



Wabun Sun

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Wabun Annual General Meeting Hosted In Brunswick House

BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION— The Ninth Annual Wabun Tribal Council Annual General Meeting, hosted by Brunswick House First Nation, September 22 and 23, was headlined by the Council's purchase of its own building.

Wabun Tribal Council Executive Director, Shawn Batise pointed out that the Council set up the Wabun First Nation Development Corporation (WFNDC) to allow the Wabun Tribal Council First Nations to earn a profit on moneys invested in Wabun's newly acquired office building at 313 Railway Street in Timmins. The WFNDC can also be used for other ventures the Wabun Chiefs wish to pursue and it also acts in terms of investing funds with the goal of providing financial return to the Wabun First Nation communities.

Batise also reported on the distribution of revenues from Casino-Rama from his involvement in sitting on a Distribution Committee dealing with this process. All 133 First Nations are to share equally in 50 percent of the total casino profits while 40 percent will be based on population and ten percent on remoteness. In the most recent developments Batise explained that he is disappointed with the delays in releasing the funds and also what seems to be an alteration by casino operator, Mnjikaning First Nation for use of some of the funds for investment towards long term viability of the casino. Funds have yet to be released.

Batise also confirmed that Mushkegowuk Council successfully filed an injunction against the implementation of Ontario Works on First Nations. Currently, the implementation of Ontario Works on First Nations is voluntary.

In terms of employment and training, Batise highlighted a major

change with a new five year mandate called the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS). This replaces the Regional Bilateral Agreement (RBA) which ended on March 31, 1999. The new process, AHRDS, features a cooperation among Wabun Tribal Council, Mushkegowuk Council and Matawa First Nation Tribal Council. Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin continues to deliver the program for the AHRDS.

Jean Lemieux, Financial Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council, provided her annual report and introduced Wayne McDonald, Senior Manager of KPMG Auditors, who presented the Audit Report. Lemieux, congratulated everyone involved in the purchase by Wabun Tribal Council of its own office building. She also commended the construction renovators from Mattagami First Nation for the high quality work they provided on schedule.

In addition, she reported that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) had approved funding for the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) program for the First Nation communities of Chapleau Ojibwe, Wahgoshig, Mattagami and for the Wabun Tribal Council office, ranging from four to seven thousand dollars for computer equipment.

Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor to Wabun Tribal Council, highlighted his presentation with a major capital project. Currently, a multi-million dollar Brunswick House FN Water Supply Project is under way with construction to be started in January 2000.

He also noted that Matachewan and Wahgoshig First Nations have been involved with INAC to have



WABUN LEADERSHIP at the Ninth Annual General Meeting. Front row l-r: Chief Anita Stephens, Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation (FN); Chief Joyce Luke, Mattagami FN; Tammy Naveau, Councillor Mattagami FN; Alec Black, Councillor Wahgoshig FN; Councillor Theresa Memegos, Chapleau Ojibwe FN; Lulu Neshawabin, Councillor Brunswick House FN and Chief Elenore Hendrix, Matachewan FN. Back row l-r: Councillor and Band Administrator Fabian Batise, Matachewan FN; Wabun Chairperson Alfred Ojeebah; Councillor Leona Panamick, Chapleau Ojibwe FN; Chief Roy Meaniss, Beaverhouse FN; Gary Naveau, Mattagami FN; Chief Paul McKenzie, Wahgoshig FN; Chief Andrew Neshawabin, Brunswick House FN and Lisa Vanbuskirk, Councillor, Brunswick House FN.

Wabun Golf Tournament Draws 72 Participants

TIMMINS, Ont. — The Sixth Annual Wabun Tribal Council Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament was run Friday September 24 in Timmins. The event drew 72 participants from Wabun First Nation communities, Timmins, southern Ontario and the James Bay coast.

