



Wabun Sun

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Wabun Youth Gathering Changing Lives

Trent Agawa of Brunswick House First Nation is feeling good about himself these days and he claims he owes much of that to his participation in workshops at the Third Annual Wabun Youth Gathering. He was one of many young First Nation people from the seven communities of Wabun Tribal Council who benefited from the gathering at the Elk Lake Eco Resource Centre in Elk Lake, July 20 to 31. The event which was hosted by Wabun Health services was dedicated to teachings and workshops dealing with survival skills, culture, tradition and suicide prevention.

"When I came to the first Wabun youth gathering three years ago, I was shy and having lots of problems. Today I feel better about myself and I think that has a lot to do with what I learned at workshops that I



THE WABUN YOUTH GATHERING JULY 20 TO 31 IN ELK LAKE BROUGHT TOGETHER ABORIGINAL YOUTH FROM THE SEVEN WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL FIRST NATIONS. HERE WE SEE EVENT PARTICIPANTS WITH THE YELLOW RIBBON TRADITIONAL DANCE AND WORKSHOP FACILITATION GROUP.

participated in. This year I was invited as a chaperone and I had the responsibility of taking care of younger children," explained Agawa.

The gathering which drew over 80 youth, the largest turnout of Aboriginal youth from the Wabun area in three years, allowed the event organizers to accommodate two separate age groups. The

first week saw youth from the ages of 8 to 12 and the second week brought in young people between the ages of 13 to 18. The gathering provided youth with education in traditional and cultural teachings as well as workshops and presentations on suicide prevention, social skills and exposure to support services

and programs. The annual Wabun Youth Gathering features young participants from Wabun Tribal Council's First Nations which include Chapleau Ojibwe, Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Flying Post, Matachewan, Mattagami and Wahgoshig. Elders Marie Boucher and Vina Hendrix, both of Matachewan First Nation provided spiritual support for the gathering.

All seven Wabun Chiefs have made the youth gathering a priority program for Wabun Health.

"Our young people are our future. I am here today to encourage everyone to continue with the Wabun Youth Gathering. This is changing lives and we are seeing good results in the young people in our communities," said Chief Dave Babin, Wahgoshig First Nation, who made a special appearance at the event.

In the first week of the gathering, 30 preteen participants took part in a series of workshops titled 'Little Eagle Clan' for ages up to 12. These workshops provided an age appropriate series of hands on

presentations to introduce younger participants to traditional activities and cultural teachings. Workshops in the first week were facilitated by Mimi Tremblay, Adam Sackaney and Bear Babin, all of Wahgoshig First Nation.

The second week featured workshops under the banner of 'Eagle Clan' for 53 youth between the ages of 13 to 18. These teens participated in more in depth workshops that were facilitated by members of the Yellow Ribbon Dancers, from Edmonton, Alberta. The traditional dance group included Angela Gladue, Adrian LaChance, Rocky Dumais, Erin-Nicole Meetoos and Leo Lentendre.

Mike Archer, Community Crisis Coordinator, Wabun Health Services, who acted as event organizer, pointed out how three older teenagers, who have become active participants in past youth gatherings worked as chaperones for younger participants this year. They were Agawa, Jaimee Roy of Matachewan FN and Lorelie

New Relationship Fund Benefits Wabun FNs

Wabun Tribal Council has assisted its First Nations in putting in place an initiative involving lands and resources through funding from The New Relationship Fund. This has provided Wabun First Nations with the opportunity to add more capacity and support staff to deal with lands and resources issues. Wabun Tribal Council together with the six First Nations of Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibwe, Flying Post, Matachewan and Mattagami has acquired this funding provided by the government of Ontario to build capacity in their communities by employing new personnel dedicated to working in the area of lands and resources.

Chris McKay of Mattagami First Nation, is overseeing the

initiative in a consultative capacity for Wabun Tribal Council. He plays an active role in the operation and continued development of the New Relationship Fund for the council.

"I appreciate all of the support and assistance from our Wabun Chiefs in the development of the New Relationship Fund. Wabun Tribal Council and its Chiefs have been developing relationships in regards to resource developments for years now and this new funding is much appreciated in terms of assisting us in better managing opportunities in this area," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council.

As part of the development

in the Wabun area, a Lands and Resources Coordinator position has been created in each First Nation to deal with lands and resources developments.

McKay explained that the Lands and Resource Coordinators are responsible for tasks such as forest management planning, water management planning and responding to land use permitting held by the province. They will also monitor development and exploration activities taking place on First Nation lands and they will work directly with resource development companies and the government to help establish a consultative mechanism with the community.

"The Lands and Resource Coordinator is there to represent

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Matachewan First Nation And Northgate Sign IBA



AN IMPACT BENEFIT AGREEMENT (IBA) WAS SIGNED BETWEEN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION AND NORTHGATE MINERALS CORP AT A CEREMONY IN THE COMMUNITY ON JULY 14. FROM L-R STANDING IN BACK ARE: ANDREW CORMIER, MANAGER OF PROJECT ENGINEERING, NORTHGATE; COUNCILLOR ANNE BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FN; JASON BATISE, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; COUNCILLOR GERTRUDE NOLAN, MATACHEWAN FN; TOM WADEY, PROJECT MANAGER, YOUNG DAVIDSON, NORTHGATE; COUNCILLOR MARLENE COLLINS, MATACHEWAN FN; COUNCILLOR LIONEL BOUCHER, MATACHEWAN FN; COUNCILLOR GAIL BRUBACHER, MATACHEWAN FN; CHRIS ROCKINGHAM, VICE PRESIDENT, EXPLORATION & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, NORTHGATE AND SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL. SEATED IN FRONT L-R ARE: KEN STOWE, PRESIDENT & CEO, NORTHGATE AND CHIEF RICHARD WINCIKABY, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION.

