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New NAPS Detachment Makes History In Mattagami FN



CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION

The first ever community constructed Police services building in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) is being completed in Mattagami First Nation. New Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS) detachment buildings in NAN in recent years have been developed as prefabricated buildings that are imported into the First Nations. This time through lobbying and cooperative efforts the community supervised the ground up construction and

some employment opportunities were provided for members of Mattagami First Nation.

Construction of the new detachment building in Mattagami First Nation was made possible through efforts of Mattagami First Nation, Wabun Tribal Council, NAPS and the funding support of the federal and provincial governments. The \$1.2 million building was funded 52 percent by the federal Ministry of Public Safety Canada and 48 percent by the provincial Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The new state of the art 2,500 square foot facility will provide an independent office space and purpose built garage for local NAPS officers. Mattagami First Nation and project participants are planning a grand opening of the new detachment in the near future.

"We are very happy to see this development in our

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

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

"The building of this new facility was produced through the hard work and persistence of the First Nation and Wabun Tribal Council. This development will provide the community with a modern building they can be proud of and constructed under provincial policing standards," said Acting Chief Robin Jones, NAPS.

Shawn Batise, Executive Director for Wabun Tribal Council explained that

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

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

the community and provides good role models for our young people," explained Batise.



ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE, ROBIN JONES, NAPS

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

Acting Chief Jones explained that the success of the community in lobbying to develop funding for infrastructure in terms of the NAPS detachment points to a need for changes regarding capital funding for Native police services.

"We are working with the government to address the need for capital funding to build infrastructure in the communities we service. Adequate policing facilities are essential and building in the community also provides additional short term economic opportunities in construction. I take my hat off to the dedication and hard work of the local First Nation leadership and to the Wabun Tribal Council for advocating

Wabun First Nations Promote Partnerships At PDAC

Something new and refreshing happened at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention in Toronto. First Nations participated in this historic annual mining extravaganza and Wabun Tribal Council showed up to promote the many positive mining development partnerships they

have contributed to.

The Honourable Minister Michael Gravelle, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry addressed an Aboriginal workshop as part of his participation in this prestigious mining event which drew approximately 24,000 people to the Toronto Convention Centre on March 7. The event wrapped up on

March 10.

During a visit to the Wabun display booth, Minister Gravelle, commended the Wabun First Nation leadership for its positive and progressive partnerships with mining developers in Northeastern Ontario.

"There is much greater understanding today among

companies of how important it is to build relationships with First Nations. I am very impressed with the work that is being done by the Wabun First Nation leadership and the companies that are involved in the mineral operations. I believe there is a very positive momentum that will benefit First Nations and the Metis communities in northern Ontario," said Minister Gravelle.

While perched in front of a multi media display, Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council promoted the many successful agreements and partnerships Wabun First Nations have signed with major mining corporations and resource development companies.

"We have been left out of the loop for more than a hundred years in terms of any benefit from all the resource



MINISTER GRAVELLE VISITED THE WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL DISPLAY AT THE PROSPECTORS AND DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (PDAC) CONVENTION IN TORONTO ON MARCH 9, 2010. FROM L-R ARE: JASON BATISE, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; HONOURABLE MINISTER MICHAEL GRAVELLE, MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, MINES AND FORESTRY AND SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL.

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Wabun Attends PDAC Mining Event

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developments that have taken place right in our own back yards. Times have changed and our Wabun First Nation Chiefs are interested in working with mining and other resource developers who are involved in exploration and development on our lands. We need to be here at the PDAC to make sure that we are not ignored," said Batise.

Participation by First Nations at the PDAC is a relatively new phenomenon. There are only a few First Nation organizations manning displays and promoting an interest in developing partnerships with mining and resource development companies. The event which has been running for 78 years features all of the key players in the mining world with exhibitors and investment developers from all over the globe.

Gone are the days of the salty and eccentric northern prospectors as they have given way to shrewd, well educated, high tech executives, geologists and mining professionals in snappy business suits. The convention is still very much a sea of work hard, play hard, high stakes mining, exploration and development

professionals. With the inclusion of First Nations at this most prestigious mining event, a new openness towards the original caretakers of the land is being demonstrated.

"We got a lot of interest here today. People are asking questions and noticing us. We are dedicated to making sure that our communities and our future generations will benefit from mining and other developments happening on our lands," said Batise.

