



Wabun Sun

Issue #3

Published by Wabun Tribal Council

Volume 2

Wabun 7th Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament Supported By Many

TIMMINS, Ont. - Defending champions Jason and Lily Batise were joined by Barney and Doreen Batise to win the Seventh Annual Wabun Tribal Council Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament at Spruce Needles, Friday September 22.

"We had some good competition here today and more importantly we all had a good time and made some friends. A special thanks to the Chiefs of Wabun and all our community members who support this fundraising event," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council.

This year 88 participants from all over Ontario joined with Wabun Tribal Council for a day of socializing and to help with a worthwhile cause. Funds raised at the tournament through sponsorships are made available as scholarships to qualifying Wabun Tribal Council post secondary students. Major sponsors are Northern Telephone, First Nation Engineering, Bank of Nova Scotia, B.H. Martin, Matachewan First Nation and Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training.

"This is nice to see. It is a good opportunity for people who work together and do business together to socialize and it helps to put a face to a name", said Barney Batise, former Chief of Matachewan First Nation.

The Annual event started through the efforts of Shawn Batise and Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor for the Tribal

Council.

"This event is growing more and more every year and last year three Wabun students benefited through scholarships raised through the tournament," said Shawn Batise.

Other winning results included the following. Jerry Kingsbury hit the men's longest drive while Tammy Naveau made the ladies' longest drive. Kingsbury also won men's closest to the pin while Sherry Weistche took the honours for the women. The second place team was composed of Jean and Jack Lemieux, Keith Duban and Jerry Kingsbury. The winners of Eagle on #15 included team members Margaret Miller, Clara Wheesk, Phil Fleury and Paul Kanges. This event was sponsored by Matachewan First Nation. The most honest golfer category was won by Paulette McKay, Christine Kelly and Mike Farrell.

"Everybody is a winner at this event because it is for a good cause. This is an occasion when community members, leadership and our non Native friends can get together to socialize and at the same time help out Wabun students," said Gary Naveau, First Nation Councillor from Mattagami First Nation.

A special thanks was given to Audrey Batise, Peggy Claveau and Margaret Miller for assisting in the organization of the event. Shawn Batise served as Master of Ceremonies for the presentation of awards with assistance from Jean Lemieux.



WABUN SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF TOURNAMENT First Place winners were (back row) from L-R Barney Batise, former Chief of Matachewan FN and Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor. Front row are L-R: Doreen Batise and Lily Batise.

Major Research Being Conducted Related To Self Governance

TIMMINS, Ont. - A Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) wide research project is being conducted as part of Sectoral Government Negotiations with the federal government to find alternatives for a form of self government for the Treaty #9 area. The research project which began in October, 2000 and will be completed in March, 2001, is taking place in each Wabun Tribal Council community as part of a larger three year program that is funded by the federal government and directed by NAN.

Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor for Wabun, currently sits as a member of a Negotiating Committee on self governance for NAN. The committee is comprised of members that represent the entire NAN area.

"The research for the sectoral government negotiations is being done as part of an agreement between NAN and the federal government to begin the negotiation process for self governance in the

Treaty #9 area. It is an agreement in principal and will include every First Nation in the NAN area," said Batise.

The three year research program will cover several areas including: governance jurisdiction, education jurisdiction, social, economic development and housing. The two areas of jurisdiction covered by the research going on now are education and governance. This research is being conducted by Barney Batise, former Chief of Matachewan First Nation and Nigel Babin, former Economic Development Officer for Wahgoshig First Nation.

"The NAN Chiefs wanted to address the main areas that will affect future research in self governance. As a former Chief I understand why we have to find out what jurisdictions will be in a system of self governance because it will affect future decisions in all areas," said Barney Batise.

Both Barney Batise and Babin are currently examining the present state of education and governance jurisdiction and how these two areas will affect a system of self governance in the NAN area. Barney Batise will use his years of experience and knowledge in First Nation government to work with Chiefs and Councils of each community and Babin will provide technical assistance to record research information.

"Currently most First Nation communities have a form of government that was created and is

maintained under the Indian Act. The goal of this research and the self governance negotiations is to find alternatives to the current system of non-Native government. We also want to find a better explanation of what self governance is and our feelings about it," said Barney Batise.

The research will be conducted in two phases. The first phase of the project will examine the current condition of First Nation government and education by researching how they operate, how they are organized and what jurisdictions they cover. This phase is done through meetings with Chiefs, Councillors and other key personnel that are part of a First Nation administration.

