

WABUN

Volume Seventeen Issue Two

Sun



INSIDE:

- History Made With Resource Revenue Sharing
- Wabun Youth Gathering 2018
- Wabun Health Participates In Health Transformation

REFLECTIONS



**Jason
Batise**
Executive
Director

With the arrival of 2019 all of our Wabun First Nations are well positioned to experience this year as a very positive and prosperous one. Through the vision and hard work of our Wabun Chiefs, Councils, Elders, management and staff things keep improving for all of our members.

The big news that we have all been anticipating has to do with Resource Revenue Sharing. This has to do with the fact that we managed to enter into an historical agreement with the Ontario Government that will provide us with income and benefit for all of our Wabun First Nations. You can read all about it in this issue of Wabun Sun.

Although we are disappointed in the delay in the development at the Cote Project which directly involves Mattagami FN and Flying Post FN we are also optimistic that this initiative will develop into a mine in the near future. You can read more on this news item in this issue of the Wabun Sun.

There is also a lot of news from our Wabun Health as outlined by our Health Director Jean Lemieux with stories on the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Health Transformation which we are actively participating in with both the federal and provincial governments. Our health staff is also currently involved in wrapping up the health transfer process.

All of our Wabun First Nations are reaping the benefits of so many good agreements the Wabun Chiefs, their councils and our management staff have negotiated over the years. People are employed, getting trained

and starting businesses. You will see a story in this issue on former Chief of Brunswick House FN, Kevin Tangie's Sunset Lodge that details his new and exciting business. I encourage Wabun members to give the lodge a visit for fishing, hunting and a vacation out on the land.

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Last fall I was honoured to receive the 2018 Award Of Recognition at the Annual Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund (NADF) Awards Ceremony held last October in Timmins. I am humbled at receiving such a prestigious award and I do so with full acknowledgement that I share this honour with all of you. In accepting an honour like this it is important to remember that our achievements here at Wabun have to do with the hard work and vision of our Chiefs, their Councils and all of our staff members here at Wabun and in our First Nations. We should

all be very proud of our accomplishments over the years and I want to give my thanks to all of you for the support, guidance and encouragement you have given me for going on 30 years here at Wabun Tribal Council.

I was a young man when I started with Wabun and over the years I have seen so much change. Happily all these changes have been very positive. We have always had the support of Wabun Chiefs and their Councils and everything we have managed to develop for our communities has been with the input of our Elders and our community members with transparency and honouring our culture, traditions and the land.

We are in fact a very big family and I have felt that connection from the day I started with Wabun. I have enjoyed welcoming so many new born into our Wabun family over the years and I know many of them and follow their development as they grow. I know many of their fathers, their mothers, uncles, aunts siblings and grandparents. We have connections that go far back and that has a lot to do with our culture and traditions. I see old friends at gatherings, Pow Wows and meetings all the time and I am grateful for that.

Sadly, I have also had to say goodbye to many of our Elders over the years and I remember them for blazing the trail for us. We are where we are today because of the wisdom, vision and efforts of those who came before us and I do my best to remember that with every new development or benefit we negotiate and acquire for our members.

Front Cover

THE NORTHERN WHITE MOON SINGERS are an all female hand drum group from Brunswick House FN who performed during the Wabun Youth Gathering Jr Week in Timmins July 16 to 20, 2018 at the Ramada Inn in Timmins. From L-R are: Drum Lead Samantha McWatch, Kelysta Redbreast, Emily Redbreast, Patience Saunders, Kiara Millen, Alexis Redbreast and Madison Saunders.

HEALTH MATTERS

Wabun Health Services management and staff want to wish everyone a healthy and happy 2019. I have had the privilege of being part of the success story here with Wabun Health now for so many years and I am excited at what the future holds for us all.

We are very proud of our achievements through the years and in fact we made an historical milestone when Wabun Tribal Council became the first Native organization in Ontario to take part in the Health Transfer process with Health Canada's First Nation and Inuit Health Branch in December 1993. Since then we have been recognized as one of the leaders in health services among our peers, First Nation government and non-Native government.

I have seen first hand the benefits and rewards of our work as our Wabun First Nations are more healthy, more progressive and more secure

We are so proud of all the great work our Wabun First Nation health services teams have been doing over the years from the time we made history in the province in 1993 when we made the transfer to providing health care for our own people by our people in their communities. Currently we are also participating in a Health Transformation process through Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) and you will find more information on this

story in this issue of Wabun Sun.

Our success has a lot to do with the fact that much of our programming and services are driven by our communities through our on site health workers, Chiefs and Councils and Elders. Often I am reminded by our Elders how difficult it was to access health care in our First Nations before Wabun Health came to be. We owe so much to our Wabun Chiefs and Councils and management who had to fight long and hard to convince governments to do the right thing and give us control over management and design of our own health programming for our people and by our people. Today things are very different for our Wabun members who have access to quality health care with services provided by health care professionals in our communities, transportation to health facilities for treatment, programming for Elders and our youth as well as adults with several initiatives and the development of employment and training in the health care area for our members.

Our agreement with Health Canada commits us to renew our Health Transfer Process with Health Canada's First Nation and Inuit Health Branch every five years and currently we are in that process. Every five years a renewed health transfer agreement with Health Canada requires the creation of updated community health care plans. To complete the community health care plans, Wabun Health staff meets with community health care team members and conducts a review and evaluation of services. This identifies any health care needs and allows Wabun Health to establish a community health plan.

Once the plan is accepted and the transfer renewed that plan becomes the working document for each individual Wabun First Nation for the next five years. The plan is a living document and allows for changes in terms of needs and updates in individual First Nations. This process works well for us as it gives us the opportunity to review and update

**Jean
Lemieux**
Health
Director



the current situation in our First Nations in terms of so many things including population, births, infrastructure, development, our emergency measures and pandemic plan. The process ensures that we are providing the best possible health care to our members with current and up to date information and with their input.

