



Wabun Sun

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THE NEXT 100 YEARS

Wabun First Nations Commemorate 100 Years Of Treaty #9

Wabun Tribal Council featured Treaty #9 Commemoration Ceremonies in events that brought together Wabun community members young and old. Throughout the summer, five of Wabun's First Nations marked the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the James Bay Treaty #9 in 1906 between the First Nations people of northern Ontario and the Government of Canada. Commemoration ceremonies were held in the First Nations of Wahgoshig on June 7, Matachewan on June 20, Mattagami on July 7, Chapleau Ojibwe on July 21 and Brunswick House on July 25. Wabun Tribal Council represents six First Nations in northeastern Ontario within the larger political territorial organization known as Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN), the representative First Nation political body that includes all the First Nations of the James Bay Treaty #9 area. Beaverhouse First Nation was not one of the Wabun communities visited during

the original signings.

The historic Treaty #9 document was signed by First Nation people across much of northern Ontario in the summers of 1905 and 1906. At the time, the treaty area covered most of northern Ontario up to the Albany River. Decades later, adhesions to the treaty were added in 1929 and 1930 to cover the rest of the northern part of the province.

The treaty system began in 1867, with the British North American (BNA) Act, under section 91, which gave the federal government the authority to legislate with regard to Indians and lands reserved for Indians. Through this new power, the government acquired the responsibility to act in the best interest of First Nation people and to ensure that Indian rights and lands were protected. For First Nation people, this government authority turned into a form of control that regulated the internal affairs of First Nation people and determined Canada's relationship



BARNEY BATISE, FORMER CHIEF OF MATACHEWAN FN AND ELDER OF THE COMMUNITY PRESENTED THE ORIGINAL TREATY FLAG GIVEN TO HIS UNCLE MICHEL BATISE, WHO WAS CHIEF OF MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION IN 1906. BARNEY BATISE (LEFT) IS SEEN HERE HOLDING UP THE FLAG WITH DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF ALVIN FIDDLER, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION.

with Natives.

This government power created many regulations, laws and statutes concerning Native people which were

first compiled into the Indian Act from 1867 to 1881. This act is still in effect today and controls all aspects of Native life, even though there have been many revisions over the years. These laws and regulations have created a complicated legal web concerning First Nation communities, lands and peoples' lives.

In the 1970s, First Nation political leaders across the country began asserting their rights as a people and began the process of representing themselves at the regional, provincial and federal levels of government through the creation of political organizations. It was during this time that the First Nation leaders in the Treaty #9 area began to question the treaty and what it offered. These leaders formed the Grand Council of Treaty #9 and in the 1980s changed their official name to Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN). NAN became the representative political body for every First Nation in the Treaty #9 area, a land base that encompasses most of Northern Ontario from the Manitoba to Quebec borders and from the coast of Hudson

Bay to the height of land north of Lake Superior.

Over the past 100 years there has been much development and expansion in the natural resource industry. During this period little or no inclusion of First Nation rights or benefits were considered even though previous agreements and promises had been made through the Treaty #9 document. This has been the case for much of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation territory south of highway 11 where most of the early development of mining and forestry activities were started. This part of the NAN territory includes all of Wabun's six First Nations.

Through this experience NAN First Nation communities and leadership have grown to demand inclusion and partnership in proposed development on or near their traditional territories. As development continues to progress, Wabun leadership is taking a more assertive and proactive approach to participate in opportunities that are being created on or near their traditional lands.

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MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION DREW MANY DIGNITARIES AND LEADERS FOR THE COMMUNITY'S TREATY #9 COMMEMORATION EVENT. FROM L-R (BACK ROW): DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF DAN KOOSSES, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN); DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF ALVIN FIDDLER, NAN; COUNCILLOR WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN; ONTARIO REGIONAL CHIEF ANGUS TOULOUSE, CHIEFS OF ONTARIO; GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY, NAN; CHIEF WILLIS MCKAY, MATTAGAMI FN; LAWRENCE BAXTER, NAN; SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL AND COUNCILLOR JENNIFER CONSTANT, MATTAGAMI FN. IN FRONT (L-R) ARE: BENTLEY CHEECHOO, NAN; COUNCILLOR IVAN MCKAY, MATTAGAMI FN AND BILL NOTHING, NAN.

Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation Looking Forward To Brighter Future

Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation held commemoration ceremonies to mark the community's 100th Anniversary of the signing of Treaty #9 on July 21, 2006. A delegation from Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN), First Nation leaders and representatives from local industry, provincial government and the local mayor's office were on hand to take part in the commemoration event which took place at the First Nation administration office.

