

WABUN

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Sun



INSIDE:

- FIFTH ANNUAL WABUN YOUTH GATHERING
- MATTAGAMI FN PARTNERSHIP CREATES COMPASS CARRIERS
- ANDREW NESHAWABIN ELECTED CHIEF
- CHIEF MARCIA BROWN MARTEL FEATURED
- FOCUS ON ELDER NANCY NESHAWABIN
- WABUN ASSISTS CAT LAKE EVACUEES

REFLECTIONS



**Shawn
Batise**
Executive
Director

Activity in the resource development sector and in particular mining is at an all time high. I am proud and very happy to report that Wabun Tribal Council is in the forefront in dealing with many initiatives on our traditional lands.

Right now in this economy we see so much mining interest and activity in Northern Ontario and in particular right in our own First Nations backyards. We here at Wabun have been dealing with resource development companies for more than a decade now and I have to tell you there have been many changes. In the modernization of the mining act, consultations are to be started by companies interested in mining activity during the early exploration stage. The act has already been passed but it will take time for its components to be enacted. Wabun staff are actively involved in consultations so that our leadership has clear information on this new process and how it will work.

We have so many mining companies interested in exploration in our area to the point where we can not keep tabs on the ongoing development. Of course we are very secure in our understanding of the requirements set out by the province and courts. Mining companies wanting to conduct activity on Wabun lands are very interested in meeting with Wabun First Nations at the very beginning of the process. Our mantra here at Wabun in terms of dealing with mining companies is to consult with us early and often. I am happy to report that in recent years there has been a big change in the attitude of companies wanting to develop mines on our lands. There

are many more proactive executives who understand how important it is to develop good relations early on to build meaningful relationships with our First Nations.

We have so many successful projects that we can point to in terms of working with resource developers and those mainly involved in mining. The downturn in the world economy has resulted in a huge increase in the price of gold and that has driven so much exploration in our part of the province. We have had to learn a lot over the past decade in terms of the process and legalities in dealing with resource developers. Along with the support and participation of our Chiefs and Councils we established negotiation teams that are on the leading edge of Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA), Exploration Agreements (EA) and Memorandums Of Understanding (MOU).

You have seen much of the positive news resulting from these agreements in initiatives moving ahead involving Augen Gold Corp, Liberty Mines Inc., Northgate Minerals Corp, Lake Shore Gold Corp, Trelawney

Mining & Exploration Inc and Platinex Inc to name the major initiatives. However, there are thousands of mining claims on our lands and as a company decides to become active in our territory then it really is up to them to meet with us early on. Even, when companies do come onto our lands to explore and develop and even if we have sound agreements with them it is important to realize that few of these exploration initiatives actually become mines. It is estimated that about one in 25 develop into mines.

We understand that everyone must have patience in this process and even once a mine has been

identified to proceed it still takes years for it to become a reality in terms of construction of the site, putting together the workforce and developing all of the logistics that surround such a huge initiative. We are not new to this game and many other First Nations are looking at our successes and applying what we have experienced to their own developments with mining companies.

I think it is important to get the message out there to any mining companies coming on to our lands that they should reach out early and consult with us. We are more than willing to meet and negotiate agreements that are beneficial to everyone and to make sure that things proceed in a safe, environmentally respectful and timely manner.

I know we are on the right track and that things are developing as they should when I reflect on so many stories I have heard from our Elders. They tell of a time not so long ago when many of our people were living in very poor conditions with little or no work and constantly struggling to survive while mines in the area drew billions of dollars in precious

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metals out of the ground on our traditional lands. You would think they would be bitter but for the most part they are very forgiving and willing to move on. I see the smiles on their faces and the light in their eyes is strong when their grandchildren and great grandchildren graduate from one of our training programs and start a career at the local mine. We can't change the past but we certainly are doing our very best to make sure that our people today and in future generations will have a say on what happens on our lands and that they will benefit from resource development on Wabun territory.

HEALTH MATTERS

There are so many resource developments moving ahead in our Wabun First Nations these days. For the past few years we have seen fantastic partnerships coming out of all sorts of meaningful agreements with corporations and governments in mainly mining and forestry. The result is that our people are going to work. They are being trained at the local level in all sorts of programs and also attending post secondary colleges and universities to qualify for employment in the resource sector.

However, we have had a difficult history and not so long ago our people did not have the opportunities for employment that we now see developing. Times have changed for the better and it is good to see our youth and middle aged men and women making their dreams come true by furthering their education and starting careers.

All of this development has been moving ahead quickly for the past few years and many of our people in our First Nations lacked the skills, education and general capacity to move ahead into the regular working world. As a result of decades of not having opportunities for work and having to rely on governments for assistance, too many of our people have been wounded. Combine this with systematic repression and experiences like the residential school system and it understandable that merely surviving was a challenge for so many of our First Nation members.

As all of the great opportunities for training, education and careers developed we at Wabun Health

understood very early on that we had to have programs in place to assist our people in preparing for all of the challenges that came with these blessings. Our Wabun Chiefs and Elders encouraged us to reach out to our community members and provide them with social, experiential and healing programs that would help them on the road to a new life of prosperity. The corporations and government partners signed on to agreements that provided our people real opportunities for jobs and more importantly careers in the resource sector.

So, for many years now we have been working hard to create workshops, events and forums where the focus is on healing and providing our community members with new skills and insights. Our Wabun Health team has been actively working with community

front line workers to identify the challenges, obstacles and issues our people are facing. That teamwork has resulted in programs such as the Men's and Women's Wellness workshops, the Wabun Youth Gathering, the Elders Gathering, Suicide Prevention Workshops and other healing related events and forums.

Our people are finding support and encouragement through their peers and in healthy learning programs that provide healing

and solutions for those dealing with addictions, low self esteem, anger management, abuse and bad choices. We are doing this with the

**Jean
Lemieux**
Health
Director



expertise of well known and respected facilitators through all kinds of workshops and for the most part we are doing it through Native traditional and cultural teachings. Our Elders have been a great help to us in assisting with this programming and providing us with a link to our past, our traditions and our culture.

I have seen so many of our people on a healing path through these programs and it has been very satisfying to see them rise to the challenges, deal with the obstacles in their lives and throw off the shackles that have been holding them down. For many their smiles are coming back and they are feeling good about themselves. They are finding a good balance of self esteem and humility as they develop into dedicated, confident and hardworking individuals.

When an individual finds the help and support he or she needs and proceeds down a healing path then that person's family benefits and to a greater extent the entire community becomes more healthy. I want to thank so many people for helping us put in place the programming that is contributing to more healthy individuals and communities and I also want to remind our Wabun First Nation members that you are not alone. Keep coming out to participate in the various healing programs we offer. You need to know as you move on in training, post secondary education and careers that help is only a phone call away. We all have our ups and downs and the main thing is to stay on the healing path.

