



Wabun Sun

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Three Wabun First Nations Participate in Grand Opening of Concentrator On The Heels of Signing Agreement With Liberty Mines

Representatives from three Wabun First Nations took part in a grand opening of the new Redstone Mill nickel concentrator facility as an opportunity to participate in a mining initiative with representatives of Liberty Mines Inc. September 19. Previously, the three Wabun First Nations of Wahgoshig, Matachewan and Mattagami came together to hold joint negotiations and sign a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the mining company on September 11, 2007. The opening of the Redstone Mill, which is located south of the city of Timmins, was commissioned in July to process nickel bearing ores from Liberty's mining projects in the Shaw Dome nickel belt area which includes the traditional territories of the three communities.

The mill was officially opened with a ribbon cutting by Liberty Mines Mill Manager Jason Cyr, and Mayor Tom Laughren. In his presentation Mayor Laughren gave his thanks to Liberty Mine company officials for their commitment to working in the Timmins area and for providing employment and business opportunities for the region.

"The First Nations are



FIRST NATION AND LIBERTY MINES DIGNITARIES CAME TOGETHER FOR A GRAND OPENING OF THE REDSTONE MILL FACILITY SOUTH OF TIMMINS ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2007. FROM L-R: MICHAEL BRYDEN, EAST-WEST TRADE PARTNERS INC; WARREN CABRAL, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, LIBERTY MINES; CARLO CATTARELLO JR., DIRECTOR, LIBERTY MINES; GERRY STINSON, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER, REDSTONE MINESITE, LIBERTY MINES; MAYOR TOM LAUGHREN, CITY OF TIMMINS; MILL MANAGER JASON CYR, LIBERTY MINES (IN BACK); GARY NASH, PRESIDENT, CEO AND DIRECTOR, LIBERTY MINES; CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN; COUNCILLOR LEONARD NAVEAU SR., MATTAGAMI FN; MAURICE KISTABISH, PROGRAM MANAGER, WAHGOSHIG FN; COUNCILLOR GERALD LUKE, MATTAGAMI FN; JASON BATISE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; CHRIS MCKAY, RESOURCE LIAISON, MATTAGAMI FN AND COUNCILLOR JAMES NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN.

the keepers of the land and as a company we want to work with these communities for our mutual benefit. We are excited to be here today and the credit is due to the hard work of so many people. We look forward to working with these three First Nations as we continue the development of future projects," said Gary Nash, President, CEO and Director, Liberty Mines.

The MOU document is a

statement of the First Nation's support of the company's activities in the Shaw Dome mining area, southeast of Timmins, which is also part of the traditional territories of Wahgoshig, Matachewan and Mattagami. The MOU addresses the traditional rights of the First Nations and it sets the framework for the discussion and negotiations of an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA). This IBA

will outline and address the First Nation's traditional rights as they relate to exploration, development and mining operations in the Shaw Dome mining area. Among other things the IBA will discuss business opportunities, employment and training, environmental matters and ongoing communications.

"Our community is grateful to have established a positive working relationship with Liberty Mines and we

look forward to the benefits we can provide for our people, our Elders and our youth. The MOU is a sign of change for our community as it paves the way for our own self sufficiency. We are thankful to all who were involved in making this possible and to Gary Nash and Liberty Mines for putting together a positive and mutually beneficial agreement," said Chief Walter Naveau, Mattagami FN.

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Wahgoshig First Nation Inks Deal With Mining Companies



SHAKING HANDS TO CELEBRATE THE SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ARE FROM L-R: NIGEL LEES, PRESIDENT AND CEO, SAGE GOLD INC.; ROBERT HANSON, CEO AND DIRECTOR, SHELTERED OAK RESOURCES INC. AND CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION.

Wahgoshig First Nation leadership signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Sheltered Oak Resources Inc. and Sage Gold Inc. on September 27, 2007. The MOU concerns the development of the Kerrs Gold property near Matheson Ontario. The land area of the mining project encompasses treaty lands on which Wahgoshig FN has Aboriginal rights. The agreement was signed at the Wahgoshig FN administration office by Chief Dave Babin, Robert K. Hansen, CEO and Director of Sheltered Oak Resources Inc. and Nigel Lees, President and CEO of Sage Gold Inc.

The signing event included a community dinner for

local members as well as visiting dignitaries from the mining companies and from First Nation organizations. Deputy Grand Chief RoseAnne Archibald, of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) was also on hand to speak at the event.

The MOU provides a guideline for future negotiations with the mining companies concerning all the impacts of future development on traditional lands. The MOU also provides protective measures for local First Nation historical sites because of the fact that one of the drill locations in the mining project is close to a burial ground. To identify

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Chief Bill LaCroix Puts His Experience And Knowledge To Work For Brunswick House First Nation



NEWLY ELECTED CHIEF BILL LACROIX OF BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION IS SEEN HERE ON THE LEFT WITH HIS BROTHER RENE LACROIX DURING THE 100 YEAR COMMEMORATION OF TREATY #9 AT THE COMMUNITY ON JULY 25, 2006.

