

WABUN

Volume Eleven Issue One

Sun



INSIDE:

- Wabun Youth Gathering
- MAATS Trainees Graduate
- Northgate Opens Young Davidson
- New NAPS Building For Mattagami



Young Davidson Mine
Groundbreaking - Pg 10

REFLECTIONS



**Shawn
Batise
Executive
Director**

Welcome to the new and improved Wabun Sun. When it was first decided that Wabun Tribal Council needed a way to communicate to our First Nation members and beyond we produced the Wabun Sun in a tabloid style newspaper. Over the years we have highlighted many of the achievements and issues of our Wabun First Nations in the newspaper. As a matter of fact it has been more than a decade now that we have been producing Wabun Sun.

Recently, we also developed a Wabun Sun website where all our issues over the years are archived for your reference. When I glance through past issues I realize just how many

great success stories we have reported on. I see all those familiar faces of our leadership, staff and community members preserved in time. The production of Wabun Sun has given us more than we realized in that we ended up with a positive and accurate history of Wabun Tribal Council First Nations over the years.

I am so proud when I look back on past issues of Wabun Sun and I see the development that has taken place in our First Nations. So much has happened over the years in infrastructure developments, mining and resource partnerships, community enhancement, improved health services and First Nation representation. I see stories and photos of our young people developing over the years to become community leaders and professionals dedicated to helping our people. I realize how much effort, creativity, energy and dedication people in all our Wabun First Nations have put forward over the years and I see the results in a better life for all of us today.

This new and improved Wabun Sun that you are holding in your hands

represents a big change. We decided with our production staff that we should make the move to a more colourful and better packaged magazine format. As you can see Wabun Sun is now produced on glossy paper and has four colour pictures and graphics on every page. So we hope you enjoy reading this first issue of the new Wabun Sun and that you visit our website at any time to look back in time. All you have to do to see any of the past issues is go to wabunsun.com

Although the launching of the new Wabun Sun is exciting in so many ways it also reports on a huge loss we have experienced recently. This first new issue features stories on the passing of Audrey Allaire and Elders Laura Flood, Beatrice Goulais and Margaret Naveau. Audrey was a big part of Wabun Tribal Council and very dear to all of us. She will be greatly missed. We can take a little consolation in knowing that these women will not be forgotten and that their stories will be enshrined in Wabun Sun. Our prayers and thoughts are with the families in this difficult time.

HEALTH MATTERS

Welcome to this new and improved issue of Wabun Sun. As you can see from our four colour cover we are celebrating our youth in a very big way. That cover photo was taken at our Fourth Annual Wabun Youth Gathering this summer and shows our senior eagles youth with visiting dignitary Stan Beardy, Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN). I believe we are one of the most progressive tribal councils in the country when it comes to youth oriented programming and I am very proud of all of the wonderful people that assist us in making the Wabun Youth Gathering a success.

I want to thank our Chiefs of Wabun Tribal Council and Shawn Batise our Executive Director for identifying our youth as a priority for programs targeted to their education and development. Mike Archer continues year after year to organize and implement the Wabun Youth Gathering with assistance from well known facilitators from across the

country. I also give thanks to Health Canada for continued funding in support of our youth programming and of course I am so thankful to all the Wabun youth members from all of our First Nations who keep coming back year after year to participate in the Wabun Youth Gathering.

It makes my heart feel good to see all those smiling faces of our familiar young people in the pictures in this magazine and as well on our website at wabunyouthgathering.com. We have watched these young ones grow over the years and they tell us that we have made a difference in their lives. It feels so good to hear that comment from those who we look to for our future development in more healthy and progressive communities.

Every year we run our Wabun Youth Gatherings on one of the theme's that follows the Seven Grandfather teachings. This year we focused on the theme of trust and much of the programing and teachings had to do with this important

building block of character.

This was the first year we had the Grand Chief of NAN in attendance and we all give a special note of gratitude to him and his staff who took time from their busy schedule to come and support our work with the Wabun Youth Gathering. We also give thanks to Chief Gloria McKenzie of Beaverhouse First Nation for coming out to participate with our youth. We are already developing the Fifth Annual Wabun Youth Gathering so let us know if you would like to participate.



**Jean
Lemieux
Health
Director**

New NNADAP Worker In Matachewan

Elaine Daley is the new National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NNADAP) Worker for Matachewan First Nation. She is responsible for the delivery of alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs provided by the NNADAP program. Daley, who started her new position on September 7, 2010, takes over from Leanne Peters.

"I am happy to be working for our community, especially for our youth and with our Elders. This is an important role for me as we need to take care of our youth and keep them busy and in contact with our Elders," said Daley.

Her primary role is to provide support for First Nation members in dealing with drug and alcohol abuse issues while also creating programs and services that will prevent addictions abuse in the community. To better deal with local issues, she is also part of the Community Crisis team, a group of health care workers assigned with the task of assisting community members during difficult health or social related emergencies. Daley also assists in organizing and coordinating community events and gatherings to provide activities for local members and to bring together youth and Elders.

She knows this area well as she

previously held the title of Community Crisis Coordinator for three years. This position is now being filled by Sue Collins, who is also the Community Health Representative and Band Membership Clerk for Matachewan First Nation. Daley has also served as First Nation Councillor. Her

events and announcements over the years.

"I enjoy working for my community and being able to work closely with our youth. I think it is important to reach out to our younger generation. In many of the events I have taken part in, I also encourage and teach younger people to drum and sing and learn from our traditional Elders. It is important for me to see our youth taking an interest in our cultural past," said Daley.

Before working in the social and health care fields, Daley was employed in the forestry industry for several years. She worked in tree planting and in the forestry industry at the Elk Lake Sawmill for several years.

"We want to welcome Elaine to our Wabun Health Care team. Our First Nation members are appreciative of the work our NNADAP workers provide in the health and social well being of our communities. It is also unique to see a traditional performer take on the role of a health care worker, as she will pass on the

cultural and traditional knowledge to our members and youth," Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services.

Daley is a First Nation Ojibway person and a member of Matachewan First Nation. She is married to Mike Daley and they have a 13 year old son Jared.



ELAINE DALEY (CENTRE) AS PART OF THE TURTLE WOMAN DRUM GROUP WITH ELDER VINA HENDRIX (LEFT) AND ELDER MARIE BOUCHER (RIGHT).

interest in traditional pursuits drew her to the Turtle Woman Drum Group, an all female traditional percussion band that was formed three years ago by Elders Marie Boucher and Vina Hendrix. The drum group has been prominently featured by the community through performances at several major local

Mattagami Youth Learn Water Safety

The Canadian Red Cross provided a swim program for 25 children in Mattagami First Nation during the summer.