Gone are the days 40 years ago when we had no health services or programming in our First Nations here at Wabun. Back in those days our members had little access to health care and people found it very difficult to reach out for medical care and navigate the health care system. Through the vision and efforts of our Chiefs, Elders and management, we now have our very own health care system that represents, advocates and educates our members in every one of our communities. I have seen first hand the benefits and rewards of our work as our Wabun First Nations are more healthy, more progressive and more secure.

When we are faced with problems and emergencies in our Wabun communities we are able to act quickly and make sure that our members are understood and represented at all levels to provide solutions that keep us safe. We have our own people caring for each other in health care and that means our members are not mere numbers in a huge system but rather they have a presence with direct knowledge of their health history, medical issues and needs. They are not alone and have our health care workers and staff advocating for them. That's a big deal.

Featured Elder Clara Prince

Elder Clara Prince is the featured Elder for this issue of Wabun Sun. Elder Prince, who is 81 years of age, resides in Mattagami First Nation with her family. She is a respected Elder and Ojibwe language teacher who is a member of Nipissing First Nation.

She was born and raised in a traditional setting with her family near the small town of Cutler, Ontario, which is located near Serpent River First Nation off of Highway 17 between Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, Ontario.

Her parents were Elizabeth and Russell Commanda, who have relations from the Sturgeon Falls and Nipissing First Nation areas. Elder Prince's early life was difficult as her father passed away when she was four years of age. Her mother remarried to Frank Contin and it was decided that her daughter would be raised by another family they knew. As a child, Elder Prince was raised by Mr and Mrs John Lewis, who were part of the Serpent River First Nation. Mr and Mrs John Lewis, were the parents of Agnus Commanda, the wife of Joe Commanda, who is the brother of Elizabeth. Elder Prince's mother Elizabeth passed away at the age of 59 in 1974 from diabetic complications.

"Life was good with my new family. I learned to work a lot as we lived on the land. We fetched our own water, we cut our own wood and we lived off the land. It was a lot of hard work. I learned how to set snares for animals and helped with moose and deer hunting. We also smoked a lot of our food and I was taught how to cut thin strips of meat for smoking so that we could store our food," said Elder Prince.

Their family maintained a small smoke shack made of tin to smoke all their food. She learned how to survive on the land and was taught how to prepare, skin and treat animal hides and furs, as well as the preparation and pre-



MATTAGAMI FN POW WOW ELDER CLARA PRINCE (CENTER) IS GREETED BY DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN). FROM L-R ARE: DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF JASON SMALLBOY, NAN (BACK); POW WOW ELDER ALEX JACOBS, NIPISSING FN (FRONT), ELDER PRINCE, DGC NAVEAU AND LORRAINE NAVEAU.

servation of the meat that was collected. They also maintained a small farm of horses and chickens.

"I learned a lot from my family. We all spoke our Ojibwe language and they taught me about the medicines I could collect from the land. I learned about medicines like the plant we call Weekeh, or as it is known in English as flag root. It was used to make a powerful tonic to treat heart troubles or to keep your energy up. I still see many traditional drummers at Pow Wows who chew on this root to help them. I use it myself and when I feel a cold or flu coming on. I make it into a hot drink and it helps me. It is a powerful plant," said Elder Prince.

She was also taught how to respect the land and the environment in everything she did.

"My family and my Elders taught me that before taking anything from the land, we should give something back in return. Whenever we picked up plants or medicines or had a good hunt or collected animals from a trap, we put tobacco down as a sign of respect. We never just take, we always have to give something back," said Elder Prince.

She attended her early education at a one room school house in Cutler, Ontario.

"Everyone was at that schoolhouse from grades one to eight. I finished when I was 15 and they wanted to send me to residential school but my adopted parents did not want that. I was

lucky to avoid residential school but I wanted to take my high school so I took lessons through a correspondence course for a couple of years. I was at home and I received my lessons there and then I mailed them back to be graded," said Elder Prince.

At the age of 24, she left the north in search of work in southern Ontario. She settled in Kitchener, Ontario and was employed at manufacturing jobs that were available there at the time. She worked for several years for manufacturers including garment supplier Arrow, that specialized in shirts and ties; Kaufman Footwear, that produced slippers and loafers and Electrohome, Canada's largest manufacturer of television sets at the time, who made television and radio sets.

While in Kitchener, she met her husband Ambrose Prince, a Polish Canadian who had moved from Ottawa, Ontario. They married during the Canadian Centennial year in 1967, settled in Kitchener and they had one son, Tom Prince.

In 1996, Elder Prince's husband passed away which left her living on her own. Her son Tom had made the move to Mattagami FN to be with his wife Sue Prince, who was a member of the community. Tom and Sue then asked their mother to live with them in Mattagami FN so that she could be closer to her four grand daughters Julia, Neebin and twins Shirley and Clara.

"I am really happy to be close to my family here and to see my granddaugh-



submitted Wabun Health photo
ELDER CLARA PRINCE

ters growing up and to see them become beautiful and strong young women,” said Elder Prince.

During her life in Kitchener, as someone who is fluent in her traditional language, Elder Prince was invited by a local school to teach the Ojibwe language, which she did for three years. When she moved north to Mattagami FN, she enrolled in a Native language program at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. She came back to Mattagami FN and taught the Ojibwe language for a while at the local elementary school.

“The first language I ever learned was Ojibwe, the Serpent River dialect. I remember being seven years of age and attending school for the first time and not knowing any English,” said Elder Prince.

She has mostly retired from language teaching but when she is able, she continues to provide some traditional language services and translations.

She encourages young people to remember their heritage and to also gain as much modern education as possible.