Matachewan First Nation signed an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with Northgate Minerals Corp, in

the community complex on July 14, 2009. The new agreement ensures that the community will benefit when

it comes to resource development on its traditional lands.

An official signing

ceremony took place with the participation of Chief and Council, community members, Wabun Tribal Council and company directors. The agreement provides for a framework for the permitting and development of the company's Young Davidson mining property. The IBA also outlines co-operative initiatives between the community and Northgate on the creation of employment, training and business opportunities related to the development of the mining project.

Chief Richard Wincikaby, Matachewan First Nation headed up the signing ceremony.

"This IBA signing is an historic event for our people. It ensures that our membership will have access to jobs and training. As well it opens the doors for First Nation

entrepreneurs. Thanks to the hard work of so many dedicated people we are here today to celebrate a better future for all of us," said Chief Wincikaby.

Ken Stowe, President & CEO, Northgate Minerals Corp. flew in from Toronto with a group of company executives to speak at the signing event.

"We have worked very closely with the Matachewan First Nation and we are extremely pleased with the strong mutually beneficial relationship that we have developed. The IBA formalizes our relationship and establishes a framework for sharing business, employment and training opportunities during the development and operation of the Young-Davidson mine," said Stowe.

Chris Rockingham, Vice
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Reflections

by Shawn Batise, Executive Director



As you may know, if you have been following past issues of Wabun Sun, Wabun Tribal Council and our Wabun First Nations have been involved in many resource development projects on our traditional lands. These developments have had to do with forestry, mining and hydro for the most part.

Due to the forward thinking policies of our Wabun Chiefs and the expertise and efforts of our staff and leadership in general we have managed to put together many projects on our own and with partners in the private sector and government that will benefit our communities far into the future. We have done this with a traditional and cultural interest in careful

development in respect to the land and the resources on our doorsteps.

We have managed to put forth the best interest of Wabun First Nations in negotiating with project partners and that has been a long and difficult road at times with many challenges. In many cases we have had to become knowledgeable in all sorts of fields. We have taxed our staff to the limits with the necessary demands that have resulted in putting together meaningful and beneficial developments having to do with millions of dollars.

I am so proud of the fact that everyone's efforts have so far been very well rewarded. Right now there are Wabun First Nation members gainfully employed in sectors of the economy we have been historically left out of. Many of our people are being trained for employment that will make life better for their families and communities in general. We have managed to negotiate some very good deals for our people in an array of developments that

should be in place well into the future.

At this point it is my pleasure to announce that we are progressing yet again in the area of resource development with a new initiative that is community driven and based. We had been looking for a way to involve our Wabun First Nations at the grass roots in

***"We are one
more step down
the road to self
sufficiency,"
Shawn Batise***

terms of all this development that has been taking place. We approached the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister Brad Duguid for assistance. To our great satisfaction we received financial assistance through the New Relationship Fund so that we could set up a coordinating system at the First Nation level to take advantage of the many development projects being introduced on our lands.

We are finally in a position

to build capacity in our communities to deal with lands and resources issues. Having dedicated staff on site in our Wabun First Nations to deal with these issues will allow for a more localized approach to assessing, analyzing, negotiating and implementing agreements in developments close at hand. At the same time this funding will ensure the development of a new branch of professionals dedicated to the coordination and development of lands and resources initiatives.

Our staff at Wabun Tribal Council will continue to assist with this development at the local level and we will be providing our knowledge, experience and system networks as things progress. This new direction will satisfy our goal of ensuring development at the individual First Nation level with the benefit of the strength of our seven First Nations that make up Wabun Tribal Council.

Thanks to our Chiefs for providing the direction in putting in place a means

whereby we can even more effectively deal with all of the opportunities coming our way in terms of resource development. As a result, this assistance is much appreciated by our Wabun staff as we can direct much of our resources and energies to the many other areas of management and development to make life better for our First Nation members.

We are appreciative of the funding provided from the New Relationship Fund as we embark on the next level in dealing with the various developments on our traditional lands. However, I should point out that there is no commitment by the government for continued funding of this very important process. We are one more step down the road to self sufficiency with this funding and I am hopeful that our partners in the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs are ready to provide ongoing funding to assist us in this cause. If there ever was a "Win - Win" this is it.

Wabun Celebrates Major Partnership In Mining



THE MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION LADIES DRUM GROUP PERFORMED AT THE IBA SIGNING CEREMONY IN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION ON JULY 14. FROM L-R ARE: GERTRUDE (GERTIE) NOLAN, MELANIE BOUCHER, YOUTH DRUMMER; ELDER MARIE BOUCHER, ELAINE DALEY, LEAD SINGER; EDNA HANSON AND ELDER VINA HENDRIX.

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President, Exploration & Business Development, Northgate Minerals Corp. has been in constant touch with Matachewan First Nation leadership in developing the IBA.