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY CANADIAN RED CROSS, TIMMINS

MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION CHILDREN CAME OUT TO LEARN ABOUT WATER SAFETY AND ENJOY THE FRESH WATERS OF MATTAGAMI LAKE THIS SUMMER.

Water Safety Instructors Kayla Lessard, Natasha Kullas and Ashley Kullas taught water safety education over eight lesson days on the shores Mattagami Lake in the community. Tory Kullas, Aquatics Coordinator for the City of Timmins also assisted in setting up the instructors, providing material support and guidance.

Mattagami First Nation youth were taught safe boating activities, swimming skills and water safety awareness. Water Safety awards were given to participants on the last day of events.

Darlene Naveau, Community Health Representative (CHR) coordinated the program and assisted parents who brought their children to the beach for lessons. A

community barbecue was also set up to encourage participation.

Community members were happy to see the program brought to Mattagami First Nation and they were interested in continuing their children's water safety training during the rest of the year.

"I would like to thank the instructors, Kayla, Natasha, and Ashley who were willing and able to travel to the community everyday and teach the program. A special thank you to Darlene Naveau for coordinating the program and recognizing the importance of water safety for the children in the community," said Laura Imhoff, Community Service Coordinator, Canadian Red Cross, Timmins.



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY CANADIAN RED CROSS, TIMMINS

ASHLEY KULLAS (STANDING) WAS ONE OF THREE INSTRUCTORS WHO WORKED WITH MATTAGAMI YOUTH THIS SUMMER.

Five First Nation Graduates Head For Work At Young Davidson Mine



A HAPPY DAY FOR MINING AND FIRST NATIONS IN HONOUR OF MATACHEWAN FN GRADUATES. FROM L-R ARE: (FRONT) WILLIE COWIE, MINING TRAINER; MELISSA GILBERT, GRADUATE; ANNE BATISSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MAATS; ELDER MARIE BOUCHER, JASON BATISSE, MAATS BOARD CHAIR / WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; COUNCILLOR LINDA COLLINS, MATACHEWAN FN AND JAMES REED, GUEST SPEAKER. IN SECOND ROW L-R ARE: JOE WOJTUS, NORTHGATE MINERALS CORP; TOM WADEY, NORTHGATE MINERALS CORP; RAY DURHAM, NORTHGATE MINERALS CORP; RENE BOUCHER, GRADUATE; JASON BATISSE, GRADUATE; DANIEL DENOMME, GRADUATE; PATRICK DENOMME, GRADUATE; PAUL COLLINS, IBA COORDINATOR, MATACHEWAN FN; JOE EVANS, DUMAS CONTRACTING AND PETER BARBER, DUMAS CONTRACTING.



HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO - THAT IS WHAT THESE FIVE MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION GRADUATES EXPERIENCED AS THEY WERE HIRED BY NORTHGATE MINERALS CORP. FROM L-R ARE: JASON BATISSE, PATRICK DENOMME, DANIEL DENOMME, MELISSA GILBERT AND RENE BOUCHER.

Matachewan First Nation and Northgate Minerals Corp are leading the way with the announcement of five First Nation graduates from Underground Miner Training who were hosted at a ceremony in Matachewan First Nation on May 27. This is the first group of a partnership program under the Matachewan Aboriginal Access to Mine Jobs Training Strategy (MAATS) where trainees on graduation were hired by the Young Davidson mine. It is also the first time the mine has hired a female underground miner.

"This is one of my dreams come

true actually, as I have wanted to work in a mine since I was about 12 years old. People didn't think girls did things like this. I am really grateful to the leadership of Matachewan First Nation and Northgate Minerals for giving me this opportunity. I am so proud to be the first underground female miner to be working at Northgate," said 18 year old Melissa Gilbert, of Matachewan First Nation.

The five graduates included Gilbert, Jason Batisse, Rene Boucher, Daniel Denomme and Patrick Denomme, all Matachewan First Nation members. Elder Marie Boucher, who did the

opening prayer was happy to see her grandson Rene among the graduates.

"I am so proud of all of graduates today and I thank the management at Northgate Minerals, our Chief and Council, Human Resources Skills Development Canada, our trainer and Wabun Tribal Council for making this day possible. Everyone put out a big effort and in particular Melissa Gilbert who was determined from the start to succeed in this program," said Anne Batisse, Executive Director of MAATS.

The success of the graduates was based on a program that featured

hands on training by trainer Willie Cowie, of Matachewan First Nation, Northgate Minerals management and Dumas contracting personnel.

"This was a very positive experience for these young graduates and everyone involved. This mine will have a long life and we are hoping that these graduates will excel and move up the ladder and who knows maybe one of them will have my job some day," said Tom Wadey, Project Manager / Mining, Northgate Minerals Corp

Jason Batise, Chairman of the MAATS and representative of Wabun Tribal Council has been following the development of partnerships between Matachewan First Nation and Northgate Minerals Corp from the very beginning of the mine development.

"On behalf of the board of directors of MAATS, I want to congratulate all of our Matachewan First Nation graduates here today. In my 20 years in being involved in all kinds of training programs, this is the first time ever that I see our trainees graduating and going right into employment. This is just the tip of the iceberg and I look forward to watching many more of our young people being trained and finding employment at the local mine in the future," said Batise.

The event which was organized by Gail Brubacher First Nation Partnership Coordinator, Northgate



FIRST FEMALE UNDERGROUND MINER AT YOUNG DAVIDSON MINE IN MATACHEWAN IS MELISSA GILBERT (CENTRE) SEEN HERE RECEIVING HER GRADUATION CERTIFICATE FROM JASON BATISE (RIGHT) MAATS BOARD CHAIR / WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL AND ANNE BATISSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MATACHEWAN ABORIGINAL ACCESS TO MINE JOBS TRAINING STRATEGY (MAATS).

Minerals Corp, featured retired school teacher James Reed as guest speaker. Reed is well known by the Matachewan First Nation membership as he taught grades three, four and five for decades.

Paul Collins, Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) Coordinator, Matachewan First Nation was on hand to welcome everyone to the graduation as a representative of Chief Richard Wincikaby who could not attend the event.

The successful graduates participated in this mining career program in preparation for employment at the Young Davidson Mine. The new mining development will provide jobs for 600 people during the two year construction period and long term employment for 275 individuals over the 15 year life of the mine. The company is aiming to commission the Young Davidson mine and start gold production in 2012.

During mine development, the company worked closely with the various surrounding communities and in July 2009 signed an Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) with Matachewan First Nation, a member community of Wabun Tribal Council. Cooperation and partnership between Northgate, Wabun First Nations, the federal and provincial government has also provided a multi million dollar training program for Aboriginal people.

