

Wabun Sun

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Wabun Tribal Council Grand Opening

TIMMINS, Ont. – When a host of dignitaries Native and non-Native gathered to celebrate the grand opening of Wabun Tribal Council's new headquarters in Timmins November 27, it was with the realization that things have changed in the way First Nation people and governments relate.

"I applaud the initiative taken here today by Wabun Tribal Council. As Native people we are beginning to entrench ourselves in urban centers with our non-Native brothers and sisters. We are setting up our own offices whether they be tribal council offices, or business offices, we are buying land and infrastructure and we are competing aggressively," said Grand Chief Charles Fox, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, based in Thunder Bay.

Grand Chief Fox pointed out that with Wabun's purchase of their office building they will benefit in the short run with the pride of ownership and in the long run they will realize an asset and an investment that will pay off. He added that he would like to see many more examples like this in the Native community.

"The ability of the Wabun Chiefs to come together with this positive project demonstrates the desire they have to succeed. I congratulate their efforts in having the foresight to purchase a beautiful building like this and remember this

TIMMINS, Ont. – When a host ignitaries Native and non-Native people that we are moving ahead," commented Regional Chief Thomas headquarters in Timmins No-

Gilles Bisson, MPP for Cochrane South and Mayor Vic Power of the City of Timmins congratulated Shawn Batise, the Chiefs of Wabun Tribal Council and Wabun First Nation members on the purchase of their own building.

In a move to its new headquarters, Wabun Tribal Council leads the way for other First Nation organizations. The Council, based in Timmins since 1990, purchased a large office building at 313 Railway Street to headquarter its operations. It did so through sound financial management without relying on government grants.

"Like a lot of other organizations and agencies we have been leasing space for many years. Finally, we felt the timing was right to purchase our own building so that we could benefit from owning our own assets with an aim at generating revenue," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council.

Batise spearheaded the move to purchase the office building with the support and direction of his board of directors, the Chiefs of the six communities of Wabun Tribal Council.

"This ownership really gives



THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY during the Wabun Tribal Council Grand Opening featured many dignitaries. Front row I-r: Theresa Memegos; Gilles Bisson, MPP; Chief Elenore Hendrix; Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council; Mayor Vic Power, City of Timmins; Liz Babin, Wahgoshig FN; James Wesley, Councillor, Brunswick House; Regional Chief Tom Bressette, Chiefs of Ontario and Chief Anita Memegos. Back row I-r: Grand Chief Charles Fox, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation; Chief Gary Naveau (partly hidden); Chief Roy Meaniss and Wabun Chairperson, Alfred Ojeebah.

our Wabun leadership, our communities and our staff a sense of independence, security and pride," commented Batise.

He pointed out that many people put their energy into making the purchase a reality. BH Martin Consultants of Timmins participated in putting the package together, the Bank of Nova Scotia assisted with

a loan and Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment and Training provided funds for training. Wabun Tribal Council actually set up and financed a development organization to purchase the building. The Tribal Council leases space from this organization.

Batise also pointed out that renovations in the amount of \$100,000 were accomplished by local Wabun First Nation community members.

"We were happy to be able to provide the opportunity for our own members to do the renovations on the building and benefit financially for their efforts. They did all the renovations except for electrical and mechanical," explained Batise.

Wabun's new location features 6,000 square feet of office space, which is more than enough to house its service and programming departments with a staff of 15. The two story office building sports a large board room, the Chiefs' office and offices dedicated to administration, health services program, economic development, technical services and financial services. Wabun's new headquarters is equipped with state of the art computer technology, communications and security systems.

Wabun's purchase of its own building is another step in its continuing evolution and development as a First Nation organization dedicated to delivering services devolved or handed over from the federal and provincial governments to First Nation communities. Wabun's main roles deal with the coordination and delivering of services to these communities. Its main objectives include the promotion of self reliance, provision of First Nation members health, education, social and economic development needs and the enhancement of the unique cultures, traditions and language of those members.

Traditional prayer and smudging ceremonies were performed by Ignace Koostachin and Liz Babin of Wahgoshig First Nation.