The winning team included the husband and wife team of Jason and Lily Batise, along with Therese McLellan of Health Canada and Paul Collins. Their winning score was eight under par. Jason and Lily have won Wabun tournaments in the past and are regular winners in northern tournaments.

Cool weather and cloudy skies did not dampen the spirits of those

who turned up for a day of friendship and exercise at the Spruce Needles Golf Club in Timmins. Kevin Martin, owner of First Nations Engineering Services in Six Nations, Oshweken, Ontario was accompanied by Warren Sault, Mississauga New Credit, Executive Director in their first ever participation of the tournament.

"I'm really happy I made the trip north. My company does a lot of business with Wabun First Nations and this was a great opportunity to really get to know the wonderful people that work so hard to put on this tournament," said Martin.

Currently, his company is involved in the development of a water treatment plant in Brunswick House First Nation near Chapleau. Martin and Sault were assisted by their team members Clara Wheesk and Donna Kioke of Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training of Timmins.

Deputy Grand Chief Mushkegowuk Council, Oliver Wesley joined Ron Naveau of Mattagami First Nation, RoseAnne Ojeebah and Margaret Miller of Wabun Tribal Council for a day on the golf course.

Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council has been a key figure in the development of the tournament. The fundraiser is geared towards scholarships supported by Northern Telephone for

\$1,000. (plus a possibility of a summer job), First Nations Engineering for \$500. and Bank of Nova Scotia for \$250. Any student from a Wabun First Nation community can apply for the scholarship by contacting Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council, 313 Railway Street, Timmins, Ontario P4N 2P4, in writing by deadline date December 15, 1999 with a transcript or proof of academic performance.

"It started out as a fun tournament and then two years ago we decided to take it a step further as a means to do fundraising for a scholarship fund directed to Wabun First Nation students. This year three scholarships will be provided to qualifying students," said Shawn Batise.

He pointed out that this tournament was of special satisfaction with participants traveling large distances to attend.

"I want to thank everyone for taking the time to spend a day golfing for a good cause. I can't name everyone but I just wanted to let it be known that your participation was appreciated. Overall it was a great event and the best we've had so far," said Shawn Batise.

The winning team was presented with \$50 gift certificates for the Timmins Square and first pick from the prize table. Everyone was a winner and received some sort of prize.

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TOURNAMENT WINNERS were (l-r): Jason Batise, Wabun Tribal Council; Therese McLellan, Health Canada; Paul Collins and Lily Batise.

Wahgoshig First Nation To Install Telephone Service

WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION— After years of lobbying, Wahgoshig First Nation is finally getting a real telephone service. The new system known as SRS or Microwave Radio System, should be in place in about nine months.

Currently and for years the community has had access to the outside world through one radio phone line only at the band office. Although most homes have phones, people can only call other members of the community through a local switch board. Calls outside the community are only possible from one phone at the band office. The new system will allow individual Wahgoshig members in their households to make calls to the outside world.

Chief Paul McKenzie, Wahgoshig First Nation Council, Band Administrator Liz Babin, Wabun Tribal Council's Jason Batise and Gilbert Sackaney of Wahgoshig and government representatives all played a part in bring-



Liz Babin, Band Administrator, Wahgoshig FN



Gilbert Sackaney, Councillor, Wahgoshig FN

ing the new phone system into the community.

"I want to point out that this has been an ongoing lobbying effort by past chiefs, Councils and Band Administrators. The community has been struggling to get a full service telephone system for years. The current Wahgoshig Chief and Council should be very proud of their efforts

to make this hope a reality," said Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council.

Gilbert Sackaney, was a major force in the renewed effort to obtain the new telephone service. As a Band Councillor this was his portfolio.

"My big concern to get this tel-

phone service in place is due to safety and health reasons. We are a semi remote community without medical or fire services. With only one line to the outside world we are at a real disadvantage in terms of any emergencies happening in the community. I was especially concerned for the children and the elderly," said Sackaney.