The Underground Miner Training was part of a MAATS four million dollar initiative that was announced on February 13, 2009 by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) as a three year partnership strategy. The strategy is supported primarily by HRSDC under the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program.



READY TO START WORK AT YOUNG DAVIDSON MINE ARE THESE MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION GRADUATES. IN FRONT ARE GRADUATES FROM L-R: JASON BATISSE, RENE BOUCHER, MELISSA GILBERT, PATRICK DENOMME AND DANIEL DENOMME. BACK ROW ARE TRAINER WILLIE COWIE, MATACHEWAN FN AND TOM WADEY, NORTHGATE MINERALS CORP.



PHOTO BY DOROTHY NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN

MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION HOSTED A RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE THE GRAND OPENING OF A NEW NISHNAWBE-ASKI POLICE SERVICES (NAPS) DETACHMENT BUILDING IN ITS COMMUNITY AUGUST 19. PICTURED L-R ARE: GRAHAM GLEASON, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES; SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; ACTING CHIEF ROBIN JONES, NISHNAWBE-ASKI POLICE SERVICES (NAPS); FRANK MCKAY, NAPS BOARD INTERIM CHAIR; SHAMMI SANDHU, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY; COUNCILLOR JENNIFER CONSTANT, MATTAGAMI FN AND SYDNEY CONSTANT, MATTAGAMI FN YOUTH.

Mattagami FN Celebrates Opening Of New NAPS Police Building

The community held a grand opening for a new Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS) detachment building for their First Nation on August 19.

Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS) detachment buildings in NAN in recent years have been developed as prefabricated buildings that are imported into the First Nations. This time through lobbying and cooperative efforts the community supervised the ground up construction and some employment opportunities were provided for members of Mattagami First Nation.

Construction of the new detachment building in the community was made possible through efforts of Mattagami First Nation, Wabun Tribal Council, NAPS and the funding support of the federal and provincial governments. The \$1.2 million building was funded 52 percent by the federal Ministry of Public Safety Canada and 48 percent by the provincial Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The new state of the art 2,500 square foot facility will provide an

independent office space and purpose built garage for local NAPS officers.

Guest speakers who offered their words of support and congratulations included: Shawn Batise, Wabun Tribal Council; Acting Chief of Police Robin Jones, NAPS; Frank McKay, NAPS Board Interim Chair; Graham Gleason, Ontario Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services, and Shammi Sandhu, Manager, Operations (Ontario, BC, Atlantic and Yukon), Public Safety Canada.

"We are very happy to see this development in our community. It shows that we are capable of taking care of our people and that we can be independent. This new building also demonstrates to our young people that we value having First Nation run organizations and services and it encourages them to pursue careers that are supported in their home community," said Chief Walter Naveau.

NAPS leadership has been very supportive of the initiative and have worked with the First Nation to make the new police detachment a reality.

"This is a first for NAPS in terms of constructing a purpose built facility in a First Nation community. I think the day can be summed up with the great sense of pride I saw in the people's faces at Mattagami during the grand opening. The building of this new facility was produced through the hard work and persistence of the First Nation and Wabun Tribal Council. This development will provide the community with a modern building they can be proud of and constructed under provincial policing standards," said Acting Chief Robin Jones, NAPS.

Shawn Batise, Executive Director for Wabun Tribal Council explained that although the community needed a building dedicated to NAPS the criteria for

funding made it necessary to use prefabricated modules. However with the efforts of Mattagami Chief and Council and the support of the Wabun Tribal Council a lobby effort resulted in allowing the community to construct the new NAPS building. The funding bodies had doubts that such a project if constructed by the community could be produced in time and in budget.

“We have a long history in developing and constructing infrastructure in our Wabun First Nations so we knew we could complete the project in time and on budget. We had to lobby to convince government that we could do it. I am happy to report that we actually finished the construction on time and on budget. This development increases community safety, heightens the role of First Nation police officers in the community and provides good role models for our young people,” explained Batise.

Acting Chief Jones explained that due to funding constraints NAPS does not have the capital available for building infrastructure. NAPS generally provides staffing who are usually housed in local community offices or if needed, prefabricated buildings can be imported into a First Nation to house the detachment. The new NAPS building in Mattagami First Nation resulted from an agreement by the community with the federal and provincial governments to fund the project.

In the past NAPS officers were merely housed in offices at the local



PHOTO BY DOROTHY NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN

COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHERED TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF A NEW POLICE SERVICES BUILDING IN MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION. PICTURED FROM L-R: ARE: CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, BETTY WHEESK, LISA HENDRY AND JAMES NAVEAU.

band administration building in the community. Often they had to leave the First Nation and travel to Ontario Provincial Police detachments in Gogama and Timmins to complete their duties. With the construction of the new facility the officers will spend more time in the First Nation.

Officers now have a secure location in which to store their equipment and sensitive documents. The building was constructed with specific requirements by NAPS to provide safety and security for personnel, their equipment and individuals who are being detained. Emergency systems such as sprinklers are built in and security is maintained by automated systems and cameras. The facility can also

accommodate visiting personnel and can be used in times of emergency.

Chief Naveau expressed his thanks to all who attended the event and contributed to the development of the NAPS building.

“This new police services building represents a phenomenal change for our community. It shows that we are asserting ourselves in all areas of development. I am grateful to Wabun and our member Chiefs for their support in this endeavour and to Shawn Batise and Jason Batise of Wabun Tribal Council for their direct assistance. I also want to thank our community leadership and members for their support and encouragement in making this a reality,” said Chief Naveau.



PHOTO BY DOROTHY NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION WAS A LARGE CONTINGENT INCLUDING LOCAL LEADERSHIP, DIGNITARIES AND THE PUBLIC.



Fourth Ann

Grand Chief Stan Beardy, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN), Elders, community facilitators, an amazing traditional dance group and First Nation youth from Wabun Tribal Council communities made the Fourth Annual Wabun Tribal Council Youth Gathering a resounding success. The two week long event, which was held at the Eco Centre Lodge in Elk Lake from July 19 to 30, drew more than 80 First Nation youth from the Wabun First Nations of Mattagami, Brunswick House, Beaver House, Flying Post, Matachewan and Wahgoshig.

"Our youth are our future. We need to nurture them so that we can help them create a future that we can all be proud of. I feel that there should be proper support for events such as this from government and from our First Nation leaders. When young people gather like this, they need to know that their communities, their people and their leaders are there to support them," said Grand Chief Beardy.

The event was divided into two parts. The first week from July 19 to 23 was held for youth aged from eight to 12, in a group called the Little Eagle Clan and the second week from July 26 to 30 was for youth aged 13 to 18 in a group titled Eagle Clan.