Delegates to the event included: Thomas Bressette, Regional Chief, Chiefs of Ontario, based in Toronto; Charles Fox, Grand Chief, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN), based in Thunder Bay; Mayor Vic Power, City of Timmins; Gilles Bisson, Member of Provincial Parliament; Wayne Granger, Sudbury Business Centre, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Darlene St. Denis, Executive Director, Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment and Training. The six First Nation Chiefs of Wabun are Chief Gary Naveau of Mattagami, Chief Elenore Hendrix of Matachewan, Chief Anita Memegos of Chapleau Ojibwe, Chief Andrew Neshawabin of Brunswick House, Chief Clifford Diamond of Wahgoshig and Chief Roy Meaniss of Beaverhouse.



LENDING SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT many dignitaries joined Wabun Tribal Council to celebrate the Grand Opening of its new headquarters in Timmins. From I-r: Gilles Bisson, MPP; Regional Chief Tom Bressette, Chiefs of Ontario; Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council; Grand Chief Charles Fox, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and Jennifer McLeod, Wabun Health Director.

Community Complex A Positive Boost To Mattagami FN

MATTAGAMI FN- Thanks to the vision, hard work and positive attitude of Mattagami First Nation, Chiefs and Band Council members, present and past, an impressive, state of the art complex now dominates the skyline in this community.

Since its grand opening, in June of 1996, this complex has been utilized to a great degree. The complex actually features a large office and administrative area and an enormous gymnasium, which also serves as a meeting and special event hall.

Currently, construction is proceeding on a professional caliber theatrical stage, complete with wing change rooms and a DJ compartment. With this addition to the hall/ gymnasium it will be possible to stage theatrical and music performances. The work is being conducted by community members.

"This is an important addition to our hall and allows us to develop other areas of potential revenue through performances," said Chief Gary Naveau.

Morris Naveau, a Band Councillor, pointed out that the addition of a performance area or stage could also lead to theater, dance and music initiatives for the young people of Mattagami FN

The administrative, office area features 16 offices with an impressive entrance area and reception. The office and administration area is fully computerized with state of the art technology. This area of the complex houses the Health Department, Community Health Representative (CHR), the Brighter Futures Program, the National Native

Jean Lemieux is Financial Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council and has been employed by the council since 1991. Lemieux started in 1991 with Wabun, as a summer student and was hired full time as Office Manager in early 1992. During that same year she was promoted to the Executive Assistant position which developed into Financial Advisor in

As Financial Advisor, Lemieux oversees the finances for Wabun Tribal Council on a day to day basis and fills in for the Executive Director when he is away from the office.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) worker, the Social Services Administrator, The Youth Department, the Building Supervisor and Building Inspector, the Membership Department, the Financial Clerk, the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) office, lunch room, the Chief's Office, offices for three councillors and a large skylight lit boardroom.

The hall/gymnasium features large change rooms, washroom facilities and an ultra modern, full service canteen and kitchen area. The 10,000 square foot, hall/gymnasium also features incredible and colourful scenes by local artist Harris Luke. Currently, the young people in the community are making good use of the sports opportunities made possible with the gymnasium. Until recently, the hall/gymnasium was home to a regular and very successful bingo but the development of a major bingo hall in Timmins has made it difficult to continue with this venture.

The community complex was a fulfillment of a dream for Chief Naveau, who also serves as the community's Economic Development Office (EDO). It all started in 1990 when Chief Naveau had first been hired as the EDO. He believed there was a need for the complex and began to work with the federal and provincial governments to move ahead with the idea. In 1994, he, with the support and direction of council, hired BH Martin Consultants to assist with the development of the complex and construction fol-



IMPRESSIVE AND PRACTICAL, the Mattagami FN community complex stands out as an achievement that you can't miss. The Complex houses administration and all community services and features a 10,000 square foot hall/gymnasium.

Chief, Council and staff persons of Mattagami FN to design the building with a result that is dynamic, original, bright and practical.

