile,
Chief, Missanabie Cree First Nation

Messages from Council

Hello, and Happy New Year to the Missanabie Cree First Nation:

Firstly, I would like to let everyone know that my dad is recovering quite well, following his triple bypass surgery in December. Thank you to everyone who sent their prayers and best wishes to our family.

Secondly, the Governance meeting that was scheduled to occur in Thunder Bay, (December 2010) had been postponed indefinitely due to my father's condition. I will however, be attending the Governance meeting in Sault Ste. Marie in February, so that I may become more educated in this matter.

I had also planned to attend a meeting in the Sault on January 7th and 8th to discuss our First Nation's involvement with Kunuwanimano, however, this was temporarily postponed.

I continue to enjoy serving as a councillor. We meet regularly (via telephone) to discuss questions, concerns, and the direction of our First Nation. If you would like to talk with me, please email me at bfletcher-decorte@missanabiecree.com

Take Care,
Bobbi Fletcher-Decorte, MCFN Councillor

Watchay, MCFN Family and Friends:

Happy New Year Everyone! As we chalk up another year under our belts it is exciting to be back to work as we enter into a new year of great prospect and potential for our First Nation. A reflection of the past year has demonstrated that we are a people that are determined and unwilling to give up regardless of the challenges and setbacks we have faced as a community and as First Nation people. We have many reasons to be proud of our accomplishments and of each other, for without the support and efforts of our members and volunteers, the work we do would be meaningless. For without community, there is no community.

Chief and Council have been working together and meeting on a weekly basis to conduct the business affairs of our First Nation. At times this can be challenging as we are so spread apart but the commitment of Chief and Council is steadfast and we do the best that we can under the current circumstances to share in the workload.

To date, we have completed our orientation session and are making preparations for strategic planning sessions in February and with the community this summer. The importance of these sessions is to determine a course of action and specific direction in which the community would like to see us advance. As we are entering into the implementation stages of our land transfer, it will be vitally important to garner feedback from the community that will aide us in the community development planning process. In consideration of the reserve designation status that we are seeking for the land base, we are obligated to develop a community plan that encompasses community needs: infrastructure, housing and other capital development interests, before reserve creation can be granted.

Nevertheless, there will be a great deal of work required to wrap up the land transfer and keep the ball rolling with the Federal Government as we strive toward meeting our obligations and ultimately gaining the reserve designation status that we are seeking.

In the meantime, I will be working with the Implementation Coordinator (Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs) to ensure the land transfer is completed this year following the survey work that will begin this spring. As the survey process can take up to 8 months it will be very unlikely that we will be given the deed to the land this summer, nevertheless, we are gearing up for our community celebration and anticipate the Ministers will join us at our 2011 Annual Gathering.

In other news, I am happy to announce that we have completed Phase 1 of the Multi-Purpose Facility. To date the exterior is finished and the building has been fully enclosed. It is a real sense of relief in knowing that



The MCFN Multi-purpose Facility

Messages from Council

our building is permanently protected and in full compliance with health and safety standards and near completion.

Our project manager has done an outstanding job, not only securing the necessary financial supports to complete Phase 1 but has managed the project with the utmost due diligence and competency. It is with great anticipation that we hope to see this building completed by the 2011 Gathering, pending approval of the much needed financial resources to make this happen. Stay tuned.....

Recently I have had the opportunity to participate in two Talking Together circles; an alternative dispute resolution process for families dealing with child welfare matters. This process is relatively new but incredibly produc-

tive as the method and course of action is championed by the participants and not the courts. As we are currently in a dilemma with Kuniwanimano Child and Family Services, we will continue to work on solutions that will provide our members with the best supports and alternative options when it comes to child welfare matters of our First Nation. In the meantime, I have been assisting members, as interim band representative, in the courts, in family planning sessions/Talking Together circles and in the drafting of court documentation in support of our membership and our families.

Until my next report, I wish you all good health, wealth and prosperity in the New Year.....

Jutta Horn,
MCFN Councillor

Watchay, Everyone!