The Little Eagle Clan event was supervised by chaperones Chad Boissoneau, Eileen Boissoneau and Deanna Hyde, of Mattagami FN; Paul Chokomolin, Wahgoshig FN; Marcia Brown, Beaverhouse FN and Bev Perreault, Chapleau Ojibwe FN. Youth Chaperones during the first week of the gathering included: Jaimee Roy and Holly Boucher, Matachewan FN; Lorelie Mathews, Wahgoshig FN, Sydney Constant, Mattagami FN and Jamie-Lynn McWatch, Brunswick House FN.

Chokomolin provided a workshop for youth on creating a traditional hand rattle. He explained that one of the reasons this event came together was due to the lack of traditional knowledge that was being taught to youth.

On another day of activities during the first week, Brown led the Little Eagle Clan group in creating dream catchers and shared her knowledge on the teachings of this traditional craft.

Chad Boissoneau, former Chief and councillor of Mattagami FN has been involved in the forestry and resource development fields for many years so it was a good fit that he provided a workshop on 'compass, map reading and learning about our trees'.

"I never had this type of opportunity when I was young. It is awesome that our youth get to be involved with other communities and different age groups. The last few days have been spectacular and I am thankful to our Wabun communities for sponsoring this youth gathering," said Chad Boissoneau.

Little Eagle participants experienced many activities during their week which included plenty of traditional teaching.

The two week long event also provided

the opportunity for young people to swim and play in their free time as the resort is located on waterfront.

The Little Eagle's week of events provided younger individuals with hands on learning workshops. This gave an opportunity for facilitators to provide cultural teachings while also providing youth with traditional items such as the rattle and dream catcher to take home.

"Our theme for this gathering is the teachings of the seven grandfathers, one of which includes the teachings of trust. We need to teach our young people the ability to trust our Elders, trust one another and trust themselves.," said Mike Archer, Regional Crisis Coordinator, Wabun Health Services.

On Thursday July 29, during the Eagle Clan week of events, Grand Chief Beardy, NAN attended the gathering with a delegation from his office. Grand Chief Beardy provided a presentation to youth where he spoke about the current state of

JUNIOR YOUTH TOOK PART IN THE WABUN YOUTH GATHERING DURING THE FIRST WEEK.



MARCUS PAHTAYKEN, YELLOW RIBBON DANCERS, PERFORMS FOR YOUTH



MARCIA BROWN-MARTEL, BEAVERHOUSE FN SHARED TEACHINGS ON THE DREAMCATCHER.



ELDER EMILE DUROCHER, LED YOUTH IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND TEACHINGS OF A SWEAT LODGE

ual Wabun Youth Gathering



CHAPERONE DEANNA HYDE, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION, ASSISTING YOUTH



ELDER EMILE DUROCHER AND THE YELLOW RIBBON DANCERS



MIKE ARCHER, WABUN HEALTH WITH ANGELINA WELLS, BEAVERHOUSE FN AT THE YOUTH GATHERING



SENIOR YOUTH GATHERED FROM WABUN'S FIRST NATIONS DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF EVENTS

progress in the NAN territory but also to ask for feedback and input from the youth in attendance. NAN representatives who attended the event included: Catherine Cheechoo, Oshkaatisak Coordinator; Christine Simard, Director of Women's Development; Deanna Therriault, Director of Communications; Luke Hunter, Land, Rights, and Treaty Research and NAN Summer Student Melinda Tate, Deer Lake FN.

The Yellow Ribbon Dancers, a traditional dance group from Edmonton, Alberta provided several workshops and presentations to youth during the second week for the Eagle Clan youth group. During the week long gathering, several workshops were led by facilitators Adrian Lachance, Rocky Dumais, Marcus Pahtayken and Elder Emile Durocher.

"We wanted to make good connections with the youth to our ancestral ways in conducting ceremonies. We were supported by our Elder who was also instrumental in teaching me what I know now. This

gathering was a way for us to share the teachings and experiences we have gained over the years," said Lachance.

The Yellow Ribbon Dancers also led the senior youth in the traditional and ceremonial practices of building and using a sweat lodge. The traditional dance group provided workshops on native spirituality, traditional teachings, as well as drug and alcohol issues, suicide and social youth issues.

Lachance, Dumais and Pahtayken performed traditional dance in full regalia for participants and guests during the second week of the gathering. They also provided workshops on the history, types and ceremonies of traditional dances.

Many of the youth attending this year's event have actually participated in the gathering in previous years.

"It felt good to learn about my culture, about life and what I have to do to be positive. I learned a lot this year and in past years. I am really thankful to the communities that have supported this event," said 16 year old Rachel Corbiere-Tangie, Brunswick House FN.

Seventeen year old Aaron Lockwood, of Wahgoshig FN explained that the workshops provided him with an insight into many of the issues affecting his community and how

to deal with them.

Eagle Clan Chaperone Sandra Roy, Matachewan FN, who works with Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services explained that the Wabun Youth Gathering has provided her work with the added support she needs to help her community members.

Chaperones from each of the communities that attended explained that they felt a sense of pride in seeing young people from their First Nation taking part in the gathering.

"Gatherings like this are good for our youth as it builds their self esteem and allows them to meet new people from our territory. We are one nation so it is good for us to be able to come together. I am thankful to Wabun and our First Nation for supporting this event," said Lisa Ojeebah, Brunswick House FN, Eagle Clan Chaperone.

Chief Gloria McKenzie of Beaverhouse FN attended the gathering to provide her support. She explained that because of her traditional background of living on the land with her family, it is important for young people today to learn the same values and traditions through events such as the Wabun Youth Gathering.

"They are the new generation and they are growing fast so it is important for us to support and encourage them. Our youth are eager to understand what is happening in their lives and when they listen to others share their life experiences, it gives them the tools they need to deal with the challenges they will face in their lives," said Chief McKenzie.

Continued On Pg 16

Ground Breaking In Matachewan Launches \$1.5 Billion Mine

Matachewan First Nation welcomed a host of dignitaries to a ground breaking ceremony of the \$1.5 billion Young Davidson Mine on their traditional lands September 10.

Northgate Minerals Corporation officials were joined by Provincial, Federal, First Nation, regional and municipal leaders in officially celebrating the rebirth of the historic gold mine destined to provide hundreds of jobs in a development that should run for at least 15 years.

"With this ground breaking we are now proceeding on to moving earth, constructing

buildings and starting to mine. It's going to be very exciting here for the next year and a half and we are very happy with developments in partnering with Matachewan First Nation," said Ken Stowe, President and CEO, Northgate.

Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, MPP Thunder Bay-Superior North commented that the Young Davidson mine is generating a substantial economic ripple and that the project is having and will continue to have a profound economic impact

on the region. He added that in making these substantial investments and advancing this project Northgate Minerals has been a model corporate citizen.