Brunswick House First Nation elected Bill LaCroix as their new Chief on August 9, 2007. Although this is the first time that Chief LaCroix, who is 72 years of age, has held such a position he brings with him life-long experience and many years of business savvy. He takes over from past Chief Andrew Neshawabin.

"I have a good Council of people to work with and a great Band Manager by the name of Edmond Gus who brings with him a lot of experience in working for First Nation communities. I have great support from my council and community. We hope to generate opportunities and projects for our members and develop a healthier First Nation for our people," said Chief LaCroix.

His current First Nation Council includes returning members Marjorie Tangie, Charmaine Saunders and Irene Redbreast. They are actively working towards the development of a logging business for the community.

"We have two trucks on the road now and we are going to use some existing equipment that is in the community to try to start logging operations in the area and bring some employment for our members. Next spring we have plans to add more equipment and continue to develop these types of opportunities," said Chief LaCroix.

In addition, he is working with his Council to seek out other employment opportunities in the area and in other First Nation communities.

"We want to be able to help our members access meaningful employment. We are working with the De Beers mining project on the James Bay coast to see if we can have some of our members find jobs at their mine," said Chief LaCroix.

He is also looking forward to restarting recreational activities and fundraising events in the community.

"We are starting up fundraising bingos again to help pay for programs and projects for youth in our community, so that they can put on sporting events such as hockey or broomball during the year. Our young people don't have much to do so we are creating activities for them through projects

such as the rebuilding of our outdoor rink," said Chief LaCroix.

His First Nation is also looking forward to potential projects and programs in the future.

Presently, Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services is considering the construction of a Children Aid Centre and safe house in the community.

"We are all trying to build a better community for our people and our youth. We want to work and have employment for our members so that we can create a positive frame of mind for everyone," said Chief LaCroix.

He is originally from the Missinaibi Ojibway people that lived along the shores of Missinaibi Lake.

Chief LaCroix grew up with his family in the small rail stop of Peterbell, 100 kilometres north of Chapleau Ontario. The community is located just north of Missinaibi Lake where the Canadian National Railway (CNR) line intersects with the Missinaibi River. He was raised in a traditional setting around Peterbell in a family of five boys and five sisters with their mother Isabella and their father Henry, who worked in logging and mining activities. Chief Bill LaCroix, the second oldest in his family, learned a great deal from his grandfather John LaCroix, who was originally from Hull, Quebec and operated a general store in Peterbell. He ran the store with his wife Margaret LaCroix.

"I did a lot with my grandfather. I grew up learning what an entrepreneur was in the north. I helped him at his store and I travelled with him in the wilderness to go prospecting or cut bush roads in the winter when I was eleven and twelve. He was a hunter and trapper with little formal education but he could fluently speak and write in Ojibway, Cree, English and French," said Chief LaCroix.

Before he was born, the lives of his family were affected by the creation of the Chapleau Game Preserve. Some of his family had resided just at the head waters of the Missinaibi River, inside the borders of the preserve. When the preserve was established, they were removed from their traditional

lands. This forced move led to the scattering of the traditional families that resided on Missinaibi Lake as they re-established themselves in nearby communities like Foleyet, Missinaibe, Chapleau and Peterbell.

When Chief LaCroix became a teenager, he started a life of many moves with his family to follow employment opportunities. When he was 14, his family moved to Sandon, British Columbia in the Kootenay region of the province, where his father found work in a silver, lead and zinc mine. Soon after arriving there, Chief LaCroix also started working nights at the mine as he needed to pitch in and help support their family. During the day he attended school. In 1953, the family moved once again to nearby Salmo, BC where another employment opportunity in mining arose.

A year later, the LaCroixs were on the move back to Ontario. It was at this point that Chief LaCroix moved south to work on his own. He started in the city of Toronto as a labourer and transport driver and during the uranium mining boom in Elliott Lake, he worked as a miner and machine operator for Dennison Mine and Stanrock Mine. Soon after he moved back

to Toronto and worked in the construction industry for seven years during which time he became a certified mobile crane operator.

In 1966, he went back to mining and worked at the Granduc Copper Mine in northern British Columbia along the Alaskan border and took on numerous positions including instructor, driller blaster, shift boss and mine captain. When this mine closed he moved south to work for two years at River Jordan mine near Victoria BC. When he left this last mine he found employment in other areas including work as a crane operator for Victoria Paving and a marketing position in which he sold west coast salmon.

During the second uranium mining boom of the early 1980s, Chief LaCroix headed back to Elliott Lake. This time he established a catering and restaurant business in the industrial area of the city and ran it for six and a half years. When he closed this business, he went back to Toronto to work in the construction business again until 1990. After spending a few years in the south, he re-established himself in Elliott Lake once again and purchased his own crane equipment to start Bill's Crane Rental. He ran this business for ten years with great success and

eventually developed a company that owned several mobile cranes, smaller equipment and an industrial building. In 2000, he sold this business to Dennison Mines in Elliot Lake during the company's decommissioning phase and Chief LaCroix officially retired from mining, construction and the crane operator business at the age of 65.

