

# Wahiin Sii

Volume Ten

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**Issue Three** 

#### Wabun Tribal **Council Bids Fond Farewell to Gilles St. Pierre**

Gilles St Pierre, Environmental Health Officer for Health Canada has retired after 20 years of service to First Nation communities in Northeastern Ontario. He retired on January 7, 2010. He commenced this position on January 7 1990 and dedicated 33 years as a creative and capable professional in the environmental health field. Before working for Health Canada, he held positions in Hearst and North Bay for the Ontario government.

As part of the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada, St Pierre worked mostly from the Wabun Tribal Council headquarters in Timmins to service the First Nations of Mushkegowuk Council and Wabun Tribal Council. To cover this large working area, he travelled to the various communities regularly along the James Bay coast and throughout the Wabun area.

St Pierre was responsible

for assisting First Nations in meeting environmental health standards in the areas of water quality and delivery, food control in public and private settings, housing issues, sewage and waste systems and building inspections. His position required plenty of travel to each of the communities in northeastern Ontario on a regular basis and during his 20 years, he developed a long working relationship First Nation health staff.

"I worked from each community directly when I visited First Nations up the coast and I did the same when I travelled to each Wabun First Nation. However, it was very helpful to have an office base at the Wabun headquarters as I could directly communicate with everyone and stay informed of First Nation issues and projects. Also, when planning projects were taking place and environmental health assistance was needed, I was close at hand in the Timmins based office to provide my input to the health or technical departments," said St Pierre.

He started his career in environmental health after graduating from an Environment Health and Occupational Health program at Ryerson University in 1978. He took a position with the provincial health service as Public Health Inspector in Hearst and then in North Bay.

St Pierre is proud to have been part of the ongoing development that has taken place in First Nations in northeastern Ontario over the past 20 years.

"One of the biggest changes I have seen is in the water systems that have been developed in each of the communities I dealt with. Each one now has a state of the art facility with trained individuals that take pride in their work. I was happy to have been part of these positive developments in these First Nations," said St Pierre.

Over the years, he has met many First Nation administrative leaders and health care workers through countless meetings to deal with ongoing services and to address emergency situations. He explained that he had the opportunity to get to know many individuals in each of the communities he was in contact with

"I am very thankful for the support I received from the Wabun leadership, executive and staff over the years. It felt good to be part of a team of people that were working toward the same goals. There are many dedicated workers in each of the communities I visited and they are all proud to be part of making their communities healthier and more positive. I would like to say Miigwich to all those people worked with over the years. Together we made some very good efforts and future generations will benefit from that" said St Pierre.

He and his wife Brigitte celebrated their 30 year anniversary in November 2009.

Mens and Womens



**GILLES ST PIERRE,** ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER, HEALTH CANADA

They have a 21 year old son Mathieu who is currently studying Political Science at Laurentian University in Sud-

St Pierre is planning on enjoying a relaxed retirement at his home in Timmins and working on his own schedule to apply his many years of experience in environmental health as a consulant. He is also assisting his nephew's business at Tap It Draught Services in Timmins.

Miigwich from all of us at Wabun for your friendship and dedication Gilles and happy retirement.

## Wabun Members Benefit From Parenting And Partnership Workshop

Wabun Health Services hosted a three-day Mens and Womens workshop from October 26 to 28, 2009. The event was titled under the theme 'Parenting and Partnership' and was open to all adult Wabun members. The workshop was held at the Eco Resource Centre in Elk Lake and facilitated by Clayton Small

and Kathy Larson.

"Although this year's workshop saw a small group of people come out to participate, it meant that each of the participants had the opportunity of a more in depth and personal experience for themselves," said Mike Archer, Regional Crisis Coordinator.

This workshop was one of

a series of gatherings for adults that have been designed and coordinated by Wabun Health to provide a holistic and all encompassing education and self help program for its member First Nations. Several events have been provided for adults and youth, as well as gatherings meant to bring all groups together in an educational en-

vironment. Due to the fact several workshops have been produced over the people are grasping solid learnings. Archer explained that this healing history provided participants who attended the Octo-Workshop to be more open and confident.

"I have really noticed a change in many of our people that have participated in our workshops. I recall meeting many of them at the onset of this journey and it was obvious that they were having a hard time to actively participate. Now, many of these same individuals are leading by being more open with their thoughts and ideas and they are willing to share their experiences with more confidence," said Archer.