Official ceremonies featured traditional hand drumming by Janet Panamick and a pipe ceremony by Joshua Memegos. An opening prayer to the day's events was led by Elder Theresa Memegos, who is also a First Nation Councillor. A community barbecue was held for participants and entertainment for adults and games for children were also part of the day.

Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse, Chiefs Of

Ontario was also on hand to present the leaders of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation with a plaque to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the signing of Treaty #9. Mayor Earle Freeborn, Town of Chapleau was also an invited guest to the event and he made a presentation during the gathering.

Chief Anita Stephens explained that it is difficult for her people to look back on the treaty signing in a positive light.

"It is sometimes hard to find positive reminders of what the treaty has done for our people in the past 100 years. We have always considered this our land and when our ancestors signed the treaty we were agreeing to share the land with everyone. Instead we had our

land taken away from us with little or no benefit. In order for us to correct the past we need to find out what this treaty really means for our First Nations so that we can create a brighter future for our people," said Chief Stephens.

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Reflections



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SHAWN BATISE

Five of our Wabun Tribal Council First Nations held Treaty #9 Commemoration events over this past summer. Our First Nation leadership and members came together to remember that 100 years ago our ancestors signed Treaty #9 believing that it would bring prosperity, friendship and well being. Our leaders at the time trusted that this would happen for their members and the people of Canada equally. One hundred years later we can see that the treaty has provided much benefit to the people of Northern Ontario and it has enriched the province of Ontario and the country of Canada. Our treaty partners have been the recipients of huge financial rewards due to development in and around our traditional lands. They have benefited so much economically while our people have had to endure hardship and living in poverty. We have had to survive in third world conditions while the rest of the country developed into first world prosperity.

In recent years we have, as a people, developed to the point where we are now seeing the benefit of some of the resource development taking place on and around our lands. None of this came easy. We have had to fight

every inch of the way to claim our fair share of the historic promise. Even after the Supreme Court Of Canada decision to protect our rights as aboriginal people in this country we still lag behind in terms of resource development and economic benefits. Our First Nation leadership has made strides in creating shared resources but we still remain far behind in terms of quality of life when compared to life in municipalities all across this country.

So much of the average Canadian quality of life was paid for through development that happened in and around our First Nation traditional lands. We are at the point where things are getting better but we must continue to push for access to our fair share in all of the mining and forestry initiatives that have developed and are developing here in the southern portion of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation.

I take this opportunity of the Treaty #9 Commemoration to congratulate each and every one of our people of the Wabun First Nations for enduring the hardships of the past 100 years and for surviving them with grace and dignity. We have all lived under a promise broken. Only when our quality of life in our communities reach a level compared to other municipalities. Only when we can look with confidence to a positive future for our children. Only when we have access to true sharing of resources on and around our traditional lands. Only then can Treaty #9 that was signed by our Wabun Chiefs, have meaning for us. We will not and can not wait another 100 years ... this promise must be honoured now and into the future for the well being of us all.



WELCOMED LEADERS AT THE COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION INCLUDED FROM L-R: GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN); MAYOR EARLE FREEBORN, TOWN OF CHAPLEAU AND CHIEF ANITA STEPHENS, CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION. (NAN PHOTO)



FAMILY AND FRIENDS GATHERED TOGETHER FOR THE COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION. HERE WE SEE CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION CHIEF ANITA MEMEGOS WITH HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: LEONARD, CHIEF ANITA STEPHENS, EMILY (IN FRONT), REBECCA AND PETER STEPHENS.

Chapleau Ojibwe FN Commemorates Treaty #9 Signing

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A presentation on the history of the Treaty #9 document was made by Colin Lachance as part of the commemoration day of events. The presentation featured a historical background on the treaty docu-

ment and the Nishnawbe-Aski people of northern Ontario and included cross cultural education on traditional knowledge and beliefs.

"When everyone heard our First Nation leaders and listened to the presen-

tation on the history of our treaty there was a better sense of understanding. They learned about all the promises that had been broken in the past and the history we have had to endure. The people who participated were impressed with this per-

spective and showed their appreciation for this new understanding," said Chief Stephens.

Grand Chief Stan Beardy was happy to show his support for the commemoration ceremonies which took place in Chapleau Ojibwe FN.