“Our youth should go out to get as much education as possible. They need as much knowledge as possible so that they can have more of a chance at doing so many things in this world. They should also remember their past, their Elders and their ancestors so that those old ways are not lost,” said Elder Prince.

One way she has maintained a link to her past is with traditional corn soup. She makes the soup using a recipe she learned from her family. Elder Prince introduced this old recipe to the community and it is now enjoyed by everyone. She even hosted a workshop to show others how to make this meal.

“I’ve been making this soup all my life and I learned how to make it from my adopted parents. We have it now every year during our community feast at the annual Pow Wow,” said Elder Prince.

She continues to serve her community when she is able and has been honoured several times as Head Grandmother Elder for the Annual Mattagami FN Pow Wow. She is also regularly invited to take part in events and gatherings to serve as an Elder representative.

“On behalf of the Wabun Health Care Team, we would like to thank Elder Clara Prince for her dedication, time and knowledge she has shared with everyone at our health care events,” said Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director.

Wabun Participates In Health Transformation

Wabun Tribal Council’s Wabun Health department is participating in a Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) process towards health transformation with the federal and provincial governments. The process was started through a NAN resolution Call for Declaration of Public Health Emergency for First Nations throughout the NAN area. This declaration was based on the Sioux Lookout Chiefs Committee on Health and the NAN Executive. The declaration is based on an assertion of inherent treaty rights of NAN members for equal opportunities for health, including access to appropriate, timely, high quality health care, regardless of where a member lives, what they have or who they are. This process of Health Transformation was put in place with a commitment to self determination of the First Nations over health and a focus on bringing back accountability, responsibility and resource allocation to NAN communities. This was done with the intent of changing the current colonial system to a new one based on the needs and priorities communicated by the NAN First Nations.

To move ahead with the NAN public health declaration, First Nation leadership met with the Ontario and federal Ministers of Health on March 31, 2016 and specifically with NAN communities and agreed to proceed with transformative change in regards to First Nations health. The next step was a development titled Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in NAN territory which was mandated by NAN and signed on by NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Minister Jane Philpott for Canada and Minister Eric Hoskins for Ontario on July 24, 2017.

On the basis of this charter, NAN has been proceeding with Health Transformation through many sessions involving input from its’ First Nations leadership, health directors and organizations. The First Nations will be engaged at all levels so that members voices are heard and incorporated into community based programming.

The process involves a commitment so that First Nations have equitable access to care delivered within their community. To support the NAN Health

Transformation process the Federal and Ontario governments agreed to develop new approaches to improve the health and health access including the following: access at the community level, to support the ability of First Nations communities and organizations to deliver their own services, to propose policy reform and explore legislative changes to design a new health system for the NAN territory including sustainable funding models and decision making structures and to remove barriers caused by jurisdiction, funding, policy, culture and structures so that First Nations can deliver better plan, design and manage their own services.

“We need a system that is driven by our own communities so that we control more directly our funding as it meets our individual community needs and with less bureaucracy and more efficiency. This is all about our general commitment to our First Nations in terms of self sufficiency,” commented Lemieux.

On November 14, 2017 Ovide Mercredi was appointed the NAN Health Transformation Lead and Negotiator and the NAN Health Transformation Advisory Council and the Chiefs Council on Health Transformation were created to guide the Health Transformation process. On November 16, 2017 a major Health Summit was held in Timmins, Ontario with the purpose of identifying a pathway to achieving a First Nations health and wellness system for the NAN territory. The consensus was that the government partners show their commitment. The process continues with work sessions involving all stakeholders and government partners.

“We are still early in this process and a lot more work has to be done but we are on our way. My hope is that at one point we come up with a system that better serves our members more directly and with more efficiency. We have come a long way with our achievements at Wabun Tribal Council’s Health Department and our First Nations over the past decades have made historical milestones recognized across Canada. This process should lead us to even greater milestones,” commented Lemieux.

Wabun Youth Gathering 2018

The 12th annual Wabun Youth Gathering for the summer of 2018 featured a Junior event that ran July 16 to 20 at the Ramada Hotel in Timmins and a Senior week at the Elk Lake Ec lodge in Elk Lake, Ontario from August 13 to 17.

The junior event with teachings in traditional language, Indigenous historic games, dance and culture had to be moved at the last minute from the Elk Lake venue to the Timmins Ramada Inn due to large forest fires in the area.

Elders assisting with the junior event included Vina Hendrix of Matachewan First Nation and Walter Naveau, Deputy Grand Chief of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and former Chief of Mattagami First Nation.

"I was so pleased to be invited to this event as it has to do with our most precious resource, our children. It was very satisfying to see these youngsters provided with teachings of our traditional language as well as traditional and cultural knowledge. It made me emotional to see that finally our children are getting to know who they are and where they come from," explained Deputy Grand Chief Naveau.

The key traditional facilitators included Lamarr Oksasikewiyin, Sweetgrass First Nation, Saskatchewan; Cody McGregor, Whitefish River First Nation, Manitoulin Island and Gabriel Whiteduck of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

During the week the youth were provided teachings by the facilitators on a rotating basis. Oksasikewiyin, who has much knowledge in hundreds of traditional indigenous games and puzzles, led them in traditional activities and taught teachings associated to this history. He also held a presentation on

his form of grass dancing and the story behind his Pow Wow dance regalia.

McGregor provided detailed instruction on the Ojibwe language in an easy and fun learning format. He also acted as Master Of Ceremonies and sang rap music while being the DJ for social dance events in the evening.

Whiteduck was joined in his teaching sessions by his partner Jahna Sutherland and their young daughter Journey. This dynamic team provided teachings and demonstrations on Pow Wows and what is involved in drumming and dancing.

Chris McKay, Mattagami First Nation, visited the event to see his two daughters Nakia and Mahdabiibn as they took part in the activities. They are all big believers in the annual Wabun Youth Gathering.

