



# Wabun Sun

Volume Six

Published by Wabun Tribal Council

Issue One

## Wabun First Nations Partners In Waterpower Projects



CHIEF ANITA STEPHENS,  
CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). In September 2005, the MNR announced that Hydromega, an independent waterpower producer based in Quebec, had been awarded the opportunity to pursue the required approvals to construct and operate waterpower facilities on the Kapuskasing River. Wabun Tribal Council had been working on developing this project for some time. In February 2005, the Council began actively working with the two First Nations and Hydromega to start the process of developing these projects in a partnership.

"We want to point out to our membership that these developments will be what is known as run of the river projects. This means that there will be minimal environmental damage. The projects will be developed using only the available power that the river

can be generated," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council.

He added that the Wabun First Nations are looking forward to benefits from early opportunities in the ongoing developments and that Wabun is planning on long-term goals that will provide economic developments far into the future.

"Construction of this facility and the initial



CHIEF ANDREW NESHAWABIN,  
BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN

development will provide some temporary employment for our communities. However, after completion of the initial construction phase, it is expected that the facility will be fully automated. We are looking forward to the long term and expect this to develop into a 20-year project with the creation of a multimillion-dollar facility. Our leadership is planning on being part of this long term project through ownership with the goal of helping our communities and membership for many years to come," said Batise.

### WATERPOWER SITE RELEASE AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW POLICY

Wabun Tribal Council has been involved in identifying opportunities for resource development strategies for several years. The Council began working with the province on the Waterpower Re-

lease Strategy in 2002 on invitation by the provincial government to take part in a new Waterpower Policy. As part of this working relationship, Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council joined the Waterpower Policy Advisory Group as an Aboriginal Representative. The Advisory Group was created to develop the new Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy that in turn would be used as a guideline to facilitate the release of new waterpower sites for development.

"We have been aware of the potential development of water sites in our territories since the mid 1980s and we wanted to be proactive in any developments that would affect our traditional lands. We took the government's initial  
CONT ON PG 2

## Burial Site Discovered On Brunswick House FN Territory

Brunswick House First Nation members are working together to protect their people's recently discovered traditional burial sites. On August 29, 2005, community members were informed by the Ontario Provincial Police about the discovery of uncovered Native burial sites on Windermere Lake near the railway town of Nicholson, northwest of Chapleau. Windermere Lake and the Missinaibi River waterways are part of the traditional lands of the ancestors of Brunswick House First Nation. These areas were regularly used by Native people to travel north to the Moose River until the early 1900s.

Lily (Starbear) Jacques and Pat Tangie led community members in taking care of and preserving the burial sites which had become eroded by water over time. Bill Ross, an Anthropologist and another Archaeologist assisted the communi-

ty in identifying the remains of the four burial sites that were discovered on the shores of Windermere Lake. Nancy Neshawabin, worked with the two scientists in examining the burial sites. The burial sites were those of four males, one of whom was thought to be an individual of 14 years of age. All were determined to be individuals of Native ancestry. Ross is continuing to examine the surrounding area of the discovery and he will report back to the community with any new findings.

On September 26, Jacques along with local community members started a four day long ceremonial fire for the ancestors. Ken Courchene, a Traditional Teacher from Manitoba, assisted them in this ceremony and other traditional teachings and practices that were performed during this time. Soon after this ceremony, a new site was chosen near

where the original burial site was found.

On October 2, community members went back to the site to prepare for a ceremony for reburial. Jacques led the ceremonies with community members to purify the new site and prepare for the burial. A sacred fire was started and it was kept burning for several days. Jacques was assisted by her husband Ghislain Jacques during all the traditional ceremonies and teachings that took place. The fire keepers were Hank Neshawabin, Donald Neshawabin, Adam Queakegesic, Richard McWatch, James Neshawabin and Rachel Rochelle Morin. Sharon Saunders assisted as a cook for everyone.

On October 3, a burial ceremony was performed by community members. Lily Jacques led in the ceremony that includ-

ed members from the Brunswick House FN, Chapleau Ojibwe FN and Michipicoten FN. A feast was later held at the Joe Saunders Community Recreation Centre in Brunswick House FN.

As a result of the discovery and following reburial of First Nation ancestors, Wabun Tribal Council passed a resolution to protect the traditional burial sites near the town of Nicholson and around Windermere Lake.