"The first phase of our research will be to interface with the First Nation government in each Wabun community. This includes the Chief and Council and other individuals who have a role to play in community administration. The feedback from the Chief and

Continued on Page 2

Wabun Scholarship Fund Seeks Applicants

TIMMINS, ONT - The Wabun Tribal Council has announced that the deadline for applications for the Wabun Scholarship Fund is set at December 15, 2000. The scholarship application is open to any Wabun Tribal Council First Nation student as long as he or she is enrolled in a secondary or post secondary school.

The applicant must send a letter to the attention of : Scholarship Fund, Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council. The letter should detail a little about why the applicant feels he or she deserves this scholarship. The applicant must also include a proof of academic performance or transcript.

The scholarships available include: Northern Telephone,

\$1,000; First Nations Engineering \$500. and the Bank of Nova Scotia \$250. The funds are raised through the Annual Wabun Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament. This year's tournament was held September 22 at Spruce Needles in Timmins.

"I encourage all Wabun Education Counsellors to urge their students to apply for the scholarship. We are very happy to assist our Wabun students through this annual scholarship," said Batise.

Last year the winners were: Matachewan First Nation student, Russell Evans, Northern Telephone Scholarship for \$1,000; Mattagami First Nation student Chris McKay First Nation Engineering Scholarship for \$500 and Matachewan First Nation student Crystal Schram, Bank of Nova Scotia Scholarship for \$250.



NIGEL BABIN



BARNEY BATISE

Wabun Chairperson Alfred Ojebah Featured



Alfred Ojebah, Wabun Board Chairperson is dedicated to working for his community and all the members of the six Wabun Tribal Council communities. He has held the position of Board Chairperson for the Tribal Council since 1997. He is also a Project Coordinator for the construction of a new water treatment plant in Brunswick House First Nation.

In addition he is a facilitator for Residential School Survivors in his community and sits as a member of the local Citizens Committee for Brunswick House FN.

Ojebah has many years of

experience through his involvement with his community's First Nation administration and other Native organizations. In 1967, he was elected Chief of Brunswick House FN. He led his community again as Chief in 1996. During a bi-election in 1995 he was elected a third time to the position of Chief. Ojebah has worked for Brunswick House FN as an Economic Development Officer and in a Liaison position between local leadership and forestry companies. In 1994, he was a Small Business Trainer for a year and helped local people develop small businesses. He has also been employed

as a Native Court Worker for his community, a position which was sponsored by the Sudbury Indian Friendship Centre. At one time he also worked for the Sudbury Indian Friendship Centre as a Community Development Worker.

Ojebah attended a Native Counselling program at Laurentian University in Sudbury. He also has an interest in aviation and once completed an Aviation Ground School program in Chapleau.

Through his active involvement in First Nation leadership he was nominated and elected by the Board in 1997 to the position of Board Chair for Wabun Tribal Council. The Wabun Board of Directors is comprised of the six Chiefs of Wabun.

"I am happy to be part of the Wabun Board. I believe in Wabun because it is a voice for First Nation people in our area. I enjoy interacting with all the Chiefs and dealing with all the issues that affect our communities and the Wabun Tribal Council as a whole," said Ojebah.

He is also happy to see the Wabun Tribal Council celebrate its 10th anniversary this year.

"I am proud of the achievements that our tribal council has accomplished

in ten years. I am also very happy to have the opportunity to work with our Executive Director, Shawn Batise, who is one of the driving forces in our organization. Our board of directors also works hard to advocate for our people and keep the morale and spirits of our communities positive. It is very enjoyable to be part of a board that takes the time at each meeting to make positive and beneficial decisions for our people," said Ojebah.

His hopes for his community are to see younger members take a more active role in all areas.

"Our young people are our future leaders. My hope is that as these young people learn how to live in this world they remember who our people are and where we come from. Knowing our past will give them the knowledge to move our people into the future," said Ojebah.

Ojebah was born and raised on the Missinabie River on his family's traditional hunting and trapping grounds, north of Brunswick House FN near the town of Mattice. He is a First Nation Oji-Cree and a member of Brunswick House FN. Currently, he resides in Brunswick House FN and enjoys the traditional pursuits of fishing and hunting and passing time on the land.

Research Project

Continued from Page 1

Council of any community is very important because it plays a vital role in the decision making process at the NAN level," said Barney Batise.