"This has been a tremendous learning experience for me and today we celebrate a significant milestone. The Young Davidson Project is a long mine life and it is about jobs and the development of sustainable business opportunities and we have the capacity to make it happen," said Rockingham.

On behalf of the Wabun Tribal Council, Shawn Batise, Executive Director congratulated both parties for signing what he described as a truly progressive and meaningful agreement.

"The signing of this IBA will finally see a true sharing of the wealth of our traditional lands. This agreement will benefit both parties by providing Northgate Minerals

with certainty in uncertain times and Matachewan First Nation with the hope for jobs and an economy that is not based on government handouts," said Batise.

First Nation representatives that were in attendance at the IBA signing event also included: Matachewan First Nation Councillors, Gail Brubacher, Gertrude Nolan, Anne Batisse, Marlene Collins and Lionel Boucher and Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council. Representatives from Northgate Minerals Corp also included: Jon Douglas Senior Vice President & CFO; Peter MacPhail, Chief Operating Officer; Andrew Cormier, Manager Of Project Engineering; Patrick Downey, Board of Directors; Mark Daniel, Board of Directors; Tom Wadey, Project Manager, Young Davidson; Joe Wojtus, Site Supervisor, Young Davidson and Keren R. Yun, Director, Investor Relations.

The Matachewan First Nation Ladies Drum Group performed at the IBA signing ceremony and included: Gertrude (Gertie) Nolan, Melanie Boucher, Youth Drummer; Elder Marie Boucher, Elaine Daley, Lead Singer; Edna Hanson and Elder Vina Hendrix. Community members also provided a feast of fresh fish cooked over a fire.

The IBA is the result of a

mutually beneficial relationship between the company and the First Nation. It was initiated when the company acquired the Young Davidson Mine in 2005. Matachewan First Nation and the company first formally recognized their cooperation with the signing of a Memorandum Of Understanding in March 2008.

Positive developments have already come out of this relationship. In February 2009, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) announced a three year partnership strategy to create the Matachewan Aboriginal Access to mining jobs Training Strategy (MAATS). The four million dollar strategy is supported in partnership with Northgate Minerals Corp., Matachewan First Nation, Mattagami First Nation, Wahgoshig First Nation, Wabun Tribal Council and the Ontario

government.

Wabun Tribal Council represents Matachewan First Nation and six other First Nation communities in northeastern Ontario and it is directed by its respective Chiefs.

The Young-Davidson mine site which is located 15 kilometres south of the First Nation is a well established gold mine site that was first developed in the early 1930s. In November 2005, Northgate Minerals acquired the Young Davidson property and the company actually began consultations with Matachewan First Nation before acquisition took place.

The Young Davidson mine is presently in what is known as an advanced exploration and engineering stage. Currently, the company is working towards a planned start-up date of 2010 and a projected 10 year or longer mine life.



TEAMING UP FOR PROGRESS ARE FROM L-R: COUNCILLOR GAIL BRUBACHER, MATACHEWAN FN; ANDREW CORMIER, MANAGER OF PROJECT ENGINEERING, NORTHGATE; COUNCILLOR GERTRUDE NOLAN, MATACHEWAN FN; CHRIS ROCKINGHAM, VICE PRESIDENT, EXPLORATION & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, NORTHGATE; CHIEF RICHARD WINCIKABY, MATACHEWAN FN; KEN STOWE, PRESIDENT & CEO, NORTHGATE; COUNCILLOR ANNE BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FN; COUNCILLOR MARLENE COLLINS, MATACHEWAN FN AND LIONEL BOUCHER, MATACHEWAN FN.

Chief Rene Ojeebah Re-elected



CHIEF RENE OJEEBAH, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION

Brunswick House First Nation held their elections on August 1, 2009 with Chief Rene Ojeebah being reelected to lead his community. This will be his second term since first receiving his community's support in a bi-election in January 2008. Also elected were First Nation Councillors: Christine Venedam, Charmaine Saunders and Emma (Lulu) Neshawabin.

Chief Ojeebah comes from

a family of political figures who have been leaders in Brunswick House First Nation in the past. His father Alfred Ojeebah, who is currently the Board Chair for Wabun Tribal Council, held the position of Chief for Brunswick House FN in 1967, 1995 and a third time in 1996. In addition, Chief Rene Ojeebah's mother Caroline Ojeebah also served her community as Chief from 1984 to 1986.



COMMUNITY ELDERS RECOGNIZED AT IBA CEREMONY IN MATACHEWAN FN. HERE WE SEE CHIEF RICHARD WINCIKABY, MATACHEWAN FN AND ELDER LAURA FLOOD, MATACHEWAN FN.

Wabun Youth Benefit From Traditional Teachings

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The event was hosted by Matthews of Wahgoshig.

“These three young people have provided an excellent example for others in their community. They started off as shy individuals that did not really want to participate in their first workshop but over the years their confidence has grown to the point of wanting to assist us put these events on for other young people,” said Archer.

Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services explained that it is

Wabun Health Services a department of Wabun Tribal Council. The gathering was made possible through funding provided by the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. The strategy was established in the fall of 2004 by the government of Canada and with the support of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Inuit Tappirit Kanatami and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada to address the issue of high

For more information on the Wabun Youth Gathering visit

www.wabunyouthgathering.com

You can also view a video production of the event on the site

important to provide youth with the opportunity to make positive changes in their lives, further their education and to have the ability to deal with important social issues such as suicide.