"As a parent it is fantastic to see my two daughters taking part in this event. When I think back to when I was a youth we had some cultural experiences but not to this level or degree of supported programs that Wabun provides in cultural teaching and language. I'm starting to learn from my girls now as they are learning more through these gatherings," said Chris McKay a prominent First Nation consultant.

His daughters were excited about their participation in the event.

"We got to learn about our language and how to Pow Wow dance which was exciting. It felt good to meet new people and it was fun to be able to play with new friends," commented Nakia while her sister Mahdabiibn explained, "This gathering is different from what we do in school and anywhere else. We get to learn about culture and our language and have lots of fun at the same

time"

The youngsters enjoyed beach time at Hershey Lake and bubble soccer fun at the Mountjoy Historical Participark in Timmins. The traditional female drum and singing group, Northern White Moon Singers, Brunswick House FN, led by Samantha McWatch held regular performances during the week. A big drum performance was also held with singers Nathan Naveau, Mark Carpenter and Gabriel Whiteduck.

The Senior week for youth ages 14 to 19 was run at Elk Lake once the forest fires had subsided.

"This was a very exciting week for all of us as there was a mix of three different types of education that we provided for our youth. It is so special to see these young men and women every year and to watch them become strong individuals," said Faye Naveau, Regional Crisis Coordinator for Wabun Health Services.

Three different workshop events were rotated throughout the week to provide youth with a variety of activities. A series of personal wellness, drug abuse awareness and healing strategies were provided by a Community Wellness Development Team (CWDT). This team included facilitators Ron Kanutski, Team Member; Crystal Morrison, Consultant / Youth Role Model and Janey Puurula, Team Coordinator. CWDT, under Dilico Anishinabek Family Care based in Thunder Bay, is an education and support program for northern First Nations to deal with opiate drug abuse issues. Cody McGregor, of Whitefish River First Nation, Manitoulin Island provided a series of Native language sessions for youth. McGregor, who is a trained Native language teacher, also produced original musical performances and as well as DJ for evening entertainment and dances. Lamarr Oksasikewiyin, of Sweetgrass First Nation, Saskatchewan, introduced youth to traditional games and activities. Oksasikewiyin, who is a traditional knowledge keeper and teacher, has accumulated knowledge of over a hundred indigenous historic games.

Alicia Topp, for the Tobacco Wise program, which is part of the Cancer Care Ontario's Aboriginal Tobacco Program provided an afternoon informational session on smoking cessation.

Elder Daisy Naveau, of Mattagami First Nation, assisted organizers by acting as chaperone, support worker and by leading in daily ceremonies.

"I felt good in seeing our young people learning about our past and especially our language. Our youth need to remember our past and where we come from. There was good feeling here and a positive spirit and that is exactly what our young people need," said Elder Naveau.

Brooke Collins, a 16 year old youth participant from Matachewan First Nation took

For more information visit:

www.wabunyouthgathering.com



JUNIOR GROUP - WABUN YOUTH GATHERING - RAMADA INN, TIMMINS - JULY 16 TO 20, 2018

part in many traditional games during the event.

"One of my favourite activities this week was in learning about the traditional games from Lamarr as he made everything fun and super interesting. It was also special for me to learn about our traditional language from Cody also," said Collins.

The planning and organization of the gathering involved many people.

"We are very thankful to our Elders Daisy Naveau, Vina Hendrixs, Deputy Grand Chief Walter Naveau and to all our chaperones who take time from their busy lives to look after our youth at the annual events. We would not be able to accomplish this without the help of so many people from our leadership, our office, our communities and the families of the youth participants. Most of all, we are grateful to the youth for their participation and enthusiasm year after year. This gathering is the result of support and encouragement from all of our Wabun Chiefs and our Executive Director Jason Batise," said Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director.

The senior youth also enjoyed social events and free time to renew old friendships and foster new ones. Traditional singing and drumming was also a highlight that was led by organizer Faye Naveau, Debbie Proulx-Buffalo, Mental Wellness Team Worker for



SENIOR GROUP - WABUN YOUTH GATHERING - ELK LAKE, ONTARIO - AUG 13 TO 17, 2018

Wabun Health; Crystal Morrison and youth singers: Kaytlyn Julien, Taylor McMillen, Rianna Alberta, Dreyden Saunders and Ethaniel Wesley.

These Wabun Youth Gathering events were made possible through the vision and dream of Wabun Elder Thomas Saunders of Brunswick House First Nation who lobbied for a youth gathering. Sadly, he passed on

before his dream came to be but his legacy lives on.

Wabun Tribal Council is a regional territorial organization which represents the six First Nation communities of Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibwe, Flying Post, Matachewan and Mattagami in North-eastern Ontario and it is directed by its respective Chiefs.

Faye Naveau Moves To Kunuwanimano



**Faye Naveau,
Regional
Crisis
Coordinator**

Faye Naveau, Regional Crisis Coordinator for Wabun Tribal Council, has moved on to take the position of Child Protection Worker with Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services in Timmins.

"We will miss Faye as she has been a key team player here at Wabun Health and she has contributed much time, effort and skill in assisting our Wabun members. She was instrumental in running many programs and in particular had much success with our Wabun Youth Gatherings. We wish her all the best in her career move and we will be staying in touch," commented Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director.

With her move to Kunuwanimano, Naveau brings a wealth of expertise in working with First Nation youth and Elders. She is well known and respected for her social work skills, dedication to her clients and caring with strength and commitment.

"I am going to miss my family at

Wabun Tribal Council. I really feel like I was part of the family of Wabun and Jean Lemieux has been a terrific director that was open to my ideas and very proactive. She has such a big heart and I am thankful for the opportunity to have worked five years with her and the staff at Wabun, the leadership of Wabun, their First Nation councillors and staff and of course our Elders and youth," explained Naveau.