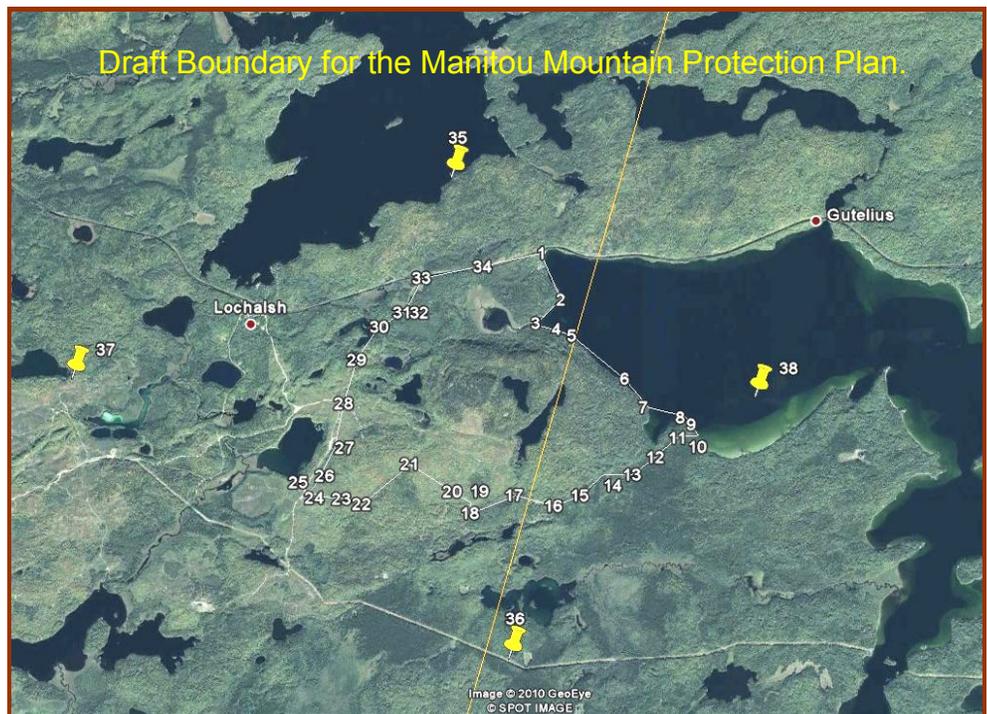
Hope everyone had a great holiday season and wish all the best for the upcoming year.

I have been working on the documentation on the Manitou Mountain Protection Plan over the last month and have included with my report a DRAFT boundary for immediate protection. (See image right.) I have been working with Elders and community members on this project for quite some time.

Land use planning initiatives have been slow over the last couple of months as funding has been ongoing. I am looking forward to this process starting soon so that we can do a proper values assessment of our traditional areas. Good information leads to good decisions.

Chief and Council meetings have been ongoing and extremely productive, and I hope that the minutes will be available soon via the internet for all members to read and comment.

I am hoping to have more community engagement in the upcoming year as I have not had a lot of correspondence from our community. I urge our membership to **please engage with Chief and Council**, and talk about what you



need from your leadership. We are a very forward and progressive community. I know we have good ideas and input, so let's hear your thoughts and feelings!

I have great love and respect for all our community members and would love to hear for each and everyone of you!

Jason Gauthier
jgauthier@missanabiecree.com

MCFN Membership

Ted Ouellet - Registration Administrator

174B Hwy 17East
 Garden River, ON P6A 6Z1
 Phone: (705) 254-2702 Fax: (705) 254-3292
 Email; touellet@missanabiecree.com
 Toll-free: 1-800-319-3001

If your name appears on the Birthday Greetings page incorrectly, please contact Ted Ouellet.

The following is a list of band members for whom we do not have a current mailing address:

Dorothy Bain (Bignucolo)	Cynthia Nemeth
Lyle Copeland	Craig Pelletier
Jason Fletcher	Natalie Pelletier
Steven D'arcy Fletcher	Daniel Rocheleau
Kaleb Jeffries	Iana Ruth
William Jeffries	Jayson Ruth
Jeremy MacDonald	Theresa Ruth
Julianne K.V. Macumber	Victoria May St. Amand (Fletcher)
Allan McDonald	Catherine Wesley
Michael McDonald	Juliana Holly Wesley
Richard Donald McLeod	Michael Wesley

Our **MISSING ADDRESS LIST** fluctuates as members move around and do not send in their new address. When a monthly newsletter is returned by the Post Office, the member's name will be deleted from the mailing list, until I/we receive their new address.

PLEASE NOTE: I CANNOT RECEIVE ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS FROM ANYONE ELSE; ONLY FROM THE PERSON INVOLVED, the reason being, anyone can call in and report an address change without their knowledge. Please use the change of address form below and mail or fax it to Missanabie Cree First Nation or call or email Ted Ouellet at the address noted above.

Members, please keep your address up-to-date, by filling out the change of address form below so you don't miss out on pertinent information regarding band business.

Names of deceased members are not removed from the band voter's list unless the information is provided to Indian Affairs. Anyone with funeral information (i.e. name of funeral home/location), date of death, a death certificate, or anyone who can be contacted for this information, please call or leave a message with Ted Ouellet at the MCFN Band Office.

Miigwech.



MISSANABIE CREE FIRST NATION

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM - - For Band Members

SURNAME	
First Name and 2 nd Name	
ALIAS/BAND #	
DATE RECEIVED	
NEW ADDRESS	
CITY/PROVINCE	
POSTAL CODE	
E-MAIL ADDRESS	
TELEPHONE #	
SIGNATURE	

MCFN Membership News

REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR BILL C-3 APPLICANTS

On December 15, 2010 Bill C-3: Gender Equity and the Indian Registration Act received Royal Assent. The legislation will now come into force on a date to be fixed by the Governor in Council.