"The McGuinty government commends the company's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices in all phases of the mining cycle. We also praise your commitment to keeping local communities informed and involved throughout the process,

in particular, Northgate has been forthright and determined in its commitment to building relationships with local First Nations in the context of mineral development," said Minister Gravelle.

Elder Alfred Batisse, Matachewan First Nation led the event in an opening prayer and the Matachewan Women's drum group of Elder Marie Boucher,

start," said Chief Wincikaby.

David Ramsay, MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane gave thanks to the Matachewan First Nation for welcoming everyone onto their traditional lands.

"This is especially important for all of our municipalities who are really going to benefit from the incredible economic investment that Northgate is

making. I am also happy to make an announcement today that the Heritage Fund of Northern Ontario is providing a grant of almost \$900,000 to the Matachewan First Nation to improve the road from the reserve to highway 66," said Ramsey

Charlie Angus, MP Timmins-James Bay congratulated all those involved in the mining sector for sticking to their belief that better days would come along.

"This mine is extraordinary. To see the partnership with Northgate and Matachewan First Nation makes me particularly proud. As great as the gold and the copper and the diamonds are in the north, the greatest

resource has always been in its people," said Angus

Reeve Beverly Hine, Town of Matachewan, called her community a boom town that will be benefiting by the huge investment made at its doorstep.

"In Matachewan, upwards of 65 new homes will be built, many renovation projects and land sales have already taken place and several plans for residential, commercial and industrial development projects are currently



GROUND BREAKING IN MATACHEWAN LAUNCHES NORTHGATES YOUNG DAVIDSON MINE. FROM L-R ARE: DAVID RAMSAY, MPP TIMISKAMING-COCHRANE; MICHAEL GRAVELLE, MINISTER OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, MINES AND FORESTRY, MPP THUNDER BAY-SUPERIOR NORTH; KEN STOWE, PRESIDENT AND CEO, NORTHGATE; CHARLIE ANGUS, MP TIMMINS-JAMES BAY; CHIEF RICHARD WINCIKABY, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION AND REEVE BEVERLY HINE, TOWN OF MATACHEWAN.

Elder Vina Hendrix and Elaine Daley performed during the ceremony.

Chief Richard Wincikaby, Matachewan First Nation, expressed his satisfaction at the positive relationship developed from the very start between Northgate Minerals and his community.

"Northgate has developed a good working relationship with our First Nation throughout the years. To date there are 28 members from our First Nation working full time at the Young Davidson mine and this is just the



FIRST NATION EMPLOYMENT WAS HIGHLIGHTED DURING THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES AT THE YOUNG DAVIDSON MINE. FROM L-R ARE: LEONIL BOUCHER, COUNCILLOR, MATACHEWAN FN; CHIEF RICHARD WINCIKABY, MATACHEWAN FN; ANN BATISSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MAATS AND CHARLIE ANGUS, MP TIMMINS-JAMES BAY.

THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE YOUNG DAVIDSON MINE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STAKE HOLDERS TO MEET AND DISCUSS THE ONGOING SUCCESS OF THIS MINING PROJECT. FROM L-R ARE: ELDER ALFRED BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FN; DAVID RAMSAY, MPP TIMISKAMING-COCHRANE; CHIEF RICHARD WINCIKABY, MATACHEWAN FN; MICHAEL GRAVELLE, MINISTER OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, MINES AND FORESTRY, MPP THUNDER BAY-SUPERIOR NORTH AND PETER MACPHAIL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NORTHGATE.



THE TURTLE WOMAN DRUM GROUP OF MATACHEWAN FN PERFORMED A TRADITIONAL HAND DRUM SONG DURING THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES WITH NORTHGATE MINERALS CORP ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2010. PICTURED FROM L-R ARE: ELDER VINA HENDRIX, ELAINE DALEY AND ELDER MARIE BOUCHER AND LOOKING ON IS KEN STOWE, PRESIDENT AND CEO, NORTHGATE.



under development,” said Reeve Hine.

Recent exciting developments in exploration at the mine site have produced drilling results that point to significant additional gold resources. Over \$1.5 billion will be invested towards operating and capital costs during the life of the mine and the initial capital cost of the mine is expected to be more than \$340 million. The new mine will provide 180,000 ounces of gold per year or a total production of 2.5 million ounces over the next 15 years, at a net cost of \$350 per ounce. The mine will provide jobs for 600 people during the two year construction period and long term employment for 275 individuals.

The Young Davidson gold mine is located on the gold-rich Abitibi belt of northern Ontario, on the site of the

historic Young-Davidson and Matachewan Consolidated properties dating back to the 1930s. Northgate acquired the property in November 2005.

During mine development, the company worked closely with the various surrounding communities and in July 2009 signed an Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) with Matachewan First Nation, a member community of Wabun Tribal Council. Cooperation and partnership between Northgate, Wabun First Nations, the federal and provincial government has also provided a multi million dollar training program for Aboriginal people with the creation of the Matachewan Aboriginal Access to Jobs Training Strategy (MAATS). The training program has proven successful with the graduation of five Aboriginal trainees in

May 2010, who have all been hired by Northgate.

Northgate officials at the ground breaking also included: Peter MacPhail, Chief Operating Officer; Andrew Cormier, Project Manager; Tom Wadey, Project Manager; Jon Douglas, Chief Financial Officer and Chris Rockingham, VP, Exploration and Business Development. Other delegates in attendance included: Ontario Mining Association President Chris Hodgson; Tom Obradovich, who sold the property to Northgate Minerals; Bo McCloskey, Matachewan Consolidated and Jim Janzen, Project Senior Geologist.

Northgate Minerals Corporation is a gold and copper producer with mining operations, development projects and exploration properties in Canada and Australia.

Wabun Remembers Audrey Allaire (1965-2010)



Wabun Tribal Council has suffered a great loss. Audrey Allaire passed away November 4, 2010 at the Timmins and District Hospital at the age of 44, after a brief battle with cancer. She had become known over the years as

the face of Wabun as she had been in charge of Wabun's front office and executive assistant duties. She was the first point of contact for anyone visiting the organization's headquarters in Timmins or calling by phone.

Wabun Tribal Council Chiefs and Staff offer condolences to her family. Audrey is the daughter of Raymond and Dora Allaire and the fiancée of Pierre Dupuis. She is also survived by siblings, Brenda Parcher (Steve) of Kirkland Lake, Leroy Allaire (Lise) of Timmins, Richard Allaire (Christine) of Ottawa, Darrin Allaire (Theresa) of Kirkland Lake and Lorne Allaire (Andrea) of Prince Edward Island. In addition she is survived by her aunt Melva Commando and her uncle Ralph McKenzie (Helene) all of Notre Dame Du Nord. Audrey will also be missed by many nieces, nephews and great nieces and great nephews.

