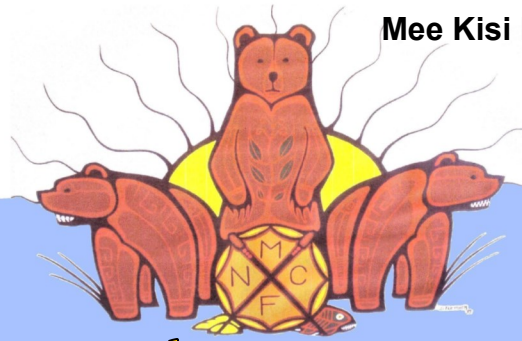


BEAR FAX

Mee Kisi Peesim 2012



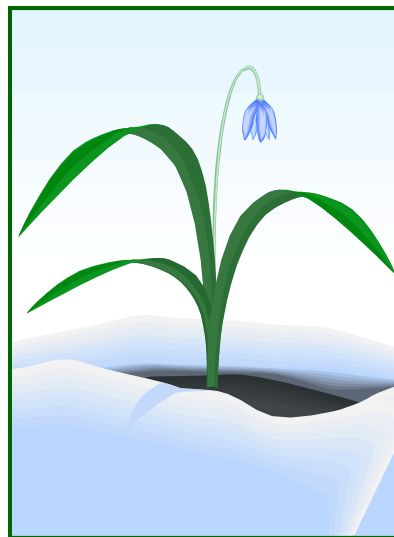
Missanabie Cree First Nation

www.missanabiecree.com

Springtime!

"Springtime is the land
awakening.
The March winds are the
morning yawn."

- Lewis Grizzard and
Kathy Sue Loudermilk



It was one
of those March days
when the sun shines hot
and the wind blows cold:
when it is summer
in the light,
and winter
in the shade."

- Charles Dickens

"No winter lasts forever;
no spring skips its turn."

- Hal Borland

"If we had no winter,
the spring would not be so pleasant."

- Anne Bradstreet

Events/Gatherings:

First Nations Water Symposium

March 20-21, 2012 Niagara Falls, ON
www.firstnationswatersymposium.com

Traditional Water Ceremony

March 25, 2012 Enji Mawnjiding, Sault College
705-759-2554, Native Education Department



Healing and Reconciliation Conference—Impacts of Residential Schools

March 27-30, 2012 Cochrane, ON
www.mushkegowuk.ca

7th Annual Learning Together Conference

March 29-30, 2012 Yellowknife, NWT
www.learning-together.ca

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Message from the Chief

Boozhoo, All my Relations,

It has been a number of months since my last item and much has been happening since.

You may recall our request in a previous Bear Fax issue asking interested community members to submit letters of interest to join our newly formed Community Planning Working Group. We have received 11 letters of interest, and we are looking to the end of April for our initial meeting, a conference call.

The Treaty Land Entitlement litigation is another issue with which we have had significant success. As you may recall we won a favorable decision from Justice Stewart December 5 supporting our advanced costs motion. Canada has applied to the court to seek leave to appeal the Justice's decision. The application will be heard in Toronto on May 2, 2012. As with any issue before the courts there is a risk Canada could win leave to appeal Justice Stewart's decision, however if they are not successful in their application to appeal, the process stops there! The Justice's decision stands and we move toward a trial date. The initial phase of a trial will focus on the land quantum issue, amount of lands which are owed to us; compensation will be dealt with as a separate issue, either through negotiation with Canada, resolved through the Federal Tribunal process or, as a last resort, through litigation.

From March 22 to 26, we hosted meetings here in the Sault with a number of our Elders to present progress on a number of items we have been working on:

- ⊕ Manitou Mountain Protection Plan;
- ⊕ Set aside Lands,
- ⊕ Traditional use of lands outside of the Treaty 9 boundary,
- ⊕ Development of a legal strategy to ensure the protection of our interests outside of the Treaty 9 area;
- ⊕ Hunting/Fishing Best Practices working group which is comprised of Elders, hunters, women, men and youth.

The group is working on the development of a declaration of our responsibilities to ensure we do these types of activities in a good way, consistent with the values of our ancestors.

Over the past several months Gerry Lesage has been working on a business venture on our behalf to start a manufacturing and home building center. The manufacturing component of the initiative will focus on the manufacture and sale of cabinets, windows and doors for the housing market. The new home building center will focus on the construction of new houses, with several different construction systems available. We are looking to capture opportunities within the first nations market as well as mainstream. Application has been made to Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) and we expect the business plan and supporting documentation, financial projections etc. to be screened by ABC by March 12, 2012.

The same information has been provided to the Royal Bank of Canada; we have received positive feedback from the bank regarding a capital loan. This initiative has been our primary Economic Development focus and there are details of this venture which remain confidential. We are working with an individual to purchase assets which make up the manufacturing component of the deal, along with access to suppliers and a mentoring/training agreement which would see us benefit from the 30 plus years of experience this individual has in the manufacture and home building industry. With the approval and support of Council we committed \$150,000.00 as our equity contribution to the deal, signed a letter of intent to purchase at the end of November and have made a \$100,000.00 down payment.