This bill amends provisions of the Indian Act that the Court of Appeal for British Columbia found to be unconstitutional in the case of *Mclvor v. Canada*. The bringing into force of Bill C-3 will ensure that eligible grandchildren of women who lost status as a result of marrying non-Indian men will become entitled to registration (Indian status). As a result of this legislation approximately 45,000 persons will become newly entitled to registration.

Registration: INAC has developed an improved service offering for Bill C-3 applicants, whereby eligible applicants can expect to receive registration as an Indian under the Indian Act AND an in-Canada Secure Certificate of Indian Status (status card) in one step. This has resulted in the development of a new registration form and a process whereby applications will only be accepted by mail. Registration forms will be available on the INAC web site, from the INAC Call Centre, and at INAC Regional Offices once the legislation comes into force. Individuals who believe they may be entitled to registration are encouraged to visit the C-3 Registration Information section of this website.

Exploratory Process: Canada recognizes that there are a number of broader issues associated with Indian registration, Band membership and citizenship that go beyond the scope of Bill C-3 Gender Equity in the Indian Registration Act. Officials have been working in collaboration with various national Aboriginal organizations on the launch of an exploratory process that will more closely examine these broader issues and involve the participation of First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations, groups and individuals across the country. With the passage of Bill C-3, the exploratory process will now be launched.

For more information, please visit the INAC website at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/bll/index-eng.asp

For more information re Status cards

Indian & Northern Affairs Canada Head Office:
10 Wellington Street
9th Floor, Gatineau, QC, K1A-0H4
Toll Free: 1-800-567-9604,
Public Inquires Centre 1-866-553-0554,
Fax: 1-819-994-7223

January 5, 2011

Important Notice to Band Members (clients):

As of October 19, 2010 I am NOT authorized to issue any status cards (CIS) by mail. You can apply in person, for a card, in the Missanabie Cree office or at any INAC office free of charge. (*See below for list of Regional Offices.*) Some First Nation offices charge a fee or they do not offer this service.

If you have any QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS regarding this mail in procedure, PLEASE CALL:

John Ross, Supervisor, Indian Registration
Ontario Regional Office

1-416-954-6436.

Toll Free 1-800-567-9604. Ask the operator to speak with John Ross, in the Toronto office.

Meegwetch

Ted Ouellet, Indian Registration Administrator
Missanabie Cree First Nation

B.C. Region

Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada
Suite 600
1138 Melville Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4S3
(604) 775-7114
(604) 775-5100
Fax: (604) 775-7149

Alberta Region

Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada
630 Canada Place
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J 4G2
(780) 495-2773
Fax: (780) 495-4088

Saskatchewan Region

Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada
Room 200, 1 First Nations
Way
Regina, SK S4S 7K5
(306) 780-5945 or 780-
5392
Fax: (306) 780-5733

Manitoba Region

Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada
365 Hargrave Street
Room 200
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3A3
(204) 983-4928
Fax: (204) 983-7820

Ontario Region

Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada
8th Floor
25 St. Clair Avenue East
Toronto, ON M4T 1M2
(416) 973-6234
Fax: (416) 954-6329

Quebec Region

Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada
Place Jacques-Cartier
Complex
320 St. Joseph St. E
Suite 400
Quebec, QC G1K 9J2
1-800-567-9604
1-800-263-5592
Fax: (418) 648-2266

Atlantic Region

Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada
P.O. Box 160
40 Havelock Street
Amherst, NS B4H 3Z3
1-800-567-9604
(902) 661-6200
Fax: (902) 661-6237

Northwest Territories Region

Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada
P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3
(867) 669-2500
Fax: (867) 669-2709

BILL C-3: GENDER EQUITY IN INDIAN REGISTRATION ACT

On December 15, 2010 Bill C-3 Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act received Royal Assent. Bill C-3 will ensure that eligible grand-children of women who lost status as a result of marrying non-Indian men will become entitled to registration (Indian status). Because of this legislation, approximately 45,000 persons will become newly entitled to registration.

Generally speaking, the key criteria to be newly entitled to registration are:

- Did your grandmother lose her Indian status as a result of marrying a non-Indian?
- Is one of your parents registered, or entitled to be registered, under sub-section 6(2) of the Indian Act?
- Were you, or one of your siblings, born on or after September 4, 1951?

General enquires on Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act should be directed to:

INAC Public Enquiries Contact Centre

Email: InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca

Phone: (toll-free) 1-800-567-9604

Fax: 1-866-817-3977

TTY: (toll-free) 1-866-553-0554

Bill C-3 applicants will be offered an improved service offering, whereby eligible applicants can expect to receive registration as an Indian under the Indian Act AND an in-Canada Secure Certificate of Indian Status (status card) in one step. The Secure Certificate of Indian Status is an identity document issued by INAC to confirm that the cardholder is registered as a Status Indian under the Indian Act.