"I congratulate Chief Stephens and her team for organizing a memorable day as part of the Treaty #9 commemoration ceremonies. Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation is a very successful and progressive community," said Grand Chief Beardy.



ONTARIO REGIONAL CHIEF ANGUS TOULOUSE, CHIEFS OF ONTARIO PRESENTS THE LEADERS OF CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION WITH A PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF TREATY #9. PICTURED IS ELDER THERESA MEMEGOS (LEFT), COUNCILLOR FOR CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION AND CHIEF ANITA STEPHENS (RIGHT), CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION. (NAN PHOTO)



CHIEF ANITA STEPHENS, CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION RECEIVES A PRESENTATION OF A PAINTING COMMEMORATING THE SIGNING OF TREATY #9 FROM GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN PHOTO).



CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES WERE WELL ATTENDED. FROM L-R: MAYOR EARLE FREEBORN, TOWN OF CHAPLEAU; CHIEF ANITA STEPHENS, CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION AND ELDER THERESA MEMEGOS, COUNCILLOR FOR CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN. (NAN PHOTO)

Brunswick House First Nation Has A Moving History

Brunswick House First Nation brought together their community to hold commemoration ceremonies with First Nation leaders and visitors on July 25, 2006. The event commemorated the 100th year of the signing of the Treaty #9 between the government of Canada and the First Nation on July 25, 1906 on the shores of the Missinaibi River. Brunswick House FN held a gathering at the local community complex where visiting dignitaries and local leadership made presentations and met with the people of the First Nation.

Federal officials from the department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) were also on hand to distribute treaty annuity payments to community members as part of the gathering. Staff members from the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre (OCCC) were also available to promote and provide historical media and books to visitors and community members. During the gathering, local children took part in a bicycle safety workshop hosted by Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS).

Chief Andrew Neshawabin was mindful of negative things happened to his people during the past 100 years of the treaty but stated that his community is looking to the future with

the hope that they will be able to establish a healthier environment for their children and youth.

"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 this history. Now we are working together to negotiate with the government on our traditional rights and the promise of sharing the resources that surround our territory. It is our hope that we will provide a better future for our people and our youth," said Chief Neshawabin.



LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND VISITING DELEGATES WERE ON HAND TO TAKE PART IN TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION. FROM L-R: CHIEF ANDREW NESHAWABIN, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION; BENTLEY CHEECHOO, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN), COUNCILLOR CHARMAINE SAUNDERS, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION; COUNCILLOR LULU NESHAWABIN, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION AND GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY, NAN.

At the time of the treaty signing in 1906, the treaty Schedule of Reserves set out a land area along the Missinaibi River, the traditional home of the people of Brunswick House FN. This land title was later moved by the government to make way for the Chapleau Game Preserve which was created in 1925. In succeeding years, the federal government moved the community base several times for different reasons until the First Nation lands were set on

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A GIFT OF A PAINTING BY A LOCAL ARTIST WAS PRESENTED TO GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN) BY THE YOUTH OF BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION. PICTURED FROM L-R: VICKI MCWATCH, DYLAN MCWATCH, GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY AND SAMANTHA MCWATCH.



MAKING NEW FRIENDS WAS PART OF TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION. PICTURED ARE L-R: BILL LACROIX, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION; SAMANTHA CHARLES, TREATY COMMEMORATION COORDINATOR FOR NAN AND CHIEF ANDREW NESHAWABIN, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION.

Brunswick House First Nation Commemoration A Success

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Mount Batton, a traditional trapping ground for community members. However, due to the remote location of this community, a small portion of land was exchanged in 1970 to relocate the First Nation next to highway 101. This move also provided better access to medical, educational and social services in the town of Chapleau.

"When our people signed the treaty on the shores of Lake Missinabie, they agreed to share the land but there were also many things that they did not understand. In our First Nation, we lost our original home land when the government moved us from one location to another and our land title shrunk in size. We are still negotiating with the government on this issue