All opportunities come with risk, however, we believe we have performed our due diligence and assessed the risks associated with this venture. When all is said and done we will have a business worth approximately \$2,000,000.00. The business will be a stand alone entity with its own Board of Directors. We will keep you posted in the coming months as to the status of this project.

In closing we are entering into a very exciting time in our history, planning for the future development of our community, gathering additional information from our Elders so we may continue to assert our rights with in the traditional home lands of our ancestors and a business opportunity which will help us to develop the capacity to meet our development needs...

In the spirit of community,
Kim Rainville

Messages from Council

The last couple of months have been very busy with my new job and moving to Timmins. I have been transferred to the position of Regional Land Use Planner from Land Use Planning Manager, and have had much success in working for Mushkegowuk Council. I have been attending Chief and Council meetings, I continue to sit on the Nishnabe Aski Nation Mining Table in discussion about the Plans and permits and Sacred sites policies within the new Mining Act reforms and sit on the Herbicide Alternative Project Steering Committee. I have also been sitting with the Governance committee working on the Citizenship code and Election code.

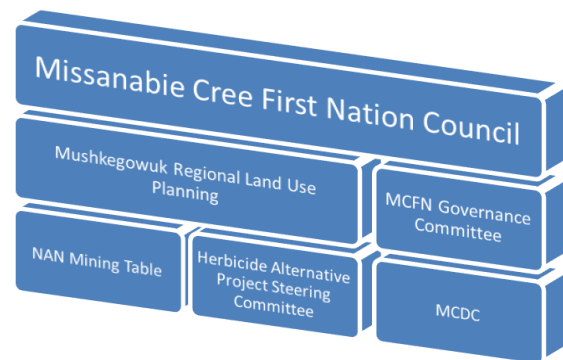
If there are any questions or comments regarding any of the work I do or my role within any of these initiatives, please contact me at jasongauthier@mushkegowuk.ca or jgauthier@missanabiecree.com.

Greetings MCFN Family and Friends

What a wonderful time of the year it is. With very few remnants of winter left behind this week, spring is fast approaching. Overall, It's been a pretty mild winter here in the Soo, aside from the occasional dump of snow, which is not uncommon for the North, especially in the latter months of March and April. Although, I remain hopeful that winter has wrapped up for the season. Over the last couple of months I have been working on a variety of initiatives that have kept me very busy within the office and within the region.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Regional Economic Strategic Planning Committee (RESP)

This committee represents the 49 NAN communities to promote and support economic development that meets the defined needs of each community. The RESP Committee is a steering committee that was established by recommendation from the NAN Economic Summit and granted the authority to monitor NAN economic and resource project activities and implement interim policy actions to ensure continuity of the NAN Economic Development Initiatives. As the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council representative on the RESP committee, we are responsible for providing the NAN Economic and Resource Development Team with recommendations on moving forward with the activities that have been recommended by the NAN chiefs in assembly at the First Nations Economic Summit meeting.



I am available to our citizenship at all times. Call me on my cell phone if you need to get a hold of me for any questions or comments. 705 951 0449. I am also on Skype under "jasongauthiermissanabie" and on face book. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Jason Gauthier

Summit Recommendations by Priority

1. Develop a Regional Economic Strategic Plan
2. Develop a NAN wide data base of the First Nation Inventories, where Tribal Councils will have a Regional data base and First Nations will have their own community data base. To become investment/development ready.
3. Plan for a Youth Economic Summit/Youth initiative by providing the youth with the resources to plan it. Identifying, holistically what potential employment opportunities there could be in the next 10 years, and potentially having a career fair that outlines these jobs and provides tools and resources.
4. Develop a data base or First Nation Business Portal that shares information – ie. Business plan templates, RFP templates, consultants, lawyers, mentors, etc.
5. Research to investigate the need to establish a NAN wide Environmental Agency and regime to meet the needs of NAN First Nations in dealing with environmental/ecological and cultural impacts resulting from resources developments in the NAN territory.

The Missanabie Cree First Nation will be entering into the Community Inventories Pilot Project this spring with the intent of developing a community controlled and maintained database with an inventory of demographics, skilled labour force information, etc. This data collection

exercise will be of great benefit to the First Nation as we are looking to further build the capacity of our people and ultimately, our First Nation.

CREED Working Group – Connecting Regional Economic and Employment Development

In December, 2011, a group of approximately 25 delegates with representatives from all Mushkegowuk Council member communities gathered in Timmins to attend the Mushkegowuk Economic Development Conference. A key objective of the conference was to assess past regional economic efforts and initiatives and to explore what we can do together as a region to strengthen economic development for our communities.