"Our leadership has been very supportive in the way we handled the examination and burial of our ancestors. We would like to thank them and our community members for their support. Through this time we have also received supportive messages from Moose Cree FN and other First Nations. This has been a significant event for our community and an opportunity for us to take part in important traditional

ceremonies for our ancestors. It was important for our youth to be involved in this process and allow everyone to come together as one community," said Lily Jacques.

Lily Jacques explained that this was a very emotional event for her to take part in as it included many close connections to her own personal life.

"This was very emotional time for everyone but for me it was special as the day of the burial was held on my birthday. In addition, our grandfather Tom Saunders lived and trapped on the shores of Windermere Lake for most of his life. This was the same place where he tragically drowned and was later buried there many years ago. The discovery and burial of these four people was a close connection for me and for many others in our community," said Lily Jacques.

# Kapuskasing Waterpower Projects Benefits Wabun First Nations



**SHAWN BATISE,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN**

CONT FROM PG 1

offer to take in the creation of a new waterpower policy. We knew that a new policy would be established and we wanted to be involved in its creation to ensure that our rights and concerns were prominently addressed in any new regulation," said Jason Batise.

Wabun actively took part with other First Nations in the creation of the new policy. The policy was established on three key points that had to be met before any potential development could go ahead. One of the key points was for developers to address Aboriginal Economic Development. The two other key points were to provide new power sources for Ontario and to provide sustainable economic development.

"We have been working with the province on the waterpower release strategy for three years now. As the Aboriginal Representative on the Policy Advisory Group, we wanted to make sure that First Nation interests were going to be protected. We wanted everyone to know that there must be Aboriginal involvement when natural resources are to be developed or extracted in First Nation territories," said Jason Batise.

He added that the new policy which was established in the fall of 2004, now requires that any potential waterpower developer must contact First Nations whenever development will affect First Nation territories.

## FIRST NATION OWNERSHIP IS THE GOAL

"The creation of a new partnership to develop a water power opportunity is a first for our tribal council. We are looking to the future and the long-term goal of establishing some form of ownership for our First Nations in this venture. We negotiated the idea of ownership with our new partners at Hydromega and we have established a share of the project in terms of equity," said Shawn Batise.

He explained that Wabun has been working alongside Brunswick House FN and Chapleau Ojibwe FN for over a year to provide their input into the development of new water-

power facilities on the Kapuskasing River. Wabun is looking to invest in this venture for the long-term future.

"We want to partner in this venture so that we can create a source of revenue for our members in the future. We are providing an initial investment by participating in this project with the goal that our First Nations will have the opportunity to own the facility completely in 20 years time. There will always be a demand for power in the future and when this facility is up and running, it will be a source of revenue for a long time to come," said Shawn Batise.

Chief Andrew Neshawabin, of Brunswick House FN, is working with Wabun to develop this waterpower opportunity while at the same time protecting the traditional territories of his community.

"Our community is just starting to understand more about this new project that will affect our traditional lands. The work will not start right away but we are actively negotiating and meeting with the company, the ministry and the other First Nations," said Chief Neshawabin.

He is working with Alfred Ojebah, First Nation Councilor from Brunswick House FN in regards to the Kapuskasing River Waterpower projects to ensure that employment can be provided to their members during the construction phase and in the end create more long term opportunities for their community.

"We want to develop this project with the idea that we can provide some employment for our members. We are also working towards the goal of helping our future generations by developing some form of ownership and own the facility completely in 15 to 20 years. This will provide many benefits for our members in terms of education, infrastructure and housing. We are happy that we have an opportunity to develop this project on our traditional lands. It gives our people something to look forward to and it will help our younger generation in the future," said Chief Neshawabin.

Chief Anita Stephens, of Chapleau Ojibwe FN, explained that her community is happy to see these projects being developed with the hope of creating many benefits for her First Nation.

"We have never dreamt of something this big impacting on our community. It is a bit overwhelming but to see that the project is going ahead will be great for everyone. It really is satisfying to see First Nations concerns and input being a big part of this project," said Chief Stephens.

She is excited about the fact that there will be economic benefits to the community on a short and long term basis.

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING A MUST TO MOVE PROCESS AHEAD

Jason Batise added that in order to maintain a quality working relationship with all the partners and entities in this project, Wabun needs available financial and professional resources.

"This is a multimillion dollar project and the size of the development is a challenge of the size and depth that is breaking new frontiers for us. Our private sector partner has lawyers, support staff and the resources to be able to develop and negotiate agreements. We also need these resources and professionals to be able to understand and establish proper agreements to ensure that we will be able to go ahead with this process. We are actively looking for assistance from provincial and federal government agencies so that we will be able to have everything we need in terms of professional resources to that we have an equal footing in partnering in this project," said Jason Batise.