The community also benefited with the construction of the complex, as community members were hired to work on the building. As a matter of fact about 50 percent of the construction work was produced by community members.

Most of the funding for the 1.8 million dollar community complex came from the community. In fact the community invested 1.4 million dollars of the total. The Medical Services Branch of Health Canada contributed \$150,000, the Jobs Ontario Community Action Program through Northern Development and Mines contributed \$125,000 and the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Native Community Branch contributed

A milestone in the young history of the complex occurred when Mattagami FN hosted the Chiefs

The consultant worked with the Conference of all the Chiefs of ance every day. Ontario in 1997.

> The three day conference drew 114 Chiefs from all across the provmated 500 people were in attend-

As a special note of interest the candidates for Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations also ince and much of the time an esti- attended the event to lobby for

Reflections



Welcome to the first issue of Wabun Sun. I join the Chiefs of Wabun Tribal Council and our staff in our proud presentation of the main component of our communications and public relations

I first got the idea that we needed some type of communications assistance during our annual general meeting in Brunswick House in 1994. It became clear during this time that we really needed to better communicate Wabun Tribal Council's efforts to our communities and it was decided that if the Chiefs would bring someone from their community along to our meetings then perhaps our communication would improve. Although this idea did work to a degree it was obvious that we still had to do more in the area of public relations and communications. We had at one time produced a newsletter but we found it was very difficult to keep up and put a lot of additional strain on staff.

In taking the idea of developing our communications one step further, I decided with the support of our Wabun Chiefs to look at the production of a professional newspaper and assistance in public re-

lations with media releases and a brochure.

I am very happy with the media coverage Wabun Tribal Council received on our recent Grand Opening which featured special delegates that included: Grand Chief Charles Fox, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation; Regional Chief Tom Bressette, Chiefs of Ontario; the Chiefs of Wabun; Gilles Bisson, MPP; Mayor Vic Power, City of Timmins and many other delegates and guests. I want to thank all the media who provided us coverage on this celebration. Obviously, our decision to put more effort into communications and public relations paid off.

Although we are starting small with only four pages in this first issue of the Wabun Sun, I know that this is a start of better things to come. I want to make clear to our Chiefs, their Councils and the members of our Wabun First Nation communities that this is their newspaper. You will always find information on Wabun Tribal Council, its communities, Chiefs and staff in the Wabun Sun. I am confident that the production of Wabun Sun and additional work in public relations will close the gap in our communications to the Wabun community at large. To make sure that you get your Wabun Sun our staff will be mailing your personal copy to you four times a year.

If you have any story ideas or information you would like to see appear in future issues of the Wabun Sun, please call, write or

Getting To Know You

in processing the agreements for the Wabun Health Services Program and the individual First Nation community agreements. She also spends time assisting Wabun's First Nation communities in their financial operations by helping to prepare for audits and producing financial plans. In addition, Lemieux assists these First Nation communities with their computerized accounting sys-

For the past four years she has sat as an alternate on the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Legal Services Corpo-

One of her main goals is to access funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to fully computerize the Wabun First Nation community administration and develop a link or network from the communities to Wabun Council and INAC. She is confident that

As part of her duties, she is involved such a system will save time and

She describes her work as challenging and points out that she enjoys traveling to Wabun's First Nation communities to provide personal service.

Lemieux, who is 40 years of age and her husband Jack have three daughters, Tusha Lee, Monique, Jennifer and two grand daughters. She is interested in the traditional way and is learning more about her culture. She is an avid reader and enjoys snowmobiling with her fam-

Lemieux, originally from Matachewan First Nation, is known for her attention to detail and her organizational capabilities. In addition, she is appreciated for her quick wit, dedication to the Wabun First Nation communities and her gift of

Wabun Health Services Program Leading The Way

The Waban Tribal Council Health Services Program is a shining example of how a Native organization has successfully taken over the administration of what was once a Federal government responsibility. Even better, Wabun's Health Services Program made history in December 1993, as the first such organization in Ontario, to take control of health programming from the Medical Services Branch of Health

Wabun Tribal Council is currently conducting an evaluation of the Health Services Program, now that it is in its fifth year of operation. Wabun's Health Director, Jennifer McLeod, pointed out that a consultant has been hired and that this evaluation is now proceeding.