Batise explained that initially the community was looking at three possible systems through Northern Telephone. The first was a high speed state of the art Fiber Optic line. However it was deemed to be too expensive at a cost of over one million dollars. The second system was of lower technology but still too expensive at half a million dollars. The third and winning system was the SRS Line Microwave Radio System at a cost of around \$100,000. Although an application was made regarding these options two years ago the final announcement did not come till mid September.

"I really commend Chief and Council, Liz Babin the Band Administrator, Linda Peever of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and especially Gilbert Sackaney for all the good work they did in helping to make this new phone system a reality," said Batise.

Right now the community has an approval for 75 percent of the project from the Northern Ontario

Heritage Fund. Batise explained that Wabun Tribal Council is looking for full funding for the system and currently has a proposal sitting before Karl Seibel at FedNor in Thunder Bay for that agency's assistance.

"Northern Ontario Heritage Fund has been very helpful and FedNor is doing its best to assist us in putting this telephone system into Wahgoshig. As a matter of fact FedNor is being very supportive and has asked us to also apply for funds for computer systems that are internet ready and can be used with the installation of this system," said Batise.

Batise and Sackaney are both concerned that there is a mileage charge that must be levied by Northern Telephone. An unsuccessful effort was made to lobby the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) to waive this charge.

As it stands right now a single line charge on a monthly basis for a household would be just over \$115. To cover this cost it is possible that community members will have to go on a party line system with four on a line to bring the monthly bill down.

"As a member of this community I really don't like the four to a line party line system. However considering what we had before this is indeed an improvement," said Band Administrator Babin.

Women's Circle Enjoys Retreat

A two day canoe trip hosted by the Beaverhouse First Nation Women's Circle was a retreat meant to strengthen women's groups in three of Wabun's First Nations. The trip, which took place on August 7 and 8, included the two other Women's Circle Groups of Wahgoshig First Nation and Matachewan First Nation. The retreat included 12 women: Beatrice Batise, Matachewan FN; Teresa Laffrenier, Beaverhouse FN; Jean Sutherland, Wahgoshig FN; Theresa Sutherland, Wahgoshig FN; Liz Babin, Wahgoshig FN; Mimi Tremblay, Wahgoshig FN; Evelyn Black, Wahgoshig FN; Nancy Wabie, Beaverhouse FN; Dorothy Larkman, Matachewan FN; Marcia

Brown, Beaverhouse FN; Freda Wabie, Beaverhouse FN; and Florence Batise, Matachewan FN.

The Beaverhouse First Nation Women's Group provide their community with fundraising events to benefit community members and to provide group activities. The group has regular events throughout the year and these include things like a turkey draw during the Thanksgiving holidays, a Christmas Dinner for youth and Aboriginal Day picnics.

"Everyone at our own Women's group in Beaverhouse First Nation has enjoyed the two years we have been together and we wanted to celebrate this by having a retreat. We drew in other Women's Groups from

Matachewan and Wahgoshig to take part in the retreat so we could get the chance to enjoy the outdoors together and strengthen our relationships with each other," said Nancy Wabie, Administrative Assistant for Beaverhouse First Nation and Women's Group member.

The two day trip started out near Beaverhouse First Nation at Howard Lake Landing and went as far as Second Narrows. The Women's retreat is turning into a regular event for the three community groups. The next canoe trip retreat was planned by the Wahgoshig First Nation Women's Group to take place in Low Bush during the weekend of October 21, 22, 23 and 24.

Reflections

by Shawn Batise, Executive Director



Nova Scotia \$250. I want to add that the winner of the Northern Telephone scholarship has the possibility of a summer job with the company. All three major sponsors were on hand to share in a great day of golf even though the weather was a little cool.

I really want to encourage our Wabun First Nation students to apply for the scholarships. Anyone can apply as long as they are enrolled in a post secondary or secondary school. They can write me with a copy of their most recent transcript or proof of academic performance and a letter telling me about themselves and why they want this scholarship. The deadline for application is December 15, 1999. Send the application to: Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council, 313 Railway Street, Timmins, Ontario, P4N 2P4.