Wabun Tribal Council is working to attract necessary developmental funding from government organizations such



**JASON BATISE,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISOR,  
WABUN**

as Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the Heritage Foundation and FedNor. Wabun is also looking at accessing additional First Nation programs and foundations to help them in developing the Kapuskasing River Waterpower Projects.

## SELF SUFFICIENCY IMPORTANT

He added that Wabun First Nation leadership has been very strong and supportive in all the developments that have taken place on Kapuskasing River Waterpower Projects.

"I have to commend our leadership for all the support and guidance they have given all of us who have worked on the Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy and the Kapuskasing River project. Our Chiefs are eager to develop projects for their First Nations where self-sufficiency becomes a reality through ownership in partnership or full. At the provincial level, they supported us in our efforts to have Aboriginal involvement in the creation of a new water power policy. We have worked and

negotiated at finding a willing partner to work with us and we now have a measure of control in development that is taking place on our lands," said Jason Batise.

Shawn Batise pointed out that historically the Wabun First Nations were left out of any involvement in terms of resource extraction or developments on or near First Nation lands.

"We see a lot of development with First Nations in the far north and it is gratifying that the governments and private sector are now negotiating in good faith with First Nation leadership so that any developing projects benefit Native people. However, over the past hundred years or so most of the development on and around our lands have taken place and with no consideration of our peoples in the Wabun First Nations. At this point we are open to participating in any developments or policy making that has to do with developing projects on or near our lands. We need to be at the table when decisions are being made and opportunities are arising. As a result of our participation regarding Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy discussions and planning our First Nations will benefit from developments on or near our lands far into the future," said Shawn Batise.

## HYDROMEGA

Hydromega is the applicant company that was awarded the opportunity to develop two new water power facilities on the Kapuskasing River. These two new sites are located on White Otter Falls and Big Beaver Falls on the Kapuskasing River. The MNR is in charge of the release of any crown lands that are identified as possible sites for waterpower development. The provincial ministry was responsible in awarding the site to Hydromega. This means that the company is now able to go ahead and submit their proposal for development for necessary approval and permitting.

Hydromega is a power developer that has been involved in several water power projects and more recently in wind power generation. The company, based in Montreal Quebec has developed numerous power generation sites in southern Quebec. Hydromega has developed seven run of the river projects in southern Quebec since 1987. The company has 15 years of experience in building and maintaining small-scale waterpower projects of different designs. Hydromega employs engineers, project managers and support staff dedicated to the building, operating and ownership of small-scale power producing sites.

"This is the first time our company has taken the opportunity to work with First Nations. We are working together as partners in this development and I am happy to say that we are cre-

ating a very good relationship with Wabun and its First Nations," said Stephane Boyer, Project Manager for Hydromega.

Boyer is responsible for overseeing the project development on the Kapuskasing River for Hydromega. His main role is to monitor development of project sites in accordance to government regulations, construction permits and all environmental processes. He will also work with engineers to develop the design and construction of the two new water power facilities.

Boyer explained that the company's immediate goal at this point is to start the environmental assessment process. He added that they are also working on establishing a Power Purchase Agreement with the Ontario Power Authority to be able to sell power once the facility is operating.

"We saw this project as an opportunity to develop power and create a partnership with First Nations. As soon as we knew that there was potential to develop this project, we initiated discussions with Wabun and the communities involved to identify everyone's expectations and to work together. We put together a proposal for development that would be acceptable to the province and would be successful for our company and the First Nations that are involved," said Boyer.

## MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Several statutes and regulations administered by federal and provincial government agencies are involved in the development of waterpower projects. However, the Ministry of Natural Resources is the key governmental organization that provides approval for disposition and development of potential waterpower sites. In the past, the MNR, did not proactively identify potential water development opportunities or release these opportunities to the private sector. In 2002, there was a major change to the power industry when the MNR was given a lead public policy role in identifying and releasing new waterpower opportunities. This change was due to the restructuring of Ontario's electricity market which included the introduction of the Energy Competition Act, the restructuring of Ontario Hydro into five separate entities and the opening of the electricity sector to competition. To facilitate the disposition and development of potential waterpower sites, the MNR developed the Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy in the fall of 2004. This policy was developed with the direct input of Wabun First Nations through the Waterpower Policy Advisory Group.