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Andrew Neshawabin Elected As Chief In Brunswick House FN



Chief Andrew Neshawabin
Brunswick House FN

Chief Andrew Neshawabin was reelected as Chief of Brunswick House First Nation in August 2011. He is a long time representative and advocate for his community who has served on Chief and Council in various roles for many years. Chief Neshawabin also comes from a line of local leaders who have served the community in the past. His father Fred Neshawabin held the position of Chief from the 1950s to the 1970s. Chief Andrew Neshawabin also sits as a member of the Board of Directors for the Wabun Tribal Council where he represents his community at a regional level.

He represented his First Nation as Chief in 2006 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Treaty #9 signing. During these ceremonies which were held with Grand Chief Stan Beardy, of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation in attendance, Chief Neshawabin expressed his hopes for the future of his community.

"We are not looking to the past but rather we are looking to the future for our children. However, we also do not want to forget our difficult history. We are working together to negotiate with the government on our traditional rights and the promise of sharing the resources on our territory. It is our hope that we will provide a better future for our people and our youth," said Chief Neshawabin.

He led his community during negotiations with Hydromega to establish a partnership for the development of waterpower projects on the Kapuskasing river system. Agreements were signed by Brunswick House First Nation, Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation and Hydromega to establish a working relationship and partnership with the company that would allow the

communities to gain ownership of the newly develop hydro power projects in the long term future.

"It feels good to know that our young generation will have something positive to look forward to. The benefits will not come right away but this project gives us hope for the future. This partnership is also an example for other First Nations. Like many First Nations, we have been fighting for years to create employment and business opportunities for our community. Agreements such as this will open the door for other First Nations to follow in the same direction as we have," said Chief Neshawabin.

"We as a community want a better life for our people,"
Chief Neshawabin

Brunswick House FN has entered into several agreements with resource based companies over the years. The community has negotiated with resource based companies and has signed agreements that involve: Hydromega, for the development of hydro projects on the Kapuskasing river; Augen Gold Corp., for gold mining exploration on their traditional lands and M & L Waste Management inc regarding the development of a biomass power project in Chapleau.

"The agreements I have been involved in and those that previous Chiefs and Councils have worked on are all part of the idea that we as a community want a better life for our people and our families. Our people have been here for hundreds of years and we feel that we need to be treated with respect when it comes to dealing with resource development," said Chief Neshawabin.

In addition to his work on

resource development, he has also been active over the years in many other capacities. In 2000, as Chief, he worked with his council to develop and establish a new Elders Complex in the community.

At the time he commented,

"This is a project that our community saw as a priority and one that I wanted to see developed ever since I was elected by the people as Chief. An Elders Complex allows us to take care of our elders in the community rather than have them displaced in old age homes in towns or cities out of their home environment. Our elders need to be close to our community so that their knowledge and experience of our traditions and culture will continue to be passed on," said Chief Neshawabin.

During the same period in 2000, he and his council worked with Wabun Tribal Council to install a new water delivery system for the community.

In addition to his leadership roles, he has a background in the forest fire fighting and forestry industry.

Chief Neshawabin wants to see his community continue to establish economic development opportunities and partnerships in resource development projects with his First Nation. He believes in working as part of a team and that belonging to a tribal council provides strength in dealing with governments and industry.

Educational opportunities for his people are one of Chief Neshawabin's main goals. He is also a supporter of developing and encouraging traditional knowledge. Over the past two decades, Brunswick House First Nation has seen a resurgence of local members who have taken on the task of fostering a greater understanding of their past and cultural history. Several community members have received training and education in traditional pursuits, ceremonies and customs.

Chief Neshawabin is a First Nation Oji-Cree person who was born and raised in Brunswick House First Nation.

Grand Opening For New Medical Services Building In Brunswick House FN



A GRAND OPENING of a new community health services building was held in Brunswick House First Nation on August 3, 2011. Shawn Batise, Executive Director for Wabun Tribal Council was on hand to celebrate with the community. He is pictured here with Brunswick House FN Councillors Christine Venedam (centre) and Charmaine Saunders (right).

Wabun Scholarship Fund

Wabun Tribal Council Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for available scholarships until the deadline of February 15, 2012.

The scholarship application is open to any Wabun Tribal Council First Nation student as long as he or she is enrolled in a post-secondary school.

The applicant must send a letter to the attention of:

**Scholarship Fund,
Shawn Batise, Executive Director
Wabun Tribal Council,
313 Railway Street,
Timmins Ontario P4N 2P4**

The letter should detail a little about why the applicant feels he or she deserves this scholarship and indicate what program he or she is attending. Preference will be given to those in programs relating to telecommunications, health, engineering and business. The applicant must also include a proof of academic performance or a recent transcript and your Social Insurance Number.

Wabun Health Workshops And Events

November 29 to December 1, 2011 - Wabun Tribal Council is hosting an Anger Management Workshop to be held in Timmins.

This event is geared for Wabun Tribal Council members from 19 years of age and older. It is a two part workshop with a second portion to run in Timmins January 24, 25 and 26, 2012. Mike Archer, Community Crisis Coordinator is in charge of facilitation for these two workshops.

The workshop limit for participants has already been filled.

As workshops are hosted on a regular basis throughout the year. Any Wabun member interested should contact Mike Archer as early as possible.

Spring 2012 - An Elders Gathering is tentatively set to take place in Flying Post First Nation. The Annual Elders Gathering honours our Elders and brings them together as part of a traditional custom that provides a social affair with family and friends.

Anyone wanting more information can contact Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services.

For more information on these events contact the Wabun Tribal Council office.

by phone at:

705-268-9066

or send an email to:

reception@wabun.on.ca

Mattagami FN Partners To Create Compass Carriers

Mattagami First Nation is moving ahead with business development, capacity building and employment opportunities with the creation of Compass Carriers, a new joint venture. The company is a transportation business that will primarily be involved in ore hauling operations for Lake Shore Gold Corp.



Chief Walter Naveau
Mattagami FN

"This new company will provide our community with a much needed source of independent revenue. It will also give our members employment and help us to develop other opportunities in our community. This new venture shows that we want to become active in pursuing business opportunities. Joint ventures such as this prove that our First Nation can be part of the mainstream economy as well," said Chief Walter Naveau, Mattagami First Nation.

The company was established through a newly created business entity called the Mattagami Group LP, a limited partnership with the First Nation holding 55% ownership of the company. The remaining 45% of the company is with Aboriginal owned Baz Corporation, an investment company based in Timmins, headed by its General Manager Peter Bazinet, an experienced transport company business operator. Compass Carriers is actually a division of Mattagami Group LP, which has been created with another division to handle other types of operations such as rentals and contract work with resource based companies.