Audrey had many friends and she was well known and respected throughout the Wabun First Nations. She started her work with Wabun as a Secretary Trainee in 1992 and was hired soon after for a full time

position in September of the same year. She was rewarded for her competence and quality of work with the promotion to Executive Assistant. Before coming to Wabun she worked in the hospitality, food and beverage industry in Kirkland Lake.

Audrey's role over the years involved performing essential office duties for Wabun and she was responsible for assisting senior executive staff. She attended annual general and Board of Directors meetings to record minutes and transcribe them for distribution to staff and board members. She also handled office attendance, distribution of office mail, travel and accommodations for Board of Directors and senior staff and was responsible for the maintenance of the office. She also designed and implemented Wabun's web site.

In an interview with Wabun Sun back in 1999 Audrey commented, "I enjoy what I do and I like working with the people here. I meet a lot of the Wabun First Nation members who come into our office and I love the fact that I am usually the first to greet them when they come in."

Audrey pretty much ran the front office and put Wabun's best face forward with first contact at the reception area or on the phone. She was always kind and respectful to everyone while at the same time she had a strong presence that maintained a professional and positive atmosphere.

Audrey was always very professional and she did an extraordinary job in keeping things organized for Wabun. She was well known and appreciated by many throughout Wabun First Nations and she will be missed for her kindness and competence. She was highly



**AUDREY AT HER DESK AT THE WABUN
MAIN OFFICE IN 1999.**

proficient in working with computers and attended courses to enhance her skills in the latest technologies. A member of Matachewan First Nation, Audrey also had an Algonquin heritage and was originally from the Temiskaming Band in Quebec. She enjoyed golfing, fishing, darts, curling and being active outdoors.

The family expressed thanks to the doctors and staff who assisted Audrey at the Timmins and District Hospital and also the cancer clinic in Sudbury.

Audrey's funeral was held at the Holy Name of Jesus church in Kirkland Lake on Wednesday, November 10. Wake services had previously been held in Timmins on November 8 and then again in Kirkland Lake on November 9 with funeral arrangements by Miron-Wilson Funeral Home in Timmins. In lieu of flowers the family has asked that any donations in Audrey's name should be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Diabetes Association and that can be done by visiting www.mironwilson.com



THE WABUN CHUB CLUB WAS A WEIGHT LOSS GROUP STARTED BY WABUN STAFF. FROM L-R ARE: PAULETTE MCKAY; AUDREY ALLAIRE; JENNIFER MCLEOD; ROSEANNE OJEEBAH; DARLENE ST. DENIS-LAFONTAINE; MARGARET MILLER AND CINDY GIGUERE.



HALLOWEEN FUN WAS ENJOYED BY WABUN STAFF MEMBERS FROM L-R: (HAPPY HOBO) MARGARET MILLER, (PRINCESS LEIA) PEGGY CLAVEAU, (FRIAR TUCK) PAULETTE MCKAY, (ELVIS) JULIE MCKAY AND (BATWOMAN) AUDREY ALLAIRE.

Wabun Tribal Council Mourns The Passing Of Elders

Wabun Tribal Council and its First Nations have suffered the loss of several well known elders recently. The Chiefs of Wabun and staff offer condolences to friends and families of Elders Laura Flood, Beatrice Goulais and Margaret Naveau.

Elder Laura Flood



Sadly, Elder Laura Flood passed away suddenly and peacefully at Kirkland and District Hospital Sunday August 8, 2010 at the age of 84. Elder Flood was born February 1, 1926 at Matachewan First Nation to Annie

(McLeod) and Harry Batisse.

She is survived by her children Lorne Davidson Flood (Eleanor); Laura Jean Flood (Nelson Costello); Dorothy Larkman; Terry Belinger; Lois (Dave) Dearden; John (Marney) Flood; Dan (Marlene) Flood; Barb Somerville; Velma (Fred) Nichol; Keith (Alice) Flood and Sheila (Don) Connors. In addition she leaves daughter in law Patricia Flood 34 grand children and 35 great grandchildren. Also mourning are her sister Elsie Plourde, brother Barney (Doreen) Batisse and 28 nieces and nephews.

Elder Flood was predeceased by her husband Wycliffe Davidson Flood as well as sons Clarence and Leonard. Also predeceased to her were daughters, Jean and Joyce (Flood) Nichol as well as brothers Felix, Eli, Mike, George and Larry. In addition she was predeceased by her sisters Louisa (Flood) Millen and Lorena (Flood) McKenzie.

The family received friends at the Matachewan First Nation Community Building Wednesday August 11 and the funeral was held Thursday August 12 also at the community building. The family asks that donations in her name be made to the Native Child and Family Services of Toronto (Grundy Lake Summer Camp), 30 College Street, Toronto, ON M5G 1K2.

Elder Flood was known as grandma to this very large extended family at the summer camp that she spent a number of

summers on until she retired at 75 years of age. Her main role in life was to encourage and assist others with her quiet, kind yet strong will. Elder Flood was also a fighter for womens rights and she managed to take the government of Canada to court over an unfair initiative known as the Enfranchisement Policy. This policy was passed in 1951 and resulted in many First Nation women giving up their legal status of an Indian. She won her case in March 2008 and in doing so corrected a major unjust and unfair policy towards First Nation women.

Elder Margaret Naveau



Margaret Naveau of Mattagami First Nation passed on October 30, 2010 at 62 years of age. Naveau, who had once served as Wabun's Executive Director, was a well known figure in her community and had held several leadership

positions over the years. At one time she was elected as Chief of her community and as well was being employed as Band Administrator and Band Manager.

Elder Margaret Naveau leaves behind her husband Normand, son Michael Gauthier (Sonya Lacombe) and daughters Dorothy Naveau (Curtis Fowler), Cathy Stoney (Stephen), Kim Naveau (Denis Legault) and Beverly Naveau (Brad Picody). She was a grandmother to Josh, Megan, Ryan, Jordan, Brandon, Kaneesha, Adam, Grayson, Jerrica, Amanda, Jacob, Sage, Isaiah, Brittany, Samara and Ambrose. She also leaves behind many friends from her community, the Wabun territory and the James and Hudson Bay coasts.

Elder Margaret Naveau was a sister of Mike Sutherland, Harriet Sutherland, John Sutherland, Alice Sutherland, Francine Sutherland, Ivan Sutherland and Celine Gagnon (Sutherland). Elder Margaret Naveau was predeceased by her mother Theresa Sutherland.