"The evaluation is assessing health programs as implemented under the Health Transfer. In addition we want to determine if the programs are meeting the health needs of community members as determined by the community," explained McLeod.

Nancy Johnson of the Center for Indigenous Sovereignty in Toronto is consultant on this evaluation project. It is hoped that a first draft will be ready by the end of November and a final draft issued by Christmas 1998.

The Wabun Health Services Program is an important component of what this Tribal Council provides for its First Nation members in its First Nation communities including: Mattagami First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, Wahgoshig First Nation, Brunswick House First Nation, Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation and the unorganized community of Beaverhouse First Nation. This unbrella program runs service programs including the Community Health Nursing Program, the Patient Transportation Program, the Diabetes Strategy, Crisis Team Coordination and Long Term Care.

The Community Health Nursing Program deals with areas in health promotion, prevention, immunization, communicable disease control, health teaching, home visits, community visits, prenatal and postnatal teaching, well baby clinics, school health, adult health, chronic disease and long term care. Three registered nurses are employed to run this program, Sandra Secenj, Ginette Thivierge work out of Wabun's Headquarters in Timmins while Cecille Wesley is located in Chapleau.

The Patient Transportation Program is another key service provided for Native people. Primarily, Wabun's health staff works with First Nation Community Health Representatives (CHRs) to arrange for the finances, travel and general details of a client/patient medical visit. In addition to working with First Nation Wabun members these services are also provided to non-Wabun Native members. Peggy Claveau is the contact person for this program.

The Diabetes Strategy is serviced by a part time Dietitian, Beverly Humphrys. This initiative was developed to deal with the critical problem of diabetes in the First Na-



THE WABUN HEALTH EXAM ROOM is available for First Nation clients who need medical attention when visiting Timmins. From I-r: Sandra Secenj, (CHN); Wendy DesBastos, Assistant Health Director and Ginette Thivierge (CHN), simulating

tion population. Diabetes among Native people is twice the national average and growing.

The Diabetes Strategy, is based on care and health education for Native people with diabetes. The Dietitian is focused on providing a strategy of preventative medicine and encouraging people to be responsible for their own health.

The Wabun Health Services Program provides Crisis Team Coordination to its First Nation crisis teams. This is done by offering the services of mental health counsel training, first aid training, emergency first response training and special equipment training. Wabun staff coordinates First Nation first response teams and works closely with other such teams in the non-

Native community.

Eight people make up the Wabun Health Services Program including: Jennifer McLeod, Health Director; Wendy DeBastos, Assistant Health Director; Peggy Claveau, Health Clerk; Sandra Secenj, Community Health Nurse; Ginette Thivierge, Community Health Nurse; Beverley Humphrys, Dietitian; Cecille Wesley, Community Health Nurse and Rosanne Oieebah. Health Secretary.

The Health Services Program Wabun staff is assisted at the First Nation community level by the Community Health Representatives (CHRs), National Native Alcohol & Addictions Program Drug (NNADAP) Workers and Mental Health Workers.

Patient Transportation Program Provides Link To Health Care

TIMMINS, Ont. - The Patient Transportation Program is one of the main service areas provided to First Nation people by the Wabun Tribal Council Health Services Program. This program was designed and put in place to assist those who are ill to access special care, treatment and medical attention.

"Although we are set up primarily to service the Wabun First Nation communities we also provide assistance with this program to non-Wabun First Nation people. The Patient Transportation Program is a vital link in the overall health care system and is dedicated to making access to medical treatment as painless as possible," said Wendy DeBastos, Assistant Health Direc-

First Nation clients or patients who require special medical care or treatment by a specialists or traditional healer must be referred by a physician, counsellor, therapist or family support worker. The client or patient should have proof of this appointment in the form of a letter.