Mattagami Group LP came out of negotiations between the community leadership and Lake Shore Gold Corp., a mining company which is operating two gold mining projects east and west of Timmins. Mattagami FN has been involved in negotiations with the company for several years. One of the company's mining developments, the Timmins West Project is situated on the traditional lands of Mattagami FN and Flying Post FN. In February 2011, after several agreements leading up to the

development of the Timmins West Project, the company signed an Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) with Mattagami FN and Flying Post FN. This agreement allowed Mattagami FN to negotiate a business arrangement that would provide them an opportunity to create business ventures for their community.

"We have been working on this process now for many years. Our Chief and Council has always wanted to create opportunities where we would be able to have control over a business and provide employment for our members. A transportation company was one of our goals as we have plenty of qualified and trained individuals in our community who are ready for this type of work," said Chris McKay, First Nation Consultant and member of Mattagami First Nation.

McKay has been involved in the negotiations and development of several agreements between resource based companies and Mattagami FN. He explained that the development of Mattagami Group LP came out of many years of negotiations and hard work.

"In our negotiations with Lake Shore Gold we identified an ore hauling contract for Mattagami First Nation to be included in our final agreement. This provided us with the incentive to

establish and develop a new company for our First Nation," said McKay.

Mattagami FN leadership then took the step of acting on this opportunity by developing a business model to work with an experienced and knowledgeable partner on a venture that the community could own.

"We wanted our business model to be successful and we were fortunate enough to find a highly experienced and knowledgeable partner in Peter Bazinet. We had developed projects such as this in the past and we understood that we needed to have the guidance of someone who knew this business in order to make it work," said McKay.

Bazinet currently sits as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Mattagami Group LP. His main role is to provide management and development expertise for Compass Carriers transportation division. He has been involved in the transportation industry since the early 1970s. In 1980, he started his own trucking company. Since then, he has owned, operated and bought and sold several trucking companies and rental businesses in northern Ontario. He has developed transportation businesses that provided services regionally, nationally and internationally into the United States.



COMPASS CARRIERS, A NEW JOINT VENTURE TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS, THAT WILL BE BASED IN MATTAGAMI FN IS BEING BUILT ON A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP. PICTURED ARE CHRIS MCKAY, MATTAGAMI FN REPRESENTATIVE AND PETER BAZINET, CEO, MATTAGAMI GROUP LP WITH THEIR COMPANY TRUCK AT THE WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL OFFICE IN TIMMINS.

In 2000, after working successfully in the business for many years, he retired from the transportation business.

"I had been doing consulting work with other companies in southern Ontario when I met with Chris about developing this company for their community. I have been working in the transportation business for a long time and to have a contractual opportunity with a major mining company like Lake Shore Gold is a great advantage. No new trucking has that going for them. We are starting with a multi year contract and that is significant in terms of a brand new business such as this," said Bazinet.

Compass Carriers started operations on a limited scale in 2010, where some trucks provided haulage requests for Liberty Mines Inc in Timmins. Currently, the new transportation company is preparing for work with Lake Shore Gold Corp. New vehicles are being brought in and trailers are being built for mine ore hauling. Bazinet explained that the new

transportation company should be fully up and running by early 2012. He expects to see 20 new drivers to operate the new trucks for the company and two employment opportunities for positions in administration and operations.

"From the start, I believe we will need at least 22 new people to run our operations. By the end of 2012, I can easily see up to 30 or 40 people being employed by our company," said Bazinet.

The new company head office will be based in Mattagami First Nation with a satellite office in Timmins

"I've learned over the years that it takes a lot of hard work and commitment to make a business such as this work for the long run. We are starting with a major contract and we are well positioned for future growth to do work with other companies and businesses," said Bazinet.

Chief Naveau believes that this new venture shows recognition from the business community that First Nations can become involved in resource

development projects.

"I feel that joint ventures such as this are accomplished through mutual trust that is built on a foundation of team work. I am very optimistic for the future and if we continue on the track we are on now, it can only get better. We have been stuck in place by Indian and Northern Affairs for too long and now we are trying to break away from that colonial system and become more self sufficient," said Chief Naveau.

The community membership has been supportive of the new business venture.

"Everyone feels that this is a good opportunity for our community. This has been a long process and there is still more work to be done. We are appreciative and grateful for the patience and support of our First Nation members. It takes time to find the right partner and to build a solid partnership. We are excited and it is very satisfying to finally see results from all the hard work, meetings and negotiations," said McKay.

Wabun Featured At NADF Awards

Wabun Tribal Council and a young Wabun entrepreneur were honoured at the 21st Annual Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund (NADF) awards presentation, October 26 in Timmins.

Some 350 people who attended the event were treated to an evening of celebration of Native success in business which had Brent Edwards of Fort Albany First Nation as Master of Ceremonies.

Wabun Tribal Council was honoured with the Building Communities award.

"On behalf of our Wabun Chiefs and our First Nations I was very happy to accept this award for excellence in building communities. Since Wabun was established I have watched the communities grow in so many ways – socially, culturally, economically – it has been exciting. This award is an indication of the dedication and hard work of all the staff at Wabun and I want to thank them for their efforts," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council.

Christine Neegan a member of Brunswick House First Nation and owner of Blue Feather Spirit Wear won the Youth Entrepreneur award. She is a graduate of fashion and design from Fanshawe College and also has a diploma in marketing from

Northern College.

"It makes everyone at Wabun very proud when one of our members is rewarded for excellence and Christine certainly has put forth a great effort in terms of getting the right type of education to follow her dreams in the fashion business," said Batise.

Business Woman of the Year was Connie Boyd of Cobalt, Ontario who has a business called Silver Moccasin. She can be seen on line at www.silvermoccasin.com

Business Man of the Year award went to Pierre Pelletier of Red Rock Indian Band. He was awarded for his successful logging business called Four K's Logging. In addition he has experience as Chief of his community and is a business administration graduate from Confederation College.

Veronica Nicholson, Executive Director of the Timmins Native Friendship Centre won the Executive of the Year award.

Ramona Sutherland of Constance Lake First Nation was awarded the New Business of the Year for her role as the sole practitioner of Niska Law Offices. Joe and Linda Fiddler who own and operate Sandy Lake Motel in Sandy Lake First Nation won Partnership of the Year. Corporation of the Year was awarded to Kimesskanemenow Corporation.

Kimesskanemenow, the Cree word for our road, was developed to produce the winter road along the western coast of James Bay and it is jointly owned by Attawapiskat, Fort Albany and Kashechewan.

The NADF awards, which started in 1991, awards have been presented to many Aboriginal entrepreneurs, executives, businesses and organizations within the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) territory. This territory spans the northern portion of Ontario, primarily the area known as Treaty #9, from the James Bay coast to the Manitoba border. Due to the vastness of the territory, the awards venue has alternated between Thunder Bay, Ontario and Timmins, Ontario to provide opportunity for participation from across the NAN area.