When he announced his retirement, he decided on a move back north and with the benefit of his First Nation in mind. Chief LaCroix garnered support from First Nation Council to start a local gas bar and convenience store. Since his election to Council, Chief LaCroix has relied on his son Kevin to help run the business. Recently, the family renovated the space to modernize their business.

Chief LaCroix is a First Nation Ojibway person and a member of Brunswick House FN. As a child growing up in a traditional setting, he spoke Ojibway but seldom used his language in his later life. Now that he is at home with this people, he is regaining his Ojibway language. He has many relations in Brunswick House FN and the Chapleau area as well as relatives residing in British Columbia and Elliot Lake.



SHAWN BATISE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As you can see in this issue of Wabun Sun we are featuring two major stories on Wabun First Nations entering into agreements and negotiations with mining companies. I congratulate all our Wabun leadership in particular our Chiefs for recognizing the importance in negotiating with the mining industry to make sure that our First Nations are getting a real benefit from any mining development happening on and around our traditional lands. I commend all the First Nation staff involved in assisting in the development of these agreements and negotiations. As well, I welcome the involvement of the mining company directors and leadership in developments that recognize our First Nation traditional lands and culture in meaningful agreements and commitments that will result in long term benefits to our

Reflections

communities.

Wabun as many of you will know means the "dawn of a new day". We are well represented by our name in regards to current and on going developments as related to our rights and the respect of our traditional lands. It really is the dawn of a new day. In recent times we are witnessing a very healthy change in the way things work between First Nations people and those that are involved in the development of resource based industry. These days we see representatives from hydro developers, the mining sector and forestry coming to the table to sign Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) agreements and Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA) with our First Nations. Albeit, this attendance at these tables can be traced directly to court decisions ruling in favour of First Nations claims in regards to resource development on or around our traditional lands. The most recent ruling involves the case of Platinex Inc.

versus Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation where the Ontario Supreme Court upheld an injunction on Platinex which had moved ahead with development without consultation with the First Nation involved. Resource development companies are realizing that it is wise to con-

sult with First Nations when development is taking place on or around any traditional lands. Finally, the time has come where we all realize that consultation and development that involves First Nations will only serve to ensure the success of any resource based industry initiative on or around our lands.

Part of the problem in really providing a clear basis for negotiation and working relationships between First Nations and resource based entities in this regard has to do with the failure of Provincial and Federal governments to establish clear revenue sharing agreements so that we all can understand just exactly what the playing field is in regards to resource development on or around First Nations traditional lands.

It has not been easy for any of us to adjust to and adapt to change in regards to how resource development will be proceeding on and around First Nations lands. The courts and rule of law are behind us and thankfully, many of those involved in the resource development industry are finding out that when we all gather as partners at the table good things happen. Things have changed and for the better in a new Wabun - "Dawn Of A New Day."

Wahgoshig Participates In Resource Development



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traditional and cultural areas of the exploration area, an archaeological and anthropological study was funded by Sage Gold and Sheltered Oak Resources in the area of planned exploration. The completed study identified sites of cultural importance that will be respected and protected during exploration activities.

"Our community is happy to see the signing of this MOU. It will mean we can negotiate future development and ensure that our traditional areas are protected. Protecting our traditional areas, especially our burial grounds makes it even more important to have these types of agreements in place," said Maurice J. Kistabish, Program Manager, Lands And Resources Secretariat for

Wahgoshig First Nation.

The MOU also includes consultation and advisory services by Wahgoshig FN, training, ongoing communications, financial contribution to Wahgoshig FN, an allocation of Sheltered Oak Resources shares and subject to regulatory approval of a grant of stock options in Sage Gold to Wahgoshig FN.

If the project on the Kerrs property develops into an operational stage, the MOU also includes an agreement to negotiate an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) between the community and the two companies. Negotiations of an IBA will commence once the boards of the two companies agree to proceed from an exploration phase to a production phase. The MOU sets out the agenda and process of how the IBA will be negotiated and it will include discussions on employment, training, business opportunities and financial compensation.

Kistabish noted that consultations with First Nations are now more straightforward since the Ontario Superior Court Of Justice decision between Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation And Platinex Inc. in June 2007. In this major court decision, the First Nation established the right to be consulted about resource development on their traditional lands.

"The way the mining act is set up, companies can come and go as they please and not have to work with us. This recent court ruling with Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug FN has changed all that. The MOU that we

have agreed on gives us the ability to protect our traditional lands and monitor environmental impacts while at the same time to allow the company to conduct their drilling and exploration projects," said Kistabish.

He added that the MOU will lead to benefits for their community and it will ensure that the concerns of their First Nation members are addressed.

"Our community has adopted a balanced approach to protect all our traditional lands. However, at the same time we want to safeguard those lands that will be developed to minimize environmental impact and include economic benefits for our community," said Kistabish.

He was grateful to many people from community leadership and from the involved mining companies for making this signing possible.

"The creation of this MOU was a team effort. Our Chief and Council monitored this process closely from the start and kept our community informed of events. We would also like to thank the leaders of Sheltered Oak Resources and Sage Gold for their hard work in making this possible," said Kistabish.

The Kerrs Gold property is located near Matheson, Ontario and it was acquired through a joint three year option agreement between Sage Gold and Sheltered Oak Resources. At this point, the companies are conducting exploratory drill programs on the property.