INAC is providing this service offering to Bill C-3 applicants as they do not currently have a status card. As INAC is moving towards fully implementing the Secure Certificate of Indian Status, it is more efficient for both clients and for INAC to provide these new first-time clients with the new SCIS at the time of registration. Both cards, the current Certificate of Indian Status and the new SCIS provide equal access to benefits and access to programs.

This service offering has resulted in the development of a specific registration form which must be used by Bill C-3 applicants when submitting their request for registration. Once the Act comes into force, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada will make the forms available at the following locations:

Online: (Once the Act comes into force)

By mail: Call 1-800-567-9604 to request an application package.

In person: Any INAC Regional office or call 1-800- 567-9604.

Due to the large volume of applications, INAC will only be offering a self-service mail-in application option which will accept applications on or after the date in which the legislation comes into force. INAC has set up a dedicated processing unit to handle in a timely fashion Bill C-3 applications. We therefore ask applicants not to send their application to the regional office but rather to mail it directly to the INAC Processing Unit to ensure that their application is processed in an expedited manner:

Applicants will be required to include certain identification documents with their completed application form in order to be registered and receive an in-Canada SCIS:

- Original birth certificate (listing parents' names)
- Two passport style photographs
- Original piece of valid identification (i.e. - driver's licence, passport, government issued ID)
- Guarantor Declaration for SCIS
- And if applicable:
 - Legal change of name document or marriage certificate
 - Custody Court Order
 - Statutory Declaration Form(s)

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide all required information and documentation at the time of application. This will avoid unnecessary delays in obtaining registration and the SCIS. Incomplete applications will be assessed for eligibility of registration, and if deemed eligible, clients will be contacted to provide any remaining information or documents

We also encourage applicants to use the INAC Public Enquiries Contact Centre (1-800-567-9604) for questions and mail-in their complete applications directly to the INAC Processing Unit to ensure optimal client service under the circumstances introduced with Bill C-3.

Confirmation of registration and receipt of the in-Canada format of the SCIS will occur in two stages. INAC has established an application processing service level standard, which takes into consideration the expectation of receiving large volumes of applications over a short time period. Applications which are complete will be processed for registration within 4-6 months. Individuals who are deemed eligible for registration will receive a letter of confirmation and providing them with registration number which will allow access to benefits and services until the in-Canada SCIS is issued. If all the required documentation has been provided with the application, individuals will receive their in-Canada format of the SCIS within 10-12 weeks after the letter confirming registration has been mailed.

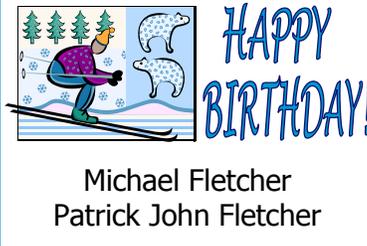
For more information, please visit the INAC website at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/bll/rpb/index-eng.asp

MCFN Events Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 1		Kacha papi watakinun Peesim Tree exploding (by frost) Moon						1 New Year's Day
	2	3 Office Opens.	4	5	6	7	8	
	9	10	11 Craft Class 7-9 pm	12	13 Healthy Snacks After 1:30	14	15	
	16	17	18	19 Elders' Tea 1:30-3:30 pm	20	21	22	
	23/30	24/31 Language Class 6-8 pm (on Jan. 31) 648 Queen E.	25	26	27	28	29	
F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 1	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			1 Circle of Creative Arts Grand Opening 648 Queen E.	1 Elders' Tea 1:30-3:30 pm Craft Class 6:30-8:30 pm 648 Queen E.	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8 Craft Class 6:30-8:30 pm 648 Queen E.	9	10	11	12	
	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15 Language Class 6-8 pm 648 Queen E.	16 Elders' Tea 1:30-3:30 pm Craft Class 6:30-8:30 pm 648 Queen E.	17 Healthy Snacks After 1:30	18	19	
	20	21 Family Day Office closed.	22 Language Class 6-8 pm 648 Queen E.	23	24	25	26	
	27	28 Language Class 6-8 pm 648 Queen E.	Ki sha Peesim Great Moon (Hope of Spring)					

January Birthday Greetings

JANUARY 7



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Michael Fletcher
Patrick John Fletcher

JANUARY 8



Happy Birthday!

Patrick George Fletcher
Marjorie Fraser
Jessica Bergeron

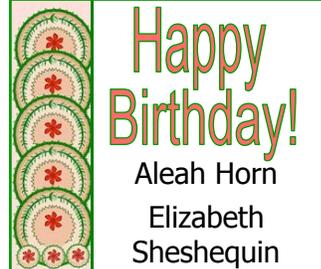
JANUARY 9



Happy Birthday!