Wabun representatives who attended the PDAC event included: Chris McKay, Mattagami First Nation; James Naveau, Lands and Resources Coordinator, Mattagami First Nation; Harold (Bo) Corbiere, Lands and Resources Coordinator, Brunswick House First Nation; Jason Batise, Economic Development / Technical Services Advisor, Wabun Tribal Council and Shawn Batise.

Wabun First Nations have been actively negotiating dozens of agreements over the past few years. Some of the major partnership agreements involve North Gate Minerals Corp, Liberty Mines Inc, Lake Shore Gold Corp, Augen Gold Corp and Trelawney Mines all in Northeastern Ontario.



ATTENDING THE PDAC CONFERENCE FROM WABUN WERE (FROM L-R): CHRIS MCKAY, MATTAGAMI FN; JAMES NAVEAU, LANDS AND RESOURCES COODINATOR, MATTAGAMI FN; SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; HAROLD (BO) CORBIERE, LANDS AND RESOURCES COODINATOR, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN AND JASON BATISE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL.

Reflections

by Shawn Batise, Executive Director



With our participation in the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference in Toronto this spring we are being proactive in meeting the mining community head on. The philosophy of the Chiefs and Councils of Wabun Tribal Council have been supportive of court rulings that make it necessary for resource developers to negotiate with First Nations in development on Native lands. We have been promoting our willingness to work with resource developers who come on to our lands to initiate projects.

The PDAC conference was an opportunity for Wabun to educate and inform the key players and stakeholders in the Canadian mining industry as to our successes in project partnerships and the type of agreements we are interested in developing. Our display and information area was very visible and visited by many. For the most part we received some very positive comments and enquiries from mining companies. This opportunity to showcase Wabun Tribal Council and its First Nations to the 24,000 people in attendance also provided us with a more in depth and

broader perspective of the mining industry in Canada.

We have been receiving positive feedback from the provincial and federal government in terms of how successful we have been in negotiating partnerships with resource development companies that have been good for our people while supporting major developments on our lands. We have respect for those companies that are intelligent in that they realize the writing is on the wall in regards to resource development on our Native lands. More and more we see a new openness and commitment from resource developers who are coming on to our lands. They realize full well that it is much better to meet with us before any development takes place so that we can sit down and negotiate in fairness, agreements that benefit all of us and allow projects to move ahead in an environmentally responsible manner.

Make no mistake about it we do not forget the fact that our people have been left out of the loop when we look at all the mining, forestry and hydro developments that have taken place on our lands for more than a hundred years. However, we are more than willing to work with good corporate citizens who understand that negotiating fair compensation for our communities works for everyone. I believe our Wabun leadership has developed a strong reputation for being aggressive but fair negotiators. This is proven with the many partnership success stories we have brokered with companies

including some like: Northgate Minerals Corp, Liberty Mines Inc, Augen Gold Corp and Lakeshore Gold Corp.

Our members are being trained and finding employment through the results of these negotiated agreements. We are also moving ahead with revenue sharing on projects so that our people will benefit in the long term for the development happening on our lands. I am happy to report that more and more the private sector is realizing that there is enough room for everyone to share in the profit picture. Of course I realize that none of these companies would be sitting with us unless they had to, as a result of court decisions that force them to do so. We don't want to have to drag people to the table to put together partnership agreements but we will if it is necessary. Let's face it, without our First Nation approval of any development on our lands it becomes very difficult to achieve permits and licencing. We appreciate those companies that know this from the get go and come to us before they begin any work on our lands.

These are exciting times for our people and the future looks very promising with the cooperation we are finding with all types of new partnerships in resource development. At the same time we have a say as the original guardians of the land as to what development will take place on our territories and how initiatives will be done in accordance with environmental considerations.

Congratulations Eileen



EILEEN BOISSONEAU, CHR, MATTAGAMI FN

Eileen Boissoneau, Community Health Representative for Mattagami First Nation has successfully completed the Diabetes Prevention Worker program from Yellowquill College on March 25, 2010. She completed her condensed one year program in seven months by conducting her in class studies in Barrie, Ontario and taking part in practical training and self study

in her home community. Boissoneau has now achieved certification as a Community Diabetes Prevention Worker.

"I am happy to have completed this program. Diabetes is an important issue in our communities and I am looking forward to applying my training by helping our community members in need. This training will also help me in developing prevention programs so that people are less likely to acquire this disease in the first place," said

Boissoneau received training as part of the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) which ended on March 31, 2010.