The conference delegates agreed strongly that there is an urgent need for renewed collective action and are currently in the process of securing resources to move forward with meetings and planning. Once the resources are in place, the CREED Working Group will undertake more detailed joint planning which includes:

1. Request further direction and guidance from Council of Chiefs
2. Seek to establish a permanent Regional Economic Coordinator position
3. Plan for CREED Working Group including clarifying the role and relationships, costs, funding, benefits, etc.
4. Investigate the potential establishment of a CREEDO Corporation (CREED Ontario)
5. Convene a CREED joint strategic planning session in March 2012 for further CREED and CREEDO planning including action plans on organizing business development (Ring of Fire) and human resource development.

One of the challenges that Missanabie Cree First Nation has had in the past is being able to access equal opportunity and benefit from the efforts being advanced by the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council on our behalf. Community representatives were all in agreement that equal distribution of derived benefits and opportunities should be accorded to all communities regardless of their geographical locations. We are hopeful that this group will receive the support it requires to further the Goals and objectives outlined above and to continue building a solid relationship of mutual interest and benefit for all.

Land Transfer

To date, our survey has been completed and registered. We are now awaiting finalization of the easement agreements followed by the issuance of the land patent. We will be meeting with both Canada and Ontario in the next month, to discuss next steps and to assess the requirements that need to be fulfilled for our reserve designation.

Other Activities

- Drafted and submitted two proposals for funding support to the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs – Enhanced Capacity Fund.
 - 1) Cultural Coordinator/Planner
 - 2) Engagement and Consultation EDO support
- Revised program budgets for fiscal year end reporting
- Hunter Ethics/ Manitou Mountain Protection Project/ Implementation Coordinator/ Cultural Coordinator
- Coordinated Tripartite planning sessions/meetings with Tembec/MNR and MCFN (ongoing)
- Assisted Cultural Coordinator in planning and implementation of workshops (Hunter Ethics, Set Asides, Manitou Mountain Protection Plan)
- Assisted Project Manager on NEWCO business development activities/meetings
- Attended Moose Recovery Strategy sessions/ Climate Changes Conference/NSRCF Chiefs meeting – Chapeau
- Attended Chiefs Energy Conference – Thunder Bay
- Attended Healing Circle Family conference – Sault Ste. Marie
- Attended Chief and Council Meetings – Sault Ste. Marie

There is a great deal of activity in the region and territory that requires our attention on many different fronts. As we endeavor to stay apprised of all these undertakings, we remain committed to working with others to advance the interests of our First Nation. At the same time, we are continually seeking opportunities to build capacity and employment opportunities for our members. We are excited about our future prospects and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. Stay tuned.

From the desk of:

CULTURAL COORDINATOR

Waacheyea,

Meegwetch to the all the participants who joined us for all the workshops at MCFN's Circle of Creative Arts for the Working Group Meetings that were held in Sault Ste. Marie. It was great seeing everyone and I looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Without the response of the members we would have not been able to gather information from the members regarding, identified values, interests and significant areas associated with the set aside lands. We were also able to gather pertinent information from the Hunting Ethics Working Group. Once reports are done for this month, the minutes and first draft of the Hunting & Fish

ing Best Practices Declaration will be forwarded to the participants for their approval.

Once again, meegwetch to all who assisted in giving recommendations on which option of land use designation is best for the protection of Manitou Mountain and our traditional territory.

I also want to acknowledge the youth that attended and were able to sit in on the discussions with the Elders. Chi Meegwetch to Louis Bassiallion, Amanda Daigle, Lance Daigle, Dakota Souliere, Dayna Rainville, Nolan Rainville, Christopher Church and Tausha Shaule and the bakers, Coral Gagnon, Sharlee Souliere and our host, James Nolan.

Isabell Souliere

News Items

HUGE LAND WITHDRAWAL IN KI TERRITORY

Monday March 5, 2012 - The Ontario government says its recent land withdrawal near Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) will help avoid future disagreements like the ongoing conflict between God's Lake Resources and KI. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines announced Mar. 4 that it has withdrawn 23,181 square kilometers "in the vicinity of KI" from prospecting and mine claim staking.

But KI Chief Donny Morris said the land withdrawal caught his community off guard, considering that negotiations between the First Nation and Ontario over land claims broke down months ago. "I think they jumped ahead of us," Morris said. "It should be a historical event when you withdraw that much land. There should have been meetings about it. Instead they are telling us what's best for us."

In a notice posted to the ministry's website, the government stated that the land withdrawal will "give clarity to the province's mineral exploration industry and avoid future disagreements over the land in question." The withdrawal does not affect God's Lake Resources mining claim at Sherman Lake, which has become a flashpoint for conflict between KI, the government and the company. God's Lake, a junior gold mining company, plans to restart exploration work at the site this month despite ongoing protests from KI.

Morris has stated that his community plans to mobilize against the company's exploration work. KI's chief said

that since the land withdrawal does not stop God's Lake Resources from its planned exploration work at Sherman Lake, the government needs to go back to the drawing board and work with the First Nation on an appropriate land use plan.