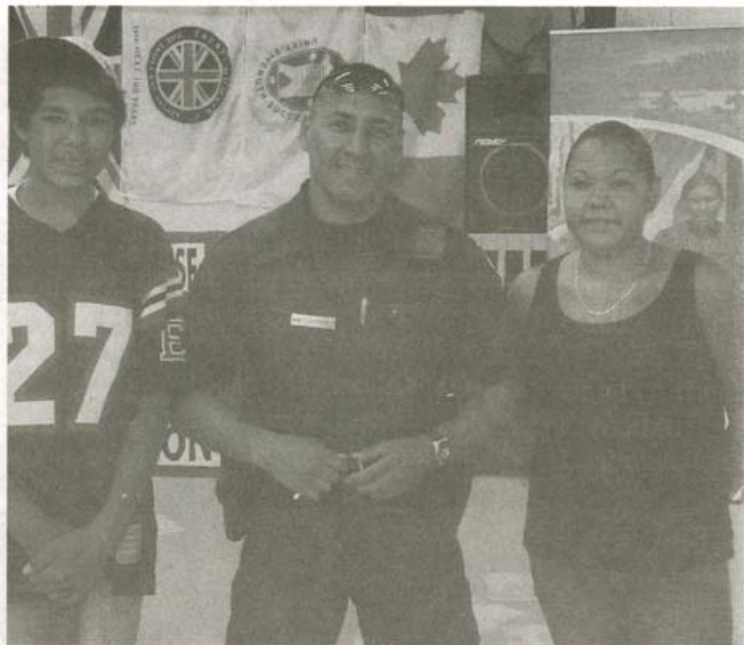
and we hope to some day establish a better land base for our people," said Neshawabin.

Grand Chief Stan Beardy, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation was on hand to represent the regional political First Nation organization at the event. He pointed out that Brunswick House FN has suffered a great deal from the fact that their land base was moved so many times.

"The government has caused a lot of hardship on the people of Brunswick House FN and the surrounding First Nations by taking away their land rights and moving them away from their homelands. When a people are not able to live on their traditional lands, they are uprooted and they are left

without a solid base they can call home. This created many hardships because it also took away a part of their history and caused the erosion of their culture and their traditions. However, I want the people of Brunswick House First Nation to know that they are not alone in this struggle and that Nishnawbe-Aski Nation supports them and we will stand by their people to create a better future for their community," said Grand Chief Beardy.

The Grand Chief led a delegation from NAN that included: Bill Nothing, Executive Director of NAN; Ben Cheechoo, Treaty Education, NAN; Archie Meekis, NAN candidate for Grand Chief and Samantha Charles, Treaty Commemoration Coordinator for NAN.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER AT THE BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES. PICTURED FROM L-R: DYLAN MCWATCH, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION; CONSTABLE CONRAD PAYPOMPEE, NISHNAWBE-ASKI POLICE SERVICES (NAPS), BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION AND SAMANTHA MCWATCH, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY BONDS WAS PART OF TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION. PICTURED ARE FROM L-R LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS KEVIN LACROIX, LILY JACQUES, OWNER OF LILI'S GRILL AND RENE LACROIX.



ELMER TANGIE (RIGHT), BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION RECEIVES TREATY ANNUITY PAYMENTS FROM CONRAD HELLMAN, INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA (INAC) AS PART OF TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION.



FAMILY AND FRIENDS WERE PART OF THE TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES HELD IN BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION. PICTURED IS ANGIE NESHAWABIN (CENTRE) WITH NIGEL (LEFT) AND AMADEUS.

Wahgoshig FN Commemorates Treaty #9 On The Shores Of Lake Abitibi

Wahgoshig First Nation was the first of several communities from the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) area to hold commemoration ceremonies during the summer of 2006. The community held ceremonies on June 7, 2006 on their traditional homelands at Point of Lake Abitibi. Wahgoshig FN held a joint commemoration event with its associated First Nation of Abitibiwinni (Pikogan) First Nation. After the signing of the Treaty #9 document in 1906, the people of Abitibi Lake were divided by provincial boundaries into the two communities: Wahgoshig FN located in Ontario and Pikogan First Nation in Quebec.

"This has been a great summer of commemoration events in recalling the 100th anniversary of the signing of Treaty #9 in our

First Nation communities. It was good to see Wahgoshig First Nation participate in commemoration ceremonies on their traditional lands where this historic signing took place," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council.

Chief Dave Babin of Wahgoshig First Nation was happy to see his community come together on the shores of Lake Abitibi.

"We are hopeful for the future concerning our treaty relationship with the government of Canada. We are not looking to the future so much for ourselves but rather for our youth. This treaty has not provided many healthy benefits for the development of our communities and we are looking to our youth to remember this history and move

forward for the future of our people," said Chief Babin.

Grand Chief Stan Beardy, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) was on hand to make presentations at the commemoration ceremonies at Point of Lake Abitibi.