In 1993, the annual awards banquet also evolved into a fundraiser with event proceeds going to the Dennis Franklin Cromarty Memorial Fund in Thunder Bay, Ontario which provides bursaries to Aboriginal students advancing their education. The fund was created in memory of the late Grand Chief and President of Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund, Dennis Franklin Cromarty, a visionary dedicated to achieving harmony amongst all peoples.

Wabun Youth Gathering Bigger Than Ever

The fifth annual Wabun Youth Gathering held at the Eco Centre Lodge in Elk Lake featured presentations by Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy and Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose. Eighty-five Wabun youth attended the event which ran from July 18 to 29 and was sponsored by Wabun Tribal Council Health Services.

"I am here today to show my support for the Wabun youth and to encourage them in their participation of workshops where they are learning traditional and cultural teachings of our people. I have



PERCY TRAPPER, AN ABORIGINAL MUSICIAN FROM THE JAMES BAY COAST SPOKE TO YOUTH AND ALSO PERFORMED SOME OF HIS ORIGINAL MUSIC DURING THE WABUN YOUTH GATHERING.

also brought along some of our college and university summer students that are working for NAN so that they can step forward as role models for our young people," said Grand Chief Beardy.

He was accompanied by NAN Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose, Ben Cheechoo, NAN Governance Secretariat Director and former Grand Chief of NAN; Dr Emily Faries, Education Jurisdiction Negotiator, NAN Governance Secretariat and five post secondary students from the NAN area.

"My message to you today is to keep working hard and striving and to remind you that our strength as a people comes from our language, culture and traditions. You are our future and with so many opportunities available today, you have to make sure you have an education," said Deputy Grand Chief Waboose.

Dr Faries and Cheechoo conducted a presentation on NAN First Nation Governance, an initiative involving the sectoral negotiation process to achieve self-governance agreements in areas that affect the lives of the members of the First Nations of NAN.

"It is important for us to communicate to our youth what is involved in this process and to receive input from these young people," said Dr Faries.

The event was divided into two parts. The first week from July 18 to 22 was held for junior youth aged from eight to 12 and the second week from



DIVING INTO ELK LAKE DURING THE WABUN YOUTH GATHERING JUNIOR WEEK FOR AGES 8 TO 12.

July 25 to 29 was for senior youth aged 13 to 18. In the first week facilitator Barney McLeod, a popular international Aboriginal soap stone sculptor and Matachewan FN member conducted workshops that led to the junior youth producing their own soap stone carvings. He was assisted by his partner Karen Clark.

The senior week featured Byron Edgar, an Aboriginal facilitator from Manitoulin Island who is involved in youth leadership training and prevention of suicide, gangs, violence, bullying and substance abuse. Another facilitator, Percy Trapper, an Aboriginal musician, originally from Moosonee, on the James Bay coast, conducted a presentation on life skills using his own success story.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about our traditional teachings and culture. I want to thank our Wabun Chiefs for giving us the opportunity to

BELOW: SENIOR WABUN YOUTH WITH GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN), DELEGATES FROM NAN AND WABUN FIRST NATION CHAPERONES.





JUNIOR WEEK FOR THE WABUN YOUTH GATHERING IN ELK LAKE SAW A LARGE TURNOUT OF BOYS AND GIRLS BETWEEN THE AGES OF EIGHT TO 12 TAKE PART IN WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES. PICTURED ARE WABUN YOUTH, JUNIOR CHAPERONES AND CHAPERONES.

have this gathering every year,” said senior youth, Lynne Cormier, Matachewan FN.

Elder Vina Hendrix, Matachewan FN, led the group in opening and closing prayers and she was instrumental in assisting everyone with traditional and cultural knowledge. Chief Marcia Martel Brown, Beaverhouse FN took part as a chaperone for youth and performed a traditional drum ceremony assisted by Michael Lafrenier, a senior youth also of Beaverhouse FN.

“I want to thank Mike Archer who does such a good job of coordinating this youth gathering every year and I give thanks to Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director for her support in making this event possible,” said Chief Martel-Brown.

Lemieux could not attend the event due to the fact she was coordinating the Cat Lake First Nation evacuation crisis.

“I am getting so much good feedback from federal and provincial government representatives, First Nation leaders and health professionals concerning the progress we have made with the Wabun Youth Gathering. I am so proud of our youth participants and very satisfied at how much they have developed over the years,” said Lemieux.

Chief Alex (Sonny) Batisse of Matachewan FN also visited to show his support for the gathering.

“I am so proud and grateful to be part of the Wabun Youth Gathering.



NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN) DELEGATES TOOK TIME DURING THE WABUN YOUTH GATHERING TO PROVIDE WORKSHOPS AND MEET WITH YOUTH. PICTURED ARE KODIAK JOLIVET, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN; DR EMILY FARIES, EDUCATION JURISDICTION NEGOTIATOR, NAN GOVERNANCE SECRETARIAT; JENNIFER CONSTANT, COUNCILLOR, MATTAGAMI FN; SAMUEL KLOETSTRA, MATTAGAMI FN AND BEN CHEECHOO, NAN GOVERNANCE SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR AND FORMER GRAND CHIEF OF NAN.

Over the years, I am amazed at all of the growth I have seen in our young people who have participated in these events. I am also thankful to our Wabun Chiefs for making the event possible and to Health Canada for funding we have received over the years,” said Mike Archer, Community Crisis Coordinator, Wabun Health Services.

The Wabun Youth Gathering came out of the vision and guidance of the

late Elder Thomas Saunders, Brunswick House FN, who wanted to see the Wabun communities coming together in one gathering. 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 Northeastern Ontario and it is directed by its respective Chiefs.

Featured Elder Is Nancy Neshawabin Brunswick House FN



**Elder Nancy
Neshawabin**
Brunswick
House FN

Elder Nancy Neshawabin, of Brunswick House First Nation, is the featured Elder for this issue of Wabun Sun. She is a well known Elder in her home community who provides support and encouragement to her family and young people. Elder Neshawabin is also a strong individual with plenty of life experience and she has lived through many hardships with her family and community. This life knowledge has allowed her to be better able to comfort and support those around her.

She was born in Chapleau, Ontario at the Lady Minto hospital in 1948 and raised on the Mount Batton Reserve lands, which are located approximately 100 kilometers southeast of Chapleau, Ontario.

"I don't really remember much from my childhood. I do recall that Mount Batton was only a small community and there were not many houses. We had many relatives nearby and it was good to be around people we knew," said Elder Neshawabin.

