OCPC report cites systemic racism with Thunder Bay Police

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Thunder Bay Police Service Board (TBPSB) plans to hold a community circle on Jan. 13 to publicly acknowledge the existence of systemic racism and apologize for it. The plans were announced by newly appointed TBPSB administrator Thomas Lockwood during the TBPSB's public meeting, parts of which were posted online at the Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS) website, in response to the release of the Office of the Independent Police Review Director's Thunder Bay Police Service Systemic Review Report - Broken Trust: Indigenous People and the Thunder Bay Police Service and the release of the Ontario Civilian Police Commission's Final Report of the TBPSB Investigation by Senator Murray Sinclair.

"Having digested both reports, we acknowledge unequivocally that systemic racism exists in both the (TBPS) and the (TBPSB)," says Lockwood, who was appointed as administrator for a period of one year by the OCPC. "By making this statement, we want to acknowledge that the (TBPSB) has failed the Indigenous community."

Lockwood adds that TBPS Chief Sylvie Hauth and members of the TBPS have been invited to the community circle in early January.

"Moving forward, the emphasis will be on completing training and working with the administrator, currently myself, to develop policies and procedures that are vital to the proper operation of the (TBPSB)," Lockwood says. "As many of you are aware, there are presently two vacancies on the (TBPSB), one municipal and one provincial. We are hopeful that these positions will be filled via a consultative process. This is a new beginning for this board and we encourage anyone in this community with an interest to serve on this board to submit a resume as soon as possible."

Recently acclaimed TBPSB Chair Celina Reitberger, a Fort William citizen and former executive director of Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services, says Lockwood, a lawyer with the OCPC, was involved in the OCPC investigation from the beginning and has a breadth of experience in policing that will provide invaluable guidance for the TBDSB

"Our intention is to move with alacrity to bring the (TBPSB) up to speed so that we can resume our full duties," Reitberger says. "The (TBPSB) has been neither dissolved nor disbanded and continues to work to fulfil our responsibilities to the City of Thunder Bay. Collaboration, it is hoped, will be the hallmark of our relationship. I am confident that we are off to a good start and that the journey towards healing will continue apace."

Hauth also addressed the OCPC and OIPRD reports during her comments at the TBPSB public meeting.

"The reports clearly state the need for a thoughtful and impactful plan to address the issues of systemic racism within the (TBPS) and the (TBPSB)," Hauth says. "Given the importance of being able to address the 44 recommendations properly, I will be consulting with senior administration and the members of the (TBPS) in early January to formulate an action plan and will also be working closely

with the (TBPSB) administrator to ensure the (TBPS) moves forward to meet the community's expectations. An initial report on the progress to date will be provided at the January (TBPSB) meeting. The OIPRD expects a progress report in six months and the (TBPS) will work to ensure that date is adhered to."

Nishnawbe Aski Nation responded to the OCPC report with a statement by Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler.

"We maintain our commitment to holding the Thunder Bay Police Service Board accountable for its blatant disregard for the concerns of Indigenous people in Thunder Bay," Fiddler says. "The lack of oversight and direction from the (TBPSB) has put the officers and the citizens of Thunder Bay in harm's way. The report speaks for itself – the (TBPSB) is in need of an overhaul. We need a new (TBPSB) that can address the roots of systemic racism in the Thunder Bay Police Service."

The NAN press release highlighted some of the findings in the OCPC report, including: The TBPSB has failed to recognize and address the clear and indisputable pattern of violence and systemic racism against Indigenous people in Thunder Bay. Moreover, the TBPSB's failure to act on these issues in the face of overwhelming documentary and media exposure is indicative of willful blindness.

The OCPC report includes 33 recommendations. It is available online at: slasto-tsapno.gov.on.ca/ocpc-ccop/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2018/12/TBPSB_Investigation_Final_Report_-EN-FINAL-1.pdf.

"We endorse the recommendations and we agree with Senator Sinclair



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News Recently acclaimed Thunder Bay Police Service Board Chair Celina Reitberger.

that bold measures are needed," Fiddler says. "We will support any earnest efforts by the City of Thunder Bay and the (TBPSB) but will continue to hold them accountable for their actions, or lack thereof. It is unacceptable however that an administrator was so hastily selected without any consultation from the Indigenous community and the Thunder Bay community in general. Policing in Thunder Bay presents unique challenges and realities and it is critical that the administrator is well versed in these issues and has an established rapport with Indigenous people."

The OCPC's mandate includes ensuring that police service boards provide sufficient oversight of police services in a manner that ensures adequate and effective police services in the community and maintains public confidence in the delivery of policing.

Ontario names Clifford Bull Special Advisor on Indigenous Affairs

Wawatay News

Ontario has appointed Clifford Bull to the newly created role of Special Advisor on Indigenous Affairs.

Mr. Bull, the former Chief of Lac Seul First Nation, will advise Minister of Indigenous Affairs Greg Rickford on economic and social and jurisdictional issues affecting Indigenous communities. He will also serve as a liaison on behalf of Premier Doug Ford and Minister Rickford with Indigenous communities

"Clifford Bull has a long history of leadership within his community, working with other First Nation leaders, both levels of government, industry and municipalities," said Minister Rickford.

"He has a proven track record of bringing communities and individuals together to achieve common goals, and as Special Advisor, I know he will help create meaningful opportunities to strengthen the relationship between Indigenous communities and Ontario."

As Chief of Lac Seul First Nation from 2006 to 2018, Mr. Bull worked to build the community into a regional economic leader.

He served his community from 2004 to 2006 as a social worker focused on Truth and Reconciliation and supporting residential school survivors, and was a Lac Seul First Nation Councillor from 2000 to 2004.

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OIPRD releases 'Broken Trust' report

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler is looking for action after the Office of the Independent Police Review Director released the Thunder Bay Police Service Systemic Review Report - Broken Trust: Indigenous People and the Thunder Bay Police Service report this past Decem-

"The fact that the report spells out the current reality that there is systemic as well as individual racism within the (Thunder Bay) Police Service (TBPS) should be a wakeup call for them," Fiddler says minutes after OIPRD director Gerry McNeilly delivered the Broken Trust report at the DaVinci Centre in Thunder Bay. "That should be the starting point, for them to first of all acknowledge that systemic racism exists in their police service and then to look at the plan and figure out a way they will implement all of these recommendations in a timely manner."

The Broken Trust report included 44 recommendations, including #1: Nine of the TBPS sudden death investigations that the OIPRD reviewed are so problematic I recommend these cases be reinvestigated.

"I found that deficiencies in how the Thunder Bay Police was investigating Indigenous sudden deaths was so problematic that I have recommended at least nine of these cases should be reinvestigated by a multi-disciplinary team," McNeilly says. "This team should include investigators from other police services, a coroner and a forensic pathologist. The original investigators are not to be members of this multi-disciplinary team."

McNeilly says the TBPS has introduced some measures, such as a Sudden Death Review Committee, but more needs to be done.

"For example, inadequate resources are directed to seri-



Brad Debungee, wearing hat, brother of Stacy DeBungee, a Rainy River citizen whose body was found in the McIntyre River in Thunder Bay in 2015, listens as Office of the Independent Police Review Director Gerry McNeilly releases the Thunder Bay Police Service Systemic Review Report - Broken Trust: Indigenous People and the Thunder Bay Police Service in Thunder Bay.

ous investigations," McNeilly says. "It is unacceptable that a police service investigating a large number of serious, complex cases has no Major Case Management Unit and assigns investigators to lead the investigation of such cases without appropriate training or expertise. We must ensure going forward that sudden death investigations are adequately done so that confidence is adequately restored in the Indigenous community. Accordingly, I recommend that Thunder Bay Police Service should initiate an external peer review process of its investigations for at least three years following the release of this report."

Brad Debungee, brother of Stacy DeBungee, a Rainy River citizen whose body was found in the McIntyre River in Thunder Bay in 2015, was pleased overall with the recommendations in the Broken Trust report but concerned about the recommendation for the three-year external review process.

"Three years just isn't long enough," Brad says.

Rainy River Chief Robin McGinnis says he is worried that the recommendations in the Broken Trust report will not be followed

"The report can only be as good as it is followed," McGinnis says. "I love the report, I love how in-depth it went. It was a long two years and the DeBungee family from my community has been waiting a long time for this. There is still pain there and there is still healing that has to be done."

Julian Falconer, partner with Falconer's LLP and legal representative for the DeBungee family and Rainy River, says the Broken Trust report is "absolutely unprecedented."

"It sets a new mark for agencies looking at issues of race," Falconer says. "Director McNeilly was courageous in his willingness to tell it like it is, so what I think you now have is an unprecedented finding of racism across an entire police

service. I don't think there is any precedent for this kind of widespread finding. It is a reality that Indigenous people in this community have been living with for decades. You're not telling them anything they didn't already know, but the fact that McNeilly and the OIPRD were prepared to recognize it is of huge consequence. So I think this is an important day because it is vindication of what people have gone through."

McNeilly's recommenda-tions include 11 that specifically address racism in TBPS policing, including #32: TBPS should focus proactively on actions to eliminate systemic racism, including removing systemic barriers and the root causes of racial inequities in the service; and #33: TBPS leadership should publicly and formally acknowledge that racism exists at all levels within the police service and it will not tolerate racist views or actions.

"The relationship between

the Thunder Bay Police Service and the Indigenous community is, in my assessment, a broken one," McNeilly says. "While it is understood that much of the mistrust Indigenous people feel toward police is rooted in the history of colonialism, that does not in any way relieve Thunder Bay Police Service of its obligation to earn the trust of Indigenous people. In fact, it only creates a greater onus on the service to do so."