"The treaty is very important to our people. It is our only link to the greater society of Canada. It is important that we understand this document and represent ourselves to fight for our rights and make our selves recognized by the government. We have a place in this country. Our challenge for the next 100 years is to utilize the skills and abilities of our youth and together with the direction of our people and our leaders we will be able to create a better life for our communities," said Grand Chief Beardy.

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MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS ENJOYED THE TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES HELD AT LAKE ABITIBI. FROM L-R: BRIANNA SUTHERLAND, WAHGOSHIG FN; KRISSEY McMARTIN, (THEIR MOTHER), WAHGOSHIG FN AND MEAGWAN SUTHERLAND WAHGOSHIG FN.

Wahgoshig First Nation Commemoration Draws Many

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The commemoration ceremonies took place on June 6 and 7. Wahgoshig FN hosted several community events for youth, Elders and First Nation members. Both communities came together on the second day of events to hold joint commemoration ceremonies on the shores of Lake Abitibi.

A history of the Treaty

#9 document and the people of Lake Abitibi was provided by event organizers. A community feast was held for participating members at the access to Lake Abitibi, near the town of Gallichan, Quebec. Commemoration ceremonies also included traditional drumming by the Ghost Mountain Singers of Wahgoshig FN and performances by traditional dancers

from both communities.

Ghislain Pickard, Regional Chief for Quebec / Labrador, Assembly of First Nations (AFN) was also available to represent national First Nation leadership at the event.

"I was honoured to be able to take part in the treaty commemoration ceremonies with the people of

Lake Abitibi. Our strength come from our ability to work together as First Nations," said Regional Chief Pickard.

Dignitaries that were on hand at the commemoration ceremonies included: Grand Chief Beardy, NAN; Ghislain Pickard, Regional Chief for Quebec / Labrador, AFN; Chief Lance Haymond, Eagle

Village FN; Chief Conrad Polson, Temiskaming FN; Grand Chief Lucien Wabanonik, Anishnawbek Algonquin Tribal Council; Christain Rouleau, Director of Negotiations and Implementation for Quebec Region, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Luc Adam, Representative for the Mayor of the town of Gallichan, Quebec.



GHOST MOUNTAIN SINGERS OF WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION DID A GREAT JOB AT THE TREATY COMMEMORATION. FROM L-R STANDING: JEFF SINGER, CHARLEY BLACK, AJ SUTHERLAND AND SHANE O'ROURKE. L-R KNEELING: LINDY BLACK AND KYLE O'ROURKE. MISSING WERE: MARVIN SINGER, DOMINIC MCKENZIE, ADAM SACKANEY AND JESSE MALLETTE.



TRADITIONAL TEACHERS STANDING AT A HISTORIC LANDMARK ROCK ON POINT OF LAKE ABITIBI. FROM L-R: LAURA MCKENZIE, BERNADETTE MORRIS, JUNE BLACK, LIZ BABIN AND BETTY SINGER.



GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY (LEFT), NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN), PRESENTS A SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED PAINTING DEPICTING THE IMAGES OF THE SIGNING OF TREATY #9 TO CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FN.



ENJOYING THE TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES HELD AT LAKE ABITIBI ARE FROM L-R: DAVID FLOOD, FORESTRY ADVISOR (WEST), NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION; LIZ BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FN AND HENRY MATTHEWS, WAHGOSHIG FN.



FIRST NATION LEADERSHIP WAS WELL REPRESENTED AT THE TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES HELD AT LAKE ABITIBI. FROM L-R: CHIEF HARRY MCDUGALL, PIKOGAN FN; GHISLAIN PICARD, REGIONAL CHIEF OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR, ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS; GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION AND CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FN.



CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FN STANDS WITH CANOE ROWERS FOR THE WAHGOSHIG FN DELEGATE CANOE FOR THE CEREMONIAL ARRIVAL OVER LAKE ABITIBI. ROWERS WERE L-R: ALEX MCKENZIE, KEVIN TREMBLEY, JIMMY MCKENZIE, LANCE BLACK, DANNY PERRAULT, CHRIS ST. GERMAINE AND DANNY STUBBE.



CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FN HEADED THE WAHGOSHIG CONTINGENT ON LAKE ABITIBI DURING A CEREMONIAL CANOE ARRIVAL.

Mattagami FN Features Colourful And Exciting Commemoration

Mattagami First Nation held its official Treaty #9 Commemoration ceremonies on July 7 at its First Nation Community Complex. The community hosted a three-day gathering on July 7, 8 and 9 featuring local events and entertainment for First Nation members and visitors. Many dignitaries and officials were present to take part in commemoration ceremonies along with community members.