“It is amazing to see our youth transforming into positive and healthy individuals in their communities. These workshops are allowing them to flourish as individuals in their communities and have the confidence to take part in dealing with important issues that affect their lives,” said Lemieux.

suicide rates among Aboriginal young people. The overall suicide rate of Aboriginal youth has been identified as being five to seven times the national average and that the rates increase further north in Inuit territory to eleven times. The suicide prevention strategy has made it possible for Aboriginal communities to cope with these statistics through the creation of educational, information and support programs.

Eagle Clan Participants included: Isaiah ChieChie,



ALL EYES WERE ON THE DANCERS AT THE THIRD ANNUAL WABUN YOUTH GATHERING HELD IN JULY 2009.

Sheldon Mallette, Heather Naveau, Trent Agawa, Adam Laffrenier, Amy Sackaney, Sarah McKay, Jamie Lynn McWatch, Michael Laffrenier, Chelsea Daley, Kourtney Baulne, Robert Black, Billy Babin, Kalene Cormier, Chaz McKay/Clermont, Dylan McWatch, Sylvia Babin, Joe Cormier, Samuel Kloetstra, Eric (EJ) Tangie Nothing, Rachel Chokomolin, Holly Boucher, Nathan Naveau, Melisa Black, Robin Chokomolin, Melanie Boucher, Chad Naveau, Kyle Perreault, Aaron Lockwood, Jaimee Roy, Michael Hill, Erica Vanbuskirk, Lorelie Mathews, Kyle Boucher, Brett Worm, Reane Vanbuskirk, T.J. Mathews, Serena Batisse, Tyler Naveau, Tristan Larcher, David Paul, Chris Wincikaby, Grayson Luke, Steven McWatch, Jay Babin, Tyler Schram, Scott Luke, Travis Swanson, Anna Black, Amanda Adams, Kodiak Jolivet, Brett Lockwood, Tianna McKay/Golinoski, Gerald

McWatch, Brandon Mallette, Jerrica Stoney and Brittany Begin.

Little Eagle Clan participants included: Morgan Meaniss, Joshua Clermont, Brent Boissoneau, Mylina Tangie, Kincade Kyle, Emily Ludebeck, Jacob Adams, Sierra Redbreast, Taylor MacMillan, Gillian Prince, Faith Jolivet, Hailey Perreault, Anthena Kyle, Ethan McKay, Carlie Saunders, Jaimee Roy, Gabriel Kyle, Marguerite

Gignac, William McWatch, Lorlei Mathews, Brianna Julien, Tamara Mathieu, Tyrone Saunders, Chelsea Daley, Madison Lambert, Robin Worm, Hannah Saunders, Trent Agawa, Jared Daley, Damian McKay and Jamie Lynn Tangie.

For more information on the Wabun Youth Gathering go to www.wabunyouthgathering.com. You can also view a video production of the event on the website.



ANGELA GLADUE OF THE YELLOW RIBBON DANCE GROUP OF EDMONTON ALBERTA THRILLED EVERYONE AT THE WABUN YOUTH GATHERING WITH HER TRADITIONAL DANCE PERFORMANCE IN ELK LAKE.



LEARNING ABOUT CULTURE AND TRADITIONS AT THE THIRD ANNUAL WABUN YOUTH GATHERING, JULY 29 IN ELK LAKE ARE FROM L-R: MIKE ARCHER, SANDRA ROY, MATACHEWAN FN; BRANDON BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FN; JAIMEE ROY, MATACHEWAN FN; LORELIE MATTHEWS, WAHGOSHIG FN AND TRENT AGAWA, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN.



THE POWER AND HEALING OF TRADITIONAL CULTURE IN DANCE WAS DEMONSTRATED AT THE THIRD ANNUAL WABUN YOUTH GATHERING HELD IN JULY 2009.

Lands And Resources Coordinators Developed In Wabun FNs



NEW RELATIONSHIP FUND FEATURES TRAINING FOR COORDINATORS. FROM L-R: JORDAN MAUER, BEAVERHOUSE FN; JOSH MEMEGOS, CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN; RODNEY WINCIKABY, MATACHEWAN FN; CANDYCE ROWLANDSON, TRAINER, COR CONSULTING; RYAN RAY, FLYING POST FN; JAMES NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN; REBECCA STEPHENS, CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN AND HAROLD (BO) CORBIERE, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN.

CONT FROM PG 1

the community. Their primary role is to communicate with potential resource developers and the different government bodies to ensure that their community's needs and wishes are understood. They also inform their community on any developments or potential projects happening on their lands," said McKay.

Wabun Tribal Council First Nations were able to access an initial amount of short term funding in January 2009 for the end of the fiscal year. When this funding ended, the First Nations followed up to develop a new proposal for which they received one year funding for the Lands and Resources initiative. This program started in April 2009 and will run through to March 2010. It is a Wabun leadership plan and the hope is that funding will continue into the future to support these developments in lands and resources coordination and management.

In recent years, there has been a steady increase in the number of negotiations, projects and developments concerning First Nation lands in general and in particular in the Wabun area. First Nation leadership and administration has found that these developments have led to an expanded work load for existing staff.

"Wabun Tribal Council has accomplished so much for our communities over the years in terms of lands and resources development and this new initiative will assist in meeting the demands into the future. We

are looking forward to ongoing funding to keep up what really is a developing success story for Wabun," said McKay.