Ontario's land withdrawal announcement came just days before a planned KI rally in Toronto. The rally, scheduled for Mar. 6, is geared at bringing attention to the ongoing dispute between the First Nation and God's Lake Resources.

"We're going to let the public know that this is still an issue, even though we're way up here in the North," Morris said of the rally. "And to see this overwhelming support that we have."

The CPAWS Wildlands League, a conservation group, applauded Ontario's move to set a moratorium on exploration in the region, but cautioned that efforts still need to be made to resolve the conflict between KI and God's Lake Resources.

"We see the announcement as a positive step by the province to provide certainty for local communities, ecosystems, and the broader mining sector," said Anna Baggio of Wildlands League. "(Yet) under the old Mining Act, God's Lake Resources can ignore the wishes of the community in this area. We urge the province to resolve this issue quickly and bring peace to the land."

Shawn Bell - Wawatay News

News Items

Grand Chief Louttit ready to work with Feds to change the inequality of education for First Nations

March 29, 2012, MOOSE FACTORY, ON: “Shannen Koostachin’s gift to us appears to be making some good positive steps forward says Grand Chief Stan Louttit. Before her untimely death in May 2010, 15 year old Shannen Koostachin was making national headlines with her personal goal of doing whatever she could to improve the education system for the Aboriginal people in Canada. In pursuit of her goal and in such a short period of time, Shannen developed strong partnerships, generated national support and became a national role model for the youth.

On March 27, 2012 history was made when the NDP lead Motion 202 was presented, voted on and was unanimously supported by all parties in the House of Commons. Introduced in 2010, Motion 202 is a proposal to make legislative changes to improve the quality of education for First Nations, which includes increasing the funding levels for on-reserve schools to the same levels as provincially funded school systems.

“In addition to the Shannen’s Dream movement, numerous other major government funded studies, tables, commissions, and reports have (for years) identified inadequacies and underfunded education systems in our communities and this inequality is severely impact-

ing Canada in many ways today.....this motion and pending changes is long, long overdue” says Grand Chief Louttit.

In relation to this historic moment, at the Crown-First Nations Gathering in Ottawa on January 24, 2012, among the high priority issues discussed was the need to change government education policies, remove the Indian Act and to begin respecting and honoring the Treaties, including the Oral Treaty Promises.

“There seems to be some willingness and opportunities on the table and we need to move forward alongside the federal government to ensure changes are made under our terms this time and as Shannen envisioned” says Grand Chief Louttit.

Mushkegowuk Council is a regional organization that represents the collective interests of the Kashechewan, Fort Albany, Chapleau Cree, Missanabie Cree, Moose Cree, Taykwa Tagamou and Attawapiskat First Nations in northeastern Ontario.

For more information on the contents of this press release, you may contact the office of the Grand Chief by phone 705-658-4222 or by email stanlouttit@mushkegowuk.ca

NWAC CITES WITHDRAWAL OF INDEPENDENT COUNSEL FROM MISSING WOMEN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN

March 7, 2012 (Ottawa, ON) -The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) learned yesterday of the resignation of Ms. Robyn dean Gervais from the position of Independent Counsel for the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry to represent “the perspectives of Aboriginal women”. Her withdrawal confirms our concerns and observations about the failures of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry process. Amongst her reasons for withdrawal, Ms. Gervais cited the delay in calling Aboriginal witnesses, the failure to provide adequate hearing time for Aboriginal panels, the lack of ongoing support from the Aboriginal community, and the disproportionate focus on police evidence at the Inquiry.

NWAC is Canada’s national voice for Aboriginal women and was uniquely positioned to speak to concerns about missing and murdered Aboriginal women. NWAC was granted full standing by Commissioner Oppal, but the Government of British Columbia refused to provide funding for legal counsel and NWAC was forced with withdraw

from the Inquiry on July 27, 2011 because it could not participate without financial support.

After the Government refused funding for NWAC and the other groups granted standing, and most of the groups were forced to withdraw, Commissioner Oppal attempted to salvage the Inquiry by appointing two “independent counsel,” Ms. Robyn Gervais and Mr. Jason Gratl to represent “the perspectives of Aboriginal women” and “Vancouver’s Downtown East Side community.” In her “independent counsel” position, Ms. Gervais was expected to represent “Aboriginal women” but had no Aboriginal client, and could not seek or take instructions from any individual Aboriginal woman, or any Aboriginal women’s organization. As NWAC noted in our letter to Commissioner Oppal of September 6, 2011, the appointment of “independent counsel” to represent Aboriginal women, without Aboriginal women’s knowledge or consent, was itself discriminatory. The Commission placed Ms. Gervais in an untenable position, and yesterday’s withdrawal is the result.

Twenty-five publicly funded lawyers represent police and government at the Inquiry, while there are only two pub

licly funded family lawyers. There were and are no publicly funded lawyers retained and instructed by any Aboriginal parties.