He explained that the event featured group sessions that focused on the roles and responsibilities of parenting.

"We wanted to direct the workshop on the values of family life for adults as well as youth and children. There is a long history of turmoil and stress that has happened in our communities because of the residential school system and one of our goals was to share this fact with the participants," said Archer.

He added that the workshop was also meant to help participants reconnect with Aboriginal traditions and values in parenting.

Two facilitators led the three-day workshop. Clayton Small, a northern Cheyenne Native American who is based in Albuquerque New Mexico in the United States, provided presentations for the men.



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED: KATHY LARSON, FACILITATOR; RICHARD LAFLEUR, FRANCINE NAVEAU, MELVIN LUKE, BONNIE FLETCHER, MORRIS NAVEAU, ANNETTE BATISSE (IN FRONT), RANDY NAVEAU (IN BACK), TERRI MATHIAS AND CLAYTON SMALL, FACILITATOR.

**CONT ON PG 3** 



TRISTA NAVEAU. EA COORDINATOR

Trista Naveau, a member of Mattagami First Nation, is the Exploration Agreement Coordinator actively involved in serving Wabun First Nations at Lake Shore Gold Corp. Naveau represents the First Nations of Mattagami, Matachewan, Flying Post and Wahconcerning development of two mining projects in the Wabun territory. Her main role is to act as a liaison between the company and First Nation leadership to maintain communications and to assist First Nations entities and individuals in finding business and employment opporin these tunities mining

"I keep the communities updated on the progress and development of these mining projects and as well I bring any of the First Nation's concerns to

Trista Naveau Mining Resource Development Jobs the company," said Naveau.

She started her position on November 23, 2009 and is based at the Lake Shore Gold office in Timmins.

Lake Shore Gold is working under two separate Exploration Agreements. The first was signed in July 2008 between Mattagami First Nation and Flying Post First Nation concerning the company's Timmins West Project and the second was signed in March 2009 with the First Nations of Mattagami, Flying Post, Matachewan and Wahgoshig regarding the Bell Creek Project, east of Timmins in South Porcupine. Currently, the company and the First Nations are working towards developing longer term relations and agreements for the life of the mining projects.

"The Exploration Agreement is just the starting point of a partnership between the First Nations and the company. This arrangement and future agreements will ensure that our First Nations will have a part in making sure that our lands are protected and that our people will benefit from what is happening on our territories," said Naveau.

At 26 years of age, Naveau has plenty of experi-

### **Brunswick House FN To Construct Health Centre**

A new Health Centre building will be constructed in Brunswick House First Nation this year. First Nation leadership has been working with Health Canada since February 2009 to establish this new facility for the community. The project is estimated to cost between \$1.2 to \$1.6 million. Community members have been actively involved in the process. Many people showed up for a community meeting December 2009 to provide input on the building design selection and

"We have worked hard to establish this project for our Together with community. Chief and Council and our support staff, we have held many meetings to figure out the details of the project including the funding approval, site selection, building design and tending process," said Stanley Sabourin, Band Manager, Brunswick House First Nation.

Sabourin joined the First Nation administration in February 2009. The health centre project was one of the first projects he wanted to earmarked to develop for the

community. Sabourin brings a wealth of experience to this position with a background of 25 years of experience in medical services.

"This will actually be the third health centre that I have helped to develop. Although there is a lot of work involved, it was a matter of bringing together all the right people in our community and having the support of the local leadership to make this happen. The work was also made easier because of my experience in dealing with other health care organizations and government agencies," said Sabourin.

He added that the community was looking forward to the construction of the new building.

"We could see the excitement and pride that our local members had by the number of people that came to participate in our community Our December meeting featured 60 members who provided input in helping to select the floor plan and design of this new facility," said Sabourin. Look for more news on the Brunswick House First Nation Health Centre in the next issue of Wabun Sun.

ence in the environmental field. She worked as a seasonal forest fire fighter for seven years with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Cochrane. She also worked for an environmental company and became a trained Arborist. 2004, she was able to find work internationally as an Arborist in New Zealand for a year where she applied her training in industrial and residential applications.

She is enjoying her current role as EA Coordinator and enjoys being able to work closely with the Wabun First Nations.

"I am happy that I am able to connect directly with our Wabun members and it is satisfying to work with everyone to build more awareness of our First Nation history and culture. If feels good to be part of the development of positive relationships between the resource industry and our communities," said Naveau.