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF ROSEANNE ARCHIBALD, NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN) WAS ON HAND TO SAY A FEW WORDS OF SUPPORT DURING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNING CEREMONY IN WAHGOSHIG FN.



THE OFFICIAL SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DOCUMENT WAS CARRIED OUT BY (FROM L-R): NIGEL LEES, PRESIDENT AND CEO, SAGE GOLD INC.; ROBERT HANSON, CEO AND DIRECTOR, SHELTERED OAK RESOURCES INC. AND CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION.

Margaret Quakegesic Expanding Knowledge Through Further Education

Margaret Quakegesic, National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NNADAP) Worker, for Brunswick House First Nation is taking the initiative to add to her experience and training by attending an educational program in the health care field. She will be attending a two year Native Community Care and Counselling and Development Program that is being offered by the Anishinabek Education Institute in North Bay.

"I think that it is important for me to further my skills as a NNADAP worker and as part of the mental health program in our com-

munity. This training will help me with counselling others when it comes to dealing with alcohol and drug addictions assessments and also in being better able to talk to others about what they are going through. At the end, I will have more knowledge to share with others in my community," said Quakegesic.

The two year program is designed for employed First Nation health care workers who need additional training. This work related training program is specifically aimed at those who are currently Community Health Representatives, Youth Workers or Mental Health and Addictions Workers.

Students taking part in this program, alternate between two 2-week intensive in class sessions each semester and then a five week return to their workplace. They will continue to complete assignments during their workplace period through distance education manuals. This two year program is a condensed version that accommodates health care workers while they are away from family, community and workplace responsibilities, while also retaining their employment during training.

Quakegesic is looking forward to adding to experience and applying her training to her workplace.

"This type of training is important for our First Nation health care workers to take part in. I have been working in the mental health and addictions field for many years and I enjoy being able to add to everything I have learned. I hope to continue my work in this area and maybe someday work in a treatment centre for addictions," said Quakegesic.

She encourages others to take part in continuing their education and for youth to acquire as much schooling as they can before entering the workforce.

"We should all work towards acquiring as much education as we can and show

our young people that we never stop learning. I encourage youth to get as much education as they can so that we can help our people move forward. The more we all add to our experience and education, the better able we are to help our communities," said Quakegesic.

She has worked as NNADAP Worker for her home community since February 2002 and for a short period in 2000. Quakegesic is a First Nation Ojibway person and a member of Brunswick House FN. Quakegesic and her partner, Lorne McWatch have four children: Jamie Lynn, Dylan, Rodney and Samantha.

Wabun First Nations Working Together With Liberty Mines Inc.

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Liberty Mines has been involved in exploration and mining activities for several years in the Shaw Dome mining area. During this time, Liberty mines had conducted separate consultations and meetings with each

of the three Wabun First Nations over the past year. To make the process more efficient, the three First Nations which are part of the Wabun Tribal Council, decided to come together as a group to negotiate with the mining company.

"This agreement and the relationship we have built with Liberty Mines will be good for our community. We have made agreements of this type with other companies before but we are still new to this process and so are the companies that are involved. However, it allows us to grow and develop to create opportunities for everyone. We look forward to working with Liberty Mines," said Chief Dave Babin, Wahgoshig First Nation.

In June, the three communities signed an accord to agree to work together in negotiating with Liberty Mines. A committee was created from the accord with the three communities to head negotiations and discussions concerning the MOU with assistance, resources and support from Wabun Tribal Council.

"Since three of our communities were in discussions with the same company, our leaders thought it would be best to bring our First Nations together as a unified entity. Once we were able to coordinate our activities we were in a better position to work as one group and bring together more resources to help our communities," said Jason Batise, Economic

Development & Technical Services Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council.

Batise, who is also a member of Matachewan FN, negotiated along with Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council on behalf of their community for the past year together with Maurice Kistabish, Program Manager, Wahgoshig FN and Chris McKay, Resource Manager for Mattagami FN.

Kistabish, who has worked on several agreements between resource development companies and his community, was happy to take part in another partnership that will see benefits for his First Nation.

"There is a lot of activity taking place on our lands but we are happy to see that these resource companies are coming to our leaders for their support. These opportunities will create benefits for our people in the long run," said Kistabish.

McKay is working with Mattagami FN to manage resource development opportunities in the areas of mining, hydro electric and forestry. Currently, Mattagami FN is looking towards the creation of similar partnership in other areas of resource development on

their traditional lands.

"Agreements such as this with Liberty Mines will mean business and job opportunities for our people and the assurance that the environment and our traditional lands are protected. Our leadership is very keen on developing these partnerships as they will benefit our community and as we move ahead with these projects our members are also supportive of their leadership," said McKay.

Liberty Mine Board representatives were also present at the Redstone Mill Grand Opening event and to meet with First Nation representatives. Board Chairman, Don Schuman explained that the recent signing of the MOU with the three First Nations is a positive step in the development of their company in the Timmins area.