Yellowquill College is an Aboriginal college founded by the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council in Manitoba and offers training and post-secondary studies through a variety of business, technology and health related programs.

Annual Beaverfest Promoted In Mattagami FN

Mattagami First Nation will be holding their Annual Beaverfest festival in the community on Saturday, April 24. The event promotes the culture of trapping through the traditions of the First Nation peoples of Mattagami First Nation and the non-Native trappers of Gogama and the surrounding area. Beaverfest is open to the Native and non-Native public and anyone with an interest in traditional Native trapping and this early cultural Canadian heritage is invited to attend.

"We are excited for this year's event. It seems to be getting bigger every year and

people from all over the surrounding First Nations are coming out to join us in this gathering. We even have friends come from as far away as Poland to take part," said Elder Leonard Naveau.

The one day event was started nine years ago by Elder Naveau, his partner Linda Penasse and their friends Evelyn Boissoneau and Willard Harnack as a way to educate young people in Mattagami FN, Gogama and the surrounding area about trapping and to promote this traditional activity. Beaverfest primarily gives local First Nation trappers and members

of the Gogama Fur Council an opportunity to demonstrate and educate the public and youth on the history and culture of animal trapping. One of the highlights of the day's events includes an opportunity for visitors to taste traditional roasted beaver.

"At first, we just wanted to try putting together an event for our communities. Every year after that, people asked us to organize it again and again. It just got bigger and better every time," said Elder Naveau.

This year's event includes sponsorship support from Wabun Tribal Council, Liberty

Mines Inc and Domtar. The event is also supported by the Mattagami First Nation.

In addition to promoting trapping culture, Beaverfest will host an evening feast for visitors at the community centre. A northern music group, the Canucky Bluegrass Boys of Sudbury, Ontario will perform. The music group includes upright bass player Matt Naveau, a member of Mattagami First Nation. Organizers will also host a raffle for prizes including a \$2,500 shopping spree at Home Depot and a \$500 one from Walmart. Display booths and presentations will also be featured by different organizations and groups including natural resource organizations, the Gogama Fur Council, trapper supply companies and the police services.

Elder Naveau is a life long traditional trapper from Mattagami First Nation. He grew up on the land learning from his father George Naveau and his grandfather Thomas Naveau. He explained that he spent most of his early childhood in the wilderness with this father and grandfather where he learned this trade. They trapped primarily on their family's traditional grounds in the Kemp and Natal townships in the Grassy River area. Elder Leonard Naveau is now passing his family's knowledge down to his son Larry Naveau.



**ELDER LEONARD NAVEAU,
MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION**

"Trapping is more or less a hobby for me now as I don't have the strength anymore to go out on the land for long. I am happy that my son Larry is learning about our people's past and the tradition of trapping. It gives me the chance to pass on our family trapline to him and hopefully he can continue this tradition with his family in the future," said Elder Leonard Naveau.

As part of Beaverfest, Elder Leonard Naveau and his son Larry Naveau spent the early spring trapping beavers. These animals will be used for demonstration during the event and as well will serve as food for the feast.

"It is important to bring people together to learn about and promote our culture. Everyone is invited to attend to learn about how trapping contributed to our past and to come together in a fun and entertaining gathering in our community," said Elder Leonard Naveau.

New NAPS Building For Mattagami FN

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on behalf of the community to acquire funding," said Acting Chief Jones.

Mattagami First Nation provided the land space and utility connections for the new building and Wabun Tribal Council assisted with project administration. CGV Builders of Cochrane, Ontario was contracted for the construction phase and the company employed several local Mattagami First Nation tradespeople.

Mattagami First Nation had been lobbying for many years for a NAPS detachment facility but it was not until the cooperative efforts of the community and Wabun Tribal Council staff that the project funding was secured. The community was able to access funding from the government of Canada as part of federal stimulus funds created to deal with the recent downturn in the Canadian economy.

"We were fortunate to access these funds because part of the criteria for approval was that the project had to be ready for immediate development and construction. NAPS and the community had made it clear that this new facility was a necessity and that we were more than willing to start work with the idea of making a positive impact for Mattagami First Nation in terms of infrastructure and employment," said Jason Batise, Economic Development / Technical Services Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council.

Funding approval for the project was announced in August 2009 and construction of the new building started in

the first week of December 2009. Construction schedules originally called for a six month deadline but the building was completed in four and a half months.