This year's tournament drew people from the James Bay coast, the local Timmins area and as far south as Oshweken. It would be great to see more involvement from our Wabun members and I believe this will be the case as the tournament develops over the years to come.

Thanks to a lot of eager participants the Sixth Annual Wabun Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament was a great success. This is a day that we put aside to bring people together from Wabun communities, Wabun staff, as well as people from other Native and non-Native organizations and companies. Recently, we decided that it would be a good idea to utilize this fun tournament as a means to get started with a scholarship fundraiser. The response has been good.

This year we had 72 participants show up at the Spruce Needles Golf Club in Timmins and our main scholarship fund sponsors at this point include: Northern Telephone, \$1,000; First Nations Engineering \$500. and the Bank of



WOMEN'S GROUP RETREAT participants were from l-r: (standing at back row) Beatrice Batise, Matachewan FN; Therese Laffrenier, Beaverhouse FN; Jean Sutherland, Wahgoshig FN; Theresa Sutherland, Wahgoshig FN; Liz Babin, Wahgoshig FN; Mimi Tremblay Wahgoshig FN; Evelyn Black, Wahgoshig FN; (in front row) Nancy Wabie, Beaverhouse FN; Dorothy Larkman, Matachewan FN; Marcia Brown, Beaverhouse FN; Freda Wabie, Beaverhouse FN and Florence Batise, Matachewan FN.

Getting To Know You

Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council is

the featured staff person for this issue of Wabun Sun. He has been with Wabun in this position since 1991.

His main responsibility involves working with the six Wabun First Nation communities to develop projects for community infrastructure and major capital projects. Some of these projects include: construction of schools, administration offices and community housing; developing and constructing community water service projects and road maintenance.

Batise is also the Vice President of the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation. This corporation is an advisory service that provides assistance through four Civil Engineers for any planned technical projects for First Nations in Ontario.

"I like working with our First Nation people in developing projects that are tangible with results that can be seen at the end of the day. There are a lot of projects that I am proud of such as the school addition in Mattagami First Nation and the major water servicing project in Brunswick House First Nation. I also feel good about being a part of the development of Wahgoshig's new telephone system. Projects such as these were made possible through the hard work of a lot of people and it is very rewarding to see real results in the communities on completion of these projects," said Batise.

In the past, he has been employed as a Mine Mill Operator for Detour Lake Mine, north of Cochrane, Ontario. Batise also attended Canadore College in North Bay for two years.

"I want to continue my work for Wabun and expand my expertise in my position as Economic Development and Technical Services



JASON BATISE, Wabun Tribal Council, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor, is seen here with Therese McLellan of Health Canada as they show off the trophy their group won in the recent Wabun Golf Tournament.

Advisor. In the future I hope to gain more education to compliment my experience but for now I am very satisfied to work with Wabun and its six communities," said Batise.

A First Nation Ojibway person, he is a member of Matachewan First

Nation and was raised in Callander, Ontario. Batise enjoys spending his free time with his wife Lily and their three sons Brady, 7; Carson, 3 and Bazil, 2. He is an avid golf enthusiast and also enjoys participating in hockey, curling and fishing.

Wabun Chief

Chief Anita Stephens is the featured Chief for this issue of Wabun Sun. In November 1998 she took over the position of Chief due to the passing of Chief Baptiste Memegos. The late Chief Memegos, a well respected elder, was in fact her uncle.

At 35 years of age Chief Stephens has much experience. Over a 14 year period she has seen service as a Band Councillor and has been employed as Band Administrator. In the past, she was also involved with the Native Child Welfare Program which was run by the Chapleau Area Bands Association.