TBPS Chief Sylvie Hauth says she takes the Broken Trust report "very seriously."

"I have been very upfront in terms of my commitment and dedication about where we stand on the reconciliation process," Hauth says. "Trust is very important and regaining that trust has been at the forefront of my new role."

Hauth says the TBPS can build upon the initiatives that have been introduced over the past two years since the 145 recommendations of the Joint Inquest into the Deaths of

Review Director Gerry McNeilly. Seven First Nations Youths in

Office of the Independent Police

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

the City of Thunder Bay were released in 2016. "When you look at systemic

racism, it's really about, right now when you look internally within our service, is giving the officers the tool set, giving them the information, giving them the training, the education that they need," Hauth says.
"We've for far too long I think only provided them with sporadic (training). I think we need something that is sustained, something that follows the officers throughout their career and really affords them to be well-rounded and be culturally competent, is what I call it, so that by the time you are quite a few years into your career you have a lot of extra tools in your toolbox to be really effective, to have a good understanding."

The Broken Trust report is located online at: oiprd.on.ca/ wp-content/uploads/OIPRD-BrokenTrust-Final-Accessible-E.

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Commentary

Publisher's Note

Spring Cleaning the Workplace Toxicity for the New Year

John Gagnon

appy New Year all, time to dust off last year's incomplete resolutions, and re-jig them for optimal use with the wisdom you gained from another year on the planet. Maybe you want to make enough money to rival Bill Gates, or be more conscience of cultivating healthier relationships with your family, friends, pets, plants or work family. Yes I said work family. Think about it, we spend a third of our lives sleeping and rejuvenating, a third of our time with family, and a third at work. Sometimes our work environment has enough emotions that the intimacy is family in nature. And, as we know, some of our families are politically dysfunctional so it is only natural that our employment interactions can be the same.

Office politics, we deal with it every day, is the basic human interactions involving power and authority in the workplace. A well-oiled operation is heavily reliant on healthy functional interactions and relationships. In her article, What I Learned About Office Politics That Changed My Career Forbes magazine, ForbesWoman, Bonnie Marcus interviewed a lot of women and asked them to describe office politics. The consensus of what office politics was, "dirty, manipulative, and evil." They expressed their, "anger, frustration, and betrayal when 'political animals,' people who spent more time schmoozing than working, would rise through the ranks faster than they did."

A toxic workplace has many ugly faces that present themselves through variations of harassment, political, intellectual, and spiritual divisions. Some pit people in the workplace against each other, and all work appears to get done through chaos production. Sometimes some people can take a high road, but as they say there's always an astoundingly negative person in every circle. Gary Chapman, Paul White, and Harold Myra, share a story in their book, Rising above a toxic workplace: taking care of yourself in an unhealthy environment, about a friend, a teacher whose life drastically changed when a new authority figure appeared at work.

"After teaching math in the public schools for eighteen years. He [the teacher] had a stellar record of taking underachieving children and bringing them up to above average standards. He invested hours providing free tutoring to children after school. His fellow teachers admired him. All was fine until a new principal arrived and began to find fault with this teacher. His room appeared disorganized, his desk cluttered with papers. The principal gave him twenty-four hours to get his room and desk in order. He said that he had received complaints from parents about his teaching. Though when the teacher asked, "What complaints and what parents?" there was silence. Day after day the principal harassed the teacher by walking into his classroom, looking around, turning and walking out. He told the teacher on more than one occasion, 'You do not have a future in this school,'. This teacher sat in my office expressing extreme frustration that the principal was intruding into his efforts to help the children. 'All I ever wanted todo,' he said, 'is to help the children succeed in life. I have poured my life into these children and now this principal is making my life miserable.' This emotional harassment went on for three years until the principal was transferred to another school and life for the teacher returned to normal. Fellow teachers affirmed their colleague and said, 'We are so glad that you stuck it out. The children need you so desperately."

One of the hard lessons we must journey through and learn like the teacher is that there are people who will mess with you and your place in life due to shear jealousy. They will plan and act out ways to trip a person up, stop someone from succeeding. Basically, plotting against a person and premeditating to undermine that person on different levels of hateful actions. It's sad to believe that people will go out of their way to make other people feel as crappy as they do. This is our glass ceiling, 'residential school syndrome,' Junebug a work mate at that time, said to me. The glass ceiling, or syndrome creates the biggest mistakes in our work force

like the principal in the story. The toxic dysfunctional work behaviour of the principal is irony, allowing ego and jealousy to invariably affect the children he was empowered to ensure were getting a good education. The uselessness of a toxic work place.

Junebug and I worked together early in my administrative career. It was a time of confusion and disarray and learning about my own grandmother and her brother and other extended family members attending residential school. The work place was very family 'like' and also very sensitive like, family, and it seemed that all our production was achieved through chaos production. There was a lot of superficial animosity and picking at silly details while performing our duties, but I shrugged it off not wanting to be confrontational. So I did the smartest thing I knew at that time, I stuffed it down deep into the bowels of my memories. Looking back now, if office politics is deemed bad now, then it was equal to the medieval times of dysfunctional office politics and only a decade removed from Clarence Thomas.

Essentially, I experienced something similar to the teacher with the exception that on this one particular day a fellow (soon to be former work mate) told me why she was behaving that way. We approached Junebug a respected professional on the IRS portfolio, and the work mate intrigued Junebug and I with more office gossip- that turned out to be true. Before all was done, Junebug organized a talking circle for the office and the Elder spoke about Indian Residential School syndrome and fear based living and interacting due to the traumas of IRS. Simply, it was similar to post traumatic stress syndrome, living and thinking within the confines of the fears created by these types of syndromes. Something bad must be going on. Something bad is always going to happen. Sometimes bad is happening and people trust and then get burnt. So trust is lost, then it creates a 'too good to be true' mentality that erroneously feeds the first fear. This is the vicious circle of a fearful life.

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation Research Series, Reclaiming Connections: Understanding Residential School Trauma Among Aboriginal People reports that abuse endured by survivors and inter-generational survivors was and is nothing short of miraculous. The reports states, "Indigenous (Aboriginal) therapists and front-line workers describe the abuse that occurred at residential schools as ritual and ... defines ritualize abuse as repeated, systematic, sadistic and humiliating trauma to the physical, sexual, spiritual and/or emotional health of a person that may utilize techniques, including but not limited to, conditioning, mind control and torture"

The Elder spoke about how these negative work conditions must end and that we are aware so we must be the ones who change this dysfunctional cycle. Everyone apologized we all hugged-smiled and went on our way with a good heart. I never did see my work place nemesis, with the hankering to be honest, again after that day of the talking circle. As a matter of fact, it was not long after that day the ED resigned, something to do with company ink and a pen. All joking aside, these behaviours are direct causes of severe mental health issues for the employee, speaking with compassion, and major financial and litigious liabilities to the corporation. It is especially a major liability when we're all attempting to put our best efforts towards making our communities healthier.

If you consider yourself as a person of awareness, then another person's discomfort would be noticeable. So, it is my opinion that it is the obligation of the aware to have openness toward internal and external feelings and the unseeing divine understanding of why discomfort exists. Ultimately, acknowledging, understanding and rectifying the toxic behaviour and purging the negativity from the work environment. It will inspire passionate corporate culture where people feel and know their valued purpose, which is then an increased enthusiasm that transfers to the clients and creating mutually beneficial



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At the request of the Attorney General and in accordance with the *Justices of the Peace Act*, the Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee invites applications for vacant Justice of the Peace positions in the Province of Ontario.

A Justice of the Peace is an independent judicial officer who presides in court over various proceedings under federal and provincial statutes. Applicants must meet minimum qualifications as set out in the *Justices of the Peace Act*.

The Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee reviews and evaluates applications and classifies candidates as "Not Qualified", "Qualified" or "Highly Qualified". Classifications are reported to the Attorney General, who recommends candidates for Order-in-Council appointments to the Ontario Court of Justice.

In addition to reflecting the diversity of Ontario's population, applicants should also display the fundamental skills and abilities, personal characteristics and community awareness attributes set out in the Committee's General Selection Criteria.

Bilingual positions require a high degree of proficiency in English as well as a superior level of oral and written proficiency in French. As Indigenous people comprise a large percentage of the population in the areas being serviced by the courts in **Kenora, London** and **Timmins,** we especially encourage people of Indigenous heritage and people with an in-depth understanding of Indigenous communities and the issues affecting those communities to apply for these vacancies.

For detailed information about these vacancies, minimum qualifications and General Selection Criteria, the required application form, and the Committee's process, visit the website of the Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee at www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/jpaac. See the Committee's website also to view future vacancies and application deadlines and to sign up for email notifications. Notifications will also be posted on Twitter (@ONAttorneyGen) and LinkedIN (Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General).

Applications must be received by the **end of business on Tuesday, February 19, 2019.** Applications that arrive after that date, regardless of when shipped, will NOT be accepted. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their application is received by the specified date. **HAND DELIVERIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

PLEASE NOTE: The Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee is transitioning towards online unpaid advertising only.

Pour voir cette annonce en français, consulter le site Web du Comité à <u>www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/fr/jpaac/annonces</u>.



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Serving the First Nations in Northern Ontario since 1974. Wawatay News is a politically independent monthly newspaper published by Wawatay Communications Society.

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Commentary

Happy New Year 2019



ere we are entering another new year and leaving the old one in our dust. A lot of good things happened in 2018 but in my own experience I also have had to deal with family loved ones with health issues and also the passing of family members and friends. So, hello 2019 and I say that with the hope for all of us that we will have a wonderful year and that the world will become a more peaceful, loving and tolerant place.