Through the New Relationship Fund, the Wabun First Nations will be assisted in the development of the skills, relationships and partnerships that are needed to consult with government and / or the private sector on economic opportunities related to lands and resources.

"The New Relationship Fund has allowed our community to become stronger,"
Ryan Ray,
Flying Post FN

For the past ten years, McKay has been involved in resource development projects and programs with his community of Mattagami First Nation and in regional initiatives in the Wabun area. In addition to his role of coordinating and organizing this regional initiative, he is also providing training to the new Lands and Resources Coordinators as a means to share his knowledge and experience. Over the past few years McKay has developed W.C. McKay Consulting Services as a service to First Nations. For more information visit www.wcmckayconsulting.ca

"It is gratifying to see the results of giving a group of dedicated and hard working people the right training and to know that their efforts will

benefit our communities. It has been frustrating in the past to deal with so much development with little resources at the community level. Now, through Wabun Tribal Council and our Chiefs we have developed community based coordination that can work together in our Wabun area network," said McKay.

He pointed out that the new coordinators now have the benefit of working as part of a team with shared resources, knowledge and goals. The Lands and Resources Coordinators meet regularly for support, professional development, networking and partnering as opportunities present themselves.

These Lands and Resources Coordinators include Jordan Maurer, Beaverhouse First Nation; Josh Memegos and Rebecca Stephens, Chappleau Ojibwe First Nation; Rodney Wincikaby, Matachewan First Nation; Ryan Ray, Flying Post First Nation; James Naveau, Mattagami First Nation; Harold (Bo) Corbiere, Brunswick House First Nation and Chris Sackaney, Wahgoshig First Nation.

"This is an opportunity for our communities to come together and work as one to deal with lands and resources issues. We are working together for the future of our people," commented Corbiere.

This regional initiative has provided an opportunity for smaller communities to have more representation and the ability to work more actively with other Wabun First Nations. Beaverhouse First Nation

leadership has been striving towards official recognition by the government for many years and this has made it difficult for the community to access support and assistance in many areas of programs and development.

"This regional initiative has been very important to our community as we had no capacity to deal with lands and resources issues before. We are a small First Nation and this process has allowed us to work together with other Wabun communities in a cooperative effort to better deal with these important issues," said Maurer.

Flying Post First Nation had been an independent First Nation in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation territory for many years and over a long period of time the membership had been displaced from their traditional lands which are located in the Timmins area.

"We know what is like to work alone on major projects and initiatives and it is not easy. The New Relationship Fund has allowed our community to become stronger and we are better able to maintain our connection to our traditional territories and to our Wabun neighbours," said Ray.

Chappleau Ojibwe First Nation which has two Lands and Resources Coordinators has many developments coming forward. In the past they were overwhelmed because there were not enough people on staff to deal with this.

"Our community is dealing with many challenges when it comes to our traditional territories. This process is important to us because it

provides necessary staff and the training we need to deal with all of the developments on our traditional lands," said Memegos.

As part of the lands and resources initiative, Chappleau Ojibwe First Nation is undertaking a traditional values mapping project to identify the community's traditional hunting and cultural areas.

"I am anxious and looking forward to the mapping process. This will allow us to work with our Elders and traditional people to identify our traditional areas. It is important to document our traditional lands and our cultural uses of these areas. We need to do this documentation for our future generations before this knowledge is gone forever," said Stephens also a coordinator from Chappleau Ojibwe.

Recently, under the direction of McKay, Candyce Rowlandson of COR Consulting produced a computer training series for the Lands and Resources Coordinators. Rowlandson, who is based in Timmins, commented that she was very happy with the ease that her trainees showed in learning the various software programs that she presented.

"I was very impressed with this Wabun group. They were very enthusiastic and devoted to learning as many skills as possible to assist them with their positions as coordinators in their respective Wabun communities," said Rowlandson.

COR Consulting can be reached at www.corconsulting.net



COMPUTER TRAINING IS PART OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR WABUN COORDINATORS. FROM L-R: JAMES NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN; REBECCA STEPHENS, CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN AND JOSH MEMEGOS, CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN.

New IBA Coordinator Tina Minarik

Charlene (Tina) Minarik, is the new Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) Coordinator for Liberty Mines Inc. The position was previously held by Nancy Cyr, who has gone on to take the dual role of Employment and Training Coordinator for Wabun Tribal Council and Program Coordinator for the KAP UM Redevelopment Project. Minarik, a member of Mattagami First Nation, started her new job on September 8, 2009. She is primarily based at the Liberty Mines office in Timmins but she is also works out of an office on Fridays at the Wabun Tribal Council headquarters.

The role of IBA Coordinator position is to implement the IBA agreement between Liberty Mines and the three signatory First Nations of Mattagami, Matachewan and Wahgoshig. The agreement is in regards to the development of the company's operations in the Shaw-Dome

mining area just outside the City of Timmins. In her new position, Minarik will work under the direction of the IBA Committee which consists of members from the three communities and representatives from the company.

Minarik explained that she is enjoying her new position and being able to visit the three communities involved in the IBA.

"I am acting as the liaison between the company and the communities that are part of this agreement. I have the opportunity to visit these communities on a regular basis to pass on employment or training opportunities to members and to also bring their questions and ideas to the company," said Minarik.