She enjoys working with people for the betterment of her community and is dedicated to economic development and building a healthy environment for all community members. Some of the more recent accomplishments of Chief Stephens and her council include: construction of new homes, renovation of older homes, a new pumping station for a better water distribution system, road maintenance and improved drainage ditches for the community.

"We plan to do some programming in the near future around developing the self esteem of our students and younger community members. It will also involve parents and focus on assisting our young people to feel better about



**Chief Anita Stephens
Chapleau Ojibwe FN**

themselves," said Chief Stephens.

Chief Stephens is proud to be a part of the Wabun Tribal Council. She believes that the Tribal Council provides a strong voice for her community as well as the other First Nations that make up Wabun.

A First Nation Ojibwe person, she is a member of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation and has lived in this community all her life. Chief Stephens, nee Memegos is married to Peter and they have three children, Joshua, 17; Rebecca, 8 and Leonard, 4.

Chief Stephens is now expecting her fourth child and will be going on maternity leave in November for six months. Councillors Theresa Memegos and Leona Panamick will be covering for the Chief who will still be available as needed from time to time.

Caring For You



**Sandra Secenj,
Community Health Nurse**

Sandra Secenj, Community Health Nurse (CHN) is the featured Wabun Health staff person for this issue of Wabun Sun. At 31 years of age she has been working with Wabun Health since June 1997. As a CHN she works with Matachewan and Mattagami First Nations where some of her duties include health teaching, emergency training, adult health and health related support. In Mattagami First Nation she works with Ginette Thivierge, another Wabun Health CHN to run a School Program. Secenj also provides essential services in areas such as

health promotion, prevention, immunization, communicable disease control, health teaching, home visits, community visits, prenatal and postnatal teaching, well baby clinics, school health, adult health, chronic disease and long term care.

"With all the work we do as CHNs we really appreciate the people we work with in the communities. People like the Community Health Representatives (CHRs) and National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NNADAP) workers really give us that connection to the community. We wouldn't be able to do our work without them," said Secenj.

She has gained a lot of experience as a nurse through positions she has held in the past. Secenj has worked in Iroquois Falls in Special Needs Nursing, where her work mostly involved providing care, motivation and necessary nursing duties for a parapalegic patient. Previous to this she held a position with Associative Rehabilitation Incorporated as a Medical Consultant for injured workers. She also worked for Care Plus Nursing as a Commu-

nity Health Nurse for two years. In the past she has also sat as a Youth Representative on the Board of Directors for the Victoria Order of Nurses (VON).

In 1992 she graduated from Laurentian University with a Bachelor of Science and Nursing. As a nurse, she is a member of the Ontario College of Nurses.

Secenj describes herself as a communicator and a good listener who is able to talk to others about their concerns.

"I enjoy working with Native people and learning about their culture. I have a good relationship with the people I work with and the patients I help. I am even learning some of the Ojibway language from the communities I spend time in," said Secenj.

She was born and raised in Sudbury. She and her husband Michael moved to Timmins after their marriage six years ago and they have a four and a half month old son, Jacob. Secenj enjoys various crafts, knitting, music, singing, playing the piano and spending time with her family.

Health Matters

by Jennifer McLeod, Health Director



Recently myself and the Assistant Health Director Peggy Claveau presented the Annual Report for Wabun Health Services to the Wabun Chiefs and Community Leaders at the Wabun Tribal Council Annual General Meeting in Brunswick House First Nation. We have had a busy year and I am very proud of the accomplishments of the Wabun Health staff and our Wabun community support workers.

In reflecting on this past year one thing stands out paramount in my mind and that is the fact that Wabun Health Services has just completed five years under transfer from the Medical Services Branch (MSB) of Health Canada. What an incredible five years it has been for all of us at Wabun Health Services and how quickly this time has sped by. When the Chiefs and Administration of Wabun Tribal Council decided to create Wabun Health Services to transfer health programs from the MSB in December 1993 to the Wabun First Nations, they made history. It is a fact that we were the first such initiative in Ontario.