Her move to Kunuwanimano is heartfelt as her father, former Chief of Mattagami First Nation, Lawrence Naveau was a key founding member of the organization.

"I believe that a move is good for the growth of an individual and although it is always difficult to leave somewhere you are comfortable and supported, it is also necessary to step outside of that comfort zone and face new challenges. Working for Kunuwanimano has great meaning for me as I follow in the footsteps of my father who was integral in providing the vision for and in developing the organization. He did this because of his love of children and concern for what was happening to our First Nation families with tragic separations, ignorance and lack of respect and I intend to dedicate myself to keeping his vision for Kunuwanimano alive," explained Naveau.

She brings a wealth of personal and professional experience through more than 30 years of being involved in administrative and health care related positions. She started as a Health Care Aide in 1985 and

then moved on to complete a Social Service Worker Program and graduated with honours in 1992. At the same time in 1992, she was involved as a member of a steering committee for Aboriginal Health that would eventually form the Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre (CHC) in Timmins. She lived in Sarnia, Ontario for a time where she took additional training and education as a Computer Programmer Analyst and in Executive Office Administration. Naveau moved back to Timmins and in 2001 worked for the Timmins and District Hospital as a Medical Transcriptionist. She also worked for the Community Access Centre in Timmins to provide Administrative Support. At one time, Naveau also lived in Sudbury, where she worked for the Metis Nation of Ontario and at a local doctor's office that specialized in geriatric care. She is a member of Mattagami First Nation.

One of her loves has to do with acting and she has appeared on stage in several productions. Currently she is with Take Two Theatre in Timmins and has made appearances in several of their productions.

"I really value my time in theatre as it is a social scene for me and an opportunity to learn so much in terms of communication and expression of art performance. I am also involved in First Nation cultural and traditional pursuits and have performed in local women's drum and singing groups as well as having attended many Pow Wows and ceremonies," commented Naveau.



Kevin Tangie Opens Sunset Lodge

First Nation owned and operated, the Sunset Lodge, near Brunswick House First Nation and the town of Chapleau, has enjoyed a successful first year of operation and is quickly developing as a first rate wilderness experience venue in Northern Ontario.



Kevin Tangie,
Owner/
Operater
Sunset Lodge

The lodge, owned and managed by Kevin Tangie, former Chief of Brunswick House FN and current Economic Development Officer (EDO) for Chapleau Cree FN, has had a good first summer season with only word of mouth promotion at this point.

"I am really enjoying my work here in Chapleau Cree as the EDO as the community is very progressive and proactive. There are many great things on the horizon in terms of development here. Of course I am still involved with my Sunset Lodge and will be putting people in place to run it for me for the busy summer season," explained Tangie.

He brings plenty of experience to his position as a resort owner based on his work in government as a Chief and Council member. He has also held positions in economic development, administration and management.

The Sunset Lodge was handed down to Tangie through family connections and since 1963 has been catering in the past to mostly hunting and fishing enthusiasts. Although Tangie plans to maintain the operation with these traditional pursuits in mind he also has plans on promoting the lodge as a wilderness experience with an emphasis on teaching and learning experiences for First Nation and non-Native young people.

"More and more communities, organizations and groups are realizing the value in providing our First Nation youth and non-Native young people with programming that involves wilderness environments, traditional and survival cultural teachings and life skill workshops. The Sunset Lodge is the perfect environment for this type of programming and it meets such an important

need in this modern day of constant bombardment with technology, peer pressure and the complexity of dealing with growing up," explained Tangie.

The Sunset Lodge opened in May of 2018 and during the summer hosted two groups of First Nation youth from Brunswick House FN. These sessions for the youth featured land based teaching and power point presentation on language, the medicine wheel, grandfather teachings as well as a craft component and survival activities instruction.

"It was very satisfying to see the youth enjoying a day out here at the lake and to know that they were learning something valuable. I saw them learning how to start a fire from scratch and how to prepare for a trip into the wilderness and what items to include in a pack. They also participated in bird house painting and I was amazed at some of the creations they came up with. They had a good lunch, shared stories on the land and there was much laughter," commented Tangie.

The Sunset Lodge also provided gifts of a warm hoodie adorned with the lodge logo for all youth participants and draws were made for additional gifts. Tangie is planning for more youth programming from the various First Nation and non-Native organizations and groups and as well in promoting the lodge as a great getaway and workshop venue for staff development with the corporate world and the various businesses, government agency and organizations. He is also maintaining the lodge as a popular first rate destination for hunting and fishing. The cabins are set up for self catering with stoves and fridges but catering can be provided for groups if the need arises.

Sunset Lodge is located on Unegam Lake 40 kilometers south of Chapleau off of Highway 129 on Sunset View Road. The main complex is 85 feet by 35 feet and can accommodate many people for workshops, classroom style learning and gathering needs. Six cabins are available and they have indoor plumbing as well as kitchens. All kitchen and cooking utensils as well as bedding are provided. The grounds are ideal for all sorts of outside events, campfires, gatherings and wilderness learning and has

great swimming with a designated beach area.

Hunting and fishing enthusiasts have been coming to the camp for decades and Unegam Lake is stocked with walleye as part of a fish hatchery stocking program provided by Brunswick House FN. There are also two trout lakes near by. The lodge also caters to families with inclusive packages for vacations in a pristine setting.

"This is a seasonal operation at this point but I am planning for the future to expand things and move towards a year round resort. I would like to develop more on site experiences and hope some day to have a zip line set up that would combine the thrill of the ride with a dip in our clean, fresh northern lake," said Tangie.

In addition to the cabin accommodations the lodge also provides boat rentals, bait minnows for sale along with fishing and hunting trips. The lake is surrounded by pine trees and provides many opportunities for dazzling northern star lit skies, lucky northern light nights and wildlife sightings.