Since starting her position, Minarik has been able to work closely with community members in the three communities.

"I enjoy meeting new people in each of the communities and having the hands on experience of

working directly with individuals instead of just being at the office all the time. It feels good to be able to research and work with people to help them find employment or business opportunities with Liberty Mines," said Minarik.

Currently, she is working on encouraging community members to add to their training and education so that they can find employment and higher level positions in the company.

"We want to encourage individuals to aim for higher level employment that would give them more security and benefits for their future career with the company. These include positions and postings such as heavy equipment operators or as trained underground miners," said Minarik.

She added that the company is considering expanding its operations and will be needing a trained workforce in order to complete any planned development for the future.

"Our people should be ready to take advantage of opportunities that come up. It is best for them to get the training now so that they can be ready for work when it becomes available," commented Minarik.

The agreement between the company and the communities provides for First Nation approval on the operations of exploration activities and it offers education and training opportunities for First Nation people in the three signatory communities. To implement the agreement, several provisions are being managed including: environmental issues, employment and training, business opportunities, health and wellness and workplace conditions.

In October 2008, Liberty Mines put some of their operations on a care and maintenance status. This affected many of their employees including the IBA Coordinator. In August 2009, Liberty Mines brought all of its company's facilities and previous



**CHARLENE (TINA) MINARIK,
IBA COORDINATOR**

projects back on line to continue full operations and development.

Community members from Mattagami, Matachewan and Wahgoshig are encouraged to contact Minarik if they would like to find employment or business opportunities with Liberty Mines. They can contact her at the Liberty Mines office in South Porcupine at 705-240-6450 (extension 502) or at the Wabun office on Fridays at 705-268-9066 or they can email her at either tminarik@libertymines.com or cmminarik@wabun.on.ca



**LEE ANN PETERS, NNADAP
WORKER, MATACHEWAN FN**

Lee Ann Peters is the new National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NNADAP) at the Matachewan First Nation administration office. She started her position on August 31, 2009 and took over from Edna Hanson, who had held this post for eight years previous. As the new NNADAP worker, Peters will be responsible for the delivery of NNADAP services to clients in the community, with the goal of preventing alcohol and drug abuse and other forms of addictions. She will work closely with the First Nation, Wabun Tribal Council Health department and other Health agencies and organizations. As well, she will be supporting and assisting individuals in the community to access health services and programs.

Lee Ann Peters Enjoys New Role As NNADAP Worker

Peters is enjoying her new role as NNADAP Worker for Matachewan First Nation and being close to family and friends in the community. Peters explained that her new posting has provided some challenges in her work but the community has been very welcoming and helpful. Although originally from Kirkland Lake, Peters explained that it was easier to get to know the community because her mother Darcy McClimchey and stepfather John Boucher both reside in Matachewan First Nation.

"I am currently in the process of getting to know the community and I am working with others to plan local gatherings and events to bring people together in a supportive environment. We are planning on developing local groups of different ages," said Peters.

She is working with local community members to develop a youth group and establishing a quilting and beadwork class for Elders. This group is also planning on a fall feast to bring together the community.

"I feel that it is important to provide these types of services because the health of our people is a community affair. We need to rely on each other

to contribute to the well being of our members. It is important to network and connect with people in the community so that they can become aware of the services we provide and we are able to assess the needs of our membership," said Peters.

She is also open to building on her experience and training in health services by taking part in additional education opportunities to complement her work. In November, she will be attending the annual NNADAP Conference in Toronto which is being provided by Native Horizons Treatment Centre and the Ontario Regional Addictions Partnership Committee. This conference will provide workshops including healing through song, culture as healing; admission, assessment and discharge tools; introduction to mental disorders, working with clients who abuse prescription drugs, ethics and addictions, planning care and writing prospective reports.

Peters feels that it is a privilege to be able to assist individuals in finding a healthier alternative in their lives.

"The NNADAP program

affects so many areas of a person's life and the work that is involved is very rewarding. One of my roles is to encourage and remind others to better themselves and strive for success. I believe that we all have our own potential and capabilities and we need to embrace these skills to the best of our abilities. This was a lesson that I learned through my work recently and it was explained to me as 'You are the best medicine for yourself,'" said Peters.

Her background involves working in the social services in Kirkland Lake. She was previously employed by the Timiskaming Child and Family Services from 2003 to 2008 as a Child Development Worker and as a Lay Home Visitor through the Temiskaming Health Unit. From 2008 to 2009 she delivered the Best Start program for the Catholic School Board in Kirkland Lake.

Peters believes that education is an important part of her life and she continues to expand her knowledge and experience in the social service health field. She graduated with honours from the Dean's List in 2003 when she completed a two year Social

Service Worker program from Northern College in Kirkland Lake. In the past few years she has added to her training and experience by attending multiple workshops including: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, AIDS Awareness, Nipissing Screen Developmental Tools With Children, 'Nobody Is Perfect' Parenting Program and CPR training.

She is looking forward to applying her training, education and experience to her new position in Matachewan First Nation and in getting to know the community and its membership.

"I would like to see more community participation because it is important for everyone. I believe that we should encourage our youth and also work with our Elders. We need to remind our youth that they have a place in our community because they are the future generation. It is also important to connect with the Elders as they are the ones that can pass on the knowledge and traditions of the past," said Peters.