"We are very pleased with the hard work and speed of everyone concerned in the development of this mine site and the agreements that have been made with the three First Nations. It is always good to work with different groups in these types of projects and to be able to reach agreements for the benefit of everyone. This is just the beginning of a long term relationship and it will be a template for further discussions as we grow and develop as a company," said Schuman.

Warren Cabral, Chief Financial Officer, Liberty Mines Inc. explained that their company is looking forward to developing several mining operations in the area and that the signing of the MOU will address the development of these projects.

"We are looking to the development of multiple mines so it is important for us to deal with all the issues that might affect the people and the communities we will be operating in before we move ahead. I am happy to say that we have established a good relationship with the three Wabun First Nations," said Cabral.

He added that the company is looking forward to completing a second and third mining operation in 2008. The Redstone mine and these additional mine operations will then feed the newly opened Redstone Mill to process the mined ore. As



MAYOR TOM LAUGHREN, CITY OF TIMMINS (RIGHT) WAS ON HAND WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2007 TO ASSIST JASON CYR, REDSTONE MILL MANAGER, LIBERTY MINES INC. IN THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE COMPANY'S REDSTONE MILL NICKEL CONCENTRATOR FACILITY.



FIRST NATION AND LIBERTY MINES REPRESENTATIVES HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH EACH OTHER DURING THE OPENING OF THE NEW REDSTONE MILL NEAR TIMMINS. PICTURED ARE FROM L-R: COUNCILLOR JAMES NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN; COUNCILLOR GERALD LUKE, MATTAGAMI FN; DON SCHUMAN DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIRMAN, LIBERTY MINES INC.; CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN; WARREN CABRAL, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, LIBERTY MINES INC. AND JOHN H.C PINSENT, CA, DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE, LIBERTY MINES INC.

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Elaine Daley Is New Crisis Coordinator For Matachewan FN



ELAINE DALEY IS THE NEW CRISIS COORDINATOR FOR MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION.

Elaine Daley has taken on the position of Crisis Coordinator for Matachewan First Nation. She started her new position in September 2007 and is based at the community's First Nation

administration building. She takes over from Pam Cormier, previous Crisis Coordinator for Matachewan FN. As Crisis Coordinator, Daley's role will be to assist community

members during times of crisis including general emergency situations, health emergencies, family violence and suicide. She will also work with Regional Crisis Coordinator Mike Archer in delivering and implementing regional crisis initiatives and in maintaining and upgrading skills and education related to crisis team building in the Wabun area.

She is eager to work with the health care team in Matachewan FN.

"I am hoping to continue the work that Pam Cormier had led previously. This includes continuing to deliver training and upgrading for our members in areas such as CPR and to implement an intervention program to deal with cri-

sis situations in our community," said Daley.

In March of this year, she was also elected to her first term as First Nation Councillor for her community. Presently she is working with local leadership to develop and organize their administrative office.

"I enjoy working for our community and being in contact with our members and especially our Elders. There are many activities and projects we are looking forward to, including housing and community development. We are also wanting to focus our attention to youth and to providing activities and programs aimed at helping our young people," said Daley.

In her spare time, she

enjoys volunteering for activities and projects in her community and she is involved in supporting initiatives for youth and Elders.

Before becoming involved with her community, she worked in the forestry industry for several years. Daley worked in tree planting and on site forestry labour work for several companies. For the past seven years, she was employed as a labourer for the Elk Lake Planning Mill in Elk Lake, Ontario.

She is a First Nation Ojibway person and a member of Matachewan First Nation. Daley is married to Mike Daley and they have a son Gared who is ten years of age.

Benefits Will Flow to Wabun First Nations

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the company's mining projects develop, Liberty Mines will be looking for experienced trade workers as well as those with little background but who are looking for an opportunity to enter the mining industry. Andy Walton, Underground

Superintendent, Redstone Mine Site explained that the company is looking for motivated young workers who are willing to work hard and learn the mining trade.

"At first we want to include a core group of experienced miners that are willing to train other individ-

uals who are just starting in this trade. We are looking for young people who can work in a conventional mine operation underground. This requires a lot of laborious work so the individuals we are looking for must be athletic as well as be able to work independently," said

Walton.

Other delegates from Liberty Mines who attended the grand opening event were: John H.C. Pinsent, Director and Head of the Audit Committee and Bob Bresee, Mine Manager.

First Nation representatives also included: Councillor Leonard Naveau Sr., Mattagami FN; Councillor Gerald Luke, Mattagami FN and Councillor James Naveau, Mattagami FN.



FIRST NATION REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF THE THREE WABUN COMMUNITIES WERE PRESENT TO MEET WITH LIBERTY MINES INC. REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE OPENING OF THE REDSTONE MILL. PICTURED ARE FROM L-R: CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FN; JASON BATISE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL SERVICES ADVISOR FOR WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL AND REPRESENTATIVE FOR MATACHEWAN FN; GARY NASH, PRESIDENT, CEO AND DIRECTOR, LIBERTY MINES INC. AND CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN.