The Mattagami member is able to coordinate some of her efforts with Tina Minarik, Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) Coordinator for Liberty Mines, which holds a major agreement with Wabun First Nations concerning development of their projects in the Wabun territory.

"If any of our members are looking for a career in mining I encourage them to a contact me or the Wabun office for more information. Many of these positions now require more training and education in the areas of environmental studies, geology, mine engineering and drilling. Our Wabun youth who are considering a career in this field need to know what opportunities there are available to them as they can prepare themselves and direct their education and training towards these areas," said Naveau.

She can be contacted at her Lake Shore Gold Corp Office in Timmins by phone at: 705-269-4344 Ext 4236 or by email at: tnaveau@lsgold.com For more information on Lake Shore Gold Corp visit their website at: www.lsgold.com

# Reflections

by Shawn Batise, Executive Director



SHAWN AND HIS SON QUINTON

Happy New Year to everyone from myself, my family, our Chiefs and our staff at Wabun Tribal Council. It is hard to believe that a decade has passed so quickly. It has been 10 years of much accomplishment, many successes and a lot of change.

When I think back on the past decade I feel it is a good thing to take a minute to remember all of the elders and community members that have passed. It is really important that we never lose sight on the fact that the reason we get up and go to work each day here at Wabun has to do with our efforts to improve life for our people. Wabun Tribal Council after all is really about people. We are a collection of many individuals from all of our communities that have come together to produce a strong voice and presence as the Wabun Tribal Council.

I am proud of the achievements of our Chiefs, staff and community workers members over the past 10 years. It's easy at times to forget our accomplishments and that is precisely why we spend a lot of time and effort to newspaper documents the sucthe years and through the passage of time these highlights ago we also created a Wabun Sun website where our newspaper issues are archived on line for everyone to see.

It makes me feel very good to be able to turn back the pages of time and review our successes over the years at Wabun Sun .com. There is much satisfaction in reading through the stories that have to do with the infrastructure developments and so many positive initiatives that have taken place over the years. We have new and highly functional First Nation head office complexes in place, a community bed and breakfast, healing centre, new housing, telecommunications services, water service facilities and many health services and programs provided by our Wabun Health staff. I recognize all those smiling faces in stories that highlight our Chiefs, elders, community members, and individual Wabun staff. The history of our communities and our people is important and I am happy have played a part in the preservation and documentation of the Wabun

Over the past decade we have been forefront in assisting with new partnerships between our First nations and resource development companies all across our Wabun territory. Our staff has made great efforts to do the research and develop-

produce Wabun Sun. Our own ment needed to address the increased activity of resource decesses we have enjoyed over velopment on our lands. Under the direction of our Wabun Chiefs we have managed to become our history. Not long broker many positive partnerships in the mining, forestry and hydro power sectors. Our future looks very bright in due to these partnership and ownership developments with resulting employment, training and revenue generation for years to

We have also put into place programs to assist our elders, our youth and community members at large. Our Wabun Health team has been dedicated to provide first rate workshops training, counselling and health prevention initiatives that have resulted in a better quality of life for our people. For a first hand look at some of our work with youth you can go to Wabunyouthgathering.com to meet our very best young people and read and view their

There are many thanks to be given to so many people over the years for dedicating themselves to making life better for all of us. We all need to stop the clock at times to remember the helping hand we got along our way. It is with this in mind that I say a special Miigwich to the Chiefs past and present for leading Wabun Tribal Council in the most positive and constructive manner over the years. I look to the next 10 years of Wabun Tribal Council's development with great hope as we all stand together in the interest of making our world a better place for the next generation.

## Wabun Health Produces Mens And Womens Workshop

#### CONT FROM PG 1

Small, who holds a Masters of Education and once held the position of secondary school principal, has run adult and youth workshops for Wabun Health in the past. He is an Aboriginal leadership specialist who promotes primary suicide intervention techniques.

The women were led by facilitator, Kathy Larson, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed. Psych., who is part of K.S.L. Counselling, Consulting & Workshops, from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Larson, who has benefited through years of training as a counsellor, experienced a terrible life tragedy with the murder of her husband. Through her workshops, she is

able to share her experience of tended was huge. tragedy and loss with others while also utilizing her background and training as an educator and counsellor to provide comfort and healing. In this instance she conducted presentation at the Mens and Womens workshop under the topic of 'parenting our children, parenting ourselves in the aftermath of residential school'. is familiar Larson Mattagami First Nation as she was previously involved in a workshop in the community.

Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director commented that although the workshop was small in size the impact it made on the key Wabun men and women members who at-

## Staff Feature



EILEEN BOISSONEAU, CHR, Mattagami FN

Eileen Boissoneau, Community Health Representative (CHR), for Mattagami First Nation is a featured health care worker for this issue of Wabun Sun. Boissoneau, who is originally from Mattagami First Nation, has held this position since 1989.

She works closely with

Therese Mannila, Community Health Nurse for Mattagami, in delivering health care programs and services in the community. Boissoneau provides her assistance in health care programs including immunization, home and community care, school health and a diabetes program. She is also involved with the community crisis team, a local front line care service that provides support to community members in times of difficulty

"I like being able to work with my community in a direct and interactive way. I get the chance to visit them and help them with their health care needs. It is special to me to be able to work with everyone in

and emergency situations.

our First Nation from the Elders down to the youngest children," said Boissoneau.

She believes that education and upgrading is an important part of her career and she continues to add to her training and experience in the health care field. Currently, she is enrolled in a Community Diabetes Prevention Program with Yellowquill College, an institution focused on Native oriented programs and education. She started her training on September 14 and will be completing her studies in March 2010. Boissoneau is receiving her training in this program through an alternating schedule where she attends in class sessions in Barrie, Ontario and then comes back to the community to have hands on training by working with members living with diabetes. She is supported and guided in her studies by the Community Health Nurse. At the end of the program, she will receive certification as a Diabetes Prevention Worker from Yellowquill

"I have always had an interest in working in the health care field and I enjoy having the opportunity to expand my knowledge in this area. The Community Diabetes Prevention Program has been very informative and has provided me with additional skills as a health care worker. I am also grateful to have a knowledgeable and supportive co worker in Therese to help me with my studies," said Boissoneau.

**CONT ON PG 4** 

"After witnessing the great and active participation by those who attended and experiencing the teachings that was provided by our facilitators it occurred to me that this was one of the best workshops we have ever produced. The personal sharing that came forward was a form of good medicine for everyone and at the end of the event, the participants showed their appreciation and let us know that they were interested in continuing this

journey," said Archer.



CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN

Chief Walter Naveau, Mattagami First Nation, is looking forward to a strong and positive future for his community with the signing of a new resource development agreement. He explained that the recent signing of an Exploration Agreement with Tre-Mining Exploration Inc in September 2009 is another step for his community's development and a recognition of his people's ability to exercise traditional rights to their territories.

"We as First Nations have been dormant for far too long when it comes to resource development and with agreements such as this I believe that we are becoming more accustomed to exercising our rights. It is very important that we have agreements such as this in place for our people and to cremeaningful dialogue between our First Nations and the companies we deal with," said Chief Naveau.

The Exploration Agreement applies to Trelawney's exploration activities on its Chester Township properties which are within the traditional

To help with the process of learning presentation packages and books were distributed to the participants to follow the day to day teachings and serve as useful follow up material for later.

Wabun Health also featured a three-day event in Timmins on January 26, 27 and 28. This event was produced for Crisis Team members from each of Wabun's communities. Look for an update on this event in the next issue of Wabun Sun. Wabun Health will also be announcing future

workshops for the upcoming year after March 2010. Wabun members who are interested in participating in any future workshops are encouraged to contact Mike Archer at the Wabun Tribal Council office: 705-268-9066 or by email at: archermb@wabun.on.ca

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Wabun Health makes great effort to produce workshops and gatherings serving elders, adult men and women and youth. For more information on the past youth workshops wabunyouthgathering.com

## Trelawney Signs With Mattagami FN

territory of Mattagami First Nation. The newly established Exploration Agreement will provide training and business opportunities for the community as well as ongoing communication. The First Nation and the company have also agreed to negotiate an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) if the project should proceed as planned to production.

Chief Naveau pointed out that it is important to protect his people's connection with their ancestral lands.

"There are many issues we have to consider when it comes to the rights of our traditional lands such as the environment and ecology. We also have to look after our community and if a company such as Trelawney is willing to negotiate with our people then we can work together to build our First Nation and help our Elders and our children," said Chief Naveau.

He described this agreement as another step for his community to develop more independence and a way for his people to participate in the resource development sector.