The second phase includes the direct input of community members on self government and what alternative model they think should be developed. The researchers will collect the information from this phase through community meetings and individual questionnaires.

"Gathering information at the grassroots level can be an overwhelming task but it will help our leaders make positive decisions for our people during the self governance negotiations. This feedback will help us to answer the easy and not so easy questions about our current First Nation policies and how they are related to our future goal of self governance," said Barney Batise.

The two phase research project for the Wabun Tribal Council is part of several similar initiatives taking place in other Tribal Councils throughout the NAN area. Barney Batise is happy to see NAN recognize the role of Tribal Councils in First Nation government.

"NAN is using the Tribal Councils as a base for each research

group to cover each area of NAN. This shows that Tribal Councils have a role to play in the development of self governance. The entire research project is operated by local First Nation people at each Tribal Council as opposed to using consultants to do the work. This is a very positive step towards self governance," said Barney Batise.

The information that will be gathered through the research project will help answer the question of what model of self government will be developed.

"There will be many interpretations of what self government will be in the NAN area. One of our goals will be to find out whether or not a common model for self governance can be used for all of NAN. There are many considerations including language and geographic differences that have to be addressed. All of the researchers in each NAN Tribal Council will try to find out if there can be a common system of self government or if several forms can be utilized," said Barney Batise.

Once self government negotiations for a new system of Native government begins it will also mean the inclusion of the Ontario provincial government.

Treaty #9 was signed with both the federal and provincial governments but it is primarily a document with the federal government. The research will find out how the province will be involved in the development of First Nation self government in the NAN area. Barney Batise believes that the discussions and interpretations of Treaty #9 will be an educational experience for everyone involved.

"The NAN area is governed by Treaty #9 but unfortunately not many people know about the treaty or what it stands for. Not many people have read the actual treaty document. One of the positive outcomes of this research project will be in providing awareness of Treaty #9 which will give many First Nation people new knowledge on this important document," said Barney Batise.

Barney Batise and Babin will attend a training session in Thunder Bay with other researchers who are involved with other Tribal Councils. This training will orient the researchers on the project and assist them with methods on how to collect and document information. This participation in training for the entire NAN research team will ensure that all information will be consistent throughout each Tribal Council in NAN.

Baptiste Memegoes Memorial Gathering Featured

CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN, Ont. - The Baptiste Memegoes Memorial Gathering is an annual event that honours the late Chief Baptiste Memegoes, a respected leader and elder of the community. The gathering is held every year during a weekend in the last half of August and is a Pow Wow that centers around the culture of the Ojibway people and features First Nation drum groups, dancers and traditional ceremonies. It regularly takes place at the community's traditional Pow Wow grounds.

The First Nation community of Chapleau Ojibwe has held an annual gathering for the past 15 years through a regular Pow Wow, which was originally known as the Chapleau Ojibwe Traditional Gathering. In 1999, the gathering was officially recognized as the

Baptiste Memegoes Memorial Gathering after the passing of Chief Baptiste Memegoes, a long time leader and prominent elder of the community.

Chief Baptiste Memegoes succumbed to a long term illness on September 29, 2000. This small and close knit First Nation community was deeply saddened by the loss of a well liked leader. The late Chief Memegoes served for many years as a band councillor for his community and was in his fourth year as Chief of Chapleau Ojibwe FN. In addition, he worked for many years for the municipality of Chapleau and was well known in the Chapleau area. He was born and raised in the traditions and culture of his people and followed two paths, the way of the traditional Native spirituality and as a Catholic.

Currently, the daughter of the late Chief Memegoes, Anita Stephens is the Chief of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation.

"The annual gathering was an event that he always enjoyed. It is an event that he wanted our people to continue because it brings us together in an enjoyable and positive atmosphere," said Chief Stephens.

The Second Annual Baptiste Memegoes Memorial Gathering took place over two days during the weekend of August 26 and 27, 2000. It featured three traditional drum groups, Kiiwaytinook Kahneepohcheek (Those standing to the north) of Timmins; All Nations Drum Group which was led by Jim Windigo of Fort Francis, Ontario and the Niiwaachigae

Continued on Page 4

Reflections

by Shawn Batise, Executive Director



I want to take the opportunity with this issue of Wabun Sun to discuss the Corbiere Decision. In May of 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled on the case of Corbiere versus the Batchewana First Nation. Their ruling, which is known as the Corbiere Decision, made it possible for off-Reserve First Nation members to vote in local First Nation community elections. The government gave First Nations a year and a half to come up with a strategy to implement this decision.