**For more information and
to arrange a booking call
(249) 493-0047
or contact
Sunset Lodge on
Facebook
by searching for
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Wabun Makes History With Resource Revenue Sharing

The Ontario Government is going to move ahead with Resource Revenue Sharing for Wabun Tribal Council and 32 First Nations in the fall of 2019. This is an historic milestone in the relationship with the Ontario Government and the first of its kind in Canada.

Agreements between the province and the First Nations will allow for 40 percent of the annual mining tax and royalties from existing mines in areas covered by the agreements, 45 percent from future mines and 45 percent from forestry stumpage.

"This has been a long road in terms of development. It has come about because of our efforts and the guidance and support of our Wabun Chiefs to initiate talks with the province on the issue of resource revenue sharing. Our track record in forging strong agreements and good relationships with resource developers has made it possible for this historical decision to become reality," explained Jason Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council.

He also gave thanks to Shawn Batise, the previous Wabun Executive Director and to Stephanie LaBelle, Wabun Mineral Development Advisor for their efforts and expertise in working through a lengthy, complex and challenging process. Jason Batise expects that payments from the decision should be arriving in the fall of 2019 and

will represent amounts that reflect the start of the process in 2018. The First Nations that had signed on with the previous Liberal government to develop the deal include: Wabun Tribal Council, Mushkegowuk Council and Grand Council Treaty #3.

"This historical achievement will translate into more funds for our communities and lead to better lives for our members. We were also very careful in negotiating this milestone while making sure it in now way affects our existing agreements or our ability to produce new ones with resource developers," explained Jason Batise.

Over the years Wabun Tribal Council has negotiated and signed on to many agreements including Memorandums Of Understanding (MOU) and Impact and Benefits Agreements (IBA). The results have been impressive with substantial increases in employment, training, business opportunities and income benefits. Wabun First Nations have worked on and continue to develop many projects with resource developers and this has resulted in a better quality of life, better living conditions and in general healthier communities.

"Although we had been left out of the loop in terms of resource development on our traditional lands for more than one hundred years, we have managed to turn things around and through our research, develop-

ment and strategic efforts we are now one of the most progressive and successful tribal councils in the country. We are all very proud of that and at the same time we managed to secure good agreements that have also respected the land and our environment as well as our culture and traditions. All of our decisions were taken in transparency with guidance from Chiefs and Councils, input from our Elders and with community engagement," noted Jason Batise.

Wabun Tribal Council represents Mattagami FN, Brunswick House FN, Beaverhouse FN, Matachewan FN, Chapleau Ojibewe FN and Flying Post FN. The council is well respected and known across Canada and internationally for its ability to develop and negotiate good agreements with resource developers.

The current Conservative Provincial Government had made a commitment to give a share of tax revenue from mines, forestry, aggregates and possible other resource industries to northern First Nations and municipalities. It is not clear when that commitment will be fully realized at this point. However, the agreement made with Wabun Tribal Council, Mushkegowuk Council and Grand Treaty #3, which was signed on by the previous Liberal government, has been honoured by the current Ontario government.

Dave Shaw Remembered

Dave Shaw passed away on Monday January 1, 2019 at the Timmins and District Hospital Palliative Care Unit. He was a very active man with a lot of life experience, business and government expertise and a wonderful husband, father, son and friend. He was very supportive and dedicated to assisting many of Wabun Tribal Council First Nations with development in his role with government agencies and consulting over the years. As Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Shaw dedicated much energy and experience in working with First Nations.

He was well known and a friend to many in the Wabun First Nations and in particular Mattagami First Nation as well as the First Nations of Mushkegowuk Council and the indigenous communities and organizations and people of Northeastern Ontario.

He is survived by his wife Christine Seguin and children Jacob, Liah and Aaron. He also leaves behind his mother Gwen Shaw, brothers Mathew (Julie) and Steve, sister Cheryl and nephews Owen, Zach (Avery) and his niece Olivia (Keanu) in ad-

dition to his mother in law Claire Seguin. He was predeceased by his father, well known local dentist, pilot and sport enthusiast, John Shaw, who passed in December 2016.

Dave was an intelligent, sensitive and caring man who loved sports and the outdoors. He was dedicated to the youth of the Timmins area as he served in coaching with the Timmins Minor Hockey Association, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey, Ontario Women's Association and the Laurentian Voyageur baseball team.

He will also be missed by his co workers at MCCSS, MENDM MNRF, MOE, MTCS, MTO and IAO. The family was also grateful to the efforts, caring and expertise of the medical staff at the Timmins and District Hospital. Family and friends gathered to honour him on January 9, 2019 at the Miron-Wilson Funeral Home. A celebration of life will be held in the summer of 2019. Donations can be made in Dave's name to Christine Seguin to an education trust fund for his children Jacob, Liah and Aaron. You can send the cheque to Miron-Wilson Funeral Home, Cremation and Reception Centre 150 Balsam Street South, Timmins, Ontario P4N 2E2

"We were all saddened at the passing of our good friend Dave Shaw. He was well known among the First Nation people of Northern Ontario and involved in many positive developments over the years. Our condolences to his family and friends with the loss of such a great guy"

Jason Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council.

Kraymr Grenke New EDA



**Karymr
Grenke,
Economic
Development
Advisor**

submitted photo

Kraymr Grenke is the featured staff for this issue of the Wabun Sun. Grenke joined the Wabun staff as Economic Development Advisor in July 2018. He is taking over the duties of this position held by Jason Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council who worked in this post for 25 years.

"The work I've been involved in has been an amazing experience so far. It is great to be able to work directly with Jason Batise as he has a wealth of knowledge to draw from. He is always able to help me find an answer to a situation and to direct me to where I can find more information," commented Grenke.