Chief Willis McKay presented the gathering as a commemoration of the signing of the Treaty 9 document with the people of Mattagami and the government of Canada.

"This gathering may look like a celebration but in our hearts it is a commemoration of the treaty that our people signed 100 years ago. We were once free to live on as much land as we wanted but

now we are caught in a situation where we live on small reserves and the question of who really controls the land that surrounds us. We are hopeful these questions can be answered and that through the work and dedication of our people, we will have the same living conditions that everyone else in this country enjoys," said Chief McKay.

The community held several feasts and hosted entertainment performers and musicians. The three day event also included educational and inspiring workshops that were presented by performers and traditional people. Opening and closing ceremonies featured traditional drumming that was performed by the Mattagami Singers with members from the local community and from Attawapiskat First Nation.

Traditional dancers was provided by the Kataquapit family of Attawapiskat First Nation.

Shawn Batise, Executive Director for Wabun Tribal Council, reflected on the fact that First Nation people believed that there would be a sharing of the lands and its resources at the time of the treaty signing.

"One hundred years ago, our ancestors signed a treaty that they believed would bring prosperity and well being for the people of Mattagami First Nation and of Canada. We can see that this agreement has provided many benefits to the people of Canada and it has enriched the province of Ontario. Only in recent years have we seen any benefit for our people and it has not come easy. We must continue to push for more access especial-

ly here in the southern extent of the NAN territory. I want to congratulate the people of Mattagami First Nation not simply for commemorating the past 100 years but for enduring and surviving and even thriving under a promise broken. Only when the quality of life in our communities reaches a level comparable to other municipalities can this treaty mean true prosperity and well being for all," said Batise.

Several dignitaries from the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) were on hand to take part in the ceremonies. Grand Chief Stan Beardy, NAN pointed out the need to develop First Nation access to lands and resources to create a better future for First Nation people.

"Mattagami First Nation is situated in a location where

the community is surrounded by an abundant amount of natural resources, yet the people have only a small portion of the land. Our people in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation area need to have access and control over the land in order to develop and create healthy communities. When we are constantly arguing with the government, it can become discouraging but it is a misconception to think that we do not have any rights under the treaty. Our rights are alive today and we are now in a position where we can partner with companies and industry to create meaningful relationships and provide positive benefits for our people. In the case of Mattagami First Nation where so much has already been done regarding natural resources, one issue
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GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY (LEFT), NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN) AND CHIEF WILLIS MCKAY, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION PREPARE TO LEAD THE GRAND ENTRY DELEGATES TO START THE COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES.



LOCAL ELDERS LEONARD NAVEAU SR. (LEFT) AND ELDER GEORGE NAVEAU WERE ON HAND TO ATTEND THE TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES HELD IN THEIR COMMUNITY.



CHIEF WILLIS MCKAY (LEFT), MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION RECEIVES A PLAQUE MEMORIALIZING THE TREATY COMMEMORATION FROM ONTARIO REGIONAL CHIEF ANGUS TOULOUSE, CHIEFS OF ONTARIO.



TRADITIONAL DANCERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOINED TOGETHER IN AN INTERTRIBAL DANCE AS PART OF THE MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES.



WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL STAFF WAS ON HAND FOR THE MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES. CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JASMINE CLAVEAU, PEGGY CLEVEAU, ASSISTANT HEALTH DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL HOLDING TAYLOR CLAVEAU, BRITTANY CLAVEAU, JEAN LEMIEUX, HEALTH DIRECTOR WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; MARGARET MILLER, SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; DARLENE LAFONTAINE, FINANCIAL ADVISOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL AND THERESE MANNILA, COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE, WABUN HEALTH SERVICES.

Mattagami First Nation Commemoration A Reflective Gathering

(CONT FROM PG 6) we must confront is the need for compensation for the people of this area," said Grand Chief Beardy.

Historian John Long provided a brief history of the Treaty #9 document and its effects on First Nation people. Ben Cheechoo, Treaty Education for NAN also made a presentation during official commemoration ceremonies and shared his knowledge and research he has collected through the NAN organization.

Regional Chief Angus Toulouse, Chiefs of Ontario addressed the gathering with a reminder that national, provincial and regional organizations have done much work to make the government recognize treaty rights in parts of the country.