In the past NAPS officers were merely housed in offices at the local band administration building in the community. Often they had to leave the First Nation and travel to Ontario Provincial Police detachments in Gogama and Timmins to complete their duties. With the construction of the new facility the officers will spend more time in the First Nation.

"This new Police Services Building represents a phenomenal change for our community,"
Chief Naveau

"The fact that the NAPS did not have their own building in the community was a serious issue for the First Nation. Now that they have their own building it means that they are able to stay in the community to complete their duties and their presence will be more noticeable," said Jason Batise.

He explained that in addition to being able to stay in the community, the officers now have a secure location in which to store their equipment and sensitive documents. The building was constructed with specific requirements by NAPS to provide safety and security for personnel, their

equipment and individuals who are being detained. Emergency systems such as sprinklers are built in and security is maintained by automated systems and cameras. The facility can also accommodate visiting personnel and use in times of emergency.

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

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

NAPS and First Nations are working with government to deal with the issue of police service facility development and construction. Tragic events such as what happened on January 2006 in Kashechewan First Nation on the James Bay Coast resulted in two deaths. Two community men who were being detained in a substandard building burned to death in a fire at the NAPS detachment. A subsequent report on this tragedy pointed out that Native police services need funding to build adequate facilities to maintain the safety and security of detainees and officers.

Wabun Health Holds Crisis Team Training

Crisis Team Training was held in Timmins over two days on January 27 and 28 for health care workers from each of Wabun's First Nations. Wabun Health Services hosted the event which provided training and education for 18 Crisis Team members under the training topic of 'Lateral Violence'. This training was also made possible through the support of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Special Projects.

"Every January we try to bring our Crisis Team members together for training in a new area of health care and healthy living. These training events allow our team members to deal with emergencies but also help prevent them from occurring in the first place," said Mike Archer, Crisis Team Coordinator, Wabun Health Services.

The training was facilitated by Archer as well as Kim Meawasige and Samantha Kinoshange, who are both from the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC). They provided specific training to deal with lateral violence, a term used to describe forms of abusive behaviour including: verbal abuse, gossip, shaming, and bullying.

"This is a health topic that is not as well known in our society and sometimes it is behaviour that we tend to turn a blind eye to. We wanted to identify this issue with our health care workers so that they can pass on this knowledge and help foster a healthier environment for our First Nations. It is our hope that this type of training can help prevent other forms of violence or violent behaviour

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Chapleau Ojibwe FN Finds Success In Treaty Land Entitlement Negotiations

Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation is moving ahead with a Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process. The community is negotiating with the provincial and federal governments for compensation based on the Treaty Nine agreement signed in 1906. The Treaty Nine document established the formation of reserves for the First Nation people in northern Ontario based on a specific formula of land title as corresponding to the population size of a given community. Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation has forwarded the claim to the federal and provincial governments that an insufficient amount of land title was provided to their community based on the number of members in their

First Nation in 1906.

"Our community is looking forward to the expansion of our land base because it will provide for economic development opportunities in the future. This will also give us the room we need to develop more residential space and housing for our growing community," said Chief Anita Stephens, Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation.

Under the terms of the treaty, one square mile of land was supposed to be set aside for a family of five individuals or 128 acres per person. After the treaty signing, Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation was given a 260 acres land base for the formation of their reserve. This small land base did not correspond with their membership size of 80 individuals which should have provided them with 16 square miles of land at the time of the signing.

The First Nation leadership had identified this issue during the 1990s but it was not until two years ago that a formal process was started with the community and the two levels of government. A negotiations protocol with the government of Canada was signed in June 2009 and a negotiations framework agreement was established with the Ontario

government in September 2009. The community is engaged in two separate negotiations. The first is an agreement with the provincial government to provide 12 square miles of land to add to the reserve. The second concerns negotiations with the government of Canada for monetary compensation to Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation for the loss of use of their land during the past 104 years since the signing of the treaty.

Together with the community, the Ontario government has identified land for the treaty entitlement to expand the reserve area. The land titles are currently being protected from any development at this time. Once the land area in question has been agreed upon, ownership will be transferred to the government of Canada which will then set it aside as reserve land for the Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation. Chief Stephens explained that her community is hoping that this new land space will also provide her community with water access.

"We are making good progress with the Ontario government concerning the land selection process for the treaty entitlement. The land in

question has been withdrawn from land staking, land management and permitting to protect this area while we are in negotiations. After many years it is good to see the negotiations process has moved forward quickly and the community is happy with the land that has been selected," said Kim Fullerton, a Toronto based lawyer who has worked with the Chapleau Ojibwe leadership in negotiations with government.