His main role is to work with the Wabun First Nations office to create economic development opportunities. Grenke provides support and assistance to the First Nation economic development offices of each community to foster and build communications and relationships with private entities and government organizations. He assists in the search for funding or business opportunities to work towards the economic goals of each community.

He pointed out that although Wabun and its member communities are taking part in several high profile mining developments, his department is mostly involved in smaller scale projects that work towards business and economic opportunities for Wabun's First Nations.

"I provide support and assistance on any project that our communities are working on based on the direction of the respective band office. I give that bit of extra support and added research for their offices to build relationships and communications that will lead to economic opportunities," explained Grenke.

He added that over the past year he has had the opportunity to work on several projects and developments with Wabun First Nations.

"I enjoy working with each of the communities on the many projects happening in each First Nation. It has been very rewarding for me so far to have been part of projects from start to finish and to have worked with so many dedicated people," said Grenke.

He has been involved in various initiatives including: business development, forestry operations, aggregate industries and agricultural projects. Currently, he is involved in assisting Wabun community's participation in a revitalization project with Hydro One. The company is conducting revitalization steps

concerning poles and lines they operate and maintain in Northern Ontario.

Before joining Wabun, Grenke worked as an accountant in Timmins for Collins Barrow, one of the largest associations of chartered accounting firms in Canada. Prior to his position with this company, he was a graduate of a four year program in Commerce and Administration at Laurentian University in Sudbury. At Laurentian, he was an active involved member of the university and he became the Chair of the Board for the Students' General Association and was later elected as President & CEO of the Laurentian University Students' General Association. At Laurentian, he served as Board Governor, as well as Academic Senator, sat as a member of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and he was involved in committees for program requirements, retention, student services, and mental wellness. He also chaired the Laurentian Athletic Advisory Council and he was the captain of the Laurentian Voyageurs' Men's golf team. During his time at university, he also was Vice-President of Finance for the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA).

He started his post secondary studies at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario in 2011 and for a time at Seneca College in Toronto.

Grenke is currently active in volunteer positions in organizations and boards in Timmins concerning economic development and health care. He currently serves as Treasurer for the Timmins and District Hospital Board, is a member of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and also sits as a Board Director with the Timmins Economic Development Corporation.

He is happy to be applying his knowledge and experience to his role as Economic Development Advisor for Wabun.

"I look forward to the work we do here at Wabun and it is very satisfying to be involved with a team of dedicated individuals. There are many projects happening in the Wabun territory and the work that is being done in the mining sector will only mean additional development in so many other areas. There is always something new and challenging about this position and that is one of the things I love about this job," said Grenke.

He was born and raised in Timmins. He has an older sister Kaitlyne and his parents are Keith and Karen Grenke. He enjoys life in the north with this family. He takes part in golfing in the summers and skiing in the winters and as well he is physically active throughout the year. He enjoys yoga, travelling, reading and in staying involved in terms of volunteerism with the City Of Timmins.

Elder Hendrix Honoured

Elder Vina Hendrix, Matachewan First Nation was awarded the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Elder Food Champion award for 2018 for her generous sharing of traditional language, culture and history through youth mentorship and community leadership.

The award was presented at the 10th Annual NAN Food Symposium held from July 31 to August 2, 2018 in Thunder Bay.

Awards were also presented to Rudy Wabasse, representing Eabametoong FN for the NAN Community Food Initiative Champion Award; Sam Hunter, Weenusk FN for NAN Adult Food Champion Award and Tyler Waboose of Eabametoong FN for NAN Youth Food Champion Award.

Elder Hendrix regularly takes part in programs and events to support youth and to share her knowledge and experience. She has attended many of Wabun's annual Youth Gatherings over the years.

"It makes me feel proud to represent my community and to assist our youth. I think it is important for us to share our knowledge with our young people so that they don't forget about their heritage, especially their culture and their language," said Elder Hendrix.

She continues to support youth programs to share her knowledge with Native and

non-Native communities whenever she can.

"I want to thank my community and Wabun for everything they do for our youth. I also want to thank NAN for giving me this recognition and to be able to attend these events to meet other Elders and share our stories and our history," said Elder Hendrix.



submitted photo

NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN) FOOD SYMPOSIUM AWARD WINNERS ARE FROM L-R: RUDY WABASSE, SAM HUNTER, ELDER VINA HENDRIX AND TYLER WABOOSE.

NADF Award Of Recognition Presented To Jason Batise

Jason Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council, was presented with the 2018 Award of Recognition, at the annual Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund (NADF) Awards, held on October 18, 2018 at the Senator Hotel and Conference Centre in Timmins. He also participated in the gala event as Keynote Speaker. He was presented with the award by Ron Hell, Director of Sales and Marketing for Bearskin Airlines. The Award of Recognition is presented to a candidate whose entrepreneurial spirit, leadership and/or social responsibility has contributed to the advancement of Aboriginal prosperity in Northern Ontario.

"I was honoured to receive this award and of course it is shared with Wabun Tribal Council Chiefs, Councils, Elders and staff members. I am proud of the accomplishments of Wabun Tribal Council over the years with so many of the good agreements we have negotiated with resource developers that have resulted in jobs, training, business opportunities and benefits for our members," commented Batise.

He spent most of his 29 years with Wabun Tribal Council as Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor and then accepted the position of Executive Director. Over the years he helped Wabun members develop businesses and was involved in many pro-

jects involving treaty Land Entitlement Claims, negotiating Impact and Benefits Agreements (IBA) with resource developers and facilitating infrastructure and housing development for Wabun First Nations. He is a member of Matachewan First Nation.

***"We had the best of
both worlds and I
believe that has
helped us in working
for our people"
- Jason Batise***

Batise is well known in representing Wabun Tribal Council on boards, associations and has a strong track record of successful participation and involvement with various federal, provincial and municipal government agencies and leadership. His capability of working well with industry has benefited Wabun First Nations and resulted in a better quality of life for members.