She explained that life on the reserve in the 1950s and 60s was a period of difficult adjustment for her people. Her family mainly subsisted on a diet of traditional hunting, trapping and fishing on their lands.

"We had no hydro or services in our community back then so everything was done by hand and hard work. It was normal to cut wood all the time to keep our home warm, deliver water buckets to our home, scrub our clothes by hand and hang them out to dry. We had no refrigeration so people kept their food out on their porches in the winter time and buried it in cool earth pits in the summer," said Elder Neshawabin.

Brunswick House First Nation had been established as a community as part of the Treaty Number 9 agreement which was signed in 1905 and 1906. In the summer of 1906, local community

members were some of the original signatories of the agreement with the government of Canada. As part of the agreement, 27 square miles of land were set aside for the community on the shores of the Missinaibi River. This was later changed in 1925 when the Chapleau Game Preserve was established and the community was moved by the government. Brunswick House FN members endured a 22 year period without a permanent land base during which they were relocated three times in the surrounding Chapleau area.

Her father Fred Neshawabin was Chief of Brunswick House First Nation when she was born. It was during his time as Chief that Brunswick House First Nation was moved to the new Mount Batton Reserve Lands in 1947. Mount Batton was actually the traditional trapping grounds of Chief Joe Davy, previous Chief to Chief Fred Neshawabin. This move to Mount Batton came with another hardship as a forestry company known as Kalamazoo Vegetable and Paper (KVP) Company of Michigan, United States continued for the next ten years until 1958 to exercise their logging rights on the newly established lands of Brunswick House First Nation.

"This period was our Depression Years to me. I remember our family receiving rations like canned ham in unlabelled tins, powdered milk and flour. Our leaders including my father who was Chief at the time could not understand what was happening. We had nothing but our land yet company workers were cutting down all the trees in our area. We could not understand why our resources were being taken away and we were left with no compensation for it," said Elder Neshawabin.

The Mount Batton reserve lands had also been used as a Prisoner Of War (POW) camp for German prisoners during the Second World War. The discovery was made after several German graves were found in the area.

She added that this period was a difficult transition for her people who had formerly lived a nomadic lifestyle on the land. When she was five, she was taken away to residential school for three years in Moose Factory on the James Bay coast. By the time she returned home, after years of having no land base, her community members had lost much of

the will to pass down traditional and cultural customs and their language to their younger generation.

"I have a hard time remembering my childhood as it was difficult for my family to have a life on our new lands. Our father worked on the railway system and we never really had time to learn about our culture and our past. We never really attended school back then and even at home, I did not get the chance to learn much of our traditional language," said Elder .

She was raised in a family with her four sisters and five brothers. Her sisters are Francis Saunders, Mary Tessier and Lulu Neshawabin. Her sister Helen Wesley is now deceased. Elder Neshawabin's brothers are Andrew Neshawabin, Donald Neshawabin and Hank Neshawabin. Two of her brothers Frederick Thomas Neshawabin and James Neshawabin are now deceased. Her brother Andrew Neshawabin continues the historical connection to leadership as he is the current Chief of Brunswick House First Nation.

"We lived in a two bedroom home in the community and we used every corner of the house to sleep everyone. It was a simple life and our parent's main concern was feeding the family through hunting and trapping and with what work my father could get. Living off the land was our only connection to the land and it was what helped us survive those lean times," said Elder Neshawabin.

She still holds a strong connection to her home community in Mount Batton as several graves of community members are located there, including two children who had been lost during their birth.

"It is sad to see our old community not being taken care of. This is where I grew up and where I remember many of my relatives and old family. Life might have been hard back then but at least it was our home," said Elder Neshawabin.

As a teenager, she faced many difficulties and hardships but with perseverance, she lived through these years by working hard. At the age of fourteen, she found work at a tourist resort in Chapleau, where she was able to earn an income for herself and her family. She later lived near Thessalon and raised several children including daughters Margaret, Barbara, twins Sandra and Diane and Sabrina and sons

Adam, Clayton, David and Shawn. She also lived in Wawa, Ontario.

On her return to Brunswick House First Nation, she became involved in her community. In 2004, she was elected as a First Nation Councillor and sat with Chief and Council. She continues to work with and assist local Elders in maintaining traditional activities such as sewing hides and making bead work. In addition, she enjoys connecting with local youth to help and encourage them.

She is a supporter of having young people in her community learning as much as possible about the traditional and cultural beliefs of her people. Over the years, Elder Neshawabin has worked with local members in learning about their traditional beliefs and she has also attended Sundance ceremonies and other cultural activities.

"I want to encourage our youth to deal with drug and alcohol addictions and learn about our traditional ways. It is important not just to learn to respect others but also to learn to respect our own selves in order to become healthy and strong. We need to help these young people as much as possible because they are our future and they will be our leaders some day," said Elder Neshawabin.

She added that education is an important part of any young person's life.

"We had a difficult time with getting an education when we were young, so it is even more important for our young people to stay in school and learn as much as possible. It makes me happy to see our young people achieving higher education. They need as much support as possible because they will be the ones to look after our community and our people in the future," said Elder Neshawabin.

Brunswick House First Nation has held several Pow Wows over the years and Elder Neshawabin believes that such activities educate people and provide for a more hopeful future.

"I really enjoy taking part in our local Pow Wows. It makes me happy to see our children and young people singing, dancing and celebrating their culture. I strongly believe in our traditional ways and I think we should teach this as much as we can to our children. I did not have the chance to learn this when I was young but it makes me happy now to see others sharing this knowledge with our youth today. I think it can be a source of healing for our people and this is something that I pray for every day," said Elder Neshawabin.

At 63 years of age, Elder Neshawabin resides in Brunswick House First Nation. She has an extended family of grandchildren and also great grandchildren.

The Albino Moose



**Poem by:
Jaimee Roy,
Matachewan
First Nation**

**Going down a dark trail
There were broken, rundown trees
There stood a moose Wally
Who wishes he could be...**

**Just like the other moose
Who were beautiful free and dark
Always roaming in herds
Frolicking in the bark**

**Desperate to belong
Always wanting to find a friend
To all the other moose
How could this longing end?**

**Why didn't they like him?
Was it the colour of his fur?
How could he show them who he
really was?
A happy moose that's heart was
pure**

**Then he heard a wonderful sound
Following his tracks back
Bounding towards the noise
Slowly he left the pack**

**Stepping onto sand
He thought of a great plan
If he used the sand as a cover
Maybe he could be part of the
clan?**

**Down Wally went
Rolling onto the dirt
Covering up his fears with sand
As if it were a shirt**

**When he got up
He was just like all the rest
Beautiful free and dark
All the other moose he'll surely
impress**

**Up he walks to the other moose
He sends a friendly moose "hello"
The other moose smiled back
It showed they didn't know!**