She is fluently bilingual in English and French. Peters has a daughter Alexis, who is 11 and a son Liam who is five.

Elders Share Traditional Teachings

Elder Leonard Naveau led a cultural learning event for local youth during the first week of June in his home community of Mattagami First Nation. The event provided local youth with an opportunity to learn the traditional practice of preparing large animal hides for tanning. Elder Naveau was assisted in this event by Elder Clara Wesley, who is originally from the James Bay coast and holds a great deal of traditional knowledge on tanning animal hides.

Elder Naveau explained that this was mainly a demonstrative event for young children to expose them to traditional activities that were once common place in the community.

"We wanted to do something for the young people so that they could see how our people once lived. We spent the day scraping the hides using traditional methods and even using hand crafted tools made from animal bones. This was only a small part of what we would like to show to young people. Scraping is only the first part and we hope to provide another cultural demonstration in the winter when we will be able to freeze dry the hide in the cold weather and finish the tanning process

and maybe even smoke them inside a traditional teepee," said Elder Naveau.

The two Elders were assisted in their efforts by local volunteers while they held the event at the local fire hall in the middle of the community. They prepared three moose hides and four deer hides for local elementary school students from the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School.

"It felt good to see the children from the different grades come out to see this traditional activity. They got the chance to see how this work is done and some were also able to participate in the process of

"I want to see more events like this for our people,"
Elder Leonard Naveau

cutting down the hair and defleshing the skins with a traditional bone scraper," said Elder Naveau.

He explained that this was more than just a demonstration, as the event and participation of children in an activity with Elders provided an opportunity for story telling and talking to youth about their people's



TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS IN ANIMAL HIDE PREPARATION TOOK PLACE IN MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION IN JUNE 2009. PICTURED ARE FROM L-R: ELDER CLARA WESLEY, STUDENT ETHAN MCKAY AND ELDER LEONARD NAVEAU.

traditional past.

"The children learned more than just how to make a hide. We had the chance to talk to them about how our people lived a long time ago and how we made our own clothes in the past such as moccasins and mitts. They were happy to hear these stories and they showed an interest in wanting to learn more about their culture and traditions," said Elder Naveau.

In the past few decades, Mattagami First Nation has had a decline in the number of people who follow their people's traditional lifestyle of hunting, trapping and fishing which was once a predominant part of their life. Elder Naveau said he would like to provide more events such as this demonstration for local youth and for other members.

"I want to see more events like this for our people and get some of our culture back for our children so that this knowledge won't become lost over time. Everything is slowly being lost and in my own way I am trying to show a bit of our history so that we will not forget our past," said Elder Naveau.

As a local Elder, he is able to share his experiences and knowledge from growing up in a traditional lifestyle with his family on their hunting and trapping grounds in the Natal and Kemp townships in the Grassy River area.

"I missed out on my early education because I spent a lot of my time trapping and hunting with my father George and grandfather Thomas Naveau. In the fall we would head out to our camps and we would stay out on our own for months until the spring," said Elder Naveau.

They bought basic supplies such as salt, sugar, flour, tea and lard from the local supply stores and kept a vegetable garden in the summers to add to their diet but his family mainly subsisted on traditional foods which were gathered from the land.

"Life was difficult back then and there was always a lot of hard work. We snowshoed and dog sledged in the winters and

paddled and portaged in the summer because there were no motors to move us around. However, all this activity meant that we were strong and healthy. We did not suffer from diabetes or high blood pressure back then. Even when we did get sick our Elders were able to identify and gather traditional medicines for us from the land," said Elder Naveau.

It is this knowledge and healthy active lifestyle that he would like to teach to younger people in his community.

In later years, Elder Naveau also became involved in local community leadership when he held the title of Chief over a period of six years during multiple terms in the 1970s and 1980s. He was recently reelected in April 2009 to the position of First Nation Councillor, a post he has held on and off over multiple terms of office in the past. He has been involved in the forestry industry for many years and continues to work on a part time basis as a certified forestry work instructor. In addition, he also follows his traditional activities and does plenty of hunting and trapping throughout the year. Elder Naveau resides in Mattagami First Nation with his wife Linda Penasse.



MATTAGAMI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE GIVEN THE BENEFIT OF TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS. BACK ROW FROM L-R ARE: ETHAN MCKAY, MICHAEL NICOLAS, MADISON NICOLAS, TEACHER DEBBIE CLERMONT, NOLAN NAVEAU, MAX WORME AND AUSTIN TURCOTTE. FRONT ROW FROM L-R ARE: DARWYN MCKAY, AMBROSE THOMAS, JINNY PARK AND AALIYAH TURCOTTE.

Jaimee Roy Appointed To Provincial Advisory Committee



**JAIMEE ROY,
MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION**

Jaimee Roy, a member of Matatchewan First Nation is the featured youth for this issue of Wabun Sun. At 18 years of age, Roy is currently attending Grade 12 at the Kirkland Lake District Composite School.

In May 2009, Roy was selected from a group of over a thousand applicants to join the Minister's Student Advisory Committee which was established by the Ontario Ministry of Education. This committee is a group of 60 students from all parts of the education system and regions of the province. Roy was chosen to represent the District School Board Ontario North East, an English Public School Board serving Northeastern Ontario from Hearst to

Temagami. The committee she sits on meets several times a year and provides an opportunity for students from the education system to share their ideas and advice directly with the Minister of Education.