"The recognition of our rights is something we can celebrate today as part of the commemoration of your treaty and your home-

land. Looking forward to the next 100 years there will be many challenges but this treaty is enshrined in law. It is still very much alive in the hearts of each and every one of us and that is well worth celebrating," said Regional Chief Toulouse.

Dignitaries and delegates that attended the commemoration ceremonies in Mattagami FN included: Ontario Regional Chief Toulouse, Chiefs Of Ontario; Grand Chief Beardy, NAN; Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, NAN; Deputy Grand Chief Dan Kooses, NAN; Ben Cheechoo, Treaty Education, NAN; Bill Nothing, Executive Director, NAN; Lawrence Baxter, Manager Social Services, NAN; Samantha Charles, Treaty C o m m e m o r a t i o n Coordinator, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and Stephanie Ashamock, Executive Assistant to the Grand Chief.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT WAS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION WHERE FRIENDS AND FAMILY ATTENDED THE EVENT. HERE WE SEE (FROM L-R): GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN); JASON BATISE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; TWO YEAR OLD QUINTON BATISE AND HIS FATHER SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL.

THE MATTAGAMI SINGERS PROVIDED TRADITIONAL DRUM PERFORMANCES DURING TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION. CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: ISAIAH PICODY, MATTAGAMI FN; BRAD PICODY, MATTAGAMI FN; MARJORIE WHEESK, ATTAWAPISKAT FN; LEONARD PAULMARTIN, ATTAWAPISKAT FN AND SAGE PICODY, MATTAGAMI FN.



Matachewan FN Commemorates 100 Years With Showing Of Artifact

Matachewan First Nation held a community gathering with local members and regional dignitaries during the First Nation's commemoration ceremonies on June 20, 2006. The gathering took place in the community where the Treaty #9 document was originally signed by the people of Matachewan and the Government of Canada 100 years ago.

In his address during the commemoration ceremonies, Chief Fabian Batise, Matachewan First Nation, explained that to mark the start of the next 100 years of the treaty relationship with Canada he is working with First Nation members and leadership to develop the promise of partnerships and resource sharing.

"We are looking at the natural resource industry to have a share of the development that is happening on our lands. Sharing the land and its resources was something we were promised. Our ancestors believed that they had signed something that would be beneficial to

our people. Now we have more and more young people who are better able to understand the legal document and interpret the details so that we can challenge the government on these issues. Our people are looking forward to being properly represented to create a better future for ourselves," said Chief Batise.

A highlight to the ceremonial events was the presentation of the original flag that was presented to the first recognized Chief of Matachewan First Nation during the signing of the

treaty in 1906. Barney Batise, former Chief of Matachewan FN and Elder of the community is keeper of the flag. The British Union Jack was prominently held at the front of the traditional grand entry march of dignitaries, Elders and traditional people.

"This original flag that was presented to my uncle Michel Batise during the signing of the treaty had great symbolism to our people. It meant a lot and it meant a sign of trust and partnership with our people.

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IT WAS A HOT AND SUNNY DAY FOR THE MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES. HERE WE SEE FROM L-R: GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN); GERTRUDE NOLAN, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION COUNCILLOR; COMMUNITY ELDER ALFRED BATISSE AND CHIEF FABIAN BATISE, MATACHEWAN FN.



THE GHOST MOUNTAIN SINGERS, OF WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION WAS ONE OF TWO DRUM GROUPS TO PERFORM AT TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES HELD IN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION. FROM L-R STANDING: JESSIE MALLETTE, ADAM SACKANEY AND CHARLIE BLACK. SEATED IN FRONT L-R: LINDY BLACK, MARVIN SINGER AND DOMINICK MCKENZIE.



KEEPERS OF THE FLAG OVER THE YEARS WERE BARNEY BATISE (RIGHT) AND HIS BROTHER GEORGE BATISE (LEFT), WHO ARE BOTH ELDERS AND FORMER CHIEFS OF MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION.

Matachewan FN Commemoration Recalls Local History

(CONT FROM PG 7)

Our ancestors believed that they were doing the right thing for their people and their children. However, it is hard not to chastise other people about the living conditions of our people and the promises that have been broken in the past. We are hopeful from now on that our younger generation can move us forward by taking this treaty and find out ways to make it work to our convenience," said Barney Batise.