CONT ON PG 3

# Long Term Power Developments A Good Investment

CONT FROM PG 2

"Wabun has been very much involved in the creation of the new Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy. Before the provincial change in power production and distribution, our ministry administrated the release of any water power opportunities but did not have a leading role. Now our methods and guidelines for releasing any water power opportunities is set out in the new policy," said Stan 'Tosh' Gierek, Waterpower Site Release Coordinator, Renewable Energy Sector, MNR.

He explained that before the MNR established the new Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy, the ministry requested First Nations across the province for their input. Before the policy became public, the ministry met with First Nations twice. The second meeting provided First Nations an opportunity to review a draft policy. Wabun was directly involved in these

discussions.

"It is important to have First Nation involvement in the development of new policies that will affect them. Whenever we develop policies that will utilize natural resources, it is important for us to hear the concerns of First Nations and include their participation in the process," said Gierek.

His primary role is to coordinate the evaluation of proposals for water development opportunities in the entire province. He coordinates the evaluation process in the context of the new Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy. He is working directly with Wabun Tribal Council, Chapleau Cree FN and Hydromega to facilitate their proposals for development on the Kapuskasing River.

"The Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy has three key points before development can begin. One of these keys is Aboriginal Economic

Development and I think that at the end of the day we are meeting these principles in the development of the Kapuskasing River Projects," said Gierek.

The provincial government has also set goals for developing renewable energy sources. The government's objectives are to establish five percent of energy production from renewable energy sources by 2007 and ten percent by 2010.

## THE PROCESS

The development of waterpower facilities in the province under the new Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy are established under one of two processes. These two processes are known as the Competitive Site Release Process and the Direct Site Release Process. The development of waterpower facilities on the White Otter Falls and the Big Beaver Falls on the Kapuskasing River is part of the MNR's Competitive Site Release Process. In fact,

Hydromega became the first applicant to be awarded an opportunity for waterpower development under the ministry's Competitive Site Release Process in September 2005. The Competitive Site Release Process allows any entity to come forward to submit proposals for development. Each proposal is then reviewed under several criteria including financial, technical as well as approvals from affected Aboriginal communities. Each proposal is processed and is given a score based on the identified criteria. Once a successful applicant has been announced, the entity or company is given the opportunity to go through federal and provincial approvals to eventually develop a waterpower facility.

"The First Nations that are involved in the development of waterpower facilities on the Kapuskasing River have been actively engaged in this process for about a year now. It is still an ongoing process and there are still other environmental approvals and permitting as well as consultations that have to be completed before any construction can be started. It is important to keep in mind that even though approval has been given to develop the waterpower opportunity, there are still many steps that have to be taken before actual construction can begin," said Gierek.

## ENVIRONMENT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WITH DEVELOPMENT

Hydromega is planning on constructing two waterpower facilities. These will be small-scale facilities that will create minimal environmental impact. The two facilities on White Otter Falls and Big Beaver Falls will be what are known as run of the river waterpower facilities. This means that there will be no large reservoir which cause large-scale environment damage. A spillway will be incorporated in the design which will allow water to pass through a turbine or allow any excess to flow over. Tentative plans at this point in time are to build a five to six megawatt generating facility on White Otter Falls and a larger facility of ten to 12 megawatts on Big Beaver Falls.

"This will not be one of those large scale hydroelectric

power projects of the type we have seen in the past. There will be a relatively small amount of inundation but it will be limited. The facility will be designed to operate its turbines using just the natural flow of the water without greatly disturbing the surrounding environment. The project will not modify the natural flow the river," said Boyer.

Once the two Kapuskasing waterpower facilities are in full operation, power will be diverted to the Ontario power grid which will then be distributed to the immediate area. The power will be directly purchased by the Ontario Power Authority which will become the main customer.

## MUCH WORK AHEAD FOR PARTNERS

Hydromega will have to go through numerous approval processes with other branches of the provincial and federal government before construction can begin. It is expected that this approval process will last for about a year and half to two years. Construction will begin once approvals and permitting are given. It is hoped that in 2009 the facility will be ready for operation and start producing power.

"We have to keep in mind that construction will not start soon. There is a long process before any construction can take place but we will work closely with Wabun in order to try to make the time frames as reasonable as possible," said Boyer.

He added that his company is looking forward to developing a sustainable power generating project while at the same time working with local First Nations in a partnership.

"It is important for our company to be able to work with First Nations in a project such as this. We feel good about creating clean, renewable and sustainable energy for the future. It is very satisfying to work in partnership with First Nations that are influenced by these power development opportunities. Hydromega looks forward to a long and rewarding partnership in the development of much needed and low impact power generation with our First Nation friends," said Boyer.