Once the land selection has been finalized, consultations with neighbouring First Nations will also take place to garner their approval. Throughout the negotiations process, Chief Stephens explained that the community was regularly updated and consulted on the status of the Treaty Land Entitlement process. At the end of the process when a settlement has been agreed upon, a referendum will be held in the community for membership approval.

"One advantage of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation being a small community is that it is easy for our members to take part in changes like this. Everyone was really interested in this process as it meant a lot to us. Our members came out to have their say at all our meetings and they gave us direction with their feedback. It was important for our negotiations team to have the support of our community members," said Chief Stephens.

The negotiations team for Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation headed by Chief Stephens includes First Nation Councillors: Theresa Memegos and Leona Panamik, Administrative Support Staff: Connie Corston, Fullerton and Christine Deroi, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Researcher. The federal government is being represented by Jos Dyck, head negotiator for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), through its Specific Claims Branch in Ottawa. The province is being represented by Peter Ittinuar, Lead



**KIM FULLERTON,
NEGOTIATIONS TEAM LAWYER**

Negotiator for the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and also by Mike Bernier and Susan Linquist for the Ministry of Natural Resources.

In regards to the current negotiations with the Ontario government, Fullerton explained he was grateful for the cooperative work everyone accomplished so far.

"There is a great team of people who are working hard on both sides and we really feel that the government wants to resolve this issue as much as the community does. This treaty land entitlement will be a win win situation for the area as a larger First Nation will benefit surrounding communities with increased economic activity in the future," said Fullerton.

Wabun Tribal Council provided assistance and support for the community leadership in the beginning and continues to help the negotiations team. Chief Stephens extended her gratitude to everyone involved in the negotiations.

"I want to say thank you to Kim Fullerton for helping us through this process and for reassuring our members during our community meetings. I am also grateful for the work of our negotiations team and the support of our community. We are also happy to have Wabun available when we need their assistance. It is a real bonus to us to have the support of the Wabun leadership and staff and they have been really helpful throughout this process," said Chief Stephens.



**CHIEF ANITA STEPHENS,
CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN**

Training Benefits Wabun Members

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from occurring," said Archer.

The training was presented from an Aboriginal perspective and provided traditional ideals on family and community bonding and cultural views on the caring of women, children and elders. The facilitators provided training through presentations and demonstration activities.

"This was a very insightful and educational workshop for our crisis team members because it offered them an opportunity to acknowledge and identify this

type of behaviour in our communities and the impact it has on our people as a whole. The participants were impressed and they shared their experiences and feelings on this topic. It was a successful gathering because we were able to open and share our thoughts and feelings to deal with another form of violence that affects our people," said Archer.

Crisis Team members who attended the workshop were: Bonnie Fletcher, Wallace Naveau, Deanna Heyde and Halina Naveau of Mattagami First Nation; Douglas Redbreast, Margaret Quakegesic and Christina Redbreast of Brunswick First Nation; Paul Chokomolin, Krissy McMartin, James Eric Sutherland, Olivia Sutherland and Victor Diamond of Wahgoshig First Nation; Sue Collins, Alex (Sonny) Batisse and LeeAnn Peters of Matachewan First Nation and Tom Wabie, Freda Wabie and Teresa Laffrenier of Beaverhouse First Nation.

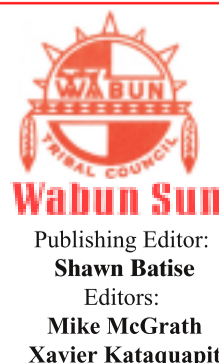
The Crisis Team which is

represented in each community is part of an overall first response program that is coordinated by Wabun Health Services. This program coordinates the work of health care workers, volunteers and emergency responses teams in the event of an emergency or crisis in a community ranging from regional wide events to family violence and suicide.

Wabun Health Services is planning on providing more training and educational events for community members over the next few months. On April 21 and 22, First Aid and CPR training will be provided. This summer the Annual Youth Gathering will be held in late July and in the fall the Annual Men's and Women's Wellness workshops will take place in November. Wabun members who are interested in attending these events can contact the Wabun Health Office in Timmins at: 705-268-9066 or send an email to Mike Archer at: archermb@wabun.on.ca



**MIKE ARCHER,
CRISIS TEAM COORDINATOR,
WABUN HEALTH SERVICES**



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