The treaty flag is the only known treaty flag to still exist in the treaty #9

area. Originally, when the flag was presented to the people of Matachewan FN during the signing of the treaty, the people believed that new flags would continue to be presented at the election of each new Chief. However, this did not happen and the original flag was passed down to each succeeding Chief. The flag was lost for a period until it was recovered again in the 1950s by Harry Batise, Michel Batise's brother. Harry Batise then passed along the flag to his son George, who then handed it to his brother Barney Batise

during his time as Chief of Matachewan FN in the 1970s.

During the commemoration ceremonies, Matachewan FN held local events for First Nation members and visitors from the surrounding area on June 17 and 18. Official ceremonies included traditional drumming by the Ghost Mountain Singers of Wahgoshig FN and the Four Winds Drum Group with performers from Ontario and Saskatchewan. Traditional dancers performed during the event as well. Community events

included entertainers and musical acts from the surrounding area and organized games and contests for participants.

Grand Chief Stan Beardy, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) explained that the commemoration ceremonies are important events for First Nations to recognize.

"It is important to take part in these events as it gives me a sense of what our people are saying and how they feel about issues that are affecting them. It is also a priority for me to keep the treaty relationship in the

forefront. The treaty document and its affects on our people is something that our youth have to remember and understand so that we can continue to fight for our rights in the future," said Grand Chief Beardy.

Dignitaries at the event included: Grand Chief Beardy, NAN; Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, NAN; Deputy Grand Chief Dan Koosees, NAN; Helen Gerteis, representative for the office of Gilles Bisson, Member of Provincial Parliament and Sylvain Lacroix, representative for the office of Charlie Anges, Member of Parliament.



REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL DELEGATES WERE PART OF THE TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION. PICTURED L-R ARE: JEAN LEMIEUX, HEALTH DIRECTOR FOR WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; HELEN GERTEIS, REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE OFFICE OF GILLES BISSON, MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT; GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN) AND SYLVAIN LACROIX, REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE OFFICE OF CHARLIE ANGES, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.



BARNEY BATISE, FORMER CHIEF OF MATACHEWAN FN AND ELDER OF THE COMMUNITY IS SEEN HERE WITH HIS WIFE DOREEN AS THEY BOTH ENJOYED THE FEAST AND ENTERTAINMENT THAT WAS PART OF THE TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN MATACHEWAN FN.



THE FOUR WINDS DRUM GROUP PROVIDED TRADITIONAL DRUM MUSIC AND DANCING FOR COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN MATACHEWAN FN. STANDING L-R: GEORGE MATTHEWS, PEAWANUCK FN; CONRAD MEDICINE ROPE, KAWACATOOSE CREE NATION, SASKATCHEWAN AND BILL CONSTANT, KAWACATOOSE CREE NATION, SASKATCHEWAN. KNEELING L-R: CONRAD DESJARLAIS AND PETER DESJARLAIS, BOTH OF THE NAKOTA NATION AT CARRY THE KETTLE, SASKATCHEWAN.

Wabun First Nations Working Together

(CONT FROM PG 1)

"Our ancestors believed they had signed an agreement with Canada where we would be able to share the resources and the benefits that came from the land. It was an agreement we believed would mean prosperity for everyone in our communities and the people of this country. However, our First Nations have fallen far behind our treaty partners and only when our people have a living standard comparable to a modern municipality can this treaty mean true prosperity and sharing for all," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director for Wabun Tribal Council.

Community Elders from Beaverhouse FN remember that during the early part of the last century, Indian agents visited the community several times to include their settlement into what is now known as Treaty #9. However, they added that

when these Indian agents from Abitibi and Tem-iskaming visited the community, most of the people were out on the land hunting, fishing and trapping for a living. At the time, there were few people who stayed in the community all year round. Community Elders explained that when it came time to add people to a listing there were only a few individuals that were accounted for and so the community was not recognized as a reserve under Treaty #9. Fortunately, the First Nation later received recognition and assistance from First Nation political organizations such as Wabun Tribal Council, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) and Chiefs of Ontario. Beaverhouse First Nation is still negotiating First Nation status to be recognized under Treaty #9.



LOCAL LEADERSHIP WAS ON HAND TO TAKE PART IN TREATY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION. PICTURED FROM L-R ARE: LIONEL BOUCHER, MATACHEWAN FN COUNCILLOR; ANNE BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FN COUNCILLOR; GERTRUDE NOLAN, MATACHEWAN FN COUNCILLOR CHIEF FABIAN BATISE AND PAM CORMIER, TREATY COMMEMORATION COORDINATOR FOR MATACHEWAN FN.

Wabun Sun



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