Recently, NWAC received an invitation from the Commission to participate in policy sessions. However, since NWAC was excluded from the fact-finding hearings, NWAC has decided not to participate in this secondary policy forum. Neither the Inquiry nor the Government of British Columbia is likely to attach the same weight to submissions that are made in the policy sessions. Aboriginal women, and their organizations, should not be

relegated to a secondary forum.

Ms. Gervais' decision to withdraw, and her reasons for doing so, have confirmed NWAC's fear that this Inquiry will not provide answers to the ongoing discrimination against Aboriginal women and girls that threatens their safety and their lives. NWAC still hopes that individual families will find some answers through this Inquiry. NWAC will continue to seek real and long-lasting solutions to the grave and systematic violations of the human rights of Aboriginal women and girls.

For more information please contact:
Claudette Dumont-Smith, Executive Director
1-800-461-4043 or cdumontsmith@nwac.ca

Community News and Notes

NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION WOMEN'S COUNCIL 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Women's Council held our 5th annual conference and our third election this past weekend at the Best Western Nor'Westor in Thunder Bay. Friday was taken up with the NAN Women's Council and Treaty 3 Women's Council meeting to discuss the upcoming conference as well as an overview of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, by regional coordinator, Alvin Fiddler. Both groups have sent a strong message to the Independent Assessment Program in that the deadlines have to be removed because many survivors have not been informed or understand what this process is. No one has spoken to them in their language and many are isolated and have never heard of this process. We also had an excellent presentation by Kristine Bac-car, Policy Advisor for the Economic & Resource Development sector. She provided an overview of the Regional Economic Plan for Nishnawbe Aski Nation with a survey for everyone to fill out.

There were approximately 80 women who registered, representing 49 communities in the NAN territory. Fort Albany sent 14 of their 20 drum group. These ladies were very beautiful and had many stories to tell. The theme of the conference was looking at community and individual approaches to abuse. This topic took on many forms from guest speakers talking about Elder abuse to doing a wall mural (PATH) of community-based solutions. One group barely touched the PATH mural due to the sharing of their personal abuse stories that needed to be told and heard. Guest speaker Michelle Donio-King showed a series of four videos that provided

information on the NAN Legal Witness Program. Jocelyn lahtail told her very profound story of what has happened to her son Jordan and his disabilities and how she is caught in the politics of her First Nation and not able to get support that she needs. She talked also about the sexual abuse and incest that happened in her family. Others talked about this issue in the same way in that many times it is people who are the closest to the family; uncles, nephews, grandfathers and mothers and grandmothers. It is common knowledge that many of the leaders are perpetrators.

Much of the discussion talked about opening this issue up so that our people can become healthy once again. The residential school taught our people a lot including these abuses and we learned very well and brought them back to our communities. This issue is not about blaming. It is about healing and dealing with the shame, guilt and anger. A common understanding that I heard is that the suicides are a result of sexual abuse and cover ups.

I provided a "Visioning Workshop" and during the process of people sharing their vision boards many people brought up the losses that have been going on in their communities, mainly suicides and how they wanted this to change.

During the conference, we got a message that a 13 year-old girl from Sandy Lake took her life. Rather than the news shadowing gloom and doom over the conference, the delegates chose to talk about this girl in a positive

Community News and Notes

light and to celebrate the time that she has been with us and her community.

Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin attended the conference in its entirety and provided support to the women in his message. His wife was also in attendance and they were both gifted with moccasins to honor their role modelling of walking the good road as a couple. It was good to have Cheryl Macumber as a representative from Missanabie Cree in attendance.

I want to announce that I have been elected once again

for another 3 year term, which will be my last. I know these next three years are going to be a good three years in terms of dealing with such a heavy subject as abuse but the only way it can get better is by addressing it and not shoving it under the carpet. I look forward to working with everyone and building healthy communities.

Jackie Fletcher
NAN Women's Council



HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY
TO ABIGAIL
Grandma & Grandpa Ouellet

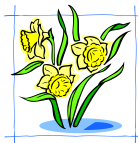


Happy Birthday Corey
Love you, son
Love, Mom



Happy Birthday
to my grandson,
Robert
Love you, Nanny

Happy Birthday
to my niece Lorraine
Love, Auntie June



FEBRUARY 18

Happy Belated Birthday!

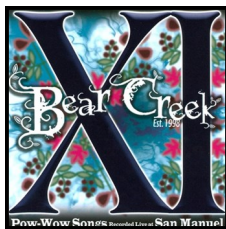
Donald Labelle



IN MEMORY OF GERT
April 17, 1936 –
March 16, 2002



Thinking of you always.
Joe!



Drum Teachings

In February Eddy Robinson, one of our Councilors approached Kevin Syrette from Bear Creek with tobacco to come in and provide instruction, direction and teachings around the Big Drum for the Missanabie Cree First Nation.