Once the decision was made to run our own programs for our First Nation members it was up to all of us to rise to the challenge. I am happy to report that those five years have been extremely successful. This is a direct result of the efforts of our Chiefs and Wabun Tribal Council Administration for their vision and foresight as well as to a dedicated and resourceful Wabun Health Services staff.

Wabun Health Services has

been very successful under Health Transfer in accepting responsibility for the Community Health program. This program includes the Nursing Program, Community Health Representatives, National Native Alcohol Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) workers, a Mental Health Worker and Brighter Futures / Building Healthy Communities Program. All programs with the exception of the nursing program are community based. In addition Wabun Health Services also manages: the Patient Transportation Program, the Diabetes Strategy and Long Term Care.

Through everyone's efforts our main accomplishments have been that the Wabun First Nation members under transfer have been provided a more effective service and have been given more and better access to health services.

We have managed to build a very strong Wabun Health team which includes our Timmins office staff as well as Health Care workers in the Wabun communities. I am happy to report that we have been able to put in place sound links between our Wabun communities and many urban services and organizations which has enhanced services available for Wabun community members.

The next five years must be dedicated to maintaining our current programs and also to becoming creative in accessing funds and stretching our resources to offer additional services to our First Nation communities. Some of these goals include programming focused on: Long Term Care development, Diabetes, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Addiction and Traditional Healing.

I am very satisfied with Wabun Health Services performance over the past five years and I am really excited about meeting the challenges for the next five years to come.

Y2K Preparedness A Sensible Approach For Wabun Communities

TIMMINS, Ontario— Wabun Tribal Council staged an Emergency Response Y2K Information Session, Wednesday October 16, in Timmins as part of an effort to ensure the safety and well being of Wabun First Nation members. The session which drew a turnout of 45 members from Wabun's First Nation communities featured pertinent and practical information on Y2K preparedness from a host of keynote speakers.

The event which opened with a welcoming by Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council, was organized and coordinated by Wabun Health Services Health Director Jennifer McLeod.

"We don't expect any crisis around the Y2K issue but at the same time we are not taking any chances when it comes to the safety of Wabun's first nation communities and their members. In addition to providing our Wabun members with information on Y2K preparedness this information session was also a refresher for all of us so that we are ready for any emergency, crisis or disaster," said McLeod.

She pointed out that many people are confused and anxious about the potential for a Y2K crisis as a result of mass media coverage on the beginning of a new millennium. She also explained that only Chief and Council can declare a state of emergency in a First Nation community and that it is Chief and Council who are responsible for the safety of its community members.

"This information session brought a lot of highly experienced people together. There was an opportunity for people to get acquainted and for a sharing of expertise from many sectors. In a way all of the media hype on a potential Y2K crisis has at the very least empowered us to become better prepared for any emergency," said McLeod.

Much work has already been accomplished by Wabun Health in the area of emergency preparedness. Wabun Health Services provides Crisis Team Coordination to its First Nation Crisis Teams. This has been done by offering the services of Mental Health Counselling Train-

ing, First Aid Training, Emergency First Response Training and Special Equipment Training. The Y2K Information Session is an extension of the groundwork that has been done in response to the much publicized Y2K concern.

Speakers who attended the event included: Chris Venedam, Crisis Team Leader, Brunswick House FN; Gerry Richer, Emergency Measures Ontario; Lester Cudmore, Emergency Measures Coordinator for City of Timmins; Peter Webster, Ontario Hydro; Wayne Granger, Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC); Anne Marie Larabee, Ministry of Natural Resources; Kathy Woram, Branch Manager, Canadian Red Cross and Gille St. Pierre, Environmental Health Officer for Health Canada. Some funding for the event was contributed by INAC.