**All of a sudden it hit him
A cold shiver down his spine
A rain drop landed on his nose
It wasn't the right time**

**For as the rain came down
So did the fake new look
The other moose were shockingly
surprised
By the colour his fur took**

**"You're Beautiful!" one cried
How is your fur so white?
I'm shocked, said the other
"What an amazing site!"**

**You don't care that I'm white?
Ask Wally, embarrassed and
confused
I thought for sure you didn't like
me
I thought that you moose were rude**

**You see I always stood behind that
tree,
Wishing I could be...
Just like you, and the other moose
So dark, wild and free!**

**Up to me you never came,
To me you wouldn't speak
By the way that your herd ignored
me,
In the bushes I would sneak**

**"Ignored you? One of the moose
asked,
You, we could not see!
For white like snow you stood
Behind those dead fallen trees"**

**"You see Wally...
Your fur is white, just like the snow
You blended in so well
Your presence we did not know"**

**"We would never ignore you on
purpose,
Everyone is beautiful in their own
way!
Will you be our friend Wally?
Great! Now let's go play.**

Beaverhouse First Nation Elects Chief Marcia Brown Martel

Chief Marcia Brown Martel was elected as Chief of Beaverhouse First Nation in May 2011. She brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to her position which she gained from serving her community as Deputy Chief for three years and several terms as First Nation Councillor.

This is the first time that Chief Brown Martel has held the Chief position in her community. She has also served Beaverhouse First Nation in many different capacities in full time and volunteer positions. Her active involvement in local administration, organization and development has given her an understanding of the needs of her community and people.

She is serving her First Nation along with her Council which includes Elder Katherine McKenzie, Youth representative Adam Lafrenier, Deputy Chief Teresa Lafrenier and First Nation Councillors Bert McKenzie, Gloria McKenzie and Peter Kyle.

Chief Brown Martel was born in her community of Beaverhouse First Nation and during the first few years of her childhood, she was raised in a traditional setting by her parents Alec and Jemina (Genevieve) Mathias. Her mother's maiden name was Pitremont. At a very young age, Chief Brown Martel was taken from her community and placed with a foster parent family. She spent the majority of her childhood and early teenage years in a non-Aboriginal environment separated from family, friends and her cultural roots.

"I consider myself a survivor of what is known in our Canadian history as the Sixties Scoop. I was fortunate in that I was able to return to my family and my First Nation as a teenager and integrate, as best as I could, back into my community. As a young adult I spent many years learning about my people, watching and listening to our Elders and involving myself in my First Nation as much as I could," said Chief Brown Martel.

The Sixties Scoop was a period that started in the mid 1960s and lasted until the 1980s. This period in Aboriginal Canadian history saw the mass removal of Aboriginal children from their families into the child welfare system. In most of these cases, children were removed from their families without the consent of their parents or First Nation

band and then placed into non-Aboriginal middle class families in Canada and in some cases the United States.

Recently Chief Brown Martel was featured in a Toronto Star feature news article on the Sixties Scoop. She was the lead plaintiff on the legal case that went before and certified by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. However, the Harper government quietly appealed the lawsuit in a Toronto court room and that has resulted in dragging out the process.

For more information on this story, search for 'Marcia Brown Toronto Star' in Google.

In the early 1980s, when Chief Brown Martel returned to her home community, she lived with her parents on their traditional trapping grounds. She took part in trapping activities, travelling the land and learning to clean, skin and set animal furs and hides.

"One of the most memorable times in my life was when I came back to my home community and lived on our traditional trapping ground with my parents. This was a great period of learning and reconnecting to my cultural identity," said Chief Brown Martel.

"I believe that working with our youth is one of our most important tasks,"
Chief Martel Brown

She added that many of her Elders were able to teach her about their people's oral traditions.

"I learned first hand the oral traditions of our people and I was able to spend time with many Elders and older members of our community. Elders like Flora Clem taught me about our people's history and many of the legends and stories that are part of our heritage. I was very fortunate to have



Chief Marcia Brown Martel
Beaverhouse FN

had this time with our Elders," said Chief Brown Martel.

She has travelled through much of Canada over her lifetime and has lived and worked in various parts of the country. Chief Brown Martel spent a lot of her time in the tourism business and administrative services in communities including Lethbridge, Alberta; Windermere, British Columbia and Sioux Lookout, Ontario. This experience allowed her to take on responsibilities in Beaverhouse First Nation financial services and administration.

"Travelling across Canada gave me practical knowledge but it also gave me a lot of life experience as well. One of the most important lessons I learned is that people are more or less the same no matter where you go. I was always able to find a good mixture of kind and open people in my travels," said Chief Brown Martel.

At one point she was employed as a Social Worker for the Salvation Army. This experience also directed her attention towards helping First Nation youth within her community and in the Wabun area. As a matter of fact, she attended the fifth annual Wabun Youth Gathering in July 2011 as a Chaperone and spent two weeks working with Wabun youth.

"I believe that working with our youth is one of our most important tasks. Events such as the Wabun Youth Gathering provide a place for youth to find friendship and feel good about themselves. I have attended previous gatherings and it is wonderful to see the changes in our youth over the years," said Chief Brown Martel.

Beaverhouse First Nation is not officially recognized as a First Nation by the Federal Government. The lack of official recognition and funding has

meant a lot of difficulty for the First Nation leadership in establishing, developing and maintaining social, health, education and administrative activities for its membership. Before becoming a member community of Wabun Tribal Council, the First Nation relied heavily on community members who worked on a volunteer basis.

During the mid 1980s, Chief Brown Martel became actively involved in local community administration and First Nation development.

"When we actively starting becoming involved with First Nation political organizations like Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, Chiefs of Ontario and Wabun Tribal Council, we needed people on the ground to help our leadership. We did our part to assist our Chief and Council but also to make sure that our members understood what was happening. We worked at establishing and developing social, health and education programs for our members," said Chief Brown Martel.

In 1990, Beaverhouse First Nation became one of the founding members of the Wabun Tribal Council. It was at the this point that it became easier for the community to establish more permanent administrative and community oriented services for its membership. Chief Brown Martel continued her work with the community and took several positions at different times including Bookkeeper, Membership Clerk, Band Manager, Crisis Coordinator and positions within the health department.

As the new Chief of Beaverhouse First Nation, Chief Brown Martel explained that one of the main goals of her community is to engage local industries that are operating on their traditional lands. This has been a challenge for the First Nation since it has no official recognition and therefore, companies are not legally obligated to work with Beaverhouse First Nation.

"It is important for our people to establish meaningful dialogue between our community and resource based companies working in our territory. Although the government may not recognize us, other Aboriginal entities such as the Assembly of First Nations and Nishnawbe-Aski Nation identify us as a First Nation with territorial rights to our traditional lands," said Chief Brown Martel.