Elder Margaret Naveau had a Cree heritage and she was originally from Winisk

First Nation, the original community site for what is now known as Peawanuck First Nation on the Hudson Bay coast. She spoke the Ojibway dialect of Mattagami First Nation and also her Cree dialect of the Mushkego of James and Hudson Bay.

A visitation and gathering was held in the community on November 1 and a funeral service was held on November 2 at the Community Complex at Mattagami First Nation. Interment took place at the Mattagami First Nation Cemetery. In remembrance to Elder Margaret Naveau, the family requests donations be made to the Timmins and District Hospital Dialysis Unit.

Elder Beatrice Goulais



Elder Beatrice Goulais (nee Naveau) passed on October 24, 2010, at the Timmins and District Hospital, at the age of 77. She was a well respected woman throughout Wabun Tribal Council First Nations and was a participant

in Wabun's Annual Elder Gatherings. She always made time for her family and friends and was very helpful to many young people in her community. Elder Goulais and her husband Leo Goulais, who was a Pastor, were instrumental in establishing the Mattagami Full Gospel Church in 1985.

Elder Goulais is survived by her children Shirley Whitall (Bob) of Larder Lake, Douglas Goulais (Louise) of Val Caron and Allen Goulais (Anna) of Calgary; grandchildren David and Joe Whitall, Kayla, Tyler and Garrett Goulais and Kaitlin Goulais; great-grandchildren Tyson, Noah, Hannah, Abby, Helen and Olivia Whitall; sister Nancy Naveau and brother Mike Naveau.

Elder Goulais was predeceased by her husband Leo, siblings Julia, Jane, Clara, Lena, Irene, Bill, Stanley, Edward, Joseph, Mary and Edmund. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, October 27 at the Community Complex at Mattagami First Nation. Interment followed at the Mattagami First Nation Cemetery.

Men's And Women's Wellness Workshop Held In Timmins

Wabun First Nation members participated in a three day Men's and Women's Wellness Workshop to gain skills and knowledge that will help them create a healthier family.

The workshop took place on October 19, 20 and 21 in Timmins and it was facilitated by Bea Shawanda and Byron Edgar, who specialize in health, leadership and multicultural training. Fourteen women and ten men from the Wabun territory came together to take part in the workshop that focused on training from an aboriginal perspective.

Participants were led by the facilitators in dealing with topics such as: building a better community, belief systems, the healing power of humour and laughter, roles of an individual in a relationship and how to foster a healthy relationship. Shawanda and Edgar provided informative presentations that included plenty of hands on activities and role playing sessions. Participants also learned about the effects of drug and alcohol abuse, family violence issues and generational behaviours in children.

"Many of us don't get to learn our proper roles as a parent or a partner in a

relationship, so workshops like this help people to understand what it means to be a mother, father, husband or wife," said Mike Archer, Regional Crisis Coordinator, Wabun Health Services.

He added that the past three workshops that have been held at the Timmins Inns And Suites in Timmins Ontario has brought good fortune to their group with the sighting of an eagle over the woods nearby.

"I have held countless workshops and gatherings in the past and this is the only time and place where we have witnessed an eagle visiting us during our workshop dates over three years. We take it as a sign that our First Nation members are taking in beneficial teachings to make a difference in their lives," said Archer.

Participants at the workshop included: Mattagami FN members Carl Trudeau and Francine Naveau; Brunswick House FN members Sylvia Redbreast, Darren Tangie, September

Saunders, Angela Saunders, Nancy Neshawabin, Rebecca Corbiere, Sharon Saunders and Trent Agawa; Wahgoshig FN members Michelle Mallette, Shawna Mallette, Sheila Scott, Kevin Singer-McKenzie, Victory Diamond, Paul Chokomolin, Oliva Sutherland, David Black, Pat Chokomolin Sr and Dave Black and Matachewan FN members Ellen Bruce, Gertrude Nolin, Elaine Daley and Sandra Roy.

This is the fifth annual Men's and Women's workshop that has been hosted by Wabun Health Services. Archer explained that this is part of a series of gatherings and workshops that Wabun Health has provided for community members including the annual Wabun Youth Gathering and Elders Gathering. These workshops are designed to encourage and guide participants in creating a healthier family circle.

"We understand that our people have had to deal with many social and



WABUN WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS PROVIDED BY BEA SHAWANDA AND BYRON EDGAR. THE GROUP IS PICTURED HERE IN A PAUSE FOR A PHOTO DURING THE THREE DAY EVENT.

PHOTO BY BYRON EDGAR

WABUN MEN DID THEIR BEST TO LEARN NEW SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO HELP THEM ARISE TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. WABUN HEALTH SERVICES HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE MENS AND WOMENS WELLNESS WORKSHOP FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

PHOTO BY BYRON EDGAR



generational issues like the effects of the residential school era. One of our goals is to start finding solutions to those problems by helping and supporting our people through regular gatherings and workshops," said Archer.

He explained that Wabun Health staff are beginning to see individuals moving from one age group to another. This is the first year that participants from the Youth Gathering have moved on to taking part in the Men's and Women's Wellness Workshops.

"I think that it is important to support our people from a young age because they will understand that help is always there when they need it. Life is not easy for a First Nation person and it is too easy for our young people to fall into the traps of addictions and family violence. These events and gatherings plant a seed in their minds that we need to deal with these important issues and that they can be supported and encouraged to lead a healthier way of life," said Archer.

Wabun Health staff are continuing this training and educational program and will be providing a Youth Suicide Prevention Workshop on December 14 to 16 to be held in Timmins. This workshop will be for front line health care workers including NNADAP Workers, Community Health Representatives, Community Crisis Coordinators, Family Support Workers and Educational Workers from Wabun's First Nations. Training and education, which will be provided by Bea Shawanda and Byron Edgar, will be focused on how to communicate and work with young individuals and teenagers about social issues and suicide.

The Youth Suicide Prevention Workshop will work in conjunction with an upcoming Youth Suicide Prevention Workshop For Youth to be held in March 2011. Individuals who attended the workshop in December will act as chaperones and support workers for their respective community youth during the March event. The Youth Suicide Prevention Workshop For Youth in March will be open to youth who are currently attending secondary and post secondary school. As an added incentive, participation by secondary school students will be counted as regular school attendance and they will also receive five hours of volunteering credits.

"These gatherings and events give our people a pause from their busy schedules to have a different perspective on their lives and their communities. It gives them an opportunity to meet new friends and maintain those friendships in an atmosphere of growth and development," said Archer.