"There are companies all around us that are taking the resources from our lands, be it water, forestry or the mining industry and yet First Nation people are left out. I only want what is best for our First Nation and by participating in a positive way that protects the land, we can exercise our voice in these matters. As long as our First Nations rely on the meagre handouts of Indian and

Northern Affairs Canada (IN-AC), we will continue to be a nation that is struggling. If we can work with resource development entities then perhaps we can break away from this old cycle and take control of our own future," said Chief Naveau.

He added that he would not have been able to participate in establishing the Explora-Agreement with Trelawney without the support of his community and elders.

"Behind every Chief are the people and the support of his Elders. As a leader, I only borrow the words of our Elders and provide a voice for their knowledge so that we can work towards the good of our community. I want to thank all those Elders from our community for sharing their advice and giving me direction," said Chief Naveau.

The Chester Township

properties is a former gold producing mining area located between Timmins and Sudbury. The mining area can be found 20 kilometres southwest of Gogama off of Highway 144. Past producing mining companies on the property include Jerome Mine, Matachewan and Young Davidson. Further underground development took place as the Chester Gold Project in the 1980s.

Trelawney Mining and Exploration Inc is a Canadian public corporation, focused on exploring and mining highgrade narrow vein resources in northern Ontario.

## Elder Barney Batise Still An Active Leader

Barney Batise, of Matachewan First Nation is the featured Elder for this edition of Wabun Sun.

He was born and raised in a traditional setting on Matachewan FN traditional lands by parents Harry and Annie Batise who followed a traditional hunting and gathering lifestyle and spoke their regional dialect of the Ojibway language.

Louisa, Lorina, Eli, Mike, George and Larry. Often today he takes the time to remember those early days with his surviving sisters Laura Flood and Elsie Plourde.

with his mother on the lakes and river systems in the Matachewan area while his father hunted, trapped and worked to provide an income for his fam-

"We were the first to be moved into town and our family received a home in the town of Matachewan so that we children could attend school. Even though we had been encouraged to move from the wilderness home to become part of the larger society we felt ostra-

His father valued education for his children and encouraged them to acquire as much skill and knowledge as they could. Elder Batise explained that his father had actually self taught himself the basics of the English language and was capable of reading and writing.

At the age of 18, Elder Batise experienced his first trip away from home when he contracted tuberculosis and developed complications from the disease. He spent several months in a Sudbury hospital where he underwent surgery and convalesced. During this time, he was fortunate to meet a Nurse who encouraged and guided him to acquire some training for a future career.

"When I recovered I went south to receive training at the Standard Engineering Institute in Toronto where I studied small engine mechanics. On graduating I was fortunate enough to find a job at Timberline Saw and Marine in North Bay. In short time I rose to the position of Service Manager and began a long career," said Elder Batise.

and experience. My goal is to

become a skilled and resource-

ful person in the health care

field so that I can better serve

my community. The fact that

there is a rising rate of people

with diabetes and other health

care concerns makes it more

important for us to get as much

training and education as pos-

sible to prevent these problems

from affecting future genera-

and education is an important

part of her career development

in the health care field. In 1992

she graduated from Cambrian

College in Sudbury with a dip-

loma from a two year Native

Community Care and Coun-

"Training and education is

For the past four years,

Mattagami First Nation has hos-

ted two students once a year every

May from the Northern Ontario

School of Medicine to provide

selling Development Program.

more important now than ever.

There are many developments

in the medical field and the new

She explained that training

tions," said Boissoneau.

At the age of 19, he married his wife Doreen and they started a family. He became a well known outboard engine marine mechanic and he was employed in North Bay, Orillia and the Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching areas. At the height of his marine mechanic career, he actually held the title of harbour master at the McPhee Bay Harbour on Lake Simcoe, a marina he helped to build and manage and then he made a move to North Bay.

At one point he became acquainted with Bob Lessard, Director of the North Bay Indian Friendship Centre.

"When I met Bob and discovered the Friendship Centre organization this was an opportunity for me to reconnect to my heritage. I also found a place where I could apply my energy and experience," said

Lessard encouraged him to join the centre's board of directors where Elder Batise provided his experience and energy to assist in the development of the centre. Along the way Elder Batise accepted the the Ontario Federation of Indi-

Elder Batise.

them with hands on training and education in the operation and organization of a Native community. Boissoneau has played an integral part in working with these students to expose them to the community and inform them on the inner workings of care organizations.