Kevin Syrette of the Rankin-Batchewana First Nation and Otter Clan was first introduced to the Dewegun (Big Drum) in 1994 and has proven to have been a pivotal point in his youth. Kevin now plays an instrumental role with the world renowned powerhouse drum group, the "Bear Creek Singers." Bear Creek in itself has accomplished so much capturing a world championship in 2001 at the "Gathering of Nations Pow wow" and since then winning many more singing Pow Wow Competi-

tions throughout North America. A recent highlight of Bear Creek's many accomplishments was being nominated for a Grammy Award in 2011.



Kevin now at 35 years of age and having always lived a clean and sober lifestyle; being a new father of a 15 month old Kevin has found himself a dedicated family man. Kevin has a lot of wisdom to offer Missanabie Cree's children, youth and people when it comes to living a good life through the Drum.

Let's give him a warm welcome, Chi-meegwetch.

(Drum Teachings are expected to begin in early April.)



MCFN Events Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
M A R C H 2 0 1 2	 Mee Kisi Peesim Eagle Moon				1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8 Healthy Snacks after 1:30 Craft Class 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre	9	10
	11	12	13 Craft Class 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre	14 Elders' Tea 1:30 - 3:30 pm COCA Centre	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22 Craft Class 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre	23	24
	25	26	27 Hand-drumming 7 pm Syndi H.	28 Elders' Tea 1:30 - 3:30 pm COCA Centre	29	30	31 Garage Sale??
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
A P R I L 2 0 1 2	1	2	3	4	5	6 Good Friday	7
	8 Easter	9	10	11 Elders' Tea 1:30 - 3:30 pm COCA Centre	12 Healthy Snacks after 1:30 Hand drumming 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre	13	14
	15	16	17 Craft Class 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre	18	19	20	21 Learning to use a compass 1:30 pm Jillian
	22 Earth Day	23	24	25 Elders' Tea 1:30 - 3:30 pm COCA Centre	26 Craft Class 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre	27	28
	29	30	Circle of Creative Arts (COCA) Centre is located at 648 Queen St. E		Niska Peesim Goose Moon 		

Happy March Birthday Greetings

MARCH 1



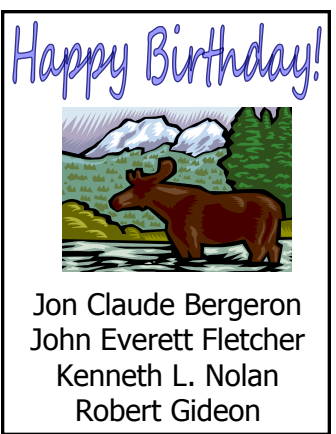
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MARCH 4



MARCH 6



MARCH 7



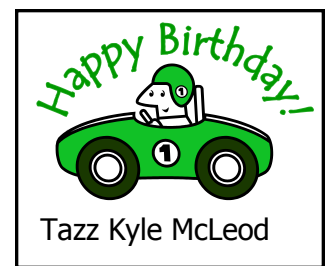
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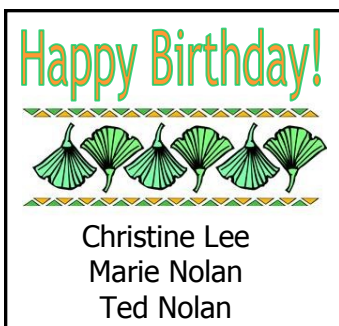
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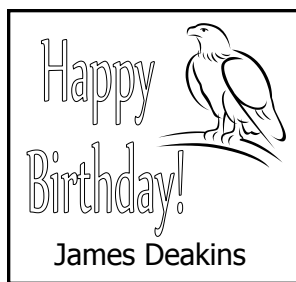
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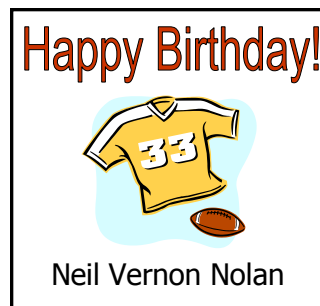
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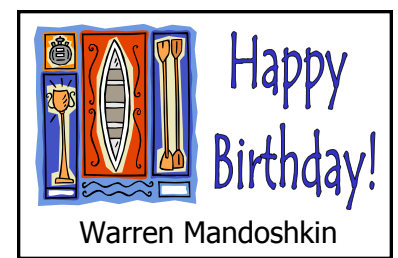
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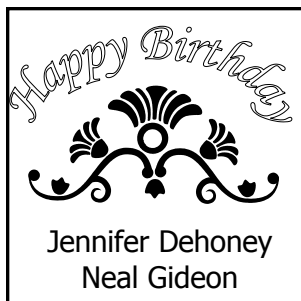
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MARCH 23