THE PROCESSED ORE FROM THE NEW REDSTONE MILL IS SHOWN TO COMMUNITY LEADERS DURING A TOUR OF THE NEW FACILITY. HERE WE SEE YVAN LAUZON (CENTER), MILL PROCESS SUPERVISOR, LIBERTY MINES INC. SHOWING THE FINISHED ORE TO COUNCILLOR JAMES NAVEAU, (LEFT) AND CHIEF DAVE BABIN (RIGHT), WAHGOSHIG FN.

Wabun First Nations Youth Participate In Workshop

Wabun First Nation youth were brought together to take part in educational presentations at the Youth Life Prevention Skills, workshop that was hosted in Mattagami First Nation this summer. The two day event took place on August 8 and 9 and it was attended by more than 60 young First Nation members from all of Wabun's First Nations. These participants, aged eight to 18, who were accompanied by chaperons and parents took part in educational workshops that dealt with three key points. These

included: living in family violence, teen suicide and addictions. In addition, a Lacrosse clinic was held that featured instruction by nationally recognized athletes in the sport. The two day workshop was made possible by Wabun Health Services, Mattagami FN and contributing sponsors.

"This was a very successful event for our Wabun communities. We wanted to organize an event that would bring our youth together and provide them with some of our people's traditional understanding of issues they

may encounter. However, we also knew that young people also want to be active so it was natural for us to include a native based sport, one which traditional people know as the creator's sport of lacrosse. We had originally planned for a small event but as it came together there was great participation from all the communities. At one point we had just under 100 youth taking part in the workshop," said Mike Archer, Regional Crisis Coordinator for Wabun Health Services.

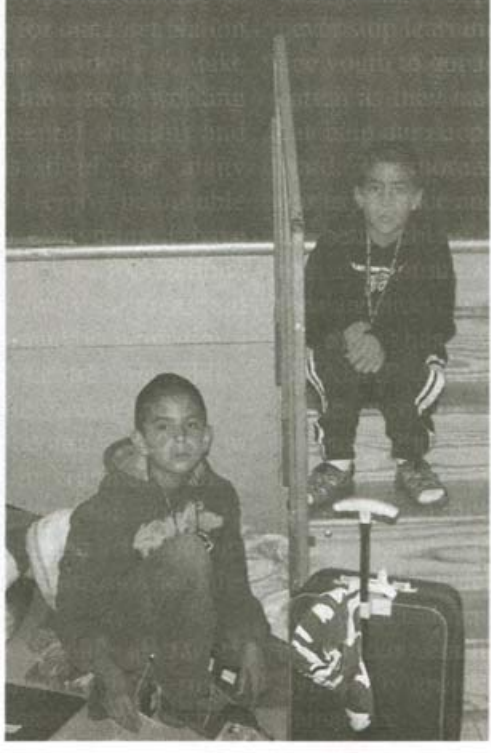
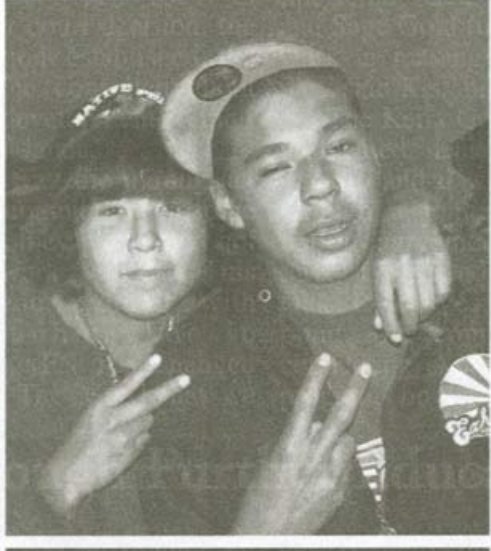
Archer worked with Jean

Lemieux, Health Director for Wabun Health Services to coordinate the event with the help and support of Wabun community members. The workshop event featured Herb Nabigon, who is part of the Laurentian University, Native Human Services department. He conducted presentations on family violence, teen suicide, traditional teachings and medicine teachings. Nabigon is a prominent speaker on traditional teachings and as well he is an author on the subject of addictions and traditional understanding.

The lacrosse clinic was led by Kevin Sandy of Six Nations. He is general manager of the Iroquois National Lacrosse Team and provides lacrosse clinics for youth across North America. He was assisted by 21 year old Cody Jacobs and 24 year old Thomas Montour, who are team members of the Chicago Shamrox in the National Lacrosse League.

The event was held in Mattagami FN due to the community's available facilities for such an event.

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Mattagami First Nation Hosts Gathering Of Youth

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"We thought Mattagami FN would be best suited to host this event as it has a large indoor complex with gymnasium, outdoor space and a covered outdoor rink," said Archer.

Participants and their chaperones stayed as a group at the Mattagami Complex gymnasium and their daily meals were prepared and served by community members. Buses were chartered for each of the communities to transport youth participants to the event. Retail outlets in Timmins provided their support by donating gift

packages for participants. These sponsors included: Staples Business Depot, Walmart, Sportscheck, Source For Sports, Quinns Sports and Grand And Toys. During the lacrosse clinic, Sandy and his players also provided team shirts and autographed material for participants.

The workshop event was organized by Wabun Health to encompass numerous health care programs and promote healthy lifestyles to young people.