It is my belief and the belief of many First Nation leaders that we were not given enough time to prepare for and deal with this complex and far reaching decision. The fact is, as of November 20, 2000, this decision became official. The decision applies only to those First Nations that hold elections under Section 74 of the Indian Act. It does not affect First Nations that hold elections under Band customs. However, these cases are pending and not yet finalized. In terms of Wabun we have communities in both fields.

There is some confusion and concern in regards to appeals and liability when it comes to off-Reserve voting. There is no clear

indication of who is responsible in the question of off-Reserve voting.

The Assembly of First Nations is preparing to initiate a study known as Phase Two Corbiere. This study will examine the affect on programs and services for off-Reserve members in terms of the Corbiere Decision.

There is concern that the Corbiere Decision has the potential to affect the political landscape of First Nations. In most First Nations, off-Reserve members outnumber those living on-Reserve. It is up to the First Nations to determine how off-Reserve members will vote, whether it be by phone, proxy or ballot.

The Corbiere Decision also has an affect on referenda in First Nations. For example, if we look at land surrenders, the issue becomes complex when you consider that the people who live on-Reserve have more at stake than off-Reserve members. In this case as in others it could be that a weighted voting system will prevail. This consideration should be determined by the First Nations.

Ironically, the first election to take place under this decision will be in Batchewana First Nation in early December. Wabun Tribal Council will be keeping a close eye on the process and the results of that election. Anyone wanting more information on the Corbiere Decision can call the Wabun Tribal Council or their respective First Nation leadership.

Wabun 7th Annual Golf Tournament Photo Page



ENJOYING WABUN'S GOLF TOURNEY are from L-R: Craig Baker, First Nation Engineering; Maggie Einish, Financial Assistant for Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training; Marnie Couture, Mamo Financial Controller and Elmer Lickers, First Nation Engineering.



HAPPY GOLFERS at the Wabun Golf Tourney are from L-R: Peggy Claveau, Wabun Assistant Health Director; Rick Francoeur, Nathalie Francoeur and Jean Claveau.



SECOND PLACE at Wabun's Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament went to (from L-R): Jack and Jean Lemieux, Jerry Kingsbury and Keith Duban.



CARTING TO THE NEXT GREEN are from L-R: Chad Boissonneau, Forestry Technician for Mattagami FN and Frank Rubino.



WINNERS OF EAGLE ON #15 at Wabun's Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament were (from L-R): Fabian Batise, Councillor and Band Administrator for Matachewan FN (prize sponsor); Margaret Miller, Wabun Health Secretary; Paul Kanges, Clara Wheesk, Client Services Officer for Mamo and Phil Fleury.



SUPPORTING WABUN at the Wabun Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament are from L-R: Rob Mannila, Mike Miller, Community Development Officer for Mamo; Miller's wife Julie Miller and Barry Martin BH Martin Consultants.



FIRST PLACE TROPHY WINNERS are from L-R: Lily Batise, Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor for Wabun; Doreen Batise and Barney Batise, former Chief of Matachewan FN.



STAYING IN SHAPE at the Wabun Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament are from L-R: Keith and Jennifer McLeod; Alain Lachance and David Horton of BH Martin Consultants.



HAVING FUN at the 7th Annual Wabun Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament at the Spruce Needles Golf Club are Mattagami FN members Myra Luke and Eileen Boissonneau.

Caring For You - Marie H el ene Lessard, Dietitian



Marie H el ene Lessard is the featured staff person for this issue of Wabun Sun. Lessard is the new Health Dietitian for Wabun Health Services and joined the staff on July 10, 2000.

Her main duties include visiting Wabun communities on a monthly basis to provide workshops, activities and focus groups to promote healthier living and proper diet. Her goal is to focus on prevention of diabetes in the Wabun communities by teaching healthy living, eating and participating in regular exercise. She plans to promote activities or

programs, such as minimum weight management, that people can take part in to achieve a healthier lifestyle and to prevent diabetes.

Her primary role is to assist First Nation clients that have diabetes by helping them with their diet. Her duties are also a continuation of services from other Diabetes Education Centres who work with Wabun clients.

"I want to promote healthy living and disease prevention through education in all of Wabun's communities. I believe that through preventative action we can reduce the chance of disease for everyone.