## Wabun Health Services Implements New Improvements To NIHB Programs



PEGGY CLAVEAU,  
ASSISTANT HEALTH DIRECTOR

better services for our members", said Peggy Claveau, Assistant Health Director for Wabun Health Services.

Recent changes to the NIHB program included transportation coverage for medical services such as dental. Previously, travel to a dental office was not considered even though actual coverage of being treated by a dentist was covered as part of the NIHB. However, this was difficult for First Nation patients who did not have access to dentists in their communities and needed to travel away from home to do so. Now travel to a dental office is included.

Additional coverage has been provided to cover travel costs for First Nation members to seek medical treatment. There are limitations to this coverage. Private transportation is covered only for those communities that do not have public transportation services. A higher rate of private transportation coverage is provided but it is limited to allow patients to access the nearest public transportation service in their area. Once a patient accesses a public transportation centre, a regular rate of transportation coverage is then calculated.

"Transportation for dental services is the biggest improvement that our Wabun

members will see come out of these changes. Our individual communities will also see a new set of reporting requirements to account for services and benefits. This will be a positive change that will help with increase usage of the NIHB program and it will help us better justify the funding that we need," said Claveau.

Wabun Health Services Staff and Health Care Workers in each of Wabun's First Nations will be integrating the new changes to the NIHB program.

"There has been little staff turnover in the past few years, so everyone is on the same page. This will mean that clients will receive the same information from all of our Wabun health care workers. However, clients can still contact me with any of their questions or concerns about the NIHB program," said Claveau.

Wabun members wanting to know more about the changes that have been made to the NIHB program can contact Peggy Claveau, Assistant Health Director directly at the Wabun Health Services office at 705-268-9066 or clients can also contact their local Community Health Representative (CHR) or their Community Health Nurse (CHN) for more information.

Wabun Health Services is implementing new improvements that have been made to the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program. These new changes were put in place in July 2005. Health Canada created these changes to the national health care program to provide improved services and clarify policies and procedures for health care givers across the country.

"Health Canada has brought in some improvements to reinforce their main policy of providing health care services to First Nations. In the past, some of the procedures and policies were not clearly stated. There was cause for concern by Health Care workers when referencing to the policy. Now with the added improvements there is less confusion and several issues and concerns have been clarified to help us provide

# Health Care Workers Attend Traditional Teachings Retreat

Wabun Health Services held a Health Care Workers Retreat in Brunswick House First Nation, September 19 to 23, 2005. The 'Exploring Aboriginal Healing Ways' Retreat focused on teaching traditional ceremonies and practices.

"We wanted to focus this retreat on giving ourselves a hands on learning experience on traditional teaching methods and practices. This allowed us an opportunity for self development and to have a better understanding of traditional healers which we try to include in our health care work," said Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services.

The retreat was an Aboriginal Focus Program led by traditional teachers Lily (Starbear) and Ghislain Jacques of Brunswick House FN. They were assisted by a traditional helper or Scabbe, Richard McWatch.

Each day of the retreat was started with a Smudging and Pipe ceremony led by the traditional teachers, along with singing and prayer. The first day was reserved to



**HEALTH CARE WORKERS WHO ATTENDED THE WABUN HEALTH RETREAT ARE: (BACK ROW L-R) TERRI MATHIAS, BEAVERHOUSE FN; WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN; THERESE MANNILA, COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE (CHN), WABUN; MICHAEL ARCHER, WABUN HEALTH SERVICES AND MARGIE MILLER, WABUN HEALTH SERVICES. SECOND ROW L-R: MARCIA BROWN, BEAVERHOUSE FN; JEAN LEMIEUX, WABUN HEALTH DIRECTOR; EDNA HANSON, MATAHEWAN FN; EVELYN BLACK, WAHOSHIG FN; PAULINE MCKAY, MATTAGAMI FN; CINDY GIGUERE, CHN WABUN AND BERNADETTE MORRIS, WAHOSHIG FN. AT FRONT ARE L-R: RICHARD MCWATCH, FIRE KEEPER (SCABE), BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN; GHISLAIN JACQUES, FACILITATOR-BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN; LILY JACQUES, FACILITATOR, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN AND PEGGY CLAVEAU, ASSISTANT HEALTH DIRECTOR, WABUN.**

allow for participants to travel to Brunswick House FN and prepare for the retreat.