MATTAGAMI FN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TOOK PART IN THE ANNUAL DIABETES EXPO. PICTURED IN BACK ROW, L-R ARE: JAKE SARAZIN, TEACHER / PRINCIPAL; CHRIS JOHNSON, 'DR LAUGH', WORKSHOP FACILITATOR; EILEEN BOISSONEAU, CHR, MATTAGAMI FN AND BRENDA MCKAY, TEACHERS AIDE. IN FRONT ARE STUDENTS, FROM L-R: NOLAN NAVEAU, JASON THERRIAULT, MADISON NICHOLAS, EMILY LUDEBECK, ETHAN MCKAY AND MAX WORME.

Wabun Plays A Major Role In Diabetes Expo

First Nation health care organizations including Wabun Health played an important role in organizing and supporting the annual Diabetes Expo in Timmins on October 1 and 2 and for good reason. It is estimated that 20 percent of the Aboriginal population lives with diabetes and the prevalence of type 2 diabetes is three to five times the national average. Non Native and First Nation health care professionals and community organizers pooled their resources and energies in staging the Expo with the strategy of providing as much information as possible about diabetes in an exciting, entertaining and educational way.

The two day event, which was held at the McIntyre Arena, featured youth programs, public workshops, health care and cooking demonstrations, guest speakers and children's activities. The first day focused on school children from the Timmins area, including a group from the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School of Mattagamí First Nation. They attended diabetes awareness presentations featuring Chris Johnson, a public speaker known as Dr. Laugh.

"This is the first generation of Canadian children that will not outlive their parents. This is the first time in history that this will happen and part of it is due to an inactive lifestyle. What we try to do is get kids active. We have to work like hell to get kids up and off their butts and be physically active," said Johnson, who has had to deal with diabetes.

Close to 300 elementary school students took part in the Expo.

Elizabeth Etherington who is originally from Attawapiskat First Nation shared her story as a diabetic. Etherington, who works with the Timmins Native Friendship Centre's Lifelong Care Program, has lived

with type 2 diabetes for the past 14 years.

Karen Sutherland, also of the Timmins Native Friendship Centre and a Diabetes Expo committee member, explained that diabetes awareness and healthy lifestyles is a critical message for Aboriginal people.

"I think it is important for us to have events such as this, especially for our children. We have to teach our youth about diabetes because they will be impacted the most by this disease.," said Sutherland.

The Saturday agenda for the Expo was open to the general public and once again Dr. Laugh entertained participants through fun educational activities and presentations. Workshops were also provided by Joe-Anne Chaput, RN, Lead Outreach Coordinator; NDRCC; Nathalie Guevin RD, CDE – Diabetes Education Centre and Tony Feretycki, The Footman.

"I am very happy that the Canadian Diabetes Association and Diabetes Education Centre originally pulled together a committee that led to the creation of the Diabetes Expo. Although there is a focus on the Aboriginal community because of the high rate of diabetes, this event was produced to be inclusive of the general public," said Peggy Claveau, Assistant Health Director, Wabun Health Services and a Diabetes Expo committee member.

Diabetes is on the rise and a report in early September 2010 released by the Canadian Diabetes Association detailed the growing number of Ontarians affected by diabetes. According to the report, an estimated 1,169,000 people in Ontario were diagnosed with type 1 or type 2 diabetes in 2010, or about 8.3% of the population. The number of people with diabetes in Ontario is expected to rise in the next decade to account for 11.9% of the population by 2020.

Wabun Youth Gathering

Continued From Pg 9

Mike Archer, Regional Crisis Coordinator, Wabun Health was the lead organizer of the event and he was assisted by Wabun youth, Wabun Health staff and community members. He explained that with the first group of youth, part of the role of providing local First Nation members as facilitators was to provide the youth with a resource person in their home community that they could connect to on return to their First Nation. He added that the second week's events, which were mainly constructed around the Yellow Ribbon Dancers, gave the older youth a memorable experience through traditional dance and teaching.

The Wabun Youth Gathering came out of the vision and guidance of the late Elder Thomas Saunders, Brunswick House FN, who wanted to see the Wabun communities coming together in one gathering. Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director spoke to the Eagle Clan gathering during the second week and explained that Elder Saunders shared this vision with her several years ago

and that this dream is now becoming a reality through the Annual Wabun Youth Gathering and the additions of the Elders Gathering and the Men's and Women's Conferences held each year.

"We are starting to see the formation of the community circle where these gatherings are encompassing all age groups and every member of our First Nations. This was the vision that Elder Saunders had asked us to follow. These gatherings are allowing our youth, our members and our Elders to reconnect to our cultural identity and bring the balance that we need in our lives," said Lemieux.

She added that these gatherings could not be possible without the support of the Wabun Board of Directors, who are the Chiefs of the Wabun First Nation communities.

"I give a big thanks to the Wabun Chiefs for their support over the years and to our Executive Director, Shawn Batise and the Wabun staff," said Lemieux.

Wabun Youth Gathering organizers are also grateful to Health Canada, First Nation and Inuit Health Branch for their support in previous years.

Matachewan FN Job Opportunities

Looking for a job? How about an opportunity to enter training programs to better your employment opportunities that may lead to not just a job but a career? The Economic Development Department of the Matachewan First Nation is here to help fulfill those dreams!

There are many opportunities within the Wabun Tribal Council area with local area businesses, contractors and mining companies. The Wabun area has been on the upswing for resource development and entering in Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA) with mining companies as well as entering into Joint Venture Agreements (JVA) with local contractors/companies who can offer short and long term employment.

The Economic Development Department is requesting all members to submit updated resumes and contact information. Various employment postings can be viewed on our website www.matachewanfirstnation.com and is updated regularly, please visit this site frequently.

As well on our web site there is a link to the MAATS site, please feel free to browse this site as there are many additional

training and employment opportunities there as well, we all work together to offer our band membership the opportunity for many career choices.

Remember we are here to offer you the assistance, your job right now is to make sure any past resumes that may have been submitted must have your current contact information and any updates to employment must be done regularly. If you see a job posting on our website, please contact me so I can forward your resume and cover letter to the company.

I also ask that you contact any family members that may not have internet access to call in; as well this will give the First Nation a chance to update their band member contact information database. Please make mention of this article at your next family gathering so we can reach all band members.

CONTACT:

Pam Cormier

1-866-781-4189 ext. 239

Ph (705) 565-2230 local call

Fax (705) 565-2585

Email: pam.cormier@xplornet.com

Scholarship Fund

The Wabun Tribal Council Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for available scholarships until the deadline of February 15, 2011.

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

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.



Wabun Sun

Publishing Editor: Shawn Batise

Editors: Mike McGrath /

Xavier Kataquapit

Wabun Tribal Council

313 Railway Street

Timmins, Ontario P4N 2P4

Ph. 705-268-9066

Fx. 705-268-8554

www.wabun.on.ca

www.wabunsun.com