I want to share my knowledge with everyone in the communities and hope to make a difference by helping our clients lead a healthier life," said Lessard.

Lessard has provided three focus groups in three Wabun communities which has given her some positive feedback. Through these groups, clients have requested the development of weight management programs such as walking groups or other physical activities, workshops on healthy eating and cooking demonstrations and educational activities and information on proper nutrition.

In December 1999, Lessard completed a four a half year Bachelor Degree in Nutrition and a coop internship from Moncton University. In addition, she completed a Degree in Special Education at the Cegep du Vieux Montreal. Lessard has also been employed as a Special Educator for the Montreal Catholic School Board, where she worked with the elderly, children with special needs and mentally challenged individuals for five years.

Lessard is originally from Montreal, Quebec and speaks both French and English.

In Memory of Helen Naveau

MATTAGAMI FN, Ont. - Helen Naveau of Mattagami First Nation passed away in October at the Timmins and District Hospital. She was 74 years of age.

She was well known throughout the country and was in fact the first Woman Chief in Canada when first elected to that office in Mattagami First Nation in 1962 to serve a two year term. She was elected again in 1968 and 1970.

"Men had always been elected Chiefs up until 1962 when Helen made history. Since Helen's success there have been many women who have been elected to the office of Chief in other First Nations across Canada. Our people looked up to her because she set an example for us," said Chief Joyce Luke, Mattagami First Nation.

Naveau served eight terms for the Mattagami First Nation Council. In recent years, she sat as a member of various First Nation boards and committees in her area,

including the Kuuwanimano Child & Family Services in Timmins from February 1994 to September 1998.

"She was always active in several areas and was very outspoken on behalf of children. Helen really spoke from her heart about children and was very protective of them. She also spoke at community meetings and was not shy to have people listen to what she had to say. She was very wise and knew a lot about our people and our way of life but also understood the non-Native culture as well," said Chief Luke.

Naveau will be remembered for her kindness and dedication to her community.

"Helen was very valuable to our community for her input and advice. At major events in our community we always asked her to speak, to say a prayer at their beginnings or to witness the signing of significant documents. Her passing is a major loss for our community. She was also my

mentor and someone who I always looked to for advice or encouragement when I was in difficult situations," said Chief Luke.

Naveau's father, Henry Kitchibra, was part of an infantry unit that fought at Vimy Ridge during the First World War.

Naveau is predeceased by her husband Thomas Naveau, infant son, Wallace; daughter Julliet, sister Beatrice Naveau and parents Julliet and Henry Kitchibra. She is survived by her daughter Nora Naveau (Ray Arseneault) and sisters Irene Naveau, Harriet Endigon, Angeline Naveau and step-sister Emily McKay. She will be sadly missed by her grandchildren Angus, Tanya and Patrick Naveau of Mattagami; Ray and Marcel Nadeau of Timmins, a step grandson Richard Arseneault and a step-grand daughter Suzanne Labelle, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.



HALLOWEEN FUN was enjoyed by Wabun staff members, from L-R: (Happy Hobo) Margaret Miller, (Princess Leah) Peggy Claveau, (Friar Tuck) Paulette McKay, (Elvis) Julie McKay and (Batwoman) Audrey Batise.

Community Eagle Staff Presentation

A presentation of a Community Eagle Staff will be made by Martin Millen and other First Nation members of Matachewan FN on November 24, 2000. Look for a story in the next issue of Wabun Sun.

Chapleau Ojibwe PowWow Story Continued

Continued from Page 2

Traditional Drum Group which is a local group, comprised of members from the First Nation communities of Brunswick House and Chapleau Ojibwe. Also in attendance were numerous male and female traditional dancers from communities and other First Nations in northern Ontario. The gathering also featured traditional sunrise ceremonies and a naming ceremony for Emily Stephens, who was ten months old at the time and is the daughter of Chief

Stephens.

The Annual Baptiste Memegoes Gathering is organized every year by community members.

"We are very proud of this annual gathering because it brings everyone in our community together. All the members contribute to the success of the event by helping with the organization, cooking, preparation of the grounds and clean-up. It is an event enjoyed by people of all ages," said Chief Stephens.



THE FIRST ALL WOMAN CHIEF AND COUNCIL in Canada were elected in Mattagami FN and served their community from 1962 to 1964. From L-R are: Elizabeth Naveau, FN Councillor; Chief Helen Naveau and Irene Naveau, FN Councillor.

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