She had the opportunity to attend meetings in May and August 2009 which took place in Toronto.

"Taking part in this committee was an amazing experience and I was grateful to have the opportunity to participate. I had the chance to give some of my input and meet other students from around the province," said Roy.

She was encouraged to apply for the committee by her guidance counsellor. In her application she provided her perspective on education in the north and her insight as an aboriginal student.

"I think that it is important for us to have a chance to take part in what happens with our education and to get more opportunities to make it better. This is a very empowering experience and there were many more ideas than we could possibly discuss in one or two meetings. It felt good to be part of a group where we

were able to get along and say what was on our minds," said Roy.

She is active in her school and in other activities with students. Roy has been a member for the past two years in her school's Student Committee as an aboriginal representative. For the past two years, she has also been part of her school's Co Ed Athletic Council. In Grade eleven she was recognized for her leadership skills when she was awarded the Rotary Youth Leadership Award.

"I feel good to have a leadership role in my school. I am happy to have the opportunity to work with other students and take positive action," said Roy.

In addition, she joined the 'Roots and Shoots' recycling program for students, that deals with environmental issues and recycling and she participates in her school district's annual Science Olympics competition. Roy has also been active since starting high school in sports activities such as basketball, volleyball, badminton and track and field.

"I always try to keep myself busy because it

motivates me to do better and look forward to graduating from high school," said Roy.

Since starting secondary school, she has taken part in several youth gatherings and events.

"I was a shy person when I started high school. Having taken part in several camps and events, I feel that I have had the opportunity to open up and have the self confidence to take leadership roles and take action for myself," said Roy.

In July 2009, she took part in the Third Annual Wabun Youth Gathering where she volunteered as a Youth Chaperone in the first week of events for younger children.

"Events such as the Wabun Youth Gathering have allowed me to gain the experience of working with other youth and the opportunity to meet new friends. I am thankful to the Wabun Tribal Council for

providing this event and to Mike Archer and Jean Lemieux for organizing this gathering for us youth," said Roy.

She has plans for her future and hopes to one day attend Georgian College in Orillia to study sociology and work in the child and youth services.

"I want to help other children and youth in the surrounding area when I finish my education because it is very important to me," said Roy.

Her parents are Sandra and Roger Roy and she has a twin brother Dustin and an older brother Mitchell who is 20.

"I have had a lot of help from my teachers and my family has been very supportive too as they inspire me to do more and encourage me in all the activities I take part in," said Roy.

Scholarship Fund

Organizers for the 16th Annual Wabun Tribal Council Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament were grateful for the show of support and participation in this year's event. This tournament was the largest ever hosted by the tribal council.

Title sponsors for the 2009 tournament were Northern Telephone, Mattagami Construction Limited, Tweed & Hickory, Wyatt Image Solutions and Ontario Power Generation.

"We are grateful to our sponsors and the participants in this year's golf tournament. This has been the biggest event we have seen so far and we are pleased to announce that this will provide a greater measure of support to our students in the Wabun area," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council.

Anyone interested in

applying for the Wabun Scholarship Fund should do so before February 2010. The scholarship application is open to any Wabun Tribal Council First Nation student as long as he or she is enrolled in a post secondary school.

The applicant must send a letter to the attention of: Scholarship Fund, Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council, 313 Railway Street, Timmins Ontario P4N 2P4. The letter should detail a little about why the applicant feels he or she deserves this scholarship and indicate what program he or she is attending. Preference will be given to those in programs relating to telecommunications, health, engineering and business. The applicant must also include a proof of academic performance or a recent transcript.

Amy McKay, A Healthy Addition

Amy McKay is the new Non-Wabun Health Clerk for Wabun Health Services. She started her position at the Wabun Tribal Council head office in Timmins on August 11, 2009. McKay, who is a member of Mattagami First Nation, is taking over from Joanne Naveau.

As the Non-Wabun Health Clerk, McKay is responsible for assisting First Nation members who are not affiliated with Wabun First Nations with their medical transportation needs. She works with Wabun Health staff and with clients in setting up their transportation and accommodations needs that are provided by Health Canada for their medical appointments. Although her main task is to arrange for accommodation and other arrangements for clients, McKay explained that her secondary role is to reassure and assist clients who are

making travel arrangements away from their home communities.

"I get the chance to spend time with clients and help them through the process of medical transportation. Clients come to us during difficult times and it is my job to help arrange their transportation needs so that they concentrate on their medical appointments and visits to the hospital. I enjoy helping people and it feels good to know that I am assisting them during stressful periods when they are dealing with medical issues in a different environment," said McKay.

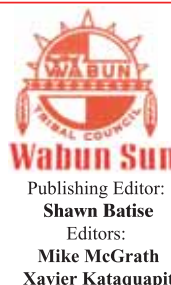
She has gained plenty of office administration career training over the past few years. After completing her high school education, she took a summer student position with Liberty Mines as an assistant in office duties. McKay then went on to enroll



**AMY MCKAY, NON-WABUN
HEALTH CLERK**

in an office administration program at Northern College in Timmins before coming on board at the Wabun Health Services office as the Non-Wabun Health Clerk.

McKay, 23 years of age, grew up in the Timmins area and is a member of Mattagami First Nation. She enjoys visiting her home First Nation to see family and friends and taking the time for camping trips and recreational activities.



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