Janice Marie Fletcher

JANUARY 11



Happy Birthday!

Aleah Horn
Elizabeth Sheshequin

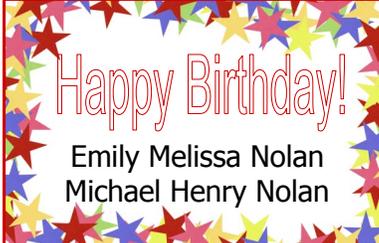
JANUARY 14



Happy Birthday!

Marlon JoAnne McDonald

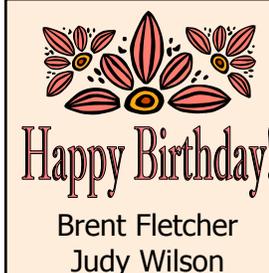
JANUARY 16



Happy Birthday!

Emily Melissa Nolan
Michael Henry Nolan

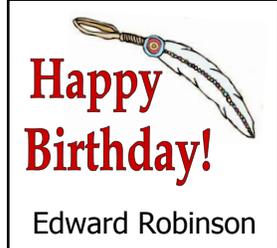
JANUARY 17



Happy Birthday!

Brent Fletcher
Judy Wilson

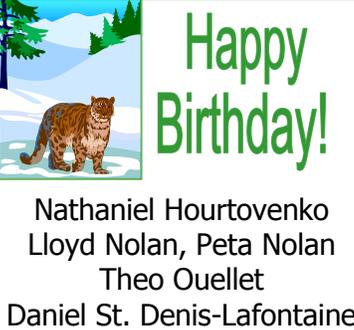
JANUARY 19



Happy Birthday!

Edward Robinson

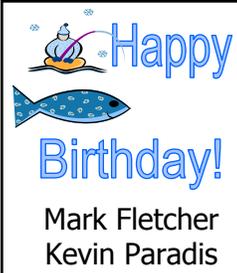
JANUARY 20



Happy Birthday!

Nathaniel Hourtovenko
Lloyd Nolan, Peta Nolan
Theo Ouellet
Daniel St. Denis-Lafontaine

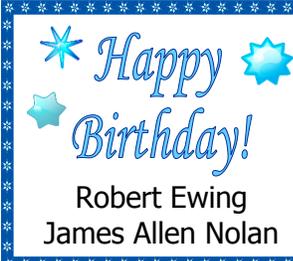
JANUARY 21



Happy Birthday!

Mark Fletcher
Kevin Paradis

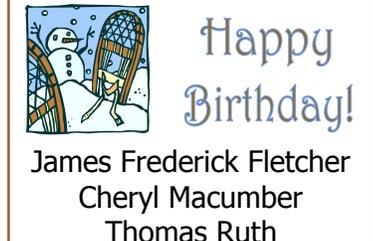
JANUARY 22



Happy Birthday!

Robert Ewing
James Allen Nolan

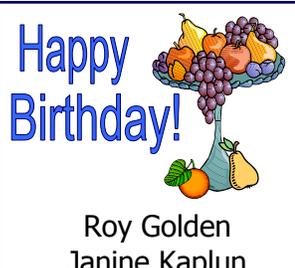
JANUARY 24



Happy Birthday!

James Frederick Fletcher
Cheryl Macumber
Thomas Ruth

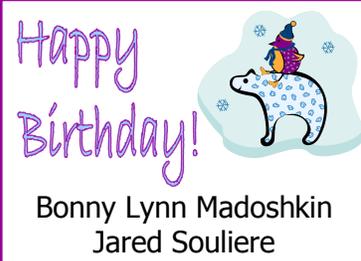
JANUARY 25



Happy Birthday!

Roy Golden
Janine Kaplun

JANUARY 26



Happy Birthday!

Bonny Lynn Madoshkin
Jared Souliere

JANUARY 27



Happy Birthday!

Lorell Guindon

JANUARY 29

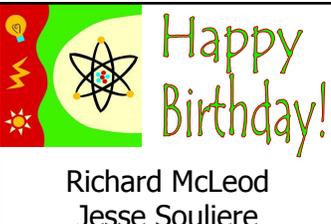


Happy Birthday!

Jannette Macumber

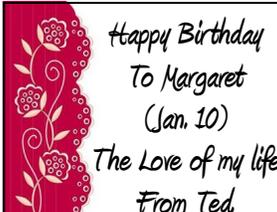
Happy Birthday,  Love, Brenden, Alyssia, Nathan, and Baby Cree
Granny

JANUARY 31

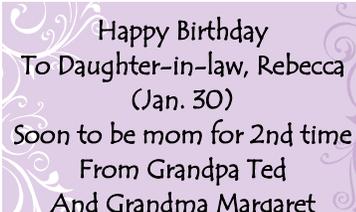


Happy Birthday!