"My brother Shawn and I were fortunate in that we were raised with a lot of support, guidance and encouragement from our parents Barney and Doreen. We grew up with our Native back-

ground and teachings and we were also exposed to the non-Native world through education, community, family and friends. Our time with Detour Mine when we were young also gave us a lot of experience in mining and provided us with a glimpse of understanding the view point of industry. We had the best of both worlds and I believe that has helped us in working for our people to create progressive, safe and prosperous communities," explained Batise.

He pointed out that he still turns to his father for advice and to draw from his vast knowledge and experience of working with First Nation organizations and government. As a former Chief, Barney Batise was instrumental in creating Wabun Tribal Council and forging an improved working relationship with provincial and federal governments.

The NADF Awards for 2018 marks the 28th year for this event and this year featured Brent Edwards of Fort Albany as Master of Ceremonies. The NADF is a not-for-profit Aboriginal Financial Institution serving entrepreneurs, businesses and communities in Northern Ontario. The Executive Director for the NADF is Brian Davey. It offers a variety of services to support Aboriginal business and economic development, including financing, business support, community planning, and workshops and bookkeeping training.

Cote Gold Project Deferred

In January of 2019 Iamgold Corporation announced that it was deferring a construction decision on the Cote Gold Project. The Project which involved the Wabun First Nations of Mattagami FN and Flying Post FN has been in development for some time.

"Both Mattagami First Nation and Flying Post First Nation have been working hard on agreements with Iamgold Corp on the Cote Gold Project and although it is disappointing that this delay has come into affect everyone is still hopeful of the development of a mine. We continue to support this project which will benefit our members in both communities," commented Jason Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council.

In a press release the company explained that although the construction on the project was to start this year, due to current gold market conditions, a decision was made by Iamgold Corp to delay the project until market condi-

tions improve.

The company intends to continue working on the project with Sumitomo Metal Mining Company to advance toward development once the market improves. Iamgold Corp further explained publicly that it remains supportive of the project but that construction in the near term remains challenging as the equity market maintains a negative outlook on large capital expenditure projects due to execution risk and if the gold price remains volatile.

"We are still optimistic that the Cote Gold Project will go ahead and we are working with Iamgold Corp to support it. We can not control gold market conditions and we have to understand that it may take some time for this project to develop into a mine," explained Chief Chad Boissoneau, Mattagami First Nation.

The company release said it will continue to advance permitting and engineering work on the project to ensure

it is able to advance quickly once market conditions improve. Iamgold Corp has also stated the company will maintain its current level of presence and activities in the region including its' regional office in Sudbury.

"It is disheartening to hear of the deferment of this project as we had put so much work into an agreement with the company. We are still hopeful that the project will go through. Our negotiations team is continuing our discussions regarding any possible development of the mine as any project that will arise will provide many benefits for our community members," said Chief Murray Ray, Flying Post FN.

The company will continue with a focus to substantially de-risk the Cote Gold Project through obtaining necessary permitting approvals and by maintaining community engagement efforts which will allow it to proceed to construction once market conditions improve.

2018 Annual Elders Gathering

Wabun Health hosted its Annual Elders Gathering on November 1, 2018 at the Ramada Inn in Timmins. The event brought together 90 participants including Elders, Wabun First Nation members and Wabun Health Staff. This year's gathering brought together Wabun Elders for an event built on laughter and humour as a medicine with the comedy presentations of Don Burnstick, a First Nation Cree from the Alexander First Nation, Alberta and Moccasin Joe played by Leonard Dick, an Ojibway performer from Macdiarmid, Ontario.

"Laughter is a good medicine in our culture. Our presenters all grew up with the same kind of Native humour our Elders understand and it was fun to see them interact with everyone. Although there was a scheduled performance by our presenters, it was also a day of laughter as everyone took part in a day to heal with humour and fun," said Debbie Proulx-Buffalo, Wabun Mental Wellness Coordinator.

The presenters also took the opportunity during the presentations to talk about historical trauma and more serious issues affecting Native communities. The day's events also included a presentation by Faye Naveau, Wabun Crisis Team Coordinator on mental health and wellness. Julie McKay, Assistant Health Director for Wabun Health provided a short presentation of photos and images of past Elders gatherings.

Event organization was headed by Proulx-Buffalo along with the assistance of Wabun Health staff who helped to manage the day long gathering. A turkey dinner lunch was provided by Foster Jane Restaur-



submitted Wabun Health photo

THE ANNUAL WABUN ELDERS GATHERING WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2018 IN TIMMINS. PICTURED ARE MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION MEMBERS FROM L-R: ELDER AND COUNCILLOR LEONARD NAVEAU SR, ELDER MIKE NAVEAU AND KELLY NAVEAU.

ant, headed by Michael York, at the Ramada Inn.

"It is important to bring together our Elders like this in a fun and open event where they can enjoy themselves and meet old friends and family. We all come from different communities and there are not many opportunities to see each other. Meeting together at least once a year is a tradition that our people had in the past and it is good that we continue those connections to others," said Proulx-Buffalo.

She and the organizers are thankful to Wabun Health and Wabun Tribal Council leadership for their ongoing support of this

annual event.

"We are grateful to the whole Wabun team and our Executive Director Jason Batise and our Health Director Jean Lemieux for their support. We also want to thank all the chaperones and volunteers who made this year's event a success," said Proulx-Buffalo.



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Publishing Editor: Jason Batise

Editors: Xavier Kataquapit /

Mike McGrath

All photos and writing by X. Kataquapit, unless otherwise specified

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

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submitted Wabun Health photo



ANNE AND MARIO BATISSE ARE TWO ELDERS AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTORS TO THEIR HOME COMMUNITY OF MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION. THEY ARE PICTURED HERE TAKING PART IN THE ANNUAL WABUN ELDERS GATHERING.