SURVIVAL KIT

In case of emergency it is always a good idea to be well prepared. There has been a lot of talk about the Y2K computer bug which has resulted in worry concerning computerized systems which affect

many aspects of our daily life. These include: utility operations such as electrical and gas; banking operations, electrical equipment, appliances and computers. For the most part experts agree that there is very little cause for concern in terms of any resulting problems from the Y2K phenomena, however it is always a good idea to be ready. One simple way to be prepared for an emergency is to put together a survival kit for your household. This kit should be assembled and put into some kind of recognizable container which should then be stored in an easy access location. All household members should be shown the kit and its location. This kit should include the following: flashlight and batteries (in case the lights go out), radio and batteries (so you can listen to news bulletins), spare batteries (for radio and flashlight), First Aid kit, candles and matches or a lighter, extra car keys and cash, important papers (identification for everyone, personal documents), food and bottled water, clothing and footwear (one change of clothes per

person), blankets or sleeping bags (one blanket or sleeping bag per person), toilet paper and other personal supplies, medication, backpack or duffel bag (or something else to carry the emergency survival kit in, in case you have to evacuate), whistle (in case you need to attract someone's attention) and playing cards and games.

When considering water for your survival kit make sure you have at least one liter per adult per day for at least three days. In terms of food choose ready to eat foods that don't need refrigeration such as peanut butter, crackers, canned foods, canned soups, canned milk, canned fish, canned fruits, dried foods and fruits. You will also need equipment such as: knives, forks, spoons, disposable cups and plates, a manual can opener, bottle opener, a fuel stove and fuel (do not use a barbecue indoors), waterproof matches and plastic garbage bags. For more information on Y2K preparedness contact your Community Crisis Team or Wabun Health Services.

Wabun Health Presents to AGM

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their phase one major capital projects placed on INAC's major capital plan for 2000 / 2001. Negotiations are continuing to provide a more fair formula contribution for both Wabun First Nation communities.

Jason Batise reported that Wabun Tribal Council assisted in the development of each of the Wabun First Nation community five year capital plans. He added that a detailed housing report was completed for Wahgoshig First Nation regarding housing inspection and residential renovation requirements. He also talked about a variety of training initiatives coordinated by Wabun Tribal Council to its First Nations.

He presented First Nation specific special projects including: Matachewan First Nation - continuing work on the Forest Management Planning Process and a study to investigate its existing land fill site and potential ground water contamination; Wahgoshig First Nation - development of a telecommunication or telephone system for the community, conceptual drawings for a new community administration complex, four month study to investigate a location for Wahgoshig's new land fill site, assessment of existing community water supply and Wahgoshig's Asset Condition Reporting System report; Mattagami First Nation - Wabun Tribal Council developed a proposal and received \$100,000 from the NOHFC for the construction of a community fire hall, funding was accessed from the Canada / Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA) program to construct eight trapper cabins for local fur harvesters and a study was developed to investigate

Mattagami's existing land fill site and potential ground water contamination; Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation - Wabun Tribal Council is assisting with the construction of two new homes and has helped with the completion of road improvements and renovations to several homes; Brunswick House First Nation - Wabun Tribal Council has focused on the completion of a multi-million dollar Water Supply Project for the community. In addition, Jason Batise pointed out that Wabun Tribal Council participates in many boards and committees.

WABUN HEALTH SERVICES

Wabun Health Services, Health Director Jennifer McLeod presented her annual report to the Chiefs of Wabun by starting with a review. She pointed out that 1999 represents the end of the first five year phase of Wabun Health Services. In fact, Wabun made history in December 1993 as it was the first such organization in Ontario to take control of health programming from the Medical Services Branch of Health Canada.

She thanked and congratulated the Chiefs of Wabun, Wabun staff and related community workers for their dedication in meeting the growing pains to develop first class, comprehensive community health services for the Wabun communities. She also stressed that with the beginning of a new health transfer agreement, Wabun Health Services will once again rise to the challenges and become even more creative and progressive to ensure that Wabun communities are delivered the best health services possible.