Richard McLeod
Jesse Souliere



*Happy Birthday
To Margaret
(Jan. 10)
The Love of my life
From Ted.*



*Happy Birthday
To Daughter-in-law, Rebecca
(Jan. 30)
Soon to be mom for 2nd time
From Grandpa Ted
And Grandma Margaret*

*Happy Birthday
To Sister, Judy (Jan. 17)
and Brother-in-law, Donald
(Jan. 30)
Soon to be grandparents
From Ted.*



Community News and Notes

CIRCLE OF CREATIVE ARTS PROGRAM

Dear members, family and friends:

In April 2010, Missanabie Cree First Nation submitted a proposal for the New Horizons for Seniors Program to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. We were notified October 22, 2010 of approval and received a grant in the amount of \$25,000.00. The name of our project is "Circle of Creative Arts". Our project will encourage Senior/Elder participation to share their arts, in many different ways. Some examples are storytelling, crafts, music, painting etc.

We have secured a place at **648 Queen Street East**, downtown Sault Ste. Marie. It is half a block away from our current office. The place needed some upgrading and our thanks go to all the volunteers that have had some involvement in preparing our space. All of the involvement is volunteered based. The grant received will go towards rent, utilities, coffee, tea, materials and supplies, and capital costs. A brochure has been developed and will be distributed in town.

We are looking for Senior/Elder artists to showcase and teach their art. If you think you are interested in getting involved please contact us at the MCFN office. Our grand opening is set for February 1st 7pm – 9pm at 648 Queen E. Everyone is welcome.

-Lori Rainville



*Happy 60th Birthday Margaret,
and many more to come.
Love, Auntie June*

NOTICE TO ALL MCFN BAND MEMBERS

MCFN Members are invited to add their email addresses to our mailing list.

Those on our email address list will receive timely notice of any opportunities that may be of interest to our membership, as well as other items of interest to the community.

The information will still be made available in our monthly Bear Fax newsletter, and, if possible, on our website.

Please call or mail your email address to June Markie, Reception Office or Ted Ouellet, Registration Administrator. You may also send an email to jmarkie@missanabiecree.com or touellet@missanabiecree.com. Miigwech.

RE: COMMUNITY NEWS AND NOTES

MCFN band members are welcome to send in postings to Community News and Notes and the Birthday Greetings page.

The deadline for each newsletter is the **first day of that month**. For the February newsletter, the deadline would be February 1st.

So to get your news in on time, be sure to call, fax, or email on or before that date.

Email: eangecone@missanabiecree.com

Fax: 705-254-3292

Phone: 705-254-2702 Ext. 230

Happy Birthday, Ted.
You're becoming an old fart.
Love, Auntie June



Elders' Council News

SPIRIT MEMBERS PROJECT - CALL OUT #2

Since our community has voted to accept the offer of land from the government of Ontario, the dream of having our own homeland has become a reality.

At the official signing of our agreement and the turning over of the land to Missanabie Cree First Nation, it is fitting that we do something to commemorate and honour the work, commitment and persistence of our ancestors.

We are asking members to send us pictures of your family members who have passed on to the spirit world so that we can frame them and have them present in image and spirit at this very important event at our Gathering next summer.

We are also asking you for the help to make this possible. We will require volunteers to work on this project together to make it as beautiful as possible.

Please let us know your thoughts on this project.

Contact Lori Rainville at the Band Office.

News Items

CANCUN CLIMATE CHANGE DEAL

December 11, 2010. — After 10 days of negotiations among representatives of the world's nations, an agreement in Cancun, Mexico on climate change was accepted that commits all major economies to greenhouse gas cuts. The deal has been hailed as restoring faith in the multilateral UN process but will not reduce temperatures as much as scientists say is needed, and it pushes many of the most important decisions to future negotiations.

The deal includes the transfer of technology to developing countries and the establishment of a yearly fund, potentially worth up to \$100B, to handle and deliver the funds needed for the developing world to adapt

to climate change and a system to inspect the actions taken by rich and larger developing countries. However, no date was included in the agreement by when countries must "peak" their emissions. This is considered essential to avoid more serious problems later.

Reactions from environmental and non-governmental groups have been mixed. "Cancun may have saved the process but it did not yet save the climate," said Greenpeace International Climate Policy Director Wendel Trio. "Some called the [UN] process dead but governments have shown that they can cooperate and can move forward to achieve a global deal."

Friends of the Earth international director, Nnimmo Bassey, stated: "In the end, all of us will be affected

by the lack of ambition and political will of a small group of countries. The US, with Russia and Japan, are to blame for the lack of desperately needed greater ambition."

Canada's Council of Canadians states that "a climate deal that allows at least a 4 degree Celsius temperature increase condemns the world to an increasing number of climate fatalities, the vast majority in countries which bear no responsibility for the current crisis but will suffer even greater environmental harm."