MARCH 24



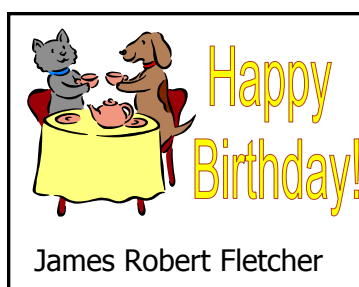
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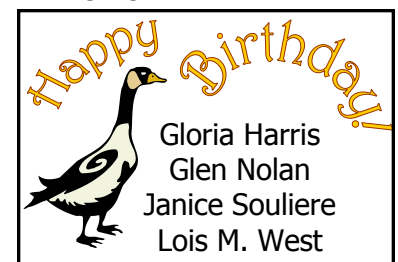
MARCH 29



MARCH 30



MARCH 31



Opportunities for Youth

CANADIAN ABORIGINAL WRITING AND ARTS CHALLENGE

Presented by Enbridge, Inc.

The Challenge is a national short story and visual competition for Aboriginal youth ages 14-18 and 19-29.

Participants of Aboriginal heritage (First Nations, Inuit or Métis) are invited to write a short story or create a two-dimensional piece of artwork about a defining moment or theme in Aboriginal history. Winners are selected from a jury of prominent authors and artists from two age categories and receive cash prizes of up to \$2,000! Groups of 10 or more are eligible for additional group prizes.

The contest deadline is March 31, 2012.

Full guidelines are available at www.our-story.ca.

Youth Council Initiative



Waachey to all!

Meegwetch to the Chief and Council for accepting my initiative to kick start the youth council once again. 2012 is going to be a busy year for the youth, fundraising for additional money for our youth fund, working on potential Missanabie youth empowering workshops, and asserting our presence on the Mushkegowuk Regional Youth Council.

I have a vision of a revised youth council that will include all youth from all corners of this large country of ours, and that our youth would elect a youth chief to sit on Chief and Council and Mushkegowuk Regional Youth Council. I believe that our youth need to understand their roles and responsibilities as young people within a community; and that each and every one of us has something to contribute and offer for the greater good of our community and the future.

To begin our long journey to start the youth council once more, I would encourage the parents to get their children to participate in any way possible, even the youth outside of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. I would like all citizens to participate in a fund raising brainstorming session. I would ask for a written letter or email expressing your interest to participate no later than April 11, 2012. The teleconferencing system will be utilized to ensure all citizens can participate.

You can fax, mail or email your letter of interest to:

Missanabie Cree First Nation
559 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2A3
Fax: 705-254-3292

Email: nrainville@algomau.ca

Again, Meegwetch to all our citizens, I hope that we can make all the youth initiatives in 2012 a success.

Nolan Rainville
Interim Youth Representative



Governance Project Update



MCFN Governance Capacity Development Project

The Governance Coordinating Committee (GCC), with the support of the Project Coordinator, has begun the work of the governance project. The project involves the updating and ratification of the MCFN membership code and the review and ratification of the MCFN election code. The Project is funded through AANDC's Professional and Institutional Development (PID) Program.

Feb. 29 Teleconference

The GCC has begun the review of the MCFN election code. The MCFN custom election code has been in use for a number of years. To date, there has been little feedback from the MCFN membership. The Committee is reviewing the code in comparison with other FN elec-

tion codes, and also with the provisions as outlined under the Indian Act and the new First Nations Election Act.

The GCC has also recommended that a legal review of the citizenship code be undertaken to ensure clarity and correct terminology in the document.

Feedback from MCFN Membership re Draft #6

Draft #6 of the code was included with the February issue of the Bear Fax newsletter. The draft membership code, now known as the citizenship code, is close to being finalized.

The Governance Coordinating Committee encourages the MCFN membership to review this draft and respond with comments and/or suggestions.

Comments in the side margins of Draft #6 are there to explain why some of the changes were made, but will not be part of the final draft.

If you have any questions about Draft #6, please feel free to call or email the Committee members. Elizabeth Angecone, the Project Coordinator, is also available.

She can be reached at 705-254-2702, Ext. 230 or by email at eangecone@missanabieecree.com.

GCC Committee Members

Louise Campbell	Debbie Ewing
Jackie Fletcher	Jason Gauthier
Craig Gideon	Victoria Pezzo
Elizabeth Angecone (Project Coordinator)	

GCC Meeting Schedule

March 12: GCC teleconference
 March 24-25: Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie
 March 31: Review and Approval by Chief and Council.
 Ratification Process begins.

List of Acronyms:

GCC – Governance Coordinating Committee
 PID – Professional and Institutional Development
 AANDC – Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (formerly Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)
 RGC – Regional Governance Coordinator
 GSP – Governance Strategic Plan

Health Notes



TOBACCO AND THE ADDICTION TO SMOKING

The Creator and Mother Earth have given us many gifts. Each of these gifts has special powers and as a result, they must be respected and used in the proper way. Among these gifts is a sacred medicine called Tobacco. Traditionally, tobacco has been used by many First Nations for healing, guidance, spiritual strength, discipline and protection. The Elders have taught us that all medicine is powerful and each has a good side and a bad side. If misused, tobacco, like medicines, has power to hurt you.