ROSANNE OJEEBAH, is filling in as Health Clerk for Peggy Claveau, who is on maternity leave.

appointment card or prescription. Primarly, the Patient Transportation Program deals with those clients or patients who must travel outside the immediate area to access the special care they need.

"Most of our clients or patients are from the Wabun First Nation communities. They are welcome to come direct to us but we encourage these people to utilize the services of the Community Health Representatives (CHRs), visiting Community Health Care Nurses (CHNs), Mental Health Care Workers, National Native Alcohol Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) workers and other communities resource people to approach the Patient Transportation Program for assistance. We encourage clients or patients to use their community resource people because often, after any special treatment, they will need follow-up care on their return to the community," explained DeBastos.

The Patient Transportation Program encourages clients or patients to access the closest possible special care and to use the most economic form of travel to keep costs at a reasonable level. This program covers costs including transportation, meals, taxis or shuttle buses to and from appointments and accommodations. In addition the program can arrange for an escort for medical reasons for a client or patient and also covers their expenses as related to transportation, meals and accommodations. Patients or clients are encouraged to stay in hostels dedicated to them, if in fact, these hostels are in place and have vacan-

Many First Nation people are seeking access to Traditional Healers and to answer this need the Wabun Health Services Program is involved in a task force set up to assist in the development of criteria to be utilized for instances where clients or patients need the care of Traditional Healers.

"We really need the participation of our First Nation communities on this task force. We are developing a criteria now that will affect our First Nation members in the long run who request this special care from Traditional Healers. It is important that we have community input to develop this criteria and I urge anyone interested to contact our Wabun Health Services Program staff for more information," said

Many First Nation people use the services of the Patient Transportation Program, their illnesses vary and often include special care for people with diabetes, cancer treatment or surgery, gall bladder treatment or surgery, cataract eye care or surgery and heart care or surgery. Most often these clients or patients travel to Sudbury, North Bay and Toronto for their specific health care

The Patient Transportation Program contact person at Wabun Health Services Program is Peggy Claveau who holds the position as Health Clerk. She is currently on maternity leave and her position has been filled by Rosanne Ojeebah. DeBastos who once worked as the Health Clerk oversees this program.

Health Matters

by Jennifer McLeod, Health Director



Thanks to a hard working, dedicated staff and community health professionals, Wabun Tribal Council has developed efficient and community oriented health program services. The many successes of Wabun's health programs have been possible due to your efforts. Over the years, we have developed a great team and I look forward to the next five years of further implementation of our health programs under the health transfer.

I am very happy that we now have the Wabun Sun newspaper to assist us in keeping our First Nation members informed about all our programs and the people who provide them.

Over the next few months, there are several projects Wabun Health is developing, to further enhance services to our First Nation members. We will soon be conducting community information sessions in all our FN communities concerning the Patient First Nation members.

Transportation Program.

In addition, we have submitted a proposal to conduct a needs assessment to review the developmental needs of children, from age zero to six, in our FN communities. This program is related to the Aboriginal Head Start Program.

We are also investigating opportunities to apply for funding related to the Residential School Syndrome Program. Currently, we are working on an ongoing basis in this area and hope to be in the application process this spring.

Considering that we will soon be looking at the next five years of health transfer, I encourage our Wabun leaders, staff, community health professionals and community members to think about what programs or services they would like to see in the near future. We are open to your input and if you have any feedback or suggestions, I encourage you to get in touch with myself or any staff member of Wabun Health.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be part of the development of Wabun Tribal Council and I am very happy to be sharing in the good work everyone is doing to improve the lives of our

Many Gather To Celebrate Grand Opening



IN SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT many people attended the Wabun Tribal Council Grand Opening, November 27, in Timmins. Liz Babin and Ignace Koostachin held special traditional ceremonies to mark the occasion. From I-r: Ignace Koostachin and Liz Babin of Wahgoshig FN; Regional Chief Tom Bressette, Chiefs of Ontario and Darlene St. Denis, Executive Director of Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training.



WABUN'S NEW HEADQUARTERS is situated at 313 Railway Street in Timmins. The building was purchased by Wabun Tribal Council through sound financial management.