The second day featured teachings that included: smudging, sacred pipe, seven

teachings of the sacred pipe, seven natural healing ways, drum and sacred songs, caring for sacred objects, sweat lodge teachings and the family. On the third day, the Retreat was held on Brunswick House FN traditional lands where participants were shown how to gather cedar, learn the purpose and meaning of the Sundance and Cheeby Dance and take part in a traditional feast. On the fourth day, participants learned about the four direction medicines, the purpose and meaning of fasting, seven natural sources of healing and the sweat lodge ceremony. In addition, participants learned about the teaching of the sacred fire and the duties of the Scabbe or traditional helper. The last day included time for participants to come together in a sharing circle and conduct an evaluation of the retreat.

"Everyone enjoyed the learning experience as part of this retreat. This was a beneficial period for our staff that allowed us to come together and learn more about traditional and cultural teachings," said Lemieux.

Lily (Starbear) and Ghislain Jacques have been involved in traditional teaching for several years. Lily Jacques began her training in

Aboriginal ceremonies and practices in 2001 when Wabun Tribal Council and Mamowich-Hetiwin Employment & Training sponsored her to receive training in Manitoba. She received her training at the Red Willow Lodge in Anola, Manitoba. In 2003, she facilitated an Aboriginal Spiritual Wisdom Program as a trainer for her community. Since then, both Lily and Ghislain Jacques have been providing ongoing teaching and education to community members on traditional and cultural subjects.

"The Wabun Health staff members were happy to participate in this retreat and we look forward to learning more about traditional teachings in the future. It was also special to have Lily facilitate this retreat as we have taken part in helping her gain this knowledge about traditional ceremonies and practices. It felt good to know that one of our Wabun members has taken their training and experience back to the community to share with all of us," said Lemieux.

## Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Celebrates Move To New Location

The Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Specialized Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre held a Grand Opening to celebrate the organization's move to a new facility in Thunder Bay on September 15, 2005. The Health Canada funded organization provides treatment and assistance for individuals from across the country. Special guest Tina Keeper, a well known Native Actress, was on hand to take part in the ceremony. In addition, Charles Fox, former Grand Chief of the Chiefs of Ontario, acted as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

"This is a move that has taken many years of hard work and patience. It was good to see that the organization was able to find a more permanent place to help the youth who are benefiting from this assistance. This is the only solvent abuse centre in this area and everyone was happy that we were able to keep Ka-Na-Chi-Hih in Thunder Bay rather than see it move to another city centre," said Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director.

Lemieux is a Board Member for the Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Treatment Centre and

she has acted as a Representative for Wabun Tribal Council for the past three years. She attended the Grand Opening to take part in celebrations that included the Fourth Annual Solvent Abuse Awareness For Everyone (SAAFE) Walk to promote the centre. The walk ended with a flag raising ceremony to present a new flag designed for the centre. The ceremony was held with a traditional drum group and singing. One of the centre's clients Ryan K raised the newly designed flag.

"The opening was a great success for everyone at Ka-Na-Chi-Hih. We held a feast of traditional Native and non-Native foods. Everyone was given the opportunity to tour the new centre and to learn about our services and programs. There was a good number of people and we had many positive comments from those that attended," said Vincent Simon, Executive Director of Ka-Na-Chi-Hih.

The new location will be able to accommodate 12 youth aged 16 to 25. Although Ka-Na-Chi-Hih

accepts anyone from across the country, most of centre's current clients are individuals from North-western Ontario and Manitoba. Ka-Na-Chi-Hih provides treatment and counselling services for individuals dealing with solvent abuse. The centre operates a nationally recognized program for long term treatment that lasts from four months to two years. Currently, the centre employs 16 full time staff and five part time employees.

The centre, which started in 1996, was limited in working out of its former location at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital in Thunder Bay. Concerns had to do with difficulty in conducting traditional practices and ceremonies and a lack of space.

To contact Ka-Na-Chi-Hih for assistance or information on solvent abuse, you can call the centre at 807-623-5577 and ask to speak to Renee Boucher, Outreach/Aftercare Worker. Or to find out more information on Ka-Na-Chi-Hih, you can visit their website at [www.kanachihih.com](http://www.kanachihih.com)

**Wabun Sun**



Publishing Editor: Shawn Batise  
Editor: Mike McGrath  
Assistant Editor: Xavier Kataquapit

**Wabun Tribal Council**

313 Railway Street  
Timmins, Ontario P4N 2P4  
Ph. (705) 268-9066  
Fax: (705) 268-8554  
[www.wabun.on.ca](http://www.wabun.on.ca)  
Printed in November 2005