"The workshop covered many areas that we are addressing at Wabun Health

including crisis response to teen suicide, family violence issues and addictions. We wanted to give as much information as we could to these visiting youth and provide them with some fun too," said Archer.

Organizers are now reviewing the two day event and they are considering developing another for next year.

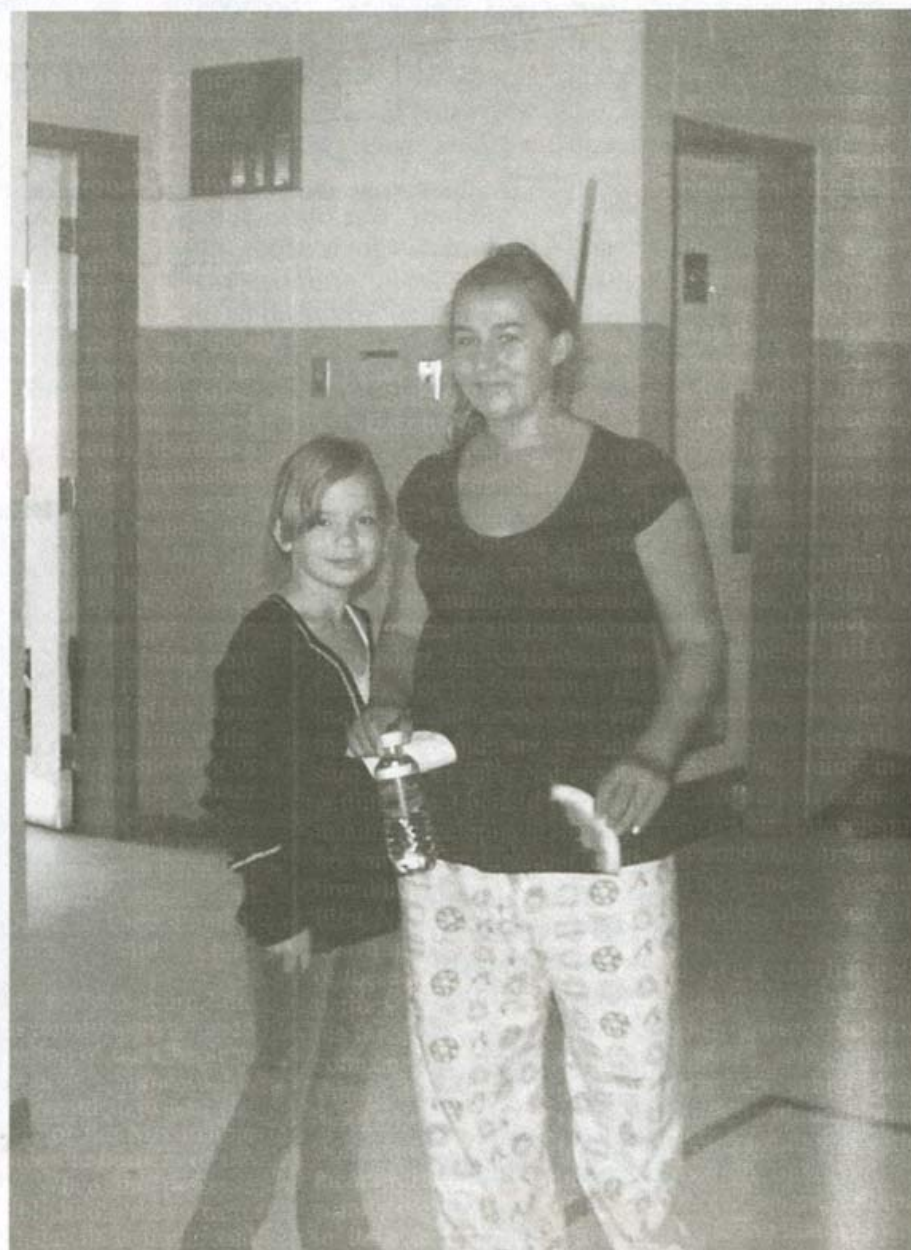
"The children really enjoyed the event and they were already asking if there will be another one next year. This is the first time we have organized such a gathering and there were many things we learned. We have many

events and projects for the year for all our members and their communities. However, we are hoping that this youth workshop and gathering can become a regular event that would provide youth with the opportunity to learn traditional and cultural teachings," said Archer.

Mattagami FN Chief and Council provided their full support for the event and made their facilities available for organizers and participants. A sacred fire was lit and traditional teachings and story telling was provided by local Elders.

"We would like to thank

Chief Walter Naveau and his Council for their support of this event. They made sure we were comfortable in their community. We also want to thank local health workers Darlene Naveau, Eileen Boissoneau and James Naveau for helping us to put this event together in their community. A lot of credit goes to Jean Lemieux for organizing and coordinating this event with Mattagami. We are grateful to the community of Mattagami First Nation for being such generous hosts and a big thanks goes out to the youth that participated," said Archer.