Today, many First Nation youth feel pressure to use tobacco in a different way. Sometimes they are pressured by their friends to smoke, but mostly they are pressured by the media.

Each year tobacco companies spend millions of dollars on advertising which tell youth that they need to smoke cigarettes in order to be cool, glamorous and exciting. What they don't tell you is just how dangerous smoking really is.

YOU NEED TO KNOW THE FACTS

Smoking and Cancer

Cancer did not exist among First Nations People until 1926. Extreme changes in our diet and way of life left us open to a number of new diseases.

It was not long after that First nations People used tobacco strictly for ceremonial and medicinal Purposes. Nearly six in ten First Nations adults (58.8%) are current smokers RHS02/03.

Smoking is a very dangerous habit. In fact, more than 50 of the chemicals used in tobacco cause cancer in humans. In Canada, over 16,000 people die of cancer caused by smoking each year. At present there are no national statistics available for First Nation rates but in general the Canadian Cancer Society estimated that in 2010:

- An estimated 11,200 women will be diagnosed with lung cancer and 9,400 will die of it.
- An estimated 12,900 men will be diagnosed with lung cancer and 11,200 will die of it.
- On average, 465 Canadians will be diagnosed with lung cancer every week.
- On average, 395 Canadians will die of Lung Cancer every week.

Although lung cancer is not always caused strictly by smoking, the correlation between lung cancer and smoking is very high. Many First Nations communities are not equipped to treat cancer. This will mean that community members will have to leave their home to receive treatment in the larger urban centers and higher health costs for our communities.

What is Cancer?

Cancer is a disease. It develops when abnormal cells grow and multiply in some organs or tissues of the body.

These cells usually gather together to form a tumor. However, they sometimes just keep multiplying without ever forming a tumor. Instead, these cells travel through the body in blood and other body fluids.

Tumors that grow in only one part of the body are not cancerous. These are called benign tumors. They can cause serious illness if they develop in the brain or other enclosed parts of the body.

Tumors that have the potential to invade and destroy nearby normal tissue as well as spread to other body sites are cancerous and are known as malignant tumors.

Smoking and Cancer

Cigarette smoking is a direct cause of cancer. It can cause cancer of the lungs, oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, pancreas, kidney, bladder and cervix. Smokeless tobacco like "snuff" or chew tobacco also causes cancer of the mouth.

Most death from lung cancer are caused by smoking. Lung cancer is most often found in people between 50-70 years old who have a long history of smoking. However, cancer can affect anyone no matter what their age may be. The best protection against lung cancer is not to smoke.

Did you know?????

- The death rate for lung cancer has tripled among women since 1970. The non smoking partners of people who smoke have a 30% increased risk of lung cancer compared to people who have non-smoking partners.
- Oral Cancer: smoking increases the risk of oral cancer by three to four times.
- Larynx Cancer: women who smoke have nine times the risk of developing this cancer than do men.
- Throat Cancer: the risk of throat cancer among smokers is increased by two to nine times.
- Lung Cancer: every 2.5 hours a woman in Canada dies from smoking-induced lung cancer. The death rate for the average smoker is (pack a day) decreases nearly 50% after quitting.
- Kidney & Bladder Cancer: Aboriginal people who smoke are seven to thirteen times more at risk for these types of cancer than other Canadians.
- Cervical Cancer: The risk of developing cervical cancer among Aboriginal women who smoke is four times greater than that of the mainstream female population.

OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE BEAR FAX WILL HELP TO INFORM YOU OF

SMOKING AND HEART DISEASE

(Information provided by Assembly of First Nations.)

MCFN Membership

Ted Ouellet - Registration Administrator

174B Hwy 17East
Garden River, ON P6A 6Z1
Phone: (705) 254-2702, Ex. 228 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)	Daniel Rocheleau
Kaleb Jeffries	Iana Ruth
William Jeffries	Jayson Ruth
Jeremy MacDonald	Theresa Ruth
Allan McDonald	Victoria May St. Amand (Fletcher)
Richard Donald McLeod	Catherine Wesley
Cynthia Nemeth	Juliana Holly Wesley
Craig W. Pelletier	Michael Wesley
Natalie Pelletier	

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	

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

174B HWY #17 East
Garden River, ON
P6A 6Z1

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Sault Ste. Marie, ON
P6A 2A3

Phone: 705-254-2702
Toll Free: 1-800-319-3001
Fax: 705-254-3292

www.missanabiecree.com

MCFN Chief & Council + Staff

Chief Kim Rainville **ex. 236**
Deputy Chief Bobbi Fletcher-Decorte **ex. 504**
Councillor Jason Gauthier **ex. 507**
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**
Cultural Coordinator Isabell Souliere **ex. 232**
Land Use Planner Archie Nolan **ex. 235**

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