Sources:

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/dec/11/cancun-climate-change-summit-deal

<http://canadians.org/media/energy/2010/11-Dec-10.html>

Opportunities



All MCFN Artists! This is your opportunity!

The Manitou Mountain Logo contest has been extended.

Manitou Mountain is a site of spiritual and cultural significance to the Mushkegowuk people.

To raise awareness about the importance of protecting this sacred site, MCFN is sponsoring a logo contest. The logo should contain the following themes and symbolize Manitou Mountain as:

- A sacred place of healing
- A place where spiritual and cultural ceremonies are practiced
- A place of spiritual significance that should be protected

The design should: ✓ be on 8X11 paper, using any media, but be big enough to scan
 ✓ include the words **Manitou Mountain**
 ✓ be suitable for reproduction on T-shirts and caps.

The winner will receive a prize of 150.00.

The contest is open to all ages, and the deadline for entries is **February 25, 2010.**

Please send your entry to: Jutta Horn
 Missanabie Cree First Nation
 174B Hwy 17 E
 Garden River, ON P6A 6Z1

Please ensure you have a copy as entries will not be returned.

All entries will be acknowledged in the Bear Fax newsletter.

The selected logo will become the property of Missanabie Cree First Nation.

Opportunities for Youth



Ontario First Nation Integrated Health Promotion Strategy

CALLING ALL YOUTH VIDEOGRAPHERS!

VIDEO CONTEST

We are looking for 1-3 minute videos focusing on the 3 areas that OFNIHPS targets

SMOKE-FREE COMMUNITIES, NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

You can do a 1-3 minute video on one or all 3 of these areas

PRIZES TO BE WON:

1st Prize - xBox Kinect Bundle

2nd Prize - Handheld Videocamera

3rd Prize - iPod Nano

It's time to get creative! - We are looking for videos that are unique, up-beat, culturally appropriate and respectful—but most of all we want to see you take this strategy to another level and make it your own.

Who can submit videos?

Ontario First Nations Youth aged 13-25

Send your videos & questions to ourhealth@live.com

Winners will be chosen by the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council

Prize winners announced at the 2011 Chiefs of Ontario Health Forum

DEADLINE JANUARY 31, 2011

Video releases must be signed by all participants - parental signature required for participants under the age of 18 – Video Release forms can be found online at www.ourtimeourhealth.org or – www.chiefs-of-ontario.org also through the OFNYPC Facebook group 'Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council'

Opportunities for Youth

Poster Contest

All posters must be a design or a drawing on...

"Life is ..."

(Design or drawing on a piece of paper of "8 x 14")

OPEN to all First Nation YOUTH in the communities of:

Peawanuck, Attawapiskat, Kashechewan, Fort Albany,

Taykwa Tagamou, Chapleau Cree, Missanabie Cree, Moose Factory, and Moosonee.

**Three age categories:
13-15 / 16-18 / 19-21**

In each AGE category:

1st prize - Laptop 2nd prize - Apple i Pod Touch

3rd prize - Digital Camera

Deadline for submissions: January 28, 2011 at 4 pm

Mail Submissions to:

**Doug Cheechoo
Special Projects Officer
Mushkegowuk Council
P.O. Box 370
Moose Factory, ON
P0L 1W0**

Prizes provided by:



And with the support of:



Winners will be contacted and announced at the Pimatisiwin Conference in Kashechewan, ON
February 9, 2011

For more information, contact: Peggy Formsma
Mushkegowuk Council 705-658-4222 ext. 285
email: peggyformsma@mushkegowuk.ca



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a landmark achievement by the world's 370 million Indigenous people. It was passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 and endorsed by Canada on November 12, 2010.

The UN Declaration is an expression of the fundamental rights of Indigenous peoples around the world. It sets out the principles of partnership and mutual respect that should guide the relationship between states and Indigenous peoples. It provides ways to measure and assess the way states are respecting and implementing the rights of Indigenous peoples.

By endorsing the Declaration, Canada is making a commitment to work with Indigenous peoples. The Declaration provides a guide and framework for First Nations, the federal government and all Canadians to work together in ways that respect and implement Indigenous rights and Treaty rights. It is now time to give life to the principles and articles set out in the UN Declaration.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

- Establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being and rights of the world's Indigenous peoples;
- Addresses individual and collective rights;
- Identifies rights to education, health, employment and language;
- Outlaws discrimination against Indigenous peoples;

- Ensures the right of Indigenous peoples to remain distinct and to pursue their own priorities in economic, social and cultural development; and
- Encourages harmonious and cooperative relations between States and Indigenous peoples.

On the day Canada announced it had officially endorsed the UN Declaration, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo stated: *"Today marks an important shift in our relationship and now the real work begins. Now is our time to work together towards a new era of fairness and justice for First Nations and a stronger Canada for all Canadians, guided by the Declaration's core principles of respect, partnership and reconciliation."*

We All Benefit from the UN Declaration

The Declaration has been carefully and creatively crafted to acknowledge the interplay of international and domestic considerations and to balance the relevant principles of "justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith".