Her community leadership is continuing to work towards official government recognition with the goal of developing proper infrastructure and services for their reserve lands which

are in an isolated location near Kirkland Lake, Ontario. Another major challenge for their community involves education. Without government recognition, their young people in post secondary education do not receive the same benefits as official status First Nation people.

Chief Brown Martel is hopeful for the future of her community and she is working hard with her First Nation Council to deal with the challenges. She explained that one of the more important focuses for their community

is to foster and encourage traditional knowledge and customs.

"We would like to see more of our traditional past being shared and encouraged in our community. We want to bring back our knowledge and history so that it can help our young, our Elders and our community lead a more balanced life. This, I believe was the intent of our ancestors," said Chief Brown Martel.

She married Raymond Martel in 2007. Chief Brown Martel also has a 20 year old son, Isaiah Cheechee.

Wabun Youth Gathering 2011



CHIEF MARCIA BROWN, BEAVERHOUSE FN WORKED WITH YOUTH AS A CHAPERONE DURING THE WABUN YOUTH GATHERING IN ELK LAKE. SHE IS PICTURED HERE HELPING YOUTH WITH SOAP STONE CARVING WITH JUNIOR CHAPERONE ADAM LAFFRENIER (RIGHT), BEAVERHOUSE FN.



CHIEF ALEX 'SONNY' BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FN IS PICTURED AT THE WABUN YOUTH GATHERING WITH MATACHEWAN FN MEMBERS LYNNE CORMIER AND COUNCILLOR ELAINE DALEY.



TYRONE TANGIE, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN, DISPLAYED HIS ARTISTIC TALENT WITH SOAP STONE CARVING DURING JUNIOR WEEK.

Wabun Health Promotes Healing With Mens And Womens Workshop

A three day Men's and Women's Workshop was hosted by Wabun Health Services in Timmins from October 18 to 20, 2011. The event which was held at the Timmins Inns and Suites, brought together 19 participants from the Wabun Tribal Council First Nations of Brunswick House First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Mattagami First Nation. There were ten women and nine men who participated in the three day workshop.

"This workshop was presented from an Aboriginal background and perspective by Native people. The information and education that was provided was based on appropriate information for First Nation people," said Michael Archer, Community Crisis Coordinator, Wabun Health Services.

Two facilitators led the workshops. Maria Trevizo led presentations for the women and Billy Rogers led the men in separate activities. At the end of the three day event, both presenters switched roles and Trevizo provided a workshop for the men and Rogers did a presentation with the women.

"This time with the switch up, we wanted to add something different. It was meaningful for everyone to have our women's facilitator address the men and our male facilitator speak to the women. It gave our participants a chance to learn about relationships from a new perspective," said Archer.

Participants were able to take part in presentations on how to better communicate with others, family patterns, historical trauma, anger management, self esteem and parenting skills.

"We had a lot of good feedback from our participants that attended. They left with an abundance of knowledge and skills that they can apply at home and in their communities," said Archer.

This is the sixth year that Wabun Health Services has provided the Men's and Women's Workshop.

"We are seeing a lot of growth from the people who have been to the workshops in the past. It is also good

to see new participants who are joining us for the first time. I notice less apprehension in the people that are coming out and they are more open to talk and participate," said Archer.

He explained that this workshop program was designed to provide an ongoing process of healing and support for Wabun members. He pointed out that one of the goals of these workshops is to help establish a more healthier environment for youth and community members as a whole. The workshop also works in conjunction with other events for youth and elders designed by Wabun Health Services to provide a wholistic approach to ongoing community support and healing.

"These workshops and gatherings are part of a holistic approach to helping our Wabun members,"
Jean Lemieux,
Health Director

"We have been meeting many new people since we started this workshop program six years ago. This year we saw several young people coming out to participate. I believe it is has helped them find new skills and abilities to deal with issues that are common in our communities. One of the biggest benefits that come out of all this is communication in a forum that allows everyone to express themselves in a safe environment," said Archer.

Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services explained that these gatherings and workshops are providing a place for community members young and old to come together in a healthy and fun environment where they are able to communicate and learn with others from other Wabun First Nations.

"These workshops and gatherings are part of a holistic approach to helping our Wabun members create healthy environments for themselves, their families and their communities. It also gives everyone a chance to connect with those from other Wabun First Nations and to establish or maintain friendships. After holding so many events and gatherings, we can see the changes in the people who have participated. It is especially rewarding to see a new confidence in our youth and to see our members coming together to learn and to share," said Lemieux.

Workshop facilitator for the women, Trevizo is an Aboriginal person with a Native heritage and ancestry from Texas and Mexico. She is an internationally known speaker who has worked with many Aboriginal communities and organizations in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Trevizo draws from her background in the human services field where she has worked for over thirty-five years. She is a certified Psychiatric Technician and certified Substance Abuse Counsellor. As a traditional singer and facilitator, her work is focused on providing support and guidance to youth, women and the two-spirit community through traditional knowledge and cultural ceremonies.

Rogers, facilitator for the male participants, is a member of the Kiowa Nation in the United States. He is a recognized Aboriginal trainer and speaker who has facilitated workshops and presentations in First Nations in the United States and Canada. He holds a Master of Science in Public Health / Health Administration from the Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center and a Bachelor of Arts, Psychology from the Central State University, Edmond, Oklahoma. He has developed training materials in the areas of youth self-esteem, sexuality, parenting, community wellness and leadership. His work in this field has also been developed and applied by others in many Native communities.



FOREST FIRE EVACUEES FROM CAT LAKE FIRST NATION WERE ASSISTED BY MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION WITH ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES RECENTLY. THE GROUP WAS HOUSED AT THE EDNYSIAN CAMP AND LOGISTICS, A NEW MINING CAMP THAT WAS RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED FOR MINE EMPLOYER HOUSING. HERE WE SEE SOME OF THE GROUP AS THEY GAVE THANKS TO CHIEF ALEX (SONNY) BATISSE, HIS COUNCIL AND THE MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION. THE RESIDENTS RETURNED TO CAT LAKE FIRST NATION, ON JULY 29.

Cat Lake FN Evacuees Hosted By Matachewan FN

For three weeks starting July 14 members of Cat Lake First Nation were forced out of their community by forest fires and were welcomed by Matachewan First Nation and Wabun Tribal Council. More than 100 evacuees were air transported during this emergency operation while Cat Lake's Chief Mathew Keewaykapow remained in the community to assist in coordinating efforts to secure and protect the First Nation.

"I got a call from Jason Batisse, our Technical Services / Economic Development Advisor as I was heading to Matachewan First Nation. He had been discussing options with Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) about the evacuation to assist Cat Lake. Thanks to our Wabun Chiefs and the support of Shawn Batisse, our Executive Director at Wabun we got the approval to host and assist the evacuees during their time of need," said Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services and Band Councillor of Matachewan First Nation.