"I feel that it is important for our community to participate in this type of training for these future doctors who are willing to work in the north and maybe someday be involved with a Native community or organization. It is important for them to learn about our communities and understand how they can best help our people when they apply their training in the future," said Boissoneau.

Before starting her career in the health care service field, she worked as a Teachers Aide for

She is married to Chad Boissoneau and they have two sons, ten year old Brent and Dylan, who is 17. Boissoneau enjoys spending time with her family. She describes herself as a hockey mom and takes the time to support their children in an Friendship Centres. His efforts were rewarded when he was elected President of the Ontario Federation and later as National President.

"I recall my time with the Friendship Centre as very exciting. We brought together people with traditional knowledge and paired them with bright young men and women who then went on to establish themselves in the Native movement as political leaders, artists and musicians," explained Elder Batise.

In North Bay, he helped to establish local traditional drum and dancing groups while promoting events that supported Native culture and traditions. He also worked with Marv Anna Couchie to develop one of the first Native linguistic education programs for the education system in Ontario. This project was a starting point for many more such initiatives.

"This whole period of my life was like an awakening for me and something that I could take great pride in. It felt good and this period was like a cultural Native renaissance for all of us," said Elder Batise.

After 14 years in the Friendship Centre organization, Elder Batise returned to Matachewan where he was elected Chief of his First Nation. During his tenure he was instrumental in developing mainfrastructure including proper phone systems, added electrical power, water systems and street lighting.

He moved from local leadership to spearhead the development of a regional tribal council in Timmins for the eastern area of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) area, which later became the Wabun Tribal Council. During this time he was also involved in the early development of the Kunuwanimano Child & Family services organization. In the 1990s, he moved back to North Bay where he reconnected with First Nation colleagues from the Friendship Centre who had developed a Native Drug And Alcohol program. At this point Elder Batise took on the role of a therapist at the Nipissing Treatment Centre.

"We developed a program



**ELDER BARNEY BATISE,** MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION

which we called Keywaywin, an Ojibway word meaning 'going home' and I must say that in assisting others I learned much about myself, our people and our culture," said Elder Batise.

In his 60s Elder Batise semi retired and took more time to enjoy life at home with his wife Doreen and their children and grandchildren. When time allows he continues to contribute to First Nation issues and he has held positions including Community Resource Person for governance models for NAN, Elder representative for the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Board and board member for Health Information Services (HIS) under Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). Recently, he became involved in a traditional group of Native Elders called the Knowledge Keepers, who established themselves as a gathering of Elders dedicated to the protection and promotion of cultural knowledge, history and teachings.

"I feel fortunate to be able to share some of the knowledge and teachings that were given to me by my Elders and parents. I open and close each Knowledge Keepers meeting with a teaching my mother gave me. It translates as 'protect and keep the way you were taught, the Great Spirit gave you that ability and you keep that well" said Elder Batise.

He pointed out that his father provided him a life lesson that translated as 'whatever you do or make, make it right'.

These days he and Doreen spend as much time as possible with their children Shawn, Jason, Fabian and Sherry Wiestche, their nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



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His siblings included Felix,

In the summers, he fished

ily. When Elder Batise became old enough to attend school the family moved to the town of Matachewan.

Eileen Boissoneau Highlighted

She has received support in her training from Mattagami First Nation Chief Walter Naveau and from community

**CONT FROM PG 3** 

"I am grateful to our local First Nation leaders and to Jean Lemieux at Wabun Health for

leadership.

their encouragement and support," said Boissoneau.

As part of her training in this program, she is providing educational sessions to local members living with diabetes on how to better manage their condition. Boissoneau explained that community mem-

bers attending her presentations have found it helpful and edu-

In addition to her training

with Yellowquill College, Boissoneau is also enrolled as a part time student in a Nursing Program through Northern College in Timmins. She started this program as a full time student at Sault College during a leave of

diseases we are seeing today. It really is necessary to get as absence from her work in 2007. much education and informa-Now that she is back to work tion as possible to deal with all full time as a CHN for her comthis," said Boissoneau.

munity, she is taking part time studies to complete her Nursing Program over the next few

"I have always aimed to

cized," said Elder Batise.

position of manager and became actively involved with

continually add to my training

Mattagami First Nation's educational, administrative and health

sporting activities.