Darlene Naveau Working To Assist In The Development Of Mattagami FN

Darlene Naveau is the new Community Health Representative (CHR) for Mattagami First Nation. She started her new position on September 1, 2007 and she is taking over from Eileen Boissoneau who has gone on to continue a higher education in the health services field. In addition to the duties of CHR for her community, Naveau will also be responsible for the Mental Health program which includes the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) Worker and the Brighter Futures program for Mattagami FN.

This is not the first time Naveau has filled this position. She was CHR for her community from 1983 to 1989. Then from 1996 to 2005, she was in charge of the Brighter Futures: Building Healthier Communities program for Mattagami FN.

In her role as CHR, Naveau works closely with Community Health Nurse Therese Manilla to assist in the delivery of health programs in the community. Naveau's work includes caring for diabetes patients and in working with education staff at the local school and coordinating school health programs.

"We do a lot of work with the community and with our local elementary school. We oversee a break-fast club and a nutrition program for pre kindergarten and kindergarten aged children. We also work with women during their pregnancy and their families in providing prenatal care," said Naveau.

As Mental Health worker she assists local people to access mental health services in the region. Naveau also helps provide local activities that promote healthy living. On August 8 and 9, she assisted organizers to bring the "Youth life prevention skills" workshop to her community. This event hosted over 60 young participants from each of the Wabun communities to take part in educational workshops and a lacrosse sports clinic with nationally recognized athletes in the sport. In addition, she also

works with local members to hold fundraising events such as bingos, raffles or draws to generate a fund to assist patients wanting to access hospital services or testing when they may not qualify for some health services coverage.

Naveau finds it very fulfilling to work for her people in the health care field.

"I enjoy working with people on a one on one basis to help them develop a healthier life. It is also special to me to be able to work with the people I grew up with. Everyone knows each other in our small community so it is good to be with people you know. Our patients also appreciate being able to talk to someone in the health care service they are close to," said Naveau.

Before starting her work in health care, she completed a two year Community Health Representative program from Cambrian College in Sudbury. Naveau also continues to add to her skills and development in health care education. In 2005 she completed a Parenting Course in North Bay, along with other local health care workers from Mattagami FN.

"One of our most important goals for the future is to promote the importance of leading a healthier lifestyle. This includes making changes to take part in regular exercise and a healthier diet. These changes are good for people who are dealing with diabetes, heart problems or want to overcome their obesity. However, this lifestyle is also good for everyone as it can prevent the onset of these conditions. As Native people, the chances of developing diseases such as diabetes is greater so it is even more important for us to take steps to lead a healthier lifestyle," said Naveau.

She is a First Nation Ojibway person and a member of Mattagami FN. Naveau and her husband Gary Naveau have two daughters: Tracy Turcotte and four year old Tamiika. They have also been long

time foster care parents and have taken care of children on a short and long term basis. For the past nine years, their family has cared for Samantha Chookomoolin, who recently graduated high school at

19 years of age.

"We have two daughters but after nine years we also consider Samantha to be part of our family. She is still with us and it feels good to see her develop and grow as she plans on contin-

uing her education," said Darlene Naveau.

She and her husband are also grandparents to Austin Turcotte, 6; Aaliyah, 5; Kaleb, 3 and eight month old Kylie.

A Tribute To My Mishoomiss: Sydney Ojeebah (1870 - 1954)

by Alfred Ojeebah

In the land of the Bear, a treaty was signed, a small parcel
Of land given, a whole wilderness opened for all to share
A few years later, all would be lost. Trapping forbidden!

Not even a snare.

"We need to preserve the wildlife", officials implied
"You'll reap the benefits," the Brunswick House people were told,
They are still waiting, waiting, still waiting . . . They now
Know that you lied, lied, lied

Thru the years, huge profits were gained, from industry
And tourism on the land that you stole.

Gazing upward at my grandfather's face, bristled features, snow
Covered, so cold and joy

Skimming the frozen shore-line, his dog team of eight were
Making a speedy haste

Winter scenes becoming a blur, to those shimmering eyes of a
Five year old, so chilly

A few miles back, in hot pursuit, the persistent warden
Hurriedly gave chase

With our cargo of fine furs, my grandfather, mother, sister and me
We sped to the rail station, where it crosses the mighty Missinaibi

"Native of the area", your normal vocations could pursue, the treaty had read

"Not to be molested in any way", the treaty had said

To hear those strange words, my grandfather never understood
Not speaking their language, interpretation sound so good

Already pursuing the trade, his father had taught

Working the land with crude traps and a gun

A wanted criminal now, his family on the run

He must catch that train or else be caught

Thoughts of the latter, this winter so cruel!

No food for the family, they wouldn't survive

At last! A landmark, the railway ahead, his energy renewal

I know he did make it, for I am here and alive!

With time gone by, years since past, my grandfather, mother
And sister, in the spirit world they now rest

Being at his age, I no longer a child on the land he loved best
With rushing and foaming waters along the route, so

Treacherous and appealing this sight at Thunder Horse Chute
Vivid hues of orange, red and yellow in the autumn air

Wild life abundant in the land of the Bear

Lush green marshes, rocky shores, the magnificent scenes

You're in God's country now, so it seems

To you, my children and grand children, this legacy I share

It's that the lifeblood of my grandfather is in the Land of the Bear



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