She explained that the opportunity to assist Cat Lake evacuees was mainly due to the development named Endysian Camp had just been developed to house transient mining employees and it was ideal for accommodating those from Cat Lake First Nation. The full service, modern camp in Matachewan FN had just been completed and after some last minute final preparation it was ready to provide temporary housing for the evacuees.

"I was amazed at how everything came together. Make no mistake about it we had a dream team working on this crisis and we all hit the ground running. Matachewan Chief Alex Batisse and his council members gave us their support and our Wabun Health nurses, Cindy Giguere and Therese Mannila joined with Matachewan community workers, Elders and members

to assist our friends from Cat Lake. We were in constant touch with EMO and we even had representatives from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the Red Cross and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) on the ground and actively involved in helping out on a daily basis," explained Lemieux.

She pointed out that good communication won the day as the team had to be ready to welcome the many Cat Lake residents and to become immediately aware of any health concerns or medical needs of those arriving.

The team also had to set up and organize daily briefings to keep the residents in touch with news from their home community. In addition the team also had to transport people and arrange for any medications, health and personal supplies.

"I am proud of everyone who went to work to help the people of Cat Lake in their time of need,"
Jean Lemieux

"We really had to make sure that our friends from Cat Lake would be as comfortable as possible because we understood that they had been uprooted in an emergency and had to leave their community and homes without knowing if there would be anything to return to. We tried our best to provide activities for everyone and maintain a safe and positive environment for them and as a result we all made some wonderful friendships that will endure for many years," said Lemieux.

Lemieux and some of her staff had experienced a crisis in the evacuation of Wahgoshig First Nation a few years ago. This was a learning experience for all those involved in the Cat Lake forest fire evacuation to Matachewan First Nation.

"I can't say enough good things about the dedication and care that our health team provided during this time of crisis. Our Wabun Chiefs gave us the approval to pull in our health workers to assist the evacuees and that really made a difference. So many people from Wabun and our own First Nation helped out and I say my personal thanks to our Wabun Chiefs, Wabun Executive Director, Chief Alex Batisse and his council, Elders Vina Hendrix and Marie Boucher, Sue Collins, Elaine Daley, our Wabun Community Health Nurses Therese Manilla and Cindy Giguere, Serena Batisse, Corinne Wincikaby and our medical transportation driver Lionel Boucher," commented Lemieux.

Cat Lake members commented on how comfortable they were in the modern and new facility. Mike Metatawabin, Deputy Grand Chief of NAN also dropped in to give his thanks to all those involved in the operation.

In addition Chief Marica Brown Martel of Beaverhouse First Nation attended the camp to assist and comfort the evacuees as did the Kirkland Lake Womens' Group.

"This was a summer we here at Wabun and in Matachewan First Nation will never forget. I proud of everyone who rolled up their sleeves and went to work to help the people of Cat Lake in their time of need. I always worry about forgetting to mention everyone when I give my thanks and I regret if I can't recall everyone who helped out but know very well that everyone who helped us out in any way is appreciated," said Lemieux.

Wabun Assists In Fighting Diabetes



FIRST NATION STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A RECENT YOUTH SELF ESTEEM BUILDING WORKSHOP IN TIMMINS. FROM BACK L-R: MAX WORME, JAKE SARAZIN, PRINCIPAL, MARY JANE MEMORIAL SCHOOL, MATTAGAMI FN; ETHAN MCKAY, EMILY LUDEBECK, PATSY MCKAY, STUDENT ESCORT; CHARLES GEORGE, MADISON NICHOLAS, ELIZABETH STELCER AND DAVE “JAEGAR” JONES, TURTLE CONCEPTS. IN FRONT ARE COMMITTEE CHAIR, PEGGY CLAVEAU, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL AND RICHARD AUBIN, METIS NATION OF ONTARIO.

Peggy Claveau, Program Manager, Non-Insured Health Benefits / Accreditation, for Wabun Health Services has been instrumental in working with health officials to fight diabetes.

“We are all very proud of the good work that Peggy is doing in representing Wabun and in her role as the Chair for the Timmins Diabetes Expo. This disease is an epidemic for the First Nations community and requires our greatest efforts to fight it,” said Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services.

For 2011 the Timmins Diabetes Expo Committee headed by Claveau chose to feature a two part program dedicated to awareness, prevention, education and support.

The most recent programming took place on November 4 in Timmins at the McIntyre Arena. More than 250 school children discovered the empowerment of self confidence and feeling good about themselves through a diabetes prevention initiative. They made this discovery through workshops provided by Turtle Concepts, led by Dave “Jaegar” Jones. Turtle Concepts is an Aboriginal based

group that provides empowerment workshops to build self esteem for youth. It’s founder and lead organizer, Jones, a member of Garden River First Nation, was invited by the Timmins Diabetes Expo Committee to present an empowerment workshop with the idea that young people who feel better about themselves make better choices.

The first part of this year’s Timmins Diabete Expo took place on September 17 at the Timmins Inns and Suites. It involved diabetes awareness with the focus on inspirational and motivational speakers, Mairlyn Smith, a professional home economist and author who is also an alumnus of the Second City Comedy Troupe and Ginger Kanzer-Lewis, a past president of the American Association of Diabetes Educators and an international speaker on diabetes health issues.

The day long event featured presentations by Smith and Kanzer-Lewis as well as specialized workshops by Joe-Anne Chaput, RN, Victoria Order Nurses (VON), Diabetes Education Centre; Tony Feretycki, The Footman; Nathalie Guevin, VON Diabetes Education Centre

and Jonathan Zinck, a motivational speaker. An evening session for health care professionals was also hosted September 16 by Smith and Kanzer-Lewis.

Both events were hosted by the Timmins Diabetes Expo committee including Committee Chair, Peggy Claveau, Wabun Tribal Council; Julie St. Onge, Canadian Diabetes Association; Holly Pontello, VON (Victorian Order of Nurses) Diabetes Education Centre; Richard Aubin, Metis Nation of Ontario; Martin Paul, Porcupine Health Unit; Christine Devaney, Timmins Family Health Team; Caitlyn Lefebvre, Timmins Native Friendship Centre; Kelly Geddes, Aboriginal Peoples Alliance of Northern Ontario (APANO) and Joe-Anne Chaput, VON (Victorian Order of Nurses) Diabetes Education Centre.

The main funding for the Timmins Diabetes Expo was provided by Northern Diabetes Health Network (NDHN). Other sponsors included: Timmins Inns & Suites, Minuteman Press, Northern Credit Union, Moose FM, Wabun Tribal Council, Xavier Kataquapit and Your Independent Grocer (YIG) Timmins.



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