If there was a wish I would be granted for the hope for this new year I think my choice would be for all of us just to be a little more kind to each other. Sometimes when we don't feel good about ourselves we tend to search for others that we can look down on or focus our negative thoughts on. Too often I hear people talking badly about those of us in society who are different in terms of race, sexuality, culture or belief structure. Most of the time the people I hear saying negative things have big problems of their own that they can not or will not deal with and so they take it out on anyone else that is vulnerable.

Perhaps if you are not happy with your situation in life then it would be a good idea to work on that and improve yourself rather than hit out at anyone else. Hate for hate's sake is a very sad and tragic thing. We need more understanding, tolerance and openness in o societies. To make this world a better place to live in we need to understand where all this hate comes from and do our best to heal it with kindness and getting to the root causes of intolerance.

Most of the time we tend to pick people and cultures to hate based on our fear or misunderstanding of who they are. Much of the time right wing or fascist parties and governments will use hate as a motivator to help them with their election to power and as a means to organize people. With so many of us being in situations where we are not happy it is very easy to get sucked into political strategies of hate and fear. These types of strategies most recently resulted in electing Donald Trump as the President of the United States. It is also the same type of strategies that were used by the rich and powerful to put fascist governments in place during the 1930s in Germany, Spain and Italy.

Once you jump on that hate bandwagon it becomes a very dangerous situation and suddenly countries find themselves sliding into dark realities where parts of society are demonized, oppressed and in some cases, as history has proven, eliminated or incarcerated.

It is up to us to be intelligent, strong and kind enough to recognize when political parties or governments are trying to use us with the good old, well proven hate magnet. We don't have to join in with those who look down on people of a different culture or colour, those who are poor, immigrants from other countries and those of the LGBT communities.

I know what it feels like

first hand to be treated badly by racists. I have experienced what that feels like and I can tell you that in the past it made me angry, sad and fearful. However, these days I understand the roots of where that hate comes from and it always has to do with people being sad about their own lives, having some terrible addictions that makes them feel hopeless or feeling that their life situations have not worked out as well as they would hoped. It makes it easier to deal with hate when you understand where it comes from but at the same time it scares me that so many of us are willing to hate. That makes us easy prey for any political parties or governments that want to use that hate to put themselves in power. History has proven where that leads and we sure don't want to keep repeating those dark periods of fascism.

So the next time somebody tries to get you to go along with hating anyone or any group based on race, colour, sexuality or beliefs take a deeper look and try to understand why that person is spouting hate. Do your best to educate them or enlighten them. Always speak up and stand up because the more we accept this behaviour and mentality, the worse our world becomes. The mere act of questioning someone's negative attitude is a powerful one that shows everyone that intolerant behaviour is not acceptable. The more intolerant steps we allow society to take, the deeper we lead ourselves towards a darker future. We can live in a world that is peaceful, where we share the wealth and where we are kind to each other or we can live in fascist states where the wealthy get more wealthy while the poorer get poorer, where democracy and free thinking is oppressed and where minorities are discriminated against. It is all up to each one of us as an individual to make the New Year a better one.

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Canadian Ranger Receives High National Honour



photo submitted by Sergeant Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Patterson, left, congratulates Sergeant Linda Kamenawatamin on her appointment to the Order of Military

Looking ahead to the winter season



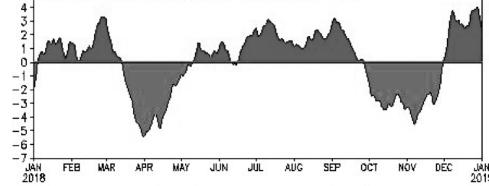
e are entering what is, on average, the two coldest weeks of the winter. Before shivering and adding another layer for warmth, let's take a look at some weather numbers from last vear.

A problem can be too many numbers. Northern Ontario is slightly larger than France and Great Britain combined - a detailed summary is not easy. However, Northern Ontario is located in the "Westerlies," the prevailing winds between 30 and 60 degrees latitude. Wind direction at the surface changes day-to-day, even hour-to-hour, but the upper Westerlies tend to move weather systems from west to east.

There is some truth to the saving if you want to predict tomorrow's weather in say, Sioux Lookout or Thunder Bay, check what is happening in Winnipeg today. This west/ east system is far from perfect but works moderately well with temperatures. The following graph presents a "picture" of 12

Timmins: 2018 temperatures

31—Day Running Mean of Daily Temperature Departures Green Line depicts mean departure for the period; 0.02°C



months of temperatures in Timmins in northeast Ontario.

The above figure displays how a year of temperatures in Timmins compared to average or "normal." The 0 in the middle of the graph marks an average of 30 years of daily temperatures. The red above the line illustrates how much warmer temperatures were compared to "normal" and below the line how much cooler.

The year 2018 be colder than typical conditions across the entire region. It took an additional week in Sioux Lookout and Kenora for the switch to warmer temperatures in mid-January to begin. Milder-than-average winter temperatures persisted for about nine weeks in Northern Ontario. Another cold period began in mid-March and persisted until mid-May. April was much cooler than normal but mid-May featured an abrupt change to warmth, which persisted through the summer months. This 17-week period of warmer-than-average in Timmins was very similar across the region. The averaging does obscure some important information. Gardeners in Timmins may recall light frosts on June 2 and 21.

Both October and November were cooler than seasonal and record cold temperatures occurred from Neskantaga (Lansdowne House) and the Geraldton area to the Quebec border. Daily minimum records were set on Nov. 22 from Neskantaga (-33°C) to North Bay (-27° C). The entire region experienced very cold conditions, which prompted thinking that a very long winter was in

see WEATHER page 20

CONTACT US

Sioux Lookout Office Hours: 8:30-5:00 CST

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Timmins Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 EST

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Guest editorials, columnists and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of Wawatay News.

Disclaimer: All submissions to the Managing Editor must be in a Microsoft Word document, double spaced, and must adhere to Canadian Press style. Wawatay reserves the right to refuse to publish any unsolicited submissions.

Arts and Entertainment

Caitlyn Bird presents artwork at Thunder Bay Art Gallery

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Noatkamegwanning's Caitlyn Bird is looking to pursue a curatorial career after graduating with a BFA in Museum Studies at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New

"I want to take about a year off, but I want to go back and do my masters eventually for curatorial work," says Bird, who delivered a presentation on The Art of Caitlyn Bird at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. "My art really guided me to: 'OK, we need to get into these collections, we need to tell these stories and we really have to bring our community together for this."

After completing her BFA last spring, Bird worked at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, where she enjoyed spending time with the gallery's collection of Indigenous artworks by artists such as Norval Morrisseau.

"There is a back room — who knew there was so much spiritualism there," Bird says. "It was amazing. I was back there a couple of times and I got to spend time with some of the Norval Morrisseau paintings. Just sitting there, like face to face, I was looking at it, I was examining it, I was sniffing it. It was a being to me, it was alive."

Bird says the artifacts, which she refers to as Elders, have "so much life to them." Elders was a



Pick Garrick /Wawatay No

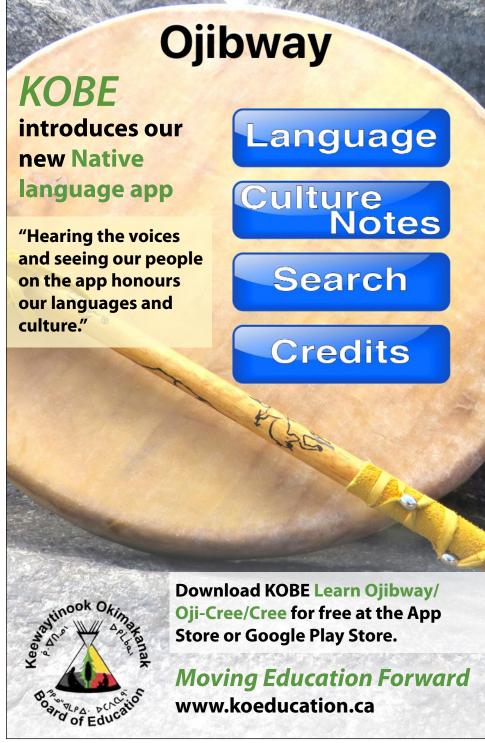
Caitlyn Bird speaks about her art and achieving her BFA in Museum Studies at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico during her presentation of The Art of Caitlyn Bird at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

term that she and the other students in her class at IAIA used for artifacts.

"A birch bark basket isn't just a birch bark basket," Bird says. "It comes from the land and it was made with that good intention and prayer. So that is why I want to get into collections and help tell the stories of these Elders "

Bird says there is a need for more Indigenous curators to apply traditional protocols for the Elders (artifacts) that are in collections across the country.

see PROTOCOLS page 6





ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

NOTICE OF STATEMENT OF CLAIM

TO: JOSEPH LAZARUS, JR.

An action has been commenced against you in Superior Court by the Plaintiffs TASHINA KNAPAYSWEET, JUSTICE KNAPAYSWEET, an Infant by her Litigation Guardian, Tashina Knapaysweet, DARRIAN KNAPAYSWEET, an Infant by his Litigation Guardian, Tashina Knapaysweet, JACQUELINE KATAQUAPIT and JOHN PETER KATAQUAPIT, in which the Plaintiffs claim is for damages as a result of an ATV accident which occurred on or about April 5, 2016, on a public roadway on the Fort Albany First Nation Reserve, in the Province of Ontario.

It has been ordered that service of the Statement of Claim on you be effected by this advertisement. If the you wish to defend this proceeding, you or an Ontario lawyer acting for it must prepare a Statement of Defence in Form 18A prescribed by the Rules of Civil Procedure, serve it on the Plaintiff's lawyer or, where the Plaintiff does not have a lawyer, serve it on the Plaintiff, and file it, with proof of service, in the office of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice at 125 Brodie Street North, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7C OA3, within the time limitations prescribed by the Ontario Rules of Civil Procedure.