The principles and articles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will set the parameters for full engagement and mutually acceptable resolution on the many long-standing issues facing First Nations and Canada. This approach is consistent with the original Treaty relationship between First Nations and the Crown.

Environmental Health



Your Health at Home - What you can do!

An Environmental Health Guide for First Nations

Home is where the heart is - it is where we spend time with family, friends and loved ones. Because we spend so much time at home, home is also where our health is.

This Environmental Health Guide outlines some easy steps you can take to ensure your home is a healthy environment for yourself and your family.

This guide, designed for First Nation families, is available at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/promotion/public-publique/home-maison/index-eng.php#guide. Printed copies can also be ordered from Health Canada by calling toll-free 1-866-225-0709.

THE COSMETIC DIRTY DOZEN



The David Suzuki Foundation has released a report detailing twelve of the most common toxic chemicals found in eighty percent of the most common everyday cosmetic products. The Foundation is urging better labeling laws to help consumers make a more informed choice. The products surveyed included shampoo, toothpaste, lipstick, and skin cleanser.

For more information, and a copy of their pdf file, please visit the David Suzuki Foundation website at: www.davidsuzuki.org/issues/health/science/toxics/dirty-dozen-cosmetic-chemicals. Other useful resources and publications can be found on their website.

GUIDE TO LESS TOXIC PRODUCTS -Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia



From the website: <http://lesstoxicguide.ca>

"Everyday, most North Americans use beauty and cleaning products which contain hazardous ingredients. How can you find the products which are least toxic, among the thousands of products on store shelves?"

The objective of this site is to:

- *Provide information about potential health risks of commonly used products.*
- *Help identify less toxic alternatives for personal care, household cleaning, baby care, and household pest control.*
- *Provide information to help you evaluate products not in this Guide in order to choose the safest ones for your needs."*

The Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia has researched this guide and detailed information can be found on this website about the best, safest products for cosmetic and personal care, as well as household cleaners and baby care. Alternative products that you can put together yourself are also included.

Excerpt from the website: *"In choosing the products we use on our bodies and in and around our homes WE are the ones in control. We can make informed choices for the sake of our own health and the health of our families. And in most cases, what is less toxic for us is also less toxic for the natural environment.*

Making the move to less toxic products can seem overwhelming. But it doesn't need to happen all at once. Whether you make changes in only a few things or in many, you will be making positive choices for your life."

VISION STATEMENT OF THE MISSANABIE CREE

We are the Anishnabe of the Missanabie Cree First Nation whose vision is to have a united and self-governing body that will determine our destiny guided by the seven laws.

We have a vision of a leadership that is open, honest, trustworthy; a leadership with conviction, accessible to the people; a leadership that is progressive yet respectful of our traditions, values and beliefs; a leadership with confidence, always watchful and assertive in protecting and preserving the treaty and aboriginal rights of our people; a leadership that is directed by our people and with exclusive accountability to our people and our people alone.

We have a vision of our community re-established on the traditional lands that were once the homeland of our ancestors where institutions of our government, economy and education can once again thrive.

We have a vision of a people where individuals and families can stand strong and find healing through tradition and spirituality; individuals and families who are loving and compassionate.

We have a vision of a people who are bi-cultural and bi-lingual; a people who can walk in both worlds contributing to our well-being, the well-being of our brother and sister First Nations; contributing and competing globally.

We have a vision of a Nation of people who respect the dignity of all; a people who find balance through equality of all ages, male and female alike.

We have a vision of people who respect the environment, harvesting and reaping the resources of the land in a sustainable manner as responsible stewards for the use of future generations.

We are the Anishnabe of the Missanabie Cree First Nation whose vision it is to regain and restore our rightful place and through the strength of our people, never again be denied our place in society.

MISSANABIE CREE FIRST NATION

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P6A 6Z1

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www.missanabiecree.com

MCFN Chief & Council + Staff

Chief Kim Rainville **ex. 236**
Deputy Chief Bobbi Fletcher-Decorte **ex. 504**
Councillor Jason Gauthier **ex. 235**
Councillor Roy Gideon **ex. 505**
Councillor Jutta Horn **ex. 227**
Councillor Edward Robinson **ex. 506**
A/Band Administrator Lori Rainville **ex 222**
Reception June Markie **ex 221**
Bookkeeper Louise Campbell **ex. 224**
Program Development Lesley Gagnon **ex. 226**
Administrative Assistant Gladys Hawkins **ex. 231**
Registration Administrator Ted Ouellet **ex. 228**
Negotiations Coordinator Jutta Horn **ex. 227**
Communications Elizabeth Angeconeb **ex. 230**

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