MEDIA COVERAGE was excellent for the Wabun Tribal Council Grand Opening, November 27. Here we see Dale Tonelli of CKGB/Q-92 Radio conducting an interview with Shawn Batise,

In Memory of Chief Memegos

CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN- councillor for his community and The Chiefs of Wabun Tribal Council, Executive Director Shawn Batise and Tribal Council Chair Alfred Ojeebah have announced the dedication of the Chief's office in memory of the late Chief Baptiste Memegos of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation. The office, in Wabun's new headquarters in Timmins, was set aside for the exclusive use of the Chiefs of Wabun.

Chief Memegos passed away recently, at the age of 69. He is survived by his partner Theresa Memegos and Anita Memegos, her partner Peter Stephens and their three children Joshua, Rebecca and Leonard, all of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation. He was predeceased by his parents Ignace and Margaret Memegos and by his brothers Adam and William. Anita was honoured with her appointment as Chief after the passing of Chief Baptiste

This small and close knit First Nation community was deeply saddened by the loss of a well liked leader. The late Chief Memegos served for many years as a band had many friends in his community

was in his fourth year as Chief when he succumbed to a long term illness.

He was born and raised in Chapleau Ojibwe FN and was actually delivered into this world with the help of his father Ignace who assisted in the birth. The late Chief Memegos was raised on the land in Budding Artists the tradition of his people and from an early age trapped and hunted. He Honored worked for many years with the Ministry of Natural Resources as a stand-by forest ranger. He went on from this to work for 27 years for the municipality of Chapleau in several positions including heavy equipment operation. For two years he ran his own school bus transportation business for his community.

The late Chief Memegos was a healthy man for most of his life and enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping. He was very athletic and participated in sports such as hockey and jogging. He was a man who walked two paths, the way of the traditional Native spirituality and as

"He had a big warm smile and

and in the Chapleau area. He was a man of very few words but when he spoke it was with wisdom. I am very happy that Wabun is dedicating the Chiefs' office in his memory and I believe that Wabun will continue to be strong," said Theresa Memegos.

MATTAGAMI FN- Several students from this community were chosen by the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, Young Native Artists Program for framing and display in

The selected artists were: John Naveau, Heather Naveau, Matthew Naveau, Roderick McKay and Joshua Luke. Their art will be displayed either in the Toronto office of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada or the office of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. The art of Heather Naveau will also appear in the centre's 1999 calendar. Congratulations to these Mattagami FN elementary school artists from Wabun Tribal Council.

aring For You



Peggy Claveau, has been employed with the Wabun Tribal Council Health Services Program in the position of Health Clerk, since October 1995. A large part of her work is devoted to the Patient Transportation Program, as she is the program's main contact person. In addition she is the Health Information Data Entry

In terms of patient transportation, she takes care of travel arrangements for clients from Wabun First Nation communities, as well as for other First Nations people, who need to seek non-local medical attention. Claveau enjoys assisting these clients with their medical visit arrangements and gets a lot of satisfaction out of seeing these patients receive the care they need.

In addition, she has some duties related to administration, clerical work and phone service. As Health Information Data Entry Clerk for all Waban FN communities, it is her responsibility to enter client care data into Wabun Health records.

After graduating from the Office Administration Program at trainee. She is trained as a First

Aid Instructor in CPR and has also served as a volunteer ambulance attendant.

Claveau, who is originally from Mattagami FN and her husband Jean have one child, Brittany, who is four years old. She points out that she likes the challenge of her work and that she is constantly trying to improve her skills. She enjoys the outdoors and sports such as baseball, curling and bowling.

Claveau went on maternity leave December 5 and is expected to return to her position in May 1999. Her kind and soft personality will be missed by Wabun leadership, staff and community members while she is fulfilling her role as mother. A warm welcome to Rosanne Ojeebah, who will be filling in for Claveau while she is on maternity leave.



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Wabun Sun

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Northern College in Timmins, Claveau was employed for a short time by Wabun Tribal Council as an Education Counsellor. She also has experience working with Mattagami FN as a secretary