IF YOU FAIL TO DEFEND THIS ACTION, JUDGMENT MAY BE GIVEN AGAINST YOU IN YOUR ABSENCE AND WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU.

Date: August 24, 2018

WHITE MACGILLIVRAY LESTER LLP

1 Cumberland Street S Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2T1

Daniel Lester (LSUC# 62564I) Tel: 807-344-1000 Fax: 807-344-1001

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Arts and Entertainment



Rick Garrick/Wawatay New

Caitlyn Bird delivered a presentation on The Art of Caitlyn Bird at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

Protocols needed for ceremonial items

con't from page 5

"Even ceremonial (items) are in the collections and a lot of the time proper protocol is not followed," Bird says. "What we believe as Indigenous people, just speaking for Anishinabe people, is that Elders have life forms, they have spirits attached to it. There are so much good intentions that go into making it, and they are not just a lifeless object. They are alive and that is why I refer to them as Elders, because they continue to teach us even after many years. They are our teachers, they sit with us, they listen to us, they show us how to do it by observing it."

Bird's mother and father, Barbara Wynn and Colin James Bird, enjoyed listening to her presentation on The Art of Caitlyn Bird at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

"I loved it, very emotional," Wynn says. "From the time she was accepted into the (Museum Studies) program til now, she has grown so much as a young lady, spiritually (and in) her knowledge of art. Prior to her interest in this, I was never an arts person, but now she is showing me a new way through her eyes and her learning and I am proud of her and I will continue to support her on her

journey."

Colin adds that he is proud of his daughter for pursuing her education goals.

"She did a lot of work, she put a lot of thought into it," Colin says. "Her studies brought her to where she is today. All of us are proud of her accomplishments and the work that she is going to be doing now."

The IAIA Museum Studies program introduces students to all aspects of museum studies, from theoretical perspectives to practical applications, including instruction on how to safely handle cultural objects, catalogue collections and work with Native communities.



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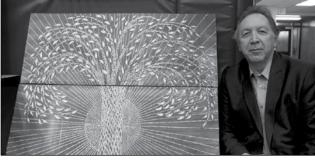
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Arts and Entertainment







Rick Garrick/Wawatay News LEFT: Elsie Kwandibens had a range of beadwork for sale at the 17th Annual Aboriginal Fine Arts and Crafts Gift Show, held at the Lakehead University C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse.

TOP LEFT: Lawrence Martin had seven art pieces by Wabimeguil for sale at the 17th Annual Aboriginal Fine Arts and Crafts Gift Show, held at the Lakehead University C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse.

BOTTOM LEFT: Timothy Tait, Ringo Fiddler and Dwayne Wabegijig had a range of art pieces for sale at the 17th Annual Aboriginal Fine Arts and Crafts Gift Show, held at the Lakehead University C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse.

Aboriginal Fine Arts show a yearly hit

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The 17th Annual Aboriginal Fine Arts and Crafts Gift Show was held at a new location in Thunder Bay with many of the familiar craftspeople and artists in attendance from across northern Ontario

"We have a number of originals (by Wabimeguil) here again," says Lawrence Martin, a Moose Cree citizen who sells art pieces by Wabimeguil (Betty Albert). "I've been on the road for the past couple of weeks so I've sold most of the paintings. I only have seven left here today."

One of the art pieces that Martin had for sale was a three-panel painting called The Tree of Life.

"It illustrates the connection that we as all humans and all life are connected to the Earth," Martin says, noting that each branch represents different families and nationalities but they all have the same roots. "So that one was created that way and it is always the sun that continues to provide the life to everybody."

Martin adds that Wabimeguil has been creating art for about 30-35 years. He usually travels with her art pieces to sell at conferences and art shows across Ontario and Quebec.

"I was at an art show last week in Chisasibi, about 15 hours from Cochrane," Martin says. "So it was well received and that is why you don't see any animal pictures up there right now because they love geese up there, they love wolves, so those went really fast right away."

Some of the other craftspeople and artists who participated in the Fine Arts and Crafts Gift Show were Darryl Big George, Ringo Fiddler, Elsie Kwandibens, Timothy Tait and Clara Winnepetonga. The Fine Arts and Crafts Gift Show was held at the Lakehead University C.J. Sanders

"I sold my first art piece when I was in Grade 5," Big George says. "And now it's just exploded for the past five years. All of a sudden I've been invited to go to all of these places across Can-

Big George says he has travelled to art shows as far as Vancouver, Montreal and Quebec over the past five years and has been invited to art shows in Toronto, Ottawa and Minneapolis this upcoming summer.

"I enjoy coming here — it's fun," Big George says about the Fine Arts and Crafts Gift Show. "You get to meet all different people from all different directions, people selling their moccasins, gloves, hand drums. It's nice to see all this happening."

Fiddler says he first started doing artwork when he was about seven or eight-years-old during camping trips with his grandfather.

"I used to go camping with my grandfather with a pencil or crayons," Fiddler says. "That's where I saw visions of art in the bush."

Fiddler says his artwork has been sold to people as far away as Germany, Poland and China.

"And all over Manitoulin Island, across Canada, B.C., Vancouver," Fid-

Kwandibens says she first started beading when she was 13-years-old.

"When a girl comes into her time, these are some of the things they are supposed to be doing, how to sew or create moccasins or gloves, et cetera,"

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Kwandibens says. "And I've been doing it and I'm 70 today."

Kwandibens says her mother's motto was: if you have beadwork, it will put bread on your table.

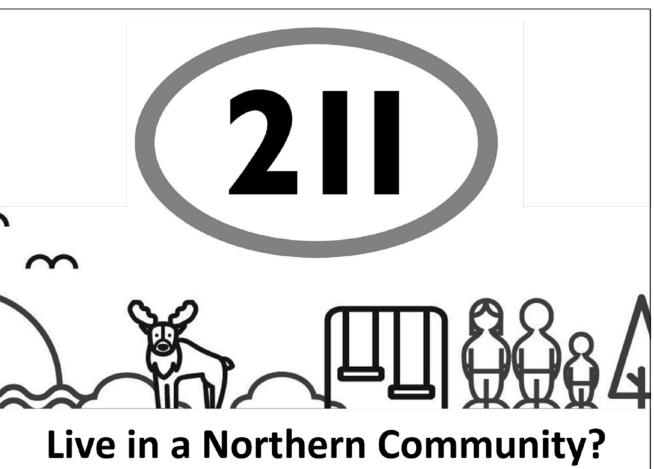
"I really believe it's true, especially now," Kwandibens says. "We have a high school student, he's a teenager and he's actually doing earrings and selling them."

Tait says he began doing art when he was nine-years-old.

"(My artwork's about) Woodland style and colours," Tait says. "People buy it from other countries and all around Ontario for sure. All over the country somebody has a painting of mine.'

Winnepetonga says she started sewing again this past year after not sewing for "quite a while."

"I'm just getting back with the Elders," Winnepetonga says. "We usually have a craft sewing night, so we get together and just start making things and just visiting and talking and sharing stories. We've got very talented people."



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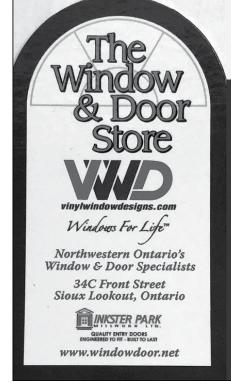


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Operated by the Lakehead Social Planning Council in Thunder Bay





Toys for the north campaign a success

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

North Star Air, Gardewine and the RCMP recently delivered more than 10 skids of toys to children in Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Grand Council Treaty #3 communities through the Toys for the North charitable drive.

"We've done a few trips this Christmas season so far, but most recently to Poplar Hill and Deer Lake," says Jeff Stout, vice president of commercial operations for North Star Air. "That was in cooperation with the RCMP and Gardewine and Toys for the North."

Stout says children in Eabametoong also received toys through the Toys for the North initiative and the RCMP, Gardewine and Regional Food Distribution Association of northwestern Ontario.

"We went up there and took Santa," Stout says. "Santa has gone to these three communities: Eabametoong, Poplar Hill and Deer Lake."

Stout says the holiday season is "all about being grateful," noting that Eabametoong, Poplar Hill and Deer Lake are three of North Star Air's community partners.

"We're grateful for our partners," Stout says. "We have great relationships with these communities, mainly through the revenue share agreement. Over \$3 million has gone back since 2014 when we started. At this time of the year we like to do what we can to give back to the communities, and this is just one of the ways we try to do

Stout, who has travelled on the toy delivery trips in previous years, says the deliveries are a big event for the communities.

"It's exciting — the whole community comes out," Stout

says. "Most importantly, for the youth it is very exciting to get Santa to come up into the community. It's as good as it gets for the youth."

RCMP Staff Sgt. Normand Roy, detachment commander of the Thunder Bay detachment, says a load of toys was also delivered to Northwest Angle in Treaty #3 territory. "The RCMP has been

"The RCMP has been involved in this program for a few years now," Roy says. "The toys are donated from the Canadian Toy Association in Toronto. It is always good to be involved in this campaign and be able to bring some of the toys and

the joy to some of these remote communities."

Roy says the Toys for the North deliveries could not be done without the help of the partners and the community citizens.

"Yesterday I was in Northwest Angle, and I had the teachers involved, people from the community that came with their trucks," Roy says. "That's how we do it, as a great team. Everybody got together and I just want to wish everybody a merry Christmas."

Since the Toys for the North initiative was developed in 2010 in partnership with the Canadian Toy Association and Thomson Terminals transportation, more than \$500,000 worth of toys have been distributed to children in communities across the northern parts of Labrador, Manitoba, Nunavut and Ontario.

"There are many youth oriented charitable groups out there that help the disadvantaged at Christmas but Toys for the North is the only drive that sends toys to thousands of Canadian children that live in Canada's northern most regions," says RCMP Corporal Stacey Anderson, national coordinator 2018 Toys for the



submitted phot

Santa helped to deliver more than 10 skids of toys to children across Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Grand Council Treaty #3 through the Toys for the North charitable drive.

North. "It is not an easy task to co-ordinate but the reward of these efforts is seeing smiles on those kids' faces, and knowing we are making a difference in their lives."

The Toys for the North campaign included the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who contributed toys, gift wrap, transportation services, planning and distribution from the member companies of the Canadian Toy Association, Hallmark Canada, Thomson Terminals, Canadian Forces, North Star Air, Gardewine, RCMP Veterans Association, RCMP detachments and policing partners as well as private businesses and Canadian citizens.

REVIEW

Review of Draft Contingency Plan: Trout Lake Forest 2019-2021 Contingency Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Domtar Inc. and the Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to review and comment on the Draft Contingency Plan for the Trout Lake Forest.

Why is a Contingency Plan Required?

The approved 2009-2019 Trout Lake Forest Management Plan (FMP) will expire March 31, 2019. Delays have been experienced in planning the next 10-year FMP; as such, a CP is required. A two-year Contingency Plan will enable the implementation of forest operations until the ten year 2021-2031 FMP is approved.

The purpose of this notice is to:

- Invite you to review and comment on the draft Contingency Plan at the locations and times listed below, and
- Request contributions to the background information to be used in planning.

Comments will be considered in revisions to the draft CP.

How to Get Involved

The Draft CP will be available on the Ontario Government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans, at the Domtar Inc. office and the MNRF Red Lake District Office at the locations noted below, during normal office hours for a period of 30 days: January 18, 2019 –

February 19, 2019. Comments on the Draft CP for the Trout Lake Forest must be received by Corinne Arthur at the MNRF Red Lake District Office, by February 19, 2019.

The following information will be available:

- Draft Contingency Plan, including supplementary documentation;
- MNRF's preliminary list of required alterations.

Meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LLC can be requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individual listed below:

Corinne Arthur, R.P.F.

Management Forester MNRF Red Lake District Office 227 Howey Street, P.O. Box 5003 Red Lake, ON POV 2M0 tel: 807-727-1337 e-mail: corinne.arthur@ontario.ca

Janet Lane, R.P.F. Domtar Inc.

Postal Bag 4004 1 Duke Street Dryden, ON P8N 3J7 tel: 807-223-9156

Lori Lamond

Trout Lake Forest

Red Lake Local Citizens' Committee Rep. P.O. Box 864 Ear Falls, ON POV 1T0 tel: 807-222-1116

During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the Forest Management Planning Manual (2017).

Stay Involved

An opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Contingency Plan is tentatively scheduled for **January 18, 2019 – February 19, 2019.** A final opportunity to inspect the approved Contingency Plan before it is implemented will take place during the inspection of the MNRF-approved Contingency Plan, which is tentatively scheduled for **March 25, 2019 – April 8, 2019.**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Kathy Crampton, MNRF Red Lake District Office, at 807-727-1332.



KARL HOPF March 8, 1952 – December 29, 2018

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Karl Dieter Hopf at his home in Pickle Lake, ON, Dec. 29, 2018 surrounded with his sisters and childhood friend, Lloyd Lundstrom.

Karl grew up and went to school in Madsen and Red

Lake, ON. He worked in the mining industry after leaving school. He had a passion for music and played bass guitar in local and touring bands. He enjoyed travelling in Europe, Mexico, U.S.A. and Canada. He spent his spare time fishing, driving his Cadillac and touring parts of Canada on his favourite motorcycle.

Karl dedicated his life to the improvement of Pickle Lake and was an employee of the Township of Pickle Lake for over 27 years. He was the Town Superintendent, Public Works Superintendent and Inspector, Land Superintendent, Arena and Curling Rink Superintendent, Chief Building Inspector, Ministry of Housing and Building and Property Inspector, School Board Trustee and Heavy Equipment Operator when he retired in 2012. He ran for public office and was Mayor of Pickle Lake from 2014 - 2018. He championed Pickle Lake at every opportunity and initiated a number of projects which will see completion in the next four years. He was proud that he left the Township books in the black at the end of his term.

Karl was always learning and willingly shared his knowledge. He was generous and kind, helping those in need. He was a loyal friend. His sisters know him as a caring and loving brother.

Karl is survived by his sisters; Elvira (Rudy - deceased) Knaack, Sylvia (Keith) Jenken, Debra (Norman) Sowinski, Esther (Richard) Brown, Mercedes Hopf, two nieces, eight nephews, and fourteen grand nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Ruth and Walter Hopf.

A memorial service for Karl Hopf was held at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, Jan., 9, 2019 at the Pickle Lake Community Centre.

Karl did not want people to travel long distances in winter weather, therefore, memorial services will be held in Thunder Bay and Red Lake at a later date, time and place to be announced.

In Lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Salvation Army through the Sioux Lookout Funeral Home, Box 1449, Sioux Lookout Ontario P8T 1B9.

We will always carry your memory in our hearts.

Communi





Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service held a Badge and Warrant Ceremony for 10 new police officers in Thunder Bay.

Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox congratulates the 10 new Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service police officers during their Badge and Warrant Ceremony in Thunder Bay.

NAPS badge ceremony welcomes 10 new officers

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service recently held a Badge and Warrant Ceremony for 10 new police officers, including a great granddaughter of former Brunswick House chief Fred Neshawabin, one of the found-

ers of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. "My parents are very proud, my family is really proud," says NAPS Const. Cedar Woods, who will begin her duties in Moose Factory. "(The training) was very hard. Not only was the education part hard, but it was also really hard being away from my family and not being able to see them every day. It was my first time leaving home, but it is definitely worth it."

Gordon and Isabelle Woods, Cedar's parents, were proud to attend the ceremony, which was held at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

"I'm so proud of my daughter, it's unbelievable," Gordon says. "She's been making me cry for the past couple of weeks now at these ceremonies."

NAPS Const. Darryl Chapman, who will begin his duties in Mishkeegogamang, enjoyed the training process at the Ontario Police College in southern Ontario.

"It was fun, you meet a lot of great people along the way — I met some people I will probably have lifelong friendships with," Chapman says. "It was tough being away from family and loved ones. It's hard being away from my parents and my girlfriend, but at the same time it was nice, you meet so much wonderful people."

Chapman says he wants to give back to his community as a NAPS police officer.

"I grew up in Sachigo Lake," Chapman says. "And I thought this is the best way I can give back to my First Nation community, not just my community but communities up north in general."

NAPS Acting Police Chief Roland Morrison says the new police officers are the first group of 55 new police officers that will join NAPS over the

next three years and 79 new police officers over five years.

"We have many communities where we are under-resourced, so (over) the next three years we will be providing resources by form of more officers to the communities thereby making our communities that much more safer," Morrison says. "Every police officer within the province has to pass the Ontario Police College. You cannot be a police officer without that diploma, so everyone is on the same level playing field and they all have to pass the same

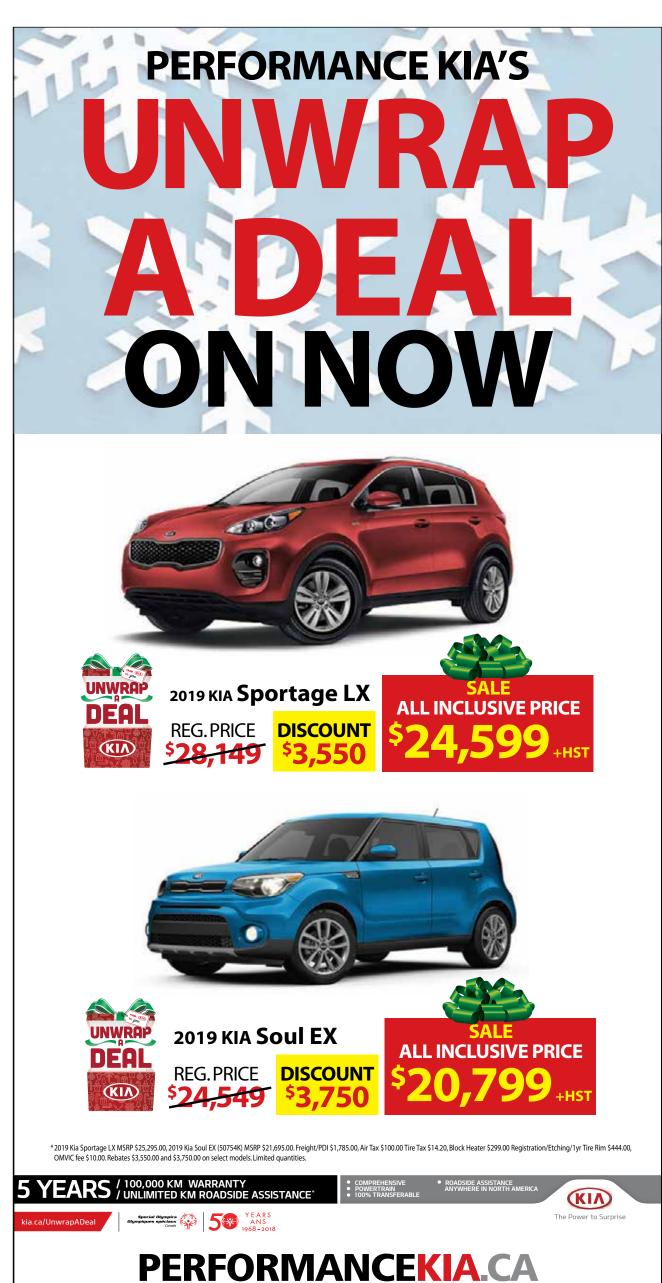
Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox spoke about the need for more NAPS police officers in the NAN communities during his presentation at the badge ceremony.

"We wish we had two officers, three officers in some of our First Nations," Fox says. "I can't imagine what it's like to go into a house where there might be a party where there might be an individual who is six-footfive, intoxicated and strong, who is on drugs and you are the only officer. These are the stories that I hear. These are not complaints, but these are stories that the officers want to share with us."

Fox says he is "deeply honoured" to witness the ceremony for the new police officers.

"Nishnawbe Aski Nation is extremely unique, we have a unique territory," Fox says. "Although beautiful, we are in a stage of healing as people. I'm 37-years-old now and it took me a long time to grow up. I had to stop drinking, I had to stop all those negative things in my life. Unfortunately, many of my generation in the First Nations which you will work are still battling that, alcohol, drugs and those issues that plague our First Nations and that's what you will be faced

The other eight new NAPS constables are: Alessandro Appolloni, Ryan Rinneard, Lukas Fehr, Dylan Vickruck, Kristopher Hamlin, Luc Campeau, Kyle LaGrange and Matthew Mickleburgh.



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Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay Ne

Seven of the newly elected Nishnawbe Aski Nation Women's Council members celebrated with a group photos at the NAN Women's Gathering, held at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre near Thunder Bay.

NAN women's council holds election

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The newly elected Nishnawbe Aski Nation Women's Council includes two representatives each from Fort Albany and Mishkeegogamang as well as representatives from Constance Lake, Moose Cree, Nibinamik and Slate Falls.

"I'm very honoured to be chosen," says Diane Wesley, a Constance Lake citizen who was elected to the new NAN Women's Council. "I feel very honoured and right now I just need to soak it all in. I know it is a very important role and I look forward to representing Nishnawbe Aski Nation."

The other seven NAN Women's Council members are: Ila Beaver, from Nibinamik; Brenda Fox and Karen Kaminawaish, both from Mishkeegogamang; Bertha Sutherland, from Moose Cree; Celine Sutherland and Theresa Sutherland, both from Fort Albany; and Cecelia Spence, from Slate Falls.

"I'm responsible to bring voice to the children, bringing voice to our women," says Kaminawaish. "And I'm responsible for any NAN [citizen] to give voice to."

The new NAN Women's Council was elected on the final day of the NAN Women's Gathering, which was held at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre near Thunder Bay.

"We value the NAN Women's Council and the work that they do to be caregivers, leaders and address issues faced by our men, women and children," says Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox. "We look forward to great discussion on how we can keep our youth safe on and off reserve and continue to empower our communities."

The primary purpose of the NAN Women's Council is to ensure that women's issues, family issues, concerns, priorities and needs are identified and addressed within Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The NAN Women's Council participates in the decision-making process of NAN as representatives and participants at Chiefs Assemblies, provides support and

direction to the Executive Council on women's issues and works to support the collective needs of women's issues, concerns and priorities.

In addition to the NAN Women's Council election, the NAN Women's Gathering featured a variety of workshops and teachings by Tracie Louttit, Laura Calmwind, Tom Chisel and Sam Achneepineskum.

"My workshop was on Mindful Meditation and Yoga," Louttit says. "The goal of the workshop was to provide delegates with some key points in managing stress and anxiety that they come about in working as frontline workers or service providers in their communities."

Louttit says there was "a lot of positive comments" from the participants in her two workshops.

"The delegates really enjoyed the relaxation," Louttit says. "We went through some breathing techniques and I gave a little background of how meditation really helped me during my recovery from alcoholism."

Calmwind spoke about a midwife from her community during her second workshop on Women's Teachings at the NAN Women's Gathering.

Women's Gathering.

"I asked her one time: 'How did you learn how to deliver babies, who taught you," Calmwind says. "She said: 'My mom taught me.' So a lot of times knowledge was intergenerational, learning about delivering babies from one generation to another."

Calmwind says the midwife delivered her in a log cabin out on the land away from the community following all of the Anishinabe birthing protocols.

"So when she delivered me, we had a relationship that is not there anymore in our communities," Calmwind says. "She separated me from my mom, so she was always the go-between. She had a role in that family, she didn't just deliver the baby and walk away. She continued to have a relationship in that family, so all through my life I had a relationship with her."

Chisel and Achneepineskum delivered two Traditional Medicine Workshops during the NAN Women's Gathering.

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NAN Women's Gathering focused on human trafficking

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Sexual exploitation and human trafficking were among the issues discussed at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Women's Gathering 2018, held at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre near Thunder Bay.

"We need to acknowledge that women are funnelled into prostitution rather than women choosing prostitution," says Trisha Baptie, from Vancouver, who delivered a keynote presentation on the second day of the conference. "Women find themselves in there because of racism, colonialism, poverty, mental health, addictions. There is a lot of reasons that make women vulnerable to being sexually exploited and men have no inherent right to be able to purchase sex and to take advantage of that inequal-

Baptie says there was an "overwhelmingly supportive" response to her presentation.

"Women get that none of us wake up and decide: 'I want to be a prostitute today," Baptie says. "It happens because of a slow erosion of our guaranteed human rights."

Faye Naveau, from Mattagami, adds that Ontario is a major centre for human trafficking, accounting for more than two-thirds of the cases across the country.

"Most of the reported cases are for sexual exploitation," Naveau says. "And in Ontario Indigenous women and girls are



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Mattagami's Faye Naveau speaks about human trafficking during her community presentation on the second day of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Women's Gathering 2018 at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre near Thunder Bay.

among the most targeted and overrepresented groups of trafficked individuals."

Naveau says human trafficking is often described as modern day slavery.

"And it is being compared to residential school where somebody feels they can take your child and do what they want with your child without any consequences," Naveau says. "It also involves recruitment, harbouring and/or control of women or persons for the purpose of exploitation."

Lindsey Poulter, community wellness response coordinator with NAN, spoke about the Victim's Quick Response program, which provides shortterm assistance to victims in the immediate aftermath of a crime.

"It's to lessen the impact of violent crime through immediate support services to the victim," Poulter says. "And to increase immediate safety of victims and help to prevent revictimization."

Poulter says applicants must be a victim of an eligible criminal code offence, either as a direct victim or an immediate family member of the direct victim.

"The victim must also reside in Ontario and the crime must have occurred in Ontario."



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Fort Albany's Carmen Edwards speaks about her community's Youth Cultural Camp Keywahnan Program during her community presentation on the second day of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Women's Gathering 2018 at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre near Thunder Bay.

Poulter says. "In order to be eligible the crime must be a reported crime and an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada."

Carmen Edwards, from Fort Albany, spoke about her community's Youth Cultural Camp Keywahnan Program. Information about the program is available on Youtube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jb0VVkVA xac&app=desktop.

"To me, what Keywahnan means is going home to take back our prayers, laws, Elder's teachings, our way of life and language," Edwards says. "We had our first youth gathering in 1998. We were faced with so many challenges — a lot of community issues were happen-

ing at that time."

Edwards says the community brought in presenters from out west or down south to share their life experiences or teachings.

"As the years went by, we started utilizing our own people — we started teaching the young ones," Edwards says. "We empowered them, we told them they could go be the emcees, you can go teaching your fellow peers, so that is what they did."

Diane Wesley-Andrews, from Constance Lake, spoke about her community's land-based detox program.

"I believe to date about 96 people have gone through the program," Wesley-Andrews says. "My chief and council have allowed me to open the doors and we've had some communities join us."

Wesley-Andrews adds that the Mushkegowuk Council hired the land-based detox program team to run two detox programs for the coastal communities while Constance Lake was still operating its own land—based detox program.

"So I'm really grateful for (Mushkegowuk Council) for believing in our program and believing in the power of our people," Wesley-Andrews says. "I really truly believe the answer lies within our communities — we have the people in our own communities that can help in these areas."



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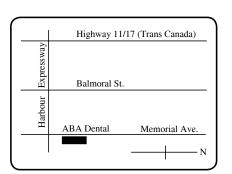
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Pikangikum connects to Ontario's power grid



Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa, Pikangikum Chief Dean Owen and Wataynikaneyap Power CEO Margaret Kenequanash gathered with dignitaries and community citiziens to celebrate the turning on of Christmas tree lights to signify Pikangikum's connection to the provincial electrical power grid.

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Pikangikum citizens honked their horns to celebrate their connection to the provincial electrical power grid after Christmas tree lights were lit.

"(Our community) is now officially powered by the provincial grid," says Pikangikum Chief Dean Owen moments after the Christmas tree lights were lit in front of the Peace-keepers Radio Station building. "Our diesel generator is now shut down, and hopefully we will never have to go back or resort to using the old diesel generators.'

Pikangikum is the first of 17 remote Nishnawbe Aski Nation communities that are scheduled be connected to the power grid over the next five years through the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line Project.

'Today we celebrate with Pikangikum in connecting them to the grid," says Margaret Kenequanash, CEO of Wataynikaneyap Power. "I think this has been long anticipated project. They have had a lot of challenges with their diesel generators. They've been at capacity since 2010, from what I understand, which provided them with quite a few challenges with their infrastructure, housing and just the challenges they face on a day-to-day basis."

In recent weeks, Pikangi-kum has been experiencing daily power outages and more than 80 per cent of the existing homes in the community of about 2,300 do not have water and sewer service.

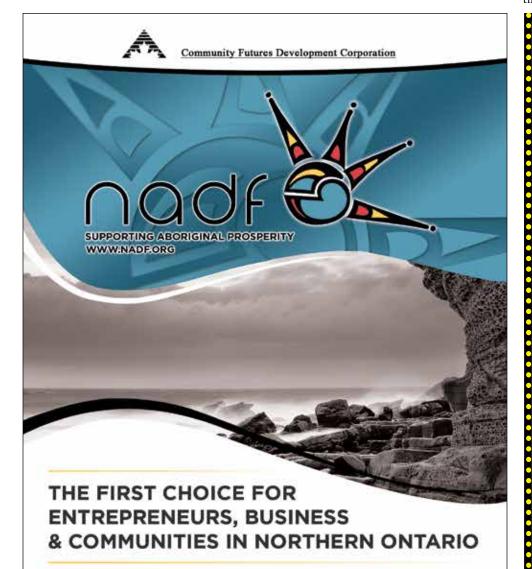
Owen says the connection to the power grid will be an advantage for people on dialysis in the community.

"It's a very good feeling, knowing that there are many people on the reserve that need the power on constantly, people that do home dialysis," Owen says. "With the power going off and on, it causes issues with what it is that they need to do with their dialysis.'

Owen adds that the community maxed out the capacity of the diesel power generators over the past 10 years.

"The federal government has been good to provide us with the necessary upgrades just to keep everything going, from our water treatment facility to our nursing station to other buildings that are deemed critical needs for the community," Owen says.

see DEISEL page 15



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- Your records from the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) or the Alternative Dispute Resolution process (ADR) are confidential.
- To keep them confidential, you don't need to do anything.
- If you do nothing, your records will be automatically destroyed on September 19, 2027.
- Until September 19, 2027 you can get a copy of your records for yourself or to share with anyone you choose.
- If you choose, you can preserve your records for history, education, and research at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR).

Which records are being kept?

- Your application form
- The voice recording of your testimony
- The printed record (transcript) of your testimony
- The decision on your claim

Can I get a copy of my own records?

Yes. To get a copy of your application form, the transcript of your testimony, and your decision, call IAP Information toll free at **1-877-635-2648**. Or email IAPRecords_DocumentsSAPI@irsad-sapi.gc.ca.

Information that identifies other people will be blocked out, to protect their privacy.

It can take several months to receive a copy of your records.

Preserving the history of residential schools

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) has been created to preserve the history of Canada's residential school system. It is hosted at the University of Manitoba. It is the permanent home for the records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

The NCTR invites those who made a claim in the IAP or ADR to add their records to its collection. These records will be available forever, to researchers and others who want to learn about the history and impact of Canada's Indian residential schools.

Information that identifies other people will be blocked out, to respect everyone's privacy.

If you choose to preserve your records with the

NCTR, send your completed consent form to the IAP Secretariat and your records will be securely sent to the NCTR.

To get a consent form, call IAP Information toll free at **1-877-635-2648** or download the form from **www.MyRecordsMyChoice.ca**.

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If you choose to preserve your records at the NCTR you may choose either restricted access or open access. "Restricted" means that your name and other information that identifies you is kept confidential. "Open" means that you could be publicly identified.

Can I get help?

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Diesel a thing of the past for Pikangikum

con't from 12

"Those have been prioritized, not only by the federal government but also by the First Nation?

Owen says Pikangikum was consuming about 10,000-12,000 litres of diesel fuel per day to keep the diesel power generators going.

"It is pretty expensive," Owen says. "With the connection of our community to the provincial power grid we see access to safe, reliable energy and, more importantly, we see a brighter future. Today, we see a future where there are jobs for our people, where our children can consistently go to school, where we can build, power, and live in new homes, and where there are business opportunities for even more growth."

Pikangikum Elder Tom Quill says, as translated by Kenequanash, that the Elders had meetings and directed the process to getting the community connected to the power grid.

"I went to witness the lighting of the tree and also the singing that happened," Quill says. "Our diesel generators were at capacity and they broke down quite frequently. And the cost of fuel — it was very high. Today we know we are not going to be incurring those same kind of costs.

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa adds that a Pikangikum citizen posted a comment on his Facebook page that they will be able to use Christmas tree lights for the first time in many years.

"Just a simple thing like that people don't understand



Rick Garrick / Wawatay News

economic (conditions). You can

build houses without having to

worry about how much diesel

power you have. So now it's a

new era and the young people

will benefit from it in many

announced the funding to con-

nect Pikangikum to the power

pleted transmission line enables

the community to end their

dependence on diesel as the pri-

mary energy source and opens

the door to new economic

opportunities and jobs powered

by clean and reliable energy,"

says Jane Philpott, Minister of

Indigenous Services Canada.

"Our government is proud to

invest in the Wataynikaneyap

Power Transmission Project, a

historic and Indigenous-led ini-

tiative that is working to con-

nect 17 remote First Nations communities to the provincial

grid in 2017.

The federal government

'Pikangikum's newly com-

A group of dignitaries and community citizens, including Kenora MP Bob Nault, left, gathered around a fire to celebrate.

what this means to the community," Mamakwa says. "It is very good to be here to see that. The community is very happy to be part of the grid and get rid of all the blackouts, the brownouts and also the damage it does to the appliances and the electronics that they use in this community. So a simple thing like Christmas lights, that is so special."

Mamakwa looks forward to seeing the other communities connected to the power grid so they can embark on opportunities such as building more homes, building more infrastructure and building better water systems.

"This is just the beginning," Mamakwa says. "This is 2018 - this is a big milestone for the community of Pikangikum and also in the coming years for the rest of the communities in northwestern Ontario.'

Kenora MP Bob Nault says Pikangikum's connection to the power grid is "historical."

"It's a new era," Nault says. "What that means is people can rely on their power to develop all sorts of strategies around better social conditions, better owned subsidiary, Wataynikaneyap Power PM Inc. "We know how important

access to safe, reliable electricity is for a community's health, economic and social outcomes, says Barry Perry, president and CEO of Fortis Inc. "We are proud to share our utility expertise and to transfer that knowledge to our First Nations partners to eventually operate and maintain the utility. Today we celebrate a significant step forward in creating further benefits for First Nations communities in northwestern Ontario."

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electricity grid by 2023."

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Stranded trapper walked four hours to await rescue

Peter Moon

Special to Wawatay News

A trapper whose snowmobile broke down near the Hudson Bay coast was forced to walk for four hours in bitterly cold temperatures to reach the shelter of a remote hunting cabin. With gusting winds, the wind chill temperature at the time was -48C.

Citizens of the small Cree community of Peawanuck became concerned when the trapper, Marcel Metatawabin, failed to return to the settlement on time.

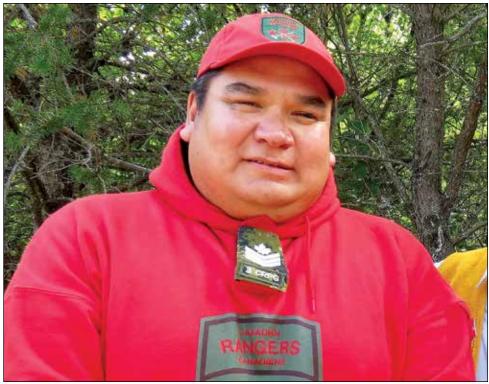
He had last been seen at his hunting cabin, located 72 kilometers north of Peawanuck, by two local residents who were checking their trap lines. They spoke with him briefly and saw him heading north on his snowmobile before they drove back to Peawanuck..

The two residents were Mike Koostachin, a master corporal in the Peawanuck Canadian Ranger patrol, and Jimmy Chapman, a former Canadian Ranger.

The Ontario Provincial Police were informed of the community's concerns and requested the assistance of the Canadian Army, which authorized the Peawanuck Rangers to begin a search for Mr. Metatawabin.

"People were concerned for Marcel's safety," said Sergeant Matthew Gull, the commander of the Peawanuck Rangers. "He was not back but temperatures were dangerously cold."

Master Corporal Koostachin



Sergeant Peter Moon/Special to Wawatay News

Sergeant Matthew Gull co-ordinated the trapper's rescue.

headed back to Mr. Metatawabin's cabin by snowmobile with Mr. Chapman, who volunteered to assist because the local Rangers were either out of

They found Mr. Metatawabin in his cabin waiting for rescue. He had no food and had not eaten since the day before. "He was hungry when we got there," Master Corporal Koostachin said. "We fed him some hot food from cans. We

the community or unavailable.

left his snow machine where it had broken down and brought him back to Peawanuck. It was cold. I can only remember being colder on one other time, and that was a rescue, too."

The two rescuers delivered Mr. Metatawabin to the community nursing station where he was examined and released.

"I've done lots of rescues with the Rangers," Master Corporal Koostachin said. 'It makes you feel good when you can help someone and save a life."

The rescue was the third time Rangers have gone to the aid of Mr. Metatawabin, who, like many citizens of his isolated community spends a lot of time on the land hunting, fishing, and trapping. Peawanuck still takes about half its food off the land

In 2016 his snowmobile broke through ice on a creek and he had to walk to a hunting cabin in wind chills of about

Sergeant Peter Moon/Special to Wawatay News
Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Richardson commands the Rangers of
Northern Ontario.

-40C where he was eventually found by a Ranger search party. In 2014 his all-terrain vehicle broke down and Sergeant Gull used his specialized knowledge of the land around Peawanuck to guide a helicopter pilot to where Mr. Metatawabin had been stranded for two days without food.

"His rescue is another example of the Rangers responding to an urgent community need," said Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Richardson, who commands the Rangers of Northern Ontario. "This rescue was done in very severe weather and it was done with the volunteer assistance of a former Ranger, Jimmy Chapman. It was a job well done."

(Sergeant Peter Moon is the public affairs ranger for the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces Base Borden.)

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Business

Tea Horse Tea Shop opens in Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The co-owners of the Tea Horse Tea Shop and Lounge are enjoying their foray into the premium whole leaf teas and herbal infusions business in Thunder Bay. Denise Atkinson, a Red Rock Indian Band citizen, and Marc Bohemier opened the shop at 281 Bay. St., just east of Algoma.

"I am pouring (you) a cup of organic fair trade Earl Grey," Atkinson says on an early January morning in the shop. "The Assam tea has been bought by our suppliers from the same tea estate in India for the last seven-to-eight years. And the bergamot is organic Italian bergamot."

Atkinson and Bohemier began planning the business after attending the Toronto Tea Festival last February.

"We thought we were just going for an hour or two, but we ended up spending two whole days there discovering the world of tea," Atkinson says.

Bohemier says they were introduced to some "amazing teas" at the festival.

"And some really amazing Canadians ... from Quebec and Ontario that had this incredible passion for tea," Bohemier says. "Also we met some people originally from China or India that now reside in Canada that were going back and forth from Canada to China or China to India or to Taiwan, Japan, all these different tea producing nations, and bringing back these teas that just blow your mind."

Atkinson says her family has always enjoyed tea.

"My grandma, my aunt, my mom, we'd sit around the table and drink tea and chat and laugh and eat and have dialogue," Atkinson says. "So that is what we are trying to bring to our tea room by just having the community table. We have a couple of tables that are intimate and private, but we want people to just communicate and connect over a hot cup of tea."

Bohemier says the community table was repurposed from an old bingo table that was cut narrower and refinished with five coats of varnish.

"Even that mantle piece is all thrift shop," Bohemier says. "But I think one of our key things is the snowshoes."

The snowshoes were made by Atkinson's grandmother from material that was harvested from the land.

"She probably bagged the moose from which (the webbing for) the snowshoes was made," Atkinson says.

Atkinson says there has been a "great response" to the business from the community. She notes that some of their teas are sourced from 800-year-old wild trees.

"This Bay-Algoma neighbourhood with all the foot traffic, it's a little community really," Atkinson says. "So it's been an excellent location for us to try our hand at a tea shop."

The co-owners add that a family from Fort Severn searched out some Oolong tea, a traditional semi-oxidized Chinese tea, just before Christmas.

"She wanted Oolong, and I was like Wacheay, Wacheay," Bohemier says. "So that was really good because we want people from everywhere to come."

In addition to Oolong tea, the shop also features Pu'er tea.

"It is one of most ancient teas," Bohemier says. "It is a compressed tea that was brought along the Tea Horse Road, and that is one of the teas we really want to focus on because it is a fermented tea—it is naturally fermented just by aging."

The shop serves tea in the lounge by the tea pot or infuser container or sells tea in a range of weights in kraft paper bags.

"We educate the people when they come and buy tea from us," Atkinson says. "We have instructions, nothing complicated, but just water temperature, how much tea, how much water, how long should you let it infuse. And that is what we want to do in the future, in the next month or following month to start, is have tea sessions like Tea 101, Oolong 101, little seminars."

The shop also sells porcelain teapots with tea infusing bas-

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Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Tea Horse Tea Shop and Lounge co-owners Denise Atkinson and Marc Bohemier have a range of premium whole leaf teas and herbal infusions for sale as well as porcelain teapots at their recently opened business in Thunder Bay.



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<u>Environment</u>



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News Climate change and forest fires was one of the topics raised for dis-

Matawa environment gathering addresses climate change

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Climate Change Adaptation and Watershed Stewardship were the two main topics up for discussion by about 60 delegates from the Matawa region at the Matawa Environment Gathering 2018.

"Some of the topics that were discussed this week were climate change and the impacts it has to lands and resources, the wildlife, in particular the Ring of Fire and the moose and caribou populations," says Clyde Moonias, community communications liaison officer for Neskantaga First Nation Lands and Resources. "Climate change is one of the biggest issues that Indigenous peoples and communities are facing today. It is very important that we take (precautionary) steps moving forward in terms of how to deal with climate change and how to better our communities with it in terms of winter roads, housing and infrastructure and with animal migration patterns."

The gathering provided an opportunity for Matawa Elders, lands and resources staff, environmental monitors, community communication staff and other interested citizens to gather as nations to put community priorities at the forefront of future environmental initiatives.

"The key themes were the changes that are going to come in the future," says Peter Rasevych, community communications liaison officer for mining and economic development officer with Ginoogaming. "The jet stream is not as consistent, it's a wavy line now, so we are going to get mid-latitude air mass poking up into our region and the polar air mass is going to be going down to the south."

Rasevych says there was information about hard-to-predict weather conditions during the gathering, including more forest fires and extreme weather events such as extreme rain and high winds that can cause more blowdowns in the region.

"So we've got to get our communities ready for forest fires," Rasevych says.

The Climate Change Adaptation Workshop was lead by David Pearson, professor in the School of Environment at Laurentian University, with an emphasis on establishing a

foundation of information and knowledge for effective adaptation to weather impacts.

"I think that one of the risks that all First Nations in the north are facing is more winter rain falling on the ground while it is still frozen and falling obviously when the temperature is warm and that is causing the melting of snow and rapid accumulation of water in ditches," Pearson says. "And if the culverts have frozen up during the winter, then it can lead to flooding of roads, but more important than that can lead to the flooding of crawl spaces, which leads to mould and health issues and sometimes, homes need to be demolished, all because the surface drainage system in the community couldn't handle the water when the ground was frozen.'

Pearson says communities need to think about surface drainage when planning future housing developments.

"They need to imagine where the water will flow when the ground is frozen and it is raining and when there is a rapid spring melt," Pearson says. "I think increasingly communities also need to think about where elderly people and very young people will go on hot summer days to avoid heat stress. That hasn't been a big issue in the north yet, but it will become a big issue as summers get warmer in five, maybe 10 vears. So there needs to be a building in the community that you could call a cooling centre where people can go to cool

Matawa's Four Rivers Environmental Services Group plans to kick off several new projects in 2019 to support environmental issues in the Matawa communities

"With several ambitious and highly important environmental stewardship initiatives anticipated in the New Year, it was critically important that we took the time to bring everyone together to discuss, in detail, community [citizen] values, concerns and priorities," says Sarah Cockerton, manager environmental programs, Four Rivers, Matawa First Nations Management. "That way we can make sure that future environmental initiatives will be planned and carried out in the right way: with [our] First Nations' visions for the future at the forefront."



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

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Clyde Moonias, left, raises an issue during the Matawa Environment Gathering 2018, held at the Airlane Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Pay



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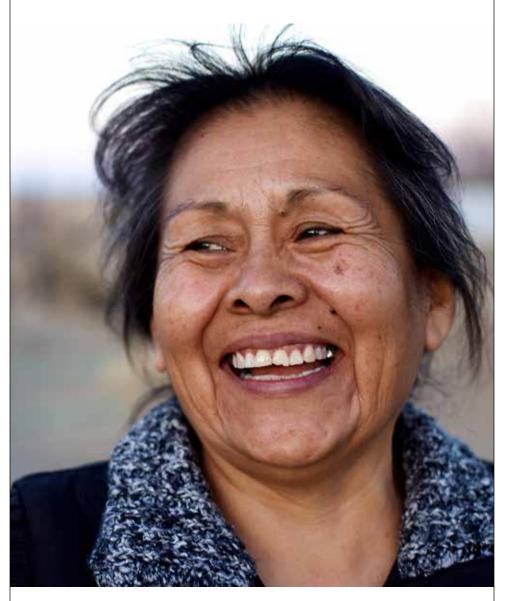
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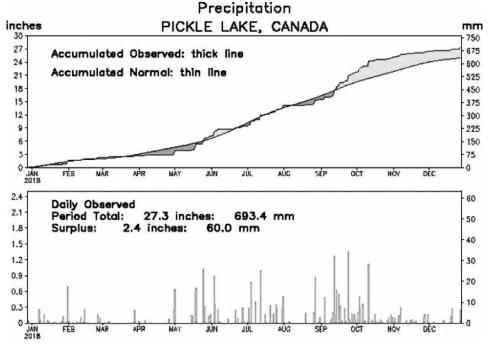
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Environment



Weather predictions

con't from page 4

However, most days in December featured well above average temperatures and the month was about 4° C above normal in Timmins and Thunder Bay. A broad area from Kenora to Pickle Lake and Neskantaga was 5.5° C warmer than normal. This "warm" December did include a few days above 0° C that delayed thicker ice from forming but likely did not ruin established ice.

Comparing precipitation across a region is much more problematic than temperature. It is highly variable over a short distance, especially during thunderstorms; distance from lakes and increased altitude can result in snow, rather than rain.

However, the above graphs of last year in Pickle Lake are somewhat accurate as a big picture summary of last year in the region.

The month of May was dryer than average and, combined with warmer than average temperatures, set up an active forest fire season in spring and into the summer.

Weather outlook for the final weeks of winter

January is mid-winter and usually the coldest month of the calendar year. Perhaps February has a chance this winter. December was much warmer than average, and January, with mixes of mild and brief cold conditions, seems on track to finish warmer than seasonal.

I have mentioned El Niño, an ocean-warming process in the distant tropical Pacific Ocean, in recent Wawatay's as a likely big player in this winter's weather. The winter so far has been about 5° C warmer than average - don't turn off your furnace or wood stove but a large saving in fuel. The present El Niño continues but the warming in these distant tropical waters is not dramatic. Hence this is classed as a "weak El Niño". I think the warm effects will persist into February but your outside thermometer will be the real judge of this.



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