McLeod also referred to the Health Program Evaluation which was completed in December, 1998 by Nancy Johnson from the Centre

for Indigenous Sovereignty in Toronto. The evaluation found a high level of satisfaction among community members with regard to the health services under transfer. Community members saw services as having significantly improved since pre-transfer and 83 percent said that Wabun Health Services are effective. It also appears in some ways that the health of Wabun communities is improving under the transfer with Wabun Health Services in place.

In reviewing the past year of operation McLeod, assisted by Peggy Claveau, Assistant Health Director talked about the following Wabun Health efforts: Community Health Nursing, Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, Diabetes Program, Documentation Project, Traditional Healer Task Force, Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve, Suicide Intervention Committee, Mental Health Services, Ke-pay-she-wegamik Native Patient Hostel Interaction, Native Awareness Sessions, Addiction Services and Crisis Development. Wabun Health Services has had a busy and successful year in terms of the Patient Transportation Program, the Diabetes Strategy, Community Health Nursing Program, Crisis Team Coordination and Long Term Care.

In closing the Annual General Meeting, Shawn Batise thanked his Chiefs, Wabun Tribal staff and Wabun Health Services staff for contributing to a successful past year.

"We have accomplished a lot and yet we have a lot more to do. The Wabun Chiefs and myself are very proud of the fact that although we are one of the smallest councils in NAN we are also one of the most progressive," said Batise.



ZOOMING ALONG at the Sixth Annual Wabun Tribal Council Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament are from left to right Margaret Miller, Wabun Health Secretary/Receptionist and Rose Ann Ojeebah, Wabun Health Clerk.

WABUN COMMUNITY EVENTS

MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION: The First Nation was contacted but there were no events reported for Mattagami First Nation.

MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION: October - Children's Halloween Dance. Dates to be announced. December - Christmas Entertainment Night and Supper with appearance by Santa. Dates to be announced. December 11 - Draw date for 1999 "Mini Z" being raffled off by First Nations Children's Recreation Committee and Matachewan Youth Centre. Tickets \$5 each or 3/\$10.

WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION: October 31 - Halloween Dance for kids. December 20, 21 - Community Christmas Dinner and Feast. December - Tubing and skating at Kamiskotia Ski Hill in Timmins during school holidays for students.

BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION: First Monday of each month - Community Soup Kitchen. Last Thursday of each month: Band Membership Meetings. Wednesdays & Thursdays - Babies Afternoon / Playgroups. October 22 - Brunswick House First Nation, Three \$1,000 Jackpot Bingos to be held every second Friday after this date. October 25 - Afterschoolers - Craft Session commencement to be held every second

Monday after this date. October 29 - Brunswick House First Nation Regular Friday Night Bingo to be held every second Friday after this date. November 2 - Community Prize Bingo commencement to be held every second Tuesday after this date. November 5 - Youth Esteem Extravaganza (tentative) November 5 - Parent Relief Group commencement to be held every second Friday after this date. November 20 - National Child Day Celebration. December 4 & 5 - Brunswick House First Nation youth attending the Toronto International Powwow at the Skydome.

BEAVERHOUSE FIRST NATION: December - Christmas Party for community members. Dates to be announced.

CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION: The First Nation was contacted but there were no events reported for Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation.

Please note some events were reported before publishing date and had to be removed as their date had passed. Also Wabun community members who contribute their community listings to Wabun Sun should send listings for the next issue by December 10, 1999. The next issue of Wabun Sun, issue number four, will feature listings from December 15, 1999 to February 15, 2000.

Wabun Tribal Council

313 Railway Street
Timmins, Ontario
P4N 2P4
Ph. (705) 268-9066
Fax: (705) 268-8554



Wabun Sun

Publishing Editor
Shawn Batise
Editor
Mike McGrath
Assistant